

MASINAIGAN

MASINAIGAN (MUZ IN I AY GIN) A publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

Winter 1996



Joint effort stocks 500 lake trout

A raw wind bit the fingers of fisheries staff from GLIFWC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa, and volunteers from Round Lake Property Owners as they stocked 500 adult, male lake trout from the federal hatchery in Iron River into the chilly waters of Round Lake last November. But nobody complained as they transferred the monster fish from the transport truck, measured and tagged each fish, and finally slipped them into the waters of their new home. (See story page 13)

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An Anishinabe twist on elderly feeding brings fresh venison to elders' tables

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Red Cliff, Wis.—It took about fifteen minutes, two shots, and Mark Duffy, Red Cliff tribal member, downed two deer—a good-sized antlered buck and a small doe. Both deer were killed for the tribe's elderly who are unable to hunt for themselves.

Joined in the woods by Larry Deragon, Red Cliff tribal member, and GLIFWC Warden Mark Bresette, the deer were gutted, dragged through the tangled woods, and loaded into Deragon's vehicle in less than an hour.

Tipped off by logger Jeff VanderVenter that the area near Bladder lake in the Moquah barrens had plenty of deer, the two originally set off into the woods after a large doe which had crossed the road in front of them. The large doe eluded the hunters, but brought Duffy to the other two, unwary deer.

Duffy was permitted two deer, and could have shot a third in the same spot, but was unsure that his partner, Deragon, was within calling distance, so he let it go. The two found another doe down the road, so bagged three in all.

Duffy and Deragon were among a number of Red Cliff tribal members participating in the tribe's annual hunt for the elderly. This year two days were set aside for this special hunt, November 6th and 12th.

Six deer were registered on November 6th, a particularly blustery day featuring 40 mile per hour winds and -15° degree wind chill factor. Tribal Chairwoman Rose Gurnoe was one of those who braved the weather.

Better conditions on November 12th brought in thirteen deer, making a total of nineteen deer designated for the elderly.

Like any other deer taken during the off-reservation, treaty deer season, the deer are taken to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's on-reservation registration station, where they are given a carcass tag and recorded.

Following tagging, the deer are taken to Ron Nordine, Red Cliff tribal member, to be cleaned and processed. Nordine donates the processing of all venison shot for the elderly. (See Elderly hunt, page 3)



Mark Duffy, Red Cliff, tags a buck he downed for the elderly. Duffy participated in the elderly hunt on November 17th when all deer taken off-reservation were designated for distribution to the elderly or those unable to hunt for themselves. A total of 21 deer were taken during two days designated as hunting for the elderly. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



For those who cannot get to the elderly center, packages of venison were delivered to fifty homes by John (Jack) Deragon, driver for the Meals-on-Wheels program. Above, Jack stops at Steve Gordon's home to make sure he gets his share of the venison. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



Mark Duffy and Red Cliff Warden Joe LaGrew deliver packaged venison to the elderly center at Red Cliff. (Photo by Amoose)

Thirteen years of off-reservation deer hunt show safe, successful seasons for treaty hunters

By Jonathan Gilbert
Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—This year marks the 13th annual off-reservation treaty deer (wawaskishi) hunting season and the eleventh bear (makwa) season.

In 1996 there were 37 bear harvested and as of December 5, 1996 there were 3,108 deer harvested.

A few more deer will yet be added to the 1996 harvest, but the final harvest is sure to be less than the 4,939 deer harvested in 1991, the year of the greatest deer harvest. The 1996 bear harvest is similar to bear harvests in previous years.

The treaty deer season has become a fixture in northern Wisconsin. It is a routine occurrence which stirs little publicity. However, it is a very important hunting season to those tribal hunters who participate.

On average 2,000 tribal members obtain deer hunting permits each year and more than 50% of these hunters are successful in harvesting at least one deer. This harvest provides food and sustenance to a large number of people beyond the hunter and his or her family.

Many members share their harvest with friends and relatives. Others hunt to provide food for the elderly. In fact, Red Cliff holds a hunting day where the intent of the hunt is to provide venison to the elderly feeding program.

In all since 1983 there have been 39,869 deer registered during tribal off-reservation deer hunting seasons. If a hunter receives 60 pounds of meat from each deer, then there have been approximately 2,392,140 pounds of venison harvested from the ceded territories.

We are all thankful for the bounty which has been provided by the deer populations in the ceded territory. However, we

should also be thankful that this bounty has been reaped in a safe manner.

Over the 13 years of tribal hunting there has only been a handful of accidents and no fatalities. In all, the treaty deer hunting season has become a successful season. It provides for a plentiful harvest which is widely distributed within the tribal community. The season has been conducted in a manner which protects public safety and the safety of the hunters. The season has become routine and no longer causes the controversy it once did.

The treaty bear hunting seasons have progressed to become a successful as well, with little or no controversy. The number of tribal bear hunters is much lower than for deer, and the bear harvest reflects this. Bears hold a special place in Ojibwa culture and fewer members wish to hunt them.

Lac Courte Oreilles recognizes this cultural significance by closing the bear hunting season for its members.

The future is bright for tribal deer hunting in Wisconsin. There are plenty of deer available, and the tribes have just completed a review of the deer management situation in the Wisconsin ceded territories and have established new population goals which are consistent with an ecological carrying capacity.

These new goals are designed to provide for an adequate deer harvest for the tribes and also to protect those organisms which may be negatively impacted by deer, especially understory plants.

It is through this balanced approach that the tribes can insure that all of their harvest needs, whether it is deer or ginseng or cedar, can be met. □

1996 Off-reservation tribal deer harvest Preliminary figures as of 12/5/96

Tribes	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Bad River	103	185	288
Lac Courte Oreilles	255	491	746
Lac du Flambeau	235	590	825
Mole Lake	98	259	357
Red Cliff	164	258	422
St. Croix	107	240	347
Mille Lacs	41	82	123
Lac Vieux Desert	0	0	0
Totals	1003	2105	3108

1996 elderly hunt

(Continued from page 2)
elderly. Nordine cleans and quarters the meat, while his wife and daughter do the smaller cuts and packaging.

Neatly packaged in small bundles, Nordine delivers the venison to the Red Cliff Elderly Program, which in turn distributes the meat.

John Deragon, driver for the tribal meals-on-wheels program, distributes packets of steaks and venison burger to the homes of elderly and shut-ins. Others receive their packets at the elderly nutrition center. This year venison was passed out after a Thanksgiving feast for the elderly.

The off-reservation elderly hunt began in 1989. Deragon recalls that people were restless and bored in the office, and someone suggested letting the employees go hunting on behalf of the elderly who are unable to get out hunting for themselves.

The idea struck a positive chord with former Tribal Chairman Dick Gurnoe, who was struggling with budget cuts for the elderly feeding program.

"We were between funding cycles and we were short on dollars to meet the need," Gurnoe recalls. A supply of fresh venison was an ideal solution.

Gurnoe allowed time off for any employee who would go hunt for the elderly. The tribe even provided a tank of gas, Deragon recalls, for those willing to hunt.

Thus began a tradition for the Red Cliff tribe, which has provided an elderly hunt each year since 1989.

During the last several years, two days have been allowed for the hunt in order to assure that sufficient venison is procured for distribution to the elderly.

