



October 23, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Sullivan earns EPA's Frank DeCouteau Award**

(New Prague, Minn. — October 23, 2008) Bobby Sullivan, working in solid waste and brownfields for the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Environmental Protection Program, has been awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Frank DeCouteau Award.

The award was presented to Sullivan for her work on behalf of the health and well-being of the people and the environment of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for the past 12 years.

Sullivan's work has resulted in the cleanup of dozens of illegal dump sites, some that were in place for decades and covered acres of land. The most-recent cleanup removed tons of waste from the water and banks of a creek and was accomplished in partnership and collaboration with a number of tribal departments.

"Trashing our lands is not a Lakota tradition. But you're out on the reservation, it's so beautiful and then – boom! There's a big pile of trash," said Sullivan of her commitment to managing solid waste on the reservation.

"Whatever the task at hand, Bobby responds quickly and is skilled at reaching out and involving the people necessary to get the job done," said Lawrence D. Grandison, of EPA's Region 8, who presented the award. "Throughout her career, she has put her skills and knowledge to work for a better environment for the people of the Oglala Lakota Nation."

Among her accomplishments, Sullivan served on a committee that successfully drafted the tribe's solid waste management code revision. Recently she focused on waste reduction, plans to initiate a recycling program and recommendations for operational improvements in solid waste collection.

Sullivan was featured in the Spring 2007 issue of Midwest Assistance Program, Inc.'s *Source* newsletter. Laura M. Dellinger, MAP resource development advisor said, "I've worked closely with Bobby for years and have been amazed at her energy, her dedication to her people and her ability to tackle sometimes-overwhelming projects and get them done."

The Frank DeCouteau award recognizes outstanding contributions to environmental protection or advancement by a tribal staff employee or tribal member. It's given in memory of DeCouteau of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping rural communities in a nine-state area improve their environment, quality of life and achieve self sustainability. MAP helps revitalize small communities by working with them to find solutions for their infrastructure, enterprise development, aging, technology or training issues. It's a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, a national, rural community development network. MAP is an equal-opportunity lender, provider and employer. It's also an approved vendor of the General Services Administration.