



Midwest Water Resources Management Plan – in development

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Priority of Water Resource Program

To provide necessary technical research, studies, and other information for Indian tribes to serve as informed and prudent managers of their water resources.

Water Resource Management and Development Plan- Guide

Using a previously developed guide from the 1980's

Updating the guide to fit the Midwest Region and useful

Currently working with USGS for comments and revisions on how to improve

Would like to create a working group with Tribal Staff to further develop

Plan to request funding to apply the plan in a pilot project

Format – consisting of 4 sections

1. An examination of historical perspectives affecting the water rights of the reservation
2. Identification and inventory of available resources
3. Identification and inventory of existing water uses
4. Identification of future water needs and development potentials

1. Examination of historical perspectives

This is similar to the IRMP or Integrated Resource Management Plan that has been prepared for the conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources.

However, this summary should be focused on the history as it relates to water rights, including historical uses for subsistence, economic development, subsistence, social structure, religion and culture.

An overview of treaties, statutes, etc., which lead to the establishment of the reservation and all subsequent acts, executive orders and court decisions affecting the reservation, should be included.

2. Inventory of Resources

A resource inventory of:

All current data related to water quantity and characteristics;

Related land resources on the reservation;

Studies that identify problems and needs which could limit the use of those resources both for the present and future; and

Identify data gaps and plan studies to fill these gaps.

This section provides an extensive list of the recommended studies to consider.

3. Identification & Inventory of Existing Water Uses and Development

The objective of this portion of plan is to identify and document all current uses of water on the reservation.

To summarize the current annual water requirements

There is a format to help with developing this section

An extensive list of water uses is provided to assist and to guide the types of data that needs to be gathered.

4. Determination and Documentation of Future Development Potentials

This Section should be focused on determining the extent of all reasonable future reservation water development, provide sufficient documentation to Indian tribes to enable them to sustain these water rights (prior appropriations , riparian doctrine, groundwater, etc.) and to act as a tool for the tribe to use when making business decisions which require water.

This portion is the most intense as you are taking all of the data gathered and inventories to develop this report which is intended to help with future development decision making and with protection from encroachment.

Questions?