The hunt has brought in anywhere from eight to twenty deer each year, according to Bresette, who participates in the hunt each year as well.

Originally, the second day had been scheduled for November 19th but the date was moved up a week so as not to unnecessarily disturb the woods just prior to the state gun season, Deragon says.

The elderly have been appreciative of the effort by the tribe and community members who hunt on their behalf. Fresh venison, a traditional, dietary staple for most them, would be inaccessible without such community support.

In the words of one Red Cliff elder, Dan Gokee, "There's nothing like fresh venison... except, maybe, partridge!"



Deer taken for the elderly were all processed by Ron Nordine, Red Cliff, who volunteers his time and skills annually for this project. Above Nordine holds a choice piece of venison loin. (Photo by Amoose)

Research considers impact of predators on forest ecosystems

By Jonathan Gilbert
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—In 1996 GLIFWC wildlife section continued with its research activities on predators in the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forests. Bobcat, fisher, and pine marten are the species studied through the use of radio collars and radio telemetry.

Specifically, the studies focused competition between predators and overlap of habitat areas. Researchers have noticed that some predators have expanded their range, so are interested in the amount of competition between species.

They also looked at the impact of reintroducing predators, such as the fisher, whose numbers have been seriously diminished. The study considers the impact of reintroduction on both prey and other predators.

The Wisconsin fisher reintroduction efforts successfully reestablished an extirpated species to a population of, allegedly, 10,000 animals. However, there has been no effort to evaluate the effects of this predator restoration on any aspect of northern Wisconsin forest ecosystems.

The objectives of the northern predator interaction study are to:

- ① Determine habitat use, food habits and activity patterns for bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), pine martens (*Martes americana*), fishers (*Martes pennanti*) in winter and to calculate the extent of niche overlap of the three species.
- ② Quantify prey abundance in habitats used by the predators.
- ③ Estimate population size of the predators in the study area.
- ④ Document social interactions, especially aggression among and between predator species.

Work conducted on the Nicolet National Forest concentrated on the interaction among fishers and pine martens. Home range areas and the amount of forest habitat used by pine martens and fishers have been determined. Fishers have home range areas between 4 and 17 km. Marten home ranges are smaller ranging between 0.5 and 4.6 km.

No habitat selection based on species of trees in the canopy was found. Quantities of coarse woody debris on the forest floor and have examined the effects of this forest structure on habitat use have been determined.



Waking up is hard to do. This bobcat is just coming out of a den following capture as part of predator-prey studies. (Photo by Ron Parisien)



Ron Parisien, GLIFWC wildlife technician, uses radio telemetry to track radio collared bobcat, fisher and marten in predator-prey studies. (Photo by Dave Parisien)

Micro habitat use, that is rest and den site selection, is strongly tied to forest structure for martens, but less so for fishers. This work was conducted under cooperative agreements with the North Central Forest Experiment Stations and under a Challenge Cost-Share agreement with the Nicolet National Forest.

Work continues on the Chequamegon National Forest although without a cooperative agreement. On the Chequamegon National Forest bobcats, martens and fishers have been marked and collared. Fisher home ranges are larger on the Chequamegon than found on the Nicolet, ranging between 15.2 to 21 km. Bobcat home ranges were determined to be between 38 to 100 km, larger than found elsewhere in Wisconsin.

In 1996 GLIFWC continued to trap and tag fishers, martens and bobcats. Currently, 4 bobcats, 4 martens and 8 fishers are radio collared. Examination of the spatial arrangement of home ranges of these three predators are beginning.

Within a species there is much territoriality, especially among the females. Males tend to have more overlap in their home ranges.

There is much overlap between bobcats and fishers. There are fishers who spend their entire lives within a home range of a bobcat. This happens with both male and female animals. There tends to be less overlap with martens. This may be because we have few fishers or bobcats marked in the same area as martens.

However, it is possible that fewer fishers or bobcats are caught there because they do not live there. It does not appear that martens are excluding fishers or bobcats but perhaps they are selecting areas with different habitats.

During the coming months each radio marked animal will be followed to determine its home range and activity pattern. Animals are followed by use of radio telemetry which enables biological staff to locate each individual animal.

As spring approaches the radio marked females will be used to find maternal den sites. These are areas where the female has her young and are thus very important habitat components for these species. As types of habitat used for this purpose are more understood forest management plans can make provisions for increased amounts of maternal den habitat.

One of the more interesting aspects of the 1996 trapping sessions was the involvement of 4 high school students from Lac du Flambeau. These were students who were interested in natural resources and the outdoors. They spent up to 3 days per week with the wildlife crew running the trap line.

It was a good experience for them because they had the opportunity to see how scientific research is conducted, to see the importance of keeping good records and result, and to experience good role models in the wildlife technicians.

Students also learned that patience is an important virtue. They spent 2 1/2 weeks with the crew before they caught their first animals. But by the end of the trapping session they had seen a marten, fisher and a bobcat. GLIFWC's wildlife section was happy to provide this opportunity to these students.

More data on turtles needed as basis for harvest regulation

By Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—The well-being of mishikeyag (turtles) became a concern for several Ojibwe bands in 1996. There was a proposed turtle farm in Bayfield County which wanted to use captured wild turtles as brood stock for their farm.

This raised many concerns by the tribes, and these concerns were brought to Bayfield County, especially by the Red Cliff and Bad River bands. Also, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) proposed new turtle harvesting regulations which would govern the harvest of turtles by non-Indians. Below I address my concerns about the WDNR regulatory action.

Before I begin, I want everyone to understand that the proposed WDNR rule changes will have no effect on tribal rules governing the harvest of turtles in the ceded territory. Tribal governments have enacted regulations which are consistent with court rulings which determined these rules were sufficient to protect turtle populations. These tribal regulations will only be changed when the bands are convinced that such a change is warranted.

Mishikeyag are important animals in the Ojibwa culture. The turtle is the king of the Gigoon (Fish) Clan which are the intellectuals and mediators within the Ojibwa clan system. Mishikeyag has religious and cultural significance to the Ojibwa.

As Ojibwa story relates, after the great flood that covered the earth, the turtle volunteered to bear the weight of a new earth. The creator put a piece of Earth on the turtle's back. The earth grew until it formed a great island in the water.

"Today, traditional Indian people sing special songs and dance in a circle in memory of this event. Indian people also give special honor to our brother, the turtle. He bore the weight of the new Earth on his back and made life possible for the Earth's second people." (Benton-Benai, Edward, *The Mishomis Book*, Red School House, St. Paul, Minnesota 1988).

We at GLIFWC also have concerns for turtle populations in the ceded territory. These animals live in wetlands, streams and lakes; habitats which are under unusually high stress from habitat destruction and alteration. Undoubtedly this habitat destruction and alteration has had an impact on all denizens of wetland habitats including turtles. All citizens of the state should be concerned about this.

I am also concerned because there is so little known about the status of turtles in the ceded territory. We do not know, for example, how many turtles (of any species) there are in the ceded territory. We know little of their reproductive rate or rate of survival.

There is only scant information on turtle distribution and no information on any potential change in that distribution. We have no knowledge of the magnitude of turtle harvest either in the state or the ceded territory. These are the aspects of turtle management that most concern us.

