

Job Title: Environmental Specialist

Location: Winnebago Watershed, Wisconsin; (Seasonal Hybrid - Virtual and On-site)

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: 55,000/yr

Department: Environment and Natural Resources Department, Brothertown Indian Nation

Reports To: Project Principal Investigators

Application Deadline: April 1, 2025

Project Background:

The InterTribal Winnebago Wild Rice Revitalization Project team is working on the restoration of *Mayom* (the Mohegan language word for Wild Rice) habitats and the revitalization of Indigenous cultural practices around water and *Mayom* in the Winnebago Watershed of Wisconsin. Our mission is to restore and protect the ecological balance of this vital habitat while supporting the cultural and traditional practices of Indigenous communities who rely on Wild Rice as a spiritual, cultural, and physical resource.

Job Summary:

We are seeking a sincere and knowledgeable Environmental Specialist with a focus on wetland ecology to join our team. The role involves conducting research on and restoration of *Mayom* ~ wild rice (*Zizania* spp.) within the Winnebago Watershed. This is a unique opportunity to contribute to habitat restoration efforts, understand environmental impacts, and aid in the long-term prosperity of our relatives within the local ecosystem. The position is grant funded through 11/30/2027 through an EPA Community Change Grant.

Key Responsibilities

- Collaborate with local, state, and Tribal environmental agencies to align research with shared conservation goals and regulatory requirements.
- Maintain up-to-date knowledge on regional watershed dynamics and current environmental regulations affecting wetlands and aquatic systems.
- Conduct field studies on wild rice populations within palustrine, riverine, and lacustrine wetlands – including data collection on water quality, sediment composition, and observations of the ecological community.
- Analyze the ecological impact of surrounding land use, climate variability, and competitive species on wild rice ecosystems.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate a citizen water monitoring team to establish local stewardship over wild rice habitats.
- Data entry and analysis
- Obtain Drone License to conduct aerial photography of project sites.
- Use geographic information systems (GIS) to map wild rice distribution and assess environmental changes over time.
- Prepare detailed reports and scientific papers to present findings, including data analysis, trends, and recommendations for future management practices. Present such work at wetland and natural resource conferences.

- Work with the project team to Plan and coordinate an InterTribal Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Governance Gathering for indigenous community members, tribal technical staff, and leaders to discuss environmental trends and ensure culturally significant aspects of wild rice conservation are upheld.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Environmental Science, Ecology, Botany, Aquatic Biology, or a related field.
- Familiarity with palustrine, riverine, and lacustrine ecosystems – particularly in the Great Lakes region.
- Strong data collection and analysis skills, including proficiency in water quality monitoring and species identification.
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively with diverse communities and organizations.

Preferred Qualifications

- 3+ years of experience in aquatic ecosystem research, wetland ecology, or habitat restoration.
- Knowledge of wild rice ecology and cultural significance, particularly with respect to Indigenous practices and conservation.
- Previous experience working in the Winnebago Watershed or similar wetland environments.
- Experience using GIS software (e.g. QGIS), statistical analysis tools (e.g., R or Python), or other relevant environmental modeling techniques.

Work Conditions

- Fieldwork in diverse weather conditions, including on boats or in wetlands.
- Occasional lifting of equipment and long periods of sitting in vehicles (auto and boat) traveling to sites.
- Regular travel within the Winnebago Watershed area and occasional trips throughout the state.
- Winter season work is office-based.
- Benefits are available and will be discussed upon hire.

How to Apply

- Interested candidates should **submit** a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three professional references to:
 - Brothertown Vice Chair Jessica Skeesuck
brothertownvicechair@brothertownindians.org
 - Dr. Jessie Conaway at jessie.conaway@wisc.edu and
 - CC Alex Mixtli alexander.mixtli@protonmail.com
- Applications will be reviewed after the Application close date of 4/1/25.