PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Bad River Reservation, encompassing four (4) rural communities and other scattered areas within the Reservation (hereafter, Scattered Communities) have no tribally-approved, state-approved, or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved pre-disaster mitigation plan to respond to locally-common natural disasters of wildfire and flooding. Without a plan in place, affected communities within the Bad River Reservation lack the capacity, organization, and direction to mitigate potential natural disasters. As a result, when natural disasters occur, the Bad River Tribal government incurs higher costs of addressing mitigation and emergency response efforts and draws from federal, state, and local resources, thereby increasing these resources.

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the Bad River Pre-Disaster Mitigation (BRPDM) Project is to develop, approve, implement, and create an update schedule for a local tribal mitigation plan for the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (hereafter, The Tribe).

The Tribe is the project applicant, with a mission enacted in 1996 “To work toward a more progressive, financially stable government, to maintain tribal sovereignty, and enable members to progress individually, toward a more fulfilling life culturally, spiritually, and economically.” To help fulfill our Tribe’s mission, we are seeking financial assistance from FEMA to support the planning process for developing, approving, implementing, and updating a pre-disaster local tribal mitigation plan to address future wildfire, flooding, and other related natural disasters. Our long-range goal is to incorporate emergency management response plans into the approved pre-disaster mitigation plan. Following this grant’s two-year cycle, The Tribe intends to implement the FEMA-approved pre-disaster mitigation plan for each tribal community using funds from FEMA mitigation implementation grants. Throughout this latter process, we aim to collaborate with the Wisconsin State Emergency Management center and nearby tribes to assist in their planning efforts.

The Tribe is located on the Bad River Indian Reservation along the south shore of Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin. The seat of Tribal government (i.e., tribal council) is a thirteen (13)-member council and located in the Village of Odanah, Wisconsin. Four (4) main rural communities, along with the Scattered Communities encompass over 2,300 tribal community members.

The current targeted beneficiaries for BRPDM Project are the four (4) main rural tribal communities (e.g., New Odanah, Old Odanah, Aspen Acres/Franks Field, and Birch Hill) and Scattered Communities on the Bad River Reservation, as well as tribal program staff and tribal government. Our current targeted beneficiaries consist of approximately 612 rural community homes and 25 tribal facilities which house tribal program staff, tribal enterprises, and tribal government.

The BRPDM Project will initially employ two (2) project staff: the current Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist at 0.3333 FTW for 13.332 hours/week for 104 weeks and a Computer Science Intern at 1.0 LTE for 40 hours/week or 14 weeks, and contract with a Mitigation Planner and Writer (MPW). The Tribe will recruit and hire these two (2) staff and establish a contractual agreement with a firm or individual to plan and write the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan at the beginning of the project period. Initially, the GIS Specialist, currently The Tribe’s GIS Specialist, will assist in hiring both the MPW and Computer Science Intern. The GIS Specialist will manage the FEMA grant upon project approval, as well as be responsible for ensuring that 1) project time lines and milestones are consistently met, 2) project reporting is done in accordance with FEMA standards, and 3) supervision of the Bad River Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Project staff. The MPW will take over responsibilities (number 1 and 2) of the GIS Manager after hiring and project orientation. Following the transfer of duties from the GIS Specialist to the MPW, the GIS Specialist will continue to supervise project staff, but begin work on the Bad River Land Information Systems (BRLIS) database, website web-entry application development, GIS data collection, and data organization. The Computer Science Intern will program web-entry applications and develop standard operating procedures (SOP’s) and user-guides with the GIS Specialist for the BRLIS database and web-entry applications. The pre-selected Management Information Services (MIS) Director will devote 6.9% of his FTE time (2.79 hours per week for 50 weeks/year for two (2) years) to assist in database development and design, website management, and overall hardware and software support.