GLIFWC biologists have long maintained that the two basic pieces of information needed to manage the harvest of a species are population size and harvest

quantity. We know neither of these for turtles. I am concerned about the proposed turtle harvesting regulations, not because I fear they will not reduce harvests. They may well do this. Rather I fear that if these regulations are enacted, the WDNR will be placated into thinking that they have protected turtle populations.

Since we have no information indicating the cause of a turtle decline (or even if there has been a decline), we should not be convinced that tightening the harvest will protect the remaining turtles.

The WDNR should make a concerted effort to more closely monitor turtle populations; they should study factors which may be negatively affecting turtle populations such as a decline in nesting habitat and reproductive success; they should accurately monitor the harvest of these species by both sport and commercial harvesters.

By collecting this information the WDNR will be able to make sound judgments about the status of turtles and propose actions which will be effective in protecting and increasing remaining turtle populations.



A big winner of the Bad River Fire Department fund-raising raffle this fall, GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader Jonathan Gilbert, displays his prize. (Photo by Amoose)

1996 wild rice season a good one

By Peter David
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Tribal and state rice harvesters are likely to have especially fond memories of the 1996 season. Preliminary figures indicate '96 tribal harvest to be comparable to the '95 season, which was the best since GLIFWC began collecting data in 1978.

The good crop generally reported across Wisconsin came as a bit of a surprise to many. Spring came late to much of northern Wisconsin this year, with the ice going out on many lakes up to three weeks later than usual.

But fears that this would lead to a poor rice crop turned out to be unwarranted. In fact, the late ice-out may have helped the rice by knocking back some of the vegetation rice competes with.

The late spring did cause the rice to ripen 2-3 weeks later than usual on many

waters, so those ricers hoping to harvest over the Labor Day weekend found few regulated waters opened and little rice dropping on the unregulated sites. But those able to rice around the second week of September generally found good stands and enjoyed good harvesting weather.

Of course, there are always exceptions to the rule, and this year there were some notable ones. Ricers in the LCO area were disappointed to find that Totogatic Lake in southern Bayfield County, a popular harvesting site that supported hundreds of acres of rice in 1995, was a bust in 1996.

Fortunately, the failure at Totogatic need not cause alarm for the long-term status of this bed. Rice has evolved to withstand occasional failure, and much of the seed which was dropped last year will remain viable to produce a crop next year if the conditions are good.

This resiliency in rice was witnessed by many Sokaogon Chippewas this year.

Rice Lake, located on the Sokaogon reservation in Forest County and a mainstay ricing ground for the tribe, experienced a crop failure in 1995. But despite this year's spring, the lake bounced back to produce about 100 acres of dense beds this year.

GLIFWC is currently working on its annual estimate of the off-reservation harvest of wild rice. A sample of tribal harvesters has been surveyed by telephone, and a mail survey has been sent to state-licensed harvesters.

Although the survey is not yet completed, harvest is expected to be near or above the 1995 level, which was the highest since harvest surveys were initiated in 1987.

The 1995 survey estimated the off-reservation harvest at approximately 36,500 pounds of green rice by 171 tribal harvesters, and 46,900 pounds by 358 state-licensed ricers.

A fairly large portion of the state harvest is now being purchased by various tribal, state and federal natural resource agencies for use in reseeded projects.

GLIFWC, its member tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Wisconsin and Michigan DNR's, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and others have all contributed to this effort to reestablish rice at historic sites where it has been lost and to introduce it to suitable new areas, such as artificial flowages at wildlife management areas.

This effort is "sowing" success. Although many seeding sites are selected more for their benefit to wildlife and the environment, about 10% of the harvest reported by respondent's to this year's surveys came from rice beds established through the seeding program. For more information, contact Peter David at GLIFWC at (715) 682-6619.

Bad River Band receives conservation award

For generations, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians have been stewards of the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs, a mosaic of rivers and lakes, bogs and sedge meadows, forests and dunes located on the southern shore of Lake Superior.

As a result of careful stewardship by past and present members of the Bad River Band, the Sloughs are one of the largest, healthiest, fully-functioning coastal marshes in the Great Lakes Basin. In addition, the Sloughs contain the largest contiguous area of wild rice in Wisconsin.

In recognition of the Bad River Band's leadership and commitment to protecting the Sloughs, the Wisconsin Chapter of The Nature Conservancy presented the Tribe with its Conservation Partnership Award at the chapter's quarterly board meeting in Minocqua.

In recent years, the tribal council, Bad River Natural Resource Department and Band members have begun to utilize innovative technologies including a geographic information system, to identify different protective areas and define compatible forestry practices in the Sloughs. The use of this technology and the Tribe's futuristic planning for the resources within their 125,000-acre reservation will provide a model for use by other tribes, public and private agencies, as well as private landowners throughout the region.

The Bad River Band has led a multiple-partner effort for several years to combat purple loosestrife, a non-native plant that invades wetlands and outcompetes native vegetation, and protect vital tracts of land within the Sloughs. The Tribe is developing an Integrated Resource Management Plan that will guide the management of the natural resources on the reservation.

Upon accepting the award, Joe Dan Rose, tribal council member and fisheries specialist, explained, "One of the reasons that we have such a place as this, is that the Tribe as a whole... has shown an obvious commitment to protecting the integrity and natural heritage of this place... In the contemporary senses we see our ongoing activities, ongoing efforts and ongoing commitment toward the protection of the Sloughs as the fulfillment of a responsibility rather than something that is above and beyond the ordinary."



Congratulations to the Bad River Band. The Nature Conservancy recently presented the tribe its Conservation Partnership Award. Bad River's Natural Resources Department staff consist of, from the right, Matt Eitrem, Water Resources Technician; Bill Deragon, Lease Administrator; Anne Barnes, Environmental Specialist; Ervin Soulier, Natural Resources Manager; Kim Chojnackik Receptionist; Tom Doolittle, Wildlife Specialist; Dan Powless, Wetland Specialist; Joe Dan Rose, Fisheries Specialist and Sunny LaPointe, Administrative Assistant. Not pictured are: Donna Lynk, Realty Specialist; Doug Tutor, Forestry Technician; Mark Miller, GIS Specialist; Ed Leoso, Lake Superior Fisheries Technician; Russell Corbine, Hatchery Foreman; Matt O'Claire, Conservation Warden; Bob Wilmer, Conservation Warden; Randy Houle, Road Maintenance Supervisor; Scott Bender, Road Maintenance Supervisor; and Dave Parisien, Wildlife Technician. (Photo by Amoose)

Editor's note: The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Wisconsin Chapter has protected more than 50,000 acres at 146 sites in the state. The Wisconsin Chapter has over 22,000 members throughout the state. (Reprinted with permission from the Nature Conservancy)

Trumpeter swans gone for the winter

Odanah, Wis.—The trumpeter swans have all left the Bad River reservation for the winter months now.

Four of the birds seemed reluctant to depart, according to Bad River Wildlife Biologist Tom Doolittle.

They remained on the reservation through November 27th, when the thermometer dipped to 9 degrees and were making 80 mile round trips daily to feed in Lake Goegebic.

