



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Siskiwit River, Wisconsin

Great Lakes Tributary Model Program (Section 516e, WRDA 96)

Project Location: The Siskiwit River watershed is located in Northern Wisconsin in Bayfield County, approximately 30 miles northwest of Ashland, WI. The Siskiwit River is a tributary to Lake Superior and drains through the Cornucopia Harbor, in the Village of Cornucopia.

Project Description: The Siskiwit River watershed is 26.3 square mile. Over 90% of the watershed is classified as forest according to the 2001 National Land Cover Database. Subsequently, the population density in this small watershed is very low. The shallow-draft harbor requires periodic dredging on a three to five year cycle, with an average dredging volume of approximately 6,000 cubic yards per dredging. Sources of sediment in the watershed are varied, but are primarily related to natural fluvial processes, and to a lesser extent, forestry practices.

Project Benefits: The Siskiwit River watershed experiences several sediment source issues. These include a high density of logging roads in the upper reaches; forest clear-cutting; lateral migration/bank erosion; headcutting of the upper reaches; and a high density of beaver dams and subsequent failures of beaver dams. Through the collection of sediment source information, a sediment budget has been developed that determines the magnitude of sediment sources for each category. A Geographic Information System (GIS) tool in a format compatible with Google Earth™ has been developed to inventory these sediment sources. This spatial database includes locations of all noted sediment sources with pictures, bed material, and a rating of stability and intensity of erosion. This sediment inventory may be used as a baseline condition for measuring results of proposed activities such as beaver management or sediment traps.

Status: A detailed scoping report was approved in October 2009. Development of the Google Earth Inventory tool and recommendations are complete.

Schedule:

Milestone	Date
Complete scoping report	Jan 2010
Complete tool development	Nov 2010
Training workshop	Nov 2010

Project Costs:

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal – E&W	\$145,000
Federal – GLRI	\$0
Total	\$145,000

Project Partners: Siskiwit Bay Marina, Town of Bell Marina, Halvorson’s Fisheries, Red Cliff Tribe Fisheries, USCG, WDNR, USGS.

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