



La Crosse FRO Accomplishment Highlights Report

Diversity Outreach:

Conservation Career Diversity Intern Coming to La Crosse FRO

03/03/2004

The Conservation Career Diversity Intern program is a cooperative agreement between the Service and the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) that provides internship opportunities for students and recent graduates, particularly those from culturally diverse backgrounds, to experience environmental conservation. The mission of the ECO is to protect and enhance the environment through the development of diverse leaders, the promotion of careers, and the inspiration of individual actions.

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Over 300 talented undergraduate students from dozens of institutions spanning the country applied for the 30 positions available this summer. Because of this extremely competitive situation, we received the names of very high caliber students to interview. The internships are for twelve weeks and the associates receive a stipend from ECO of \$300 per week.

The interviews are complete and we are waiting for acceptance of the selected candidate. Other Region 3 Fishery Offices involved in this program are the La Crosse Fish Health Center, Genoa National Fish Hatchery (NFH), and Neosho NFH. We are all anxious to welcome the interns to our offices and share our conservation experiences with these future leaders.

Pam Thiel

Tribal Assistance:

Fishery Management Reports Completed for White Earth Reservation and Tamarac NWR

03/15/2004

Management recommendations concerning lake sturgeon management were addressed for White Earth Reservation and general fishery management recommendations were made for Tamarac NWR.



White Earth DNR biologist Will Bement holds a lake sturgeon that was caught on Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation. Lake Sturgeon have been restored on the reservation by the White Earth DNR and FWS.

A Lake Sturgeon Status Report was completed for the White Earth DNR. The report highlights the lake sturgeon restoration effort currently being conducted by the White Earth DNR, and FWS. Our partners on this project include Rainy River First Nations, Minnesota DNR and the White Earth Land Recovery Project. Lake Sturgeon have not been caught on the reservation since the early 1900's. This majestic species is not only unique but is culturally significant to Native Americans. Since 2001, over 30,000 fingerling lake sturgeon have been stocked into White Earth and Round Lakes. Survival of these stocked fish was documented in October 2003 and we expect this project to be a restoration success story.

The Tamarac NWR was also surveyed in 2003 and northern pike are the dominant predator in Pine, Blackbird and South Chippewa. A baseline community survey was conducted on the Ottetail River and 21

species were collected. The report includes fishery management recommendations.

Scott Yess

Diversity Outreach:

Anglers Get Hooked on Fishing at the Mississippi Valley Fishing Expo

03/21/2004

This event provided education to over 3,000 people in the area on aquatic subjects ranging from exotic carp to endangered mussel propagation. This was a great outreach opportunity.

The Fishery Stations (La Crosse FRO, Genoa NFH and La Crosse FHC) on the Upper Mississippi River joined forces to setup and staff a booth at the First Annual Mississippi Valley Fishing Expo which was sponsored by the Onalaska Omni Center. This first year event was attended by over 3,000 people who found the FWS booth to be very interesting. Featured displays included; native mussels, mounted fish, an aquarium with trout and lake sturgeon, video on exotic carp and endangered mussels, and numerous posters on a variety of aquatic topics. A majority of the questions and concerns were about the exotic carp and our native mussels. The lake sturgeon in the aquarium and large mount were also a big hit. Sunglasses, key chains and coloring books were distributed to the children. Holding the Expo in March is perfect timing for spring fever anglers. The staff heard very positive comments on our display and the Expo in general. This event was an excellent outreach opportunity and should be attended next year.



A visitor enjoys the FWS booth at the Mississippi Valley Fishing Expo.

Scott Yess