By December 2nd all had departed, and Bad River has only had a report on one bird from Honest John Slough which migrated to the Marshfield Zoo. The trumpeter is enjoying the swan pond there and the company of tundra and mute swans, Doolittle says.

For Doolittle, the return of breeding pairs will spell the success of trumpeter release this spring and would be basis for the potential introduction of more trumpeters into the area.

The Bad River Natural Resource staff have been monitoring the activity of the released birds throughout the summer,

studying their habitat and feeding preferences and flight patterns.

Eleven of the fourteen released swans have survived, including four breeding pairs and three single female swans. Of course it would be ideal for Doolittle if the single gals would find mates during their southern migration and bring them back to Bad River area to breed. However, the return of any of them remains to be seen.

The exact cause of death for three of the trumpeters is not determinable. One may have been predated by a black bear, Doolittle says. The other were found dead with no sign of traumatic injury, such as lead shot or blows, so humans have been ruled out as the cause of death.

The birds largely feed on pond weeds, particularly finer leafed, fibrous aquatic vegetation, Doolittle says, so spent the majority of the summer in the backwaters of the reservation, not in the slough areas or rice beds.

If the tribe is successful and breeding pairs return come spring, Doolittle will look for future funding to increase the



trumpeter population. The tribal council would also be asked to consider an ordinance protecting the breeding birds.

In regard to the dead birds, Doolittle said that some of the wing feathers have

remained in good shape and these may be made available for use on traditional women's dance outfits. They are particularly appropriate for the woman's dance, Swan Dance Song.

Nashville Town Board passes local agreement despite overwhelming resident objection

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Crandon, Wis.—"After the air is gone, the rice is gone, the fish are gone... all that will be left to eat is money." This was the sentiment about the signing a Local Agreement with Crandon Mining Company expressed by Amy Ackley, Mole Lake, during the public hearing portion of a December 12th meeting.

Shortly after, the Nashville Town Board voted unanimously in favor of signing a Local Agreement with the Crandon Mining Company (CRC), despite overwhelming citizen objection. A similar agreement was also passed by the Forest County Board on an 18-3 vote the same evening.

Citizens filled the board room of the Nashville Town Board on December 12th for the second time in a week to express objection to what they felt was a premature signing of an agreement with CMC (owned by Exxon Minerals in partnership with Rio Algom Limited) to operate a copper sulfide mine near Crandon, Wis.

Earlier on December 7, the Nashville Town Board walked out on a Special Town Meeting at the Nashville Town Hall. Approximately 350 town residents gathered to discuss the proposed Local Agreement with CMC were left "high and dry" as the Board exited, according to Tom Ward, Wisconsin Resource Protection Council and Town of Nashville resident. Ward says the meeting was opened by Board Chairman Dick Pitts but the Board exited only minutes after the meeting began.

A petition signed by 183 residents had requested this special meeting be held to

consider concerns regarding the proposed Local Agreement.

In particular, petitioners felt that a Local Agreement should not be signed prior to the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which would spell out areas of risk in the mining proposal, Ward said.

A Local Agreement with townships that are impacted by a mine is required by law. However, Ward says many area residents feel the signing is premature and should be considered only after the fact-finding has taken place.

This position was also recently supported by Rep. Lorraine Seratti, 36th Assembly District.

Other citizens expressed concern that the proposed Local Agreement does not contain adequate protection for either residents or the environment and would usurp all local control, leaving the township powerless should negative impacts occur from the mine.

Another objection to the Local Agreement is that the proposed agreement was negotiated between the Town Board and CMC representatives during closed sessions.

Consequently, there has been no citizen input into the process, according to Ward. Legal action was taken on behalf of the citizens who attended the Special Meeting. (see sidebar)

A meeting was also held in Lincoln County on December 12th in regard to the Local Agreement.

However, this was only an informational meeting and the Lincoln County Board does not yet have a draft agreement. (See page 10 for commentary on Local Agreement.)



Sandy Lyons, Anishinabe Nijii, and Fran Van Zile, Mole Lake, take time out during a rally held in Madison earlier this year. Both women were present December 7th at the Nashville Town Hall to discuss the ramifications of the Local Agreement with the Nashville Town Board, when the Board decided to walk out. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Town meeting democracy loses to Exxon

Rhineland, Wis.—District Court Judge Robert Kinney denied an injunction on Dec. 12 that would have prevented the Town of Nashville from entering into the so-called "Local Agreement" with Exxon/Rio Algom's Crandon Mining Company.

"I was being asked to grant extraordinary relief," said Judge Kinney. He added that he has "rarely granted injunctions, just three in the past twenty years, and all for domestic disputes."

Kinney said he felt the injunction would have "interfered in the workings of a government body." Kinney said it was a question of who's in charge, and in this case the law says the Town officials are.

The injunction was sought, according to the plaintiffs, because the Town of Nashville failed to seriously consider a resolution brought by 230 residents (300 residents voted in the last general election).

The town residents sought to prevent the town from entering into an agreement with the mining company until completion of environmental studies and a Master Hearing by the state.

"It's shocking and disheartening," said

Chuck Sleeter, a retired law officer and resident of Nashville Township. "We've seen the basic model of democracy—the town meeting—completely bulldozed by the influence of Exxon. The supposed purpose of the 'local agreement' is to demonstrate local support. This action, moving to sign the agreement at this time, does the very opposite. The town board is proceeding in flagrant opposition to a resolution supported by 80% of the voters."

"Once the agreement is signed, it is nearly impossible for the township to get out of it even if our worst fears of environmental damage are proven true during the Master Hearing process. The rush to sign this so called "Local Agreement" only benefits the mining company, not local residents whose water and livelihoods will most directly be affected by the mine," Sandy Lyon, a resident of Stone Lake.

Representative Lorraine Serratti, a Republican whose district includes Nashville recently wrote a public letter to the Nashville Townboard asking them to not sign the "Local Agreement" at this time, saying that it was premature to do so.

"It's shocking and disheartening. We've seen the basic model of democracy—the town meeting—completely bulldozed by the influence of Exxon."
—Chuck Sleeter, Nashville Township resident

'Keepers of the Water' Women's youth group

By Jessica Van Zile, Mole Lake

We, the young women of the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Community, have formed The Keepers of the Water women's youth group. Our group is to help in the fight against mining in Wisconsin.

Exxon Minerals Company and Rio Algom have combined as the Crandon Mining Company, and are proposing to build a metallic sulfide mine near Mole Lake, where we reside. Never before has a sulfide mine been cleaned up completely, and this concerns us. We are situated at the Forest County headwaters of the Wolf River, which has been named as one of the nation's most threatened waterways—because of the Crandon Mining proposal. We feel this mine would destroy our water and the environment we live in.

To help in the fight against the mine, we have decided to keep records and take water samples. We are concerned about the water quality standards. We are asking you for financial help in getting our materials and tools to do this. We want to be sure our water is not contaminated. With your help, we hope to make this possible.

The Keepers of the Water includes Crystal Ackley, Kami Dalton, Starla Fox, Kim George, Ashley McGeshick, Christine McGeshick, Jasmine Poler, Felicia Rachal, Mary Rodine, Tracy Shanty, Valerie Smith, Alicia Thorbahn, Candi Van Zile, Hannah Van Zile, Jessica Van Zile, and Leea Van Zile. Others are welcome to join.

For more information contact: The Keepers of the Water, c/o Life Enhancement Center, Route 1, Box 625, Crandon WI 54520.

(Reprinted from Mole Lake Environmental Newsletter)

Copper Range submits permit application for full-scale mine

Odanah, Wis.—While the Copper Range Co. (CRC), White Pine, Michigan, suspended a pilot solution mining project in October, the company also applied for a permit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 for a full-scale solution mining project at the White Pine Mine site.

EPA announced its acceptance of the application in November. According to Ann McCammon-Soltis, GLIFWC policy analyst, CRC is requesting permission to inject sulfuric acid solutions to be used in the mining process underground and, at the end of the process, to inject spent sulfuric acid which will remain in the ground indefinitely.

The recent permit application will change the review process, according to Soltis. Currently, GLIFWC and member tribes have been participating in the scoping meetings for the EAn. Scoping refers to a process of identifying all issues which need to be addressed.

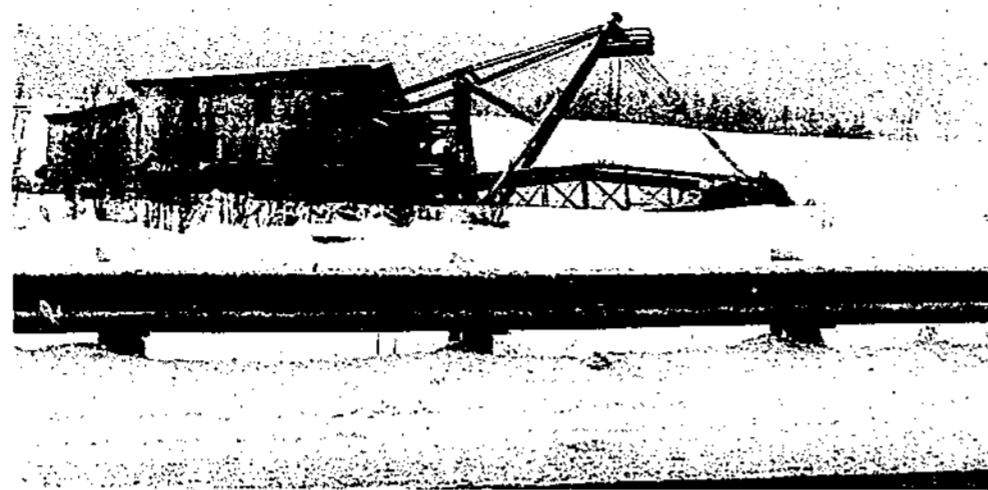
Prior to the permit application, the EPA had committed itself to an Environ-

mental Analysis (EAn) of the proposed solution mining process. Now the EAn will only address issues not to be considered in the permit application, such as impacts on tribes and trust resources, secondary impacts, and cumulative impacts, Soltis says.

So, two separate reviews are now underway. The permit application considers all the technical aspects associated with the feasibility of the solution mining process. Such technical questions will not be addressed in the EAn.

According to the EPA, a decision on the permit application and a complete draft environmental analysis report will be available by July 1997. Public hearings will be held during which oral and written comments will be accepted.

Meanwhile, GLIFWC and member tribes have been participating in the scoping process, identifying critical issues and questions which need to be addressed by EPA as part of the EAn and permitting processes, Soltis said. EPA will be issuing a draft scoping document by December 20, 1996.



Abandoned mine buildings such as this are a common sight across Michigan's Upper Peninsula, remnants of over a century of copper and iron mining. (Photo by Amoose)

Articles by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Keweenaw Bay files suit against State of Michigan

Permit for White Pine is the issue

Keweenaw Bay, Mich.—The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is challenging the State of Michigan's issuance of a permit to the Copper Range Company (CRC) for its operation of a pilot sulfide solution mining project at its site in White Pine, Michigan.

CRC was operating the pilot mining project with a state permit until last October, when it suspended its operation and applied for a permit to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the full-scale project.

According to Keweenaw Bay Attorney James Bittorf, Keweenaw Bay is contesting the State's issuance of a permit on two counts. One relates to the underlying reason for issuing a permit at all.

Bittorf explains that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a permit in order to transfer liability for existing environmental damage from the state to the company. The existing damage relates to the leakage of brine in the current mine site.

However, Keweenaw Bay contends the Department of Environmental Quality is allowing greater risk to the environment by allowing a sulfide solution mining process to operate in order to deal with the problem of seeping brine, a problem for which the State did not want the financial responsibility, Bittorf says.

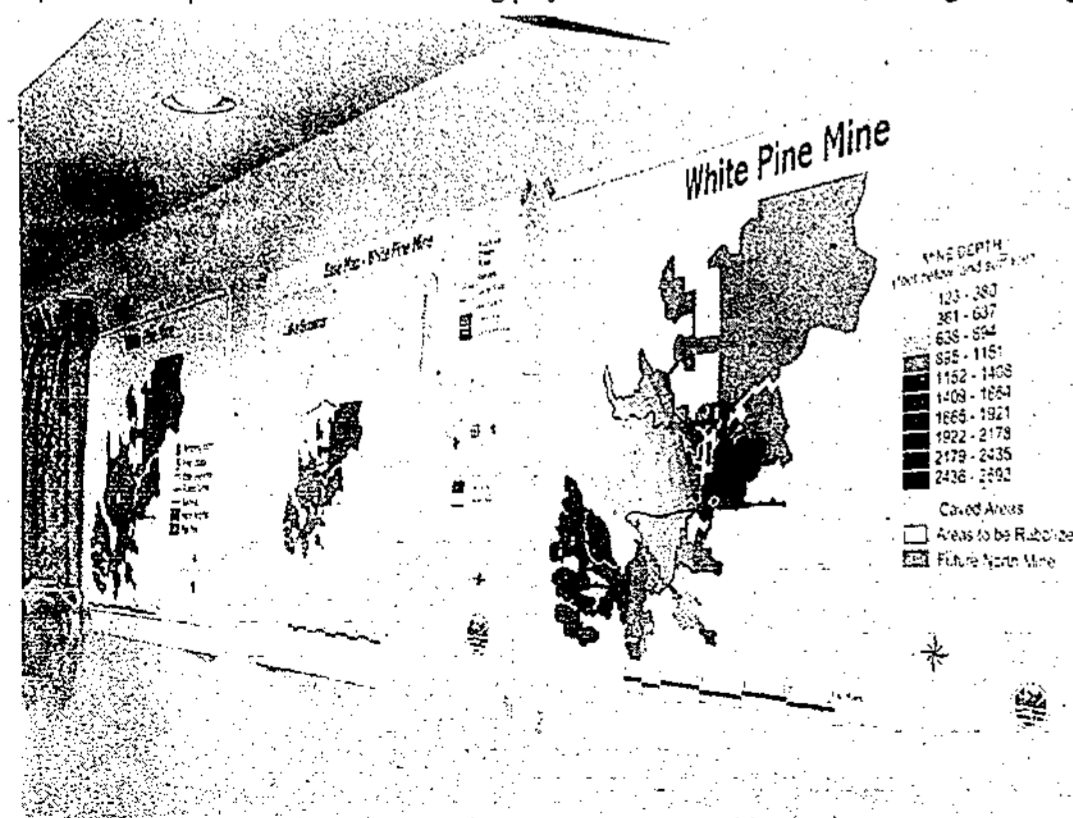
In issuing the permit the DEQ looked too narrowly at the problem and did not adequately consider other concerns, such as fissures that could allow leakage as well.

Secondly, Keweenaw Bay challenges the permit on the issue of hazardous waste disposal. Essentially, the Copper Range Company is being allowed to simply dump solution mining waste and abandon it, Bittorf says. However, the waste being dumped is hazardous waste.

The State contends that the waste is not categorized as "hazardous waste" because of an exemption for solution mining.

Since the used, or spent, mining solution is taken from above ground after it has been used in the mining process and then disposed of, Keweenaw Bay claims it can no longer at that point be considered a solution used in the mining activity. At that point Keweenaw Bay claims it is simply a waste product of the mining activity. Keweenaw Bay's petition is waiting to be scheduled for an Administrative Hearing. Bittorf is hopeful the hearing schedule will be set by December 17th.

The Administrative Hearing is within the Department of Environmental Quality and will be decided upon by an administrative judge. If Keweenaw Bay is unable to find adequate remedies within the administrative process, the issue can be appealed and taken into state court.



Maps produced through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) by GLIFWC Mining Specialist John Coleman provide help understanding the Cooper Range Company's proposed solution mining at the White Pine site in Michigan. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Keweenaw Bay and Bad River press joint action against EPA

Odanah, Wis.—The Bad River and Keweenaw Bay bands jointly filed suit against the EPA this fall for authorizing the pilot solution mining project at White Pine, Mich. without an individual permit, according to Bad River Tribal Attorney Jane Reyer.

The action, which was filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals, also seeks reclassification of the project. While litigation is underway, the parties are also involved in settlement negotiations.

The EPA has classified the pilot mining project as a Class V Underground Injection Control Program. This classification does not require an individual permit for waste disposal, but EPA can opt to require the permit if necessary, Reyer explains. In the case of the White Pine mine, the EPA did not require the individual permit for the pilot solution mine project.

Keweenaw Bay and Bad River sued the EPA to require a permit because the permit has more safeguards than a simple rule authorization as currently exists.

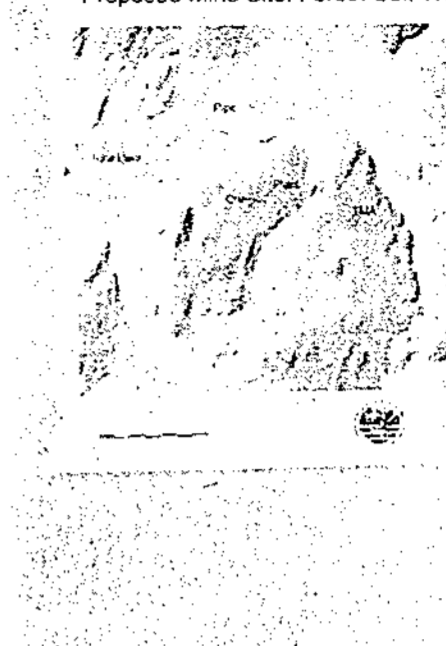
A permit requires a plan, offers opportunity for public input, and has requirements to abide by the plan, Reyer explains. A rule authorization is much less restrictive.

As in Keweenaw Bay's suit against the State of Michigan, the definition of hazardous comes into play in this situation. Although the mining waste does contain substances normally considered hazardous, mining waste is by definition not hazardous, Reyer explains, because of exemptions for mining waste.

Because mining waste is exempt for the definition of hazardous, the project could not be classified in Class I, which pertains to hazardous substances and would be more fitting to the situation, Reyer continued. Therefore, the bands are asking for a re-classification of this project as well.

The Copper Range Company, owners of the copper mine at White Pine, has suspended the pilot mining project and is seeking a permit for a full-scale solution mining project.

Proposed Mine Site, Forest Co., WI



John Coleman, GLIFWC mining specialist, Madison, Wis. provided information graphically on the proposed mine site in Forest County and the White Pine Mine to the GLIFWC Board of Commissioners who met in Keweenaw Bay in November. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Bad River passes ordinance to ensure safe tracks and tressles

Odanah, Wis.—Concern over the safety of tracks and trestles used to transport sulfuric acid across the Bad River reservation brought a protest which stopped all rail traffic across the reservation for weeks this summer.

While the protesters no longer remain on the tracks, the safety issue remains to be resolved. In an effort to address the condition of track and trestle maintained by Wisconsin Central Railway on the reservation, the Bad River Tribal Council passed a resolution adopting a Railroad Safety Ordinance on October 8, 1996.

Changes required by the tribal ordinance are viewed as prohibitive by Wisconsin Central Railway, which is confronted with replacing track across the Bad River reservation.

The tribal ordinance only deals with measures that are not covered under federal regulations and specifically require that all railroad track used on the reservation would be constructed of a minimum of 115 lb. rail. Rail used by Wisconsin Central Railway on the reservation is 80 lb. rail, according to Bad River Tribal Attorney Jane Reyer.

The ordinance also calls for the maintenance of trestles crossing waterways on the reservation, so that they are structurally sound enough to carry the maximum load over the trestles.

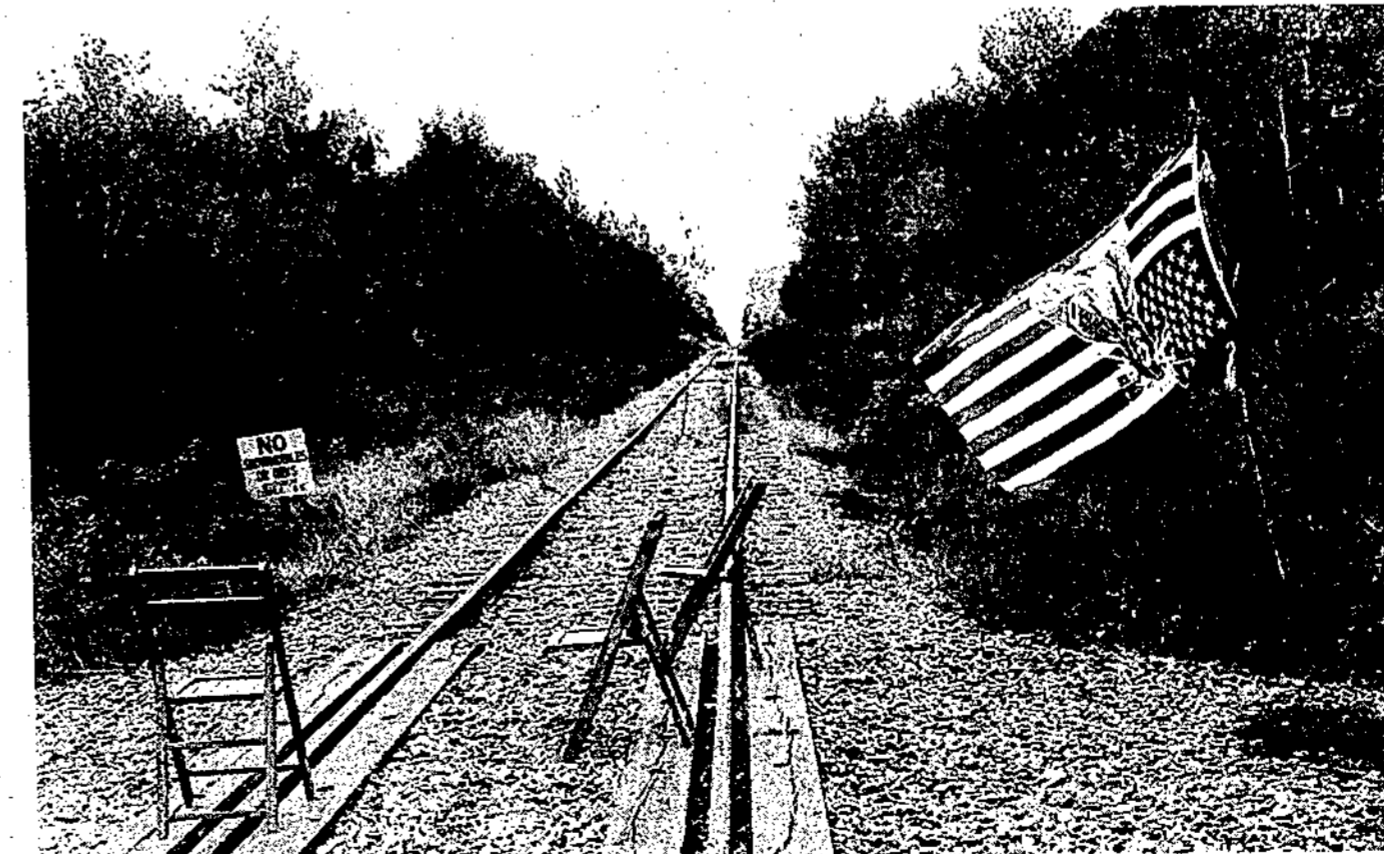
In addition, the ordinance requires that the tribe receive copies of all safety inspections and that the qualifications and number of railroad personnel on trains using the track on the reservation meet or exceed Wisconsin statutory and administrative railroad safety standards.

While the ordinance came into effect twenty days after its adoption, there is a provision whereby the Tribal Council can grant an extension for the rail company to adhere to the ordinance.

Wisconsin Central Railway has told the tribe that changing the track to meet the 115 lb. rail requirement would "put them out of business," Reyer says. The company has petitioned the tribe for an extension.

Reyer believes that petition may be heard by the Bad River Tribal Council in February 1997.

If the Tribal Council does not grant the extension, Reyer says it is likely that Wisconsin Central Railway will sue.



The scene of this summer's protest and sit-in stopped rail traffic across the Bad River reservation for weeks. The condition of the tracks and tressles owned by Wisconsin Central Railway is still unresolved in its entirety. In order to address the community's concerns for environmental safety, the Bad River Tribal Council passed an ordinance requiring tracks be constructed of 115 lb. rail and addressed the proper maintenance of tressles. WCR has petitioned the Tribal Council for an extension to comply, but also views changing the track on the Bad River reservation from 80 lb. rail to 115 lb. rail to be cost prohibitive. (Photo by Amoose)

A review of the proposed Local Agreement

By the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

The tentative Local Agreement attempts to exempt the company from "all town zoning ordinances, regulations and laws" through wording like, "the Agreement shall constitute compliance with all Procedural Requirements of Nashville ordinances and those Procedural Requirements shall not otherwise be applicable." (Sec. 2.F)

CMC will pay Nashville \$100,000 if Forest County and the Town of Lincoln sign a Local Agreement. (Sec. 3.A) CMC will give Nashville, Kevin Lyons and the law firm of Cook and Franke \$500,000 (one-half million dollars) for legal expenses associated with writing and "defending the validity of the Local Agreement." (Sec. 3.B)

The Local Agreement does not guarantee jobs for any Local residents, only "preference" and "to the extent permitted by law" for applicants who have been in the area for "one year." (Sec. 5.A)

The Town is strictly limited in reopening the Agreement. For example, the Agreement cannot be reopened unless residents "suffer additional unmitigated impact" and the operation is "substantially different from the Mining Plan." (Sec. 6.A) The mining company can also prevent the

Town from reopening the Agreement if problem is "mitigated." (Sec. 6.D)

In Section 6.J, the mining company attempts to limit the powers of the local government and our courts by stating, "The court may not directly or indirectly prohibit mining pursuant to the terms of the Mining Permit." The Town will be limited to "an order amending those terms of this agreement... directly relating to additional unmitigated negative impact" to Town residents, "but only to the extent necessary to mitigate that impact."

The Town will be obligated to certify, to the State, that the mining company's operations conform with all applicable zoning ordinances. (Sec. 6.J) All roads, pipelines, transportation facilities and other mitigation facilities are exempt from setback requirements in Section 13 of the Agreement. The Agreement gives final local approval for the disposal of all wastes associated with the project. (Sec. 16.A)

If a resident claims damage to their drinking water, the mining company will only provide alternative water to well owners who participated in CMC's Private Water Well Survey and not to new residents that didn't participate with the company. (Sec. 17.A) If the DNR finds that mining was not the cause of damage, the town residents and/or the property owner must pay the bill with 10% interest due CMC. (Sec. 17.B)

Cleanup required at mine site

By Susan Brackett
Mineral Policy Center

Since operations began in 1979, the Zortman-Landusky mine has steadily expanded, swallowing vast tracts of land as the pit of Montana's largest gold mine grows increasingly wider and ever deeper. Associated heap leach operations contribute to the ecological destruction caused by the mine.

Located adjacent to the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in north-central Montana, Zortman-Landusky is operated by Pegasus Gold Inc., and its wholly-owned subsidiary Zortman Mining Company.

For years the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Native American people have objected to the mine's numerous expansions, expressing concerns that permitting agencies were not adequately monitoring and regulating the mine site.

As reported in the Autumn 1994 and Autumn 1995 issues of *Clementine*, the mine has been plagued by numerous environmental problems, including cyanide spills, acid mine drainage, liner rips, wildlife deaths, and un-permitted mining ac-

tivities. State enforcement at the mine has been negligent.

In 1993, Island Mountain Protectors (IMP) and Red Thunder, local Native American citizen groups, filed a Notice of Intent to sue the company for Clean Water Act violations.

An embarrassed state of Montana, which is responsible for regulating mining activities, responded by filing its own lawsuit against the company, thereby preempting the citizens' suit.

In 1995 a second lawsuit was filed against the company by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), charging the company with 22 violations of the federal Clean Water Act. At this point the Fort Belknap Community Council also sued the company, and IMP joined in the lawsuit.

On July 22, 1996, the dedication and perseverance of the Fort Belknap citizens and community groups paid off when Pegasus signed a consent decree with the Department of Justice.

The consent decree imposed historic penalty and compliance requirements on the company, and ended the related litigation that had been initiated by the community, EPA, and the state of Montana.



Sec. 19, titled, "Contingency Planning" deals with catastrophic chemical accidents, spills and other disasters in two sentences. The company offers this: they have a plan and they will maintain some equipment and personnel for "accidents" that occur on the mining site. (Sec. 19.A) Environmental sampling can only be done at the expense of taxpayers, at locations, labs, and times pre-approved by the company, and only once in three months, if it is related to "compliance" with the agreement. (Sec. 21)

Section 8 appears to be a gag order restricting Nashville citizens and officials from opposing or reversing the Local Agreement once it is signed. Sec. 8 states the Agreement does not restrict or prohibit Nashville from participating in state or federal permitting processes, but Nashville "shall not renounce or repudiate this Agreement in any such proceeding." (Sec. 8)

For a copy of the proposed agreement, contact the WRC, Forest County Chapter, Box 795, R.R. 1, Crandon, WI 54520 or phone (715) 478-2384.

In signing the consent decree, Pegasus agreed to pay up to \$32 million to upgrade its mine wastewater management and treatment at the Zortman-Landusky gold mine.

The company also will build two water treatment plants for perpetual treatment. In addition, the decree includes a payment of \$1 million to the tribes; a \$2 million civil penalty for federal and state clean water violations; and implementation of supplemental environmental projects valued at \$1.7 million.

But the victory is bittersweet. "At this point in time the company has torn away our whole mountain, and there is acid coming out of every drainage," according to Kenneth Helgeson, one of the leaders of IMP. "The damage that is done is incomprehensible to anyone who has never seen a cyanide heap leach operation," he added; "it is an environmental nightmare."

According to members of the Fort Belknap community, Pegasus has excluded them from serious input into the operations at Zortman-Landusky. Obtaining even basic information from the company about the mine and its impacts was almost impossible.

As a result of the consent decree the community now has full access to information and monitoring data on every creek and every drainage, and the local citizens can fully participate in, or object to, proposed cleanup plans.

In addition, the company has agreed to perform a community health evaluation to investigate the pathways and possible impacts of environmental contaminants on residents of the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana.

The company also will evaluate the groundwater quality for Fort Belknap, and carry out projects to improve the availability and quality of drinking water for two communities of the Reservation.

Currently Pegasus is applying for permits to expand the mine, and the consent decree signed by the company is viewed by many as paving the way for expansion. Although residents have raised questions about the controversial plan, the state of Montana is expected to approve the proposal.

(Susan Brackett is Mineral Policy Center's Director of Communications and editor of *Clementine*. Reprinted with permission from *Clementine*.)

Legislative session crucial for our environment

By Rep. Spencer Black

Madison, Wis.—Wisconsin's newly elected Legislature will face several crucial environmental issues. With the state Senate now in the hands of a pro-environment majority and with strong voter sentiment for conservation, there is renewed optimism about strengthening safeguards for our natural resources.

Mining is sure to be a major issue. EXXON's proposed Wolf River mine near Crandon is one of several potential mines in sulfide ore bodies in northern Wisconsin. A broad coalition of more than 60 conservation and environmental groups is fighting for a moratorium on sulfide mines until it can be shown that they will not pollute our rivers, lakes and drinking water.

I will again propose the Sulfide Mining Moratorium Bill which will prohibit the opening of a new mine in a sulfide ore body until a similar mine has been operated elsewhere for at least 10 years without causing significant environmental damage.

The proposed EXXON mine will create Wisconsin's largest toxic waste dump. The tailings (mine waste) dump which will be located in the headwaters of the Wolf

River will be 90 feet high and cover an area equivalent to 350 football fields.

When waste sulfide tailings mix with air and water, sulfuric acid is created. Acid drainage from sulfide mining wastes have caused extensive environmental damage elsewhere.

A great many rivers in Appalachia and the Rocky Mountains remain lifeless due to acid drainage from mines. EXXON also is planning to build a 38 mile long pipeline across northern Wisconsin to dump a million gallons of wastewater a day in the Wisconsin River.

EXXON cannot cite even one example of a mine in a sulfide ore body similar to the Wolf River deposit that has not caused extensive pollution. The Mining Moratorium Bill is a common sense approach to prevent mining operations from polluting our drinking water, rivers and lakes.

Restoring our system of environmental protection will also be a top priority. Wisconsin's system of protecting our outdoors was devastated by the Legislature last session. As a result, the Department of Natural Resources is now run by political patronage appointees and our environmental watchdogs, the Public Intervenor, have been eliminated.

Wisconsin's renowned system of environmental protection has always stood on two sturdy legs—a conservation agency free from day-to-day political interference and an independent watchdog to make sure state agencies followed environmental laws.

Last session, those two legs were chopped off at the knees. That is why I will again introduce the Conservation Restoration Act. The Conservation Restoration Act will restore the political independence of the Department of Natural Resources and will restore the Office of the Public Intervenor.

Before last year, the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources was appointed by a 7 member citizen board. The law that had kept direct political influence out of conservation decisions goes all the way back to 1927 when the great Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold led the fight to end political control in our conservation agency.

Now, however, the Governor can hand pick the DNR Secretary and can fire that appointee any time a decision to limit pollution displeases his supporters.

The Legislature will also need to take action to control the dumping of out of state

waste in Wis. Last spring, the Supreme Court ruled that the section of Wisconsin's recycling law that bans the dumping of nonrecycled waste from other states into Wisconsin landfills is unconstitutional.

This court ruling could reduce the effectiveness of our recycling law. Our recycling law is working well—cutting the amount of waste going to landfills by 50%. However, our good recycling efforts are being undercut by dumping from states that do not recycle. Fortunately, we can change our law in a way that responds to the Court's objections and still would allow Wisconsin to restrict dumping of nonrecycled garbage from Illinois and other states. I will be introducing such a bill early in the Legislative session.

These efforts to improve environmental protection will only pass if you get involved. Make sure your state Legislators know that you want them to vote for our environment.

(Rep. Spencer Black is the Democratic Leader on the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, and is former chair of the Natural Resources Committee. He is the author of many environmental laws including the Stewardship Fund, the Recycling Law.)

"Keepers of the Water"

A documentary on resistance, a challenge to continue

A video review by
Sue Erickson

"Keepers of the Water" is a recently released video produced by Al Gedicks which presents the issue of metallic sulfide mining in Wisconsin in human terms... meaning terms which cut across ethnic barriers and are understandable and close to the hearts of Wisconsin's people.

As one speaker, Fran Van Zile states: "The issue is not mining, the issue is water." Concern for the continued health of Wisconsin's water as the very source of all of our lives and those to follow is obviously at the core of citizen resistance to Exxon's proposed mine portrayed in the video.

The video's power lies in the voices of people, a cross section of people, who express clearly their concerns about Exxon's proposed copper sulfide mine near Crandon. Speakers include Indian people from Mole Lake and Menominee as well as non-Indian fishermen, resort owners, property owners, politicians, religious leaders and lay people.

Through their voices the dangers inherent in the mining process are defined in simple, clear language. It teaches in an easy, story-like way. The video is thankfully devoid of the technocratic jargon which so often surrounds discussion of mining and effectively draws the lay person in a sea of acronyms.

Exposure of Exxon duplicity is well done, both in an interview with Exxon's James Buchin, who criticizes Spencer Black's proposed mining legislation without having read



"Keepers of the Water," a recently released video, documents the Wisconsin resistance to metallic sulfide mining in northern Wisconsin. It is informative on the subject of mining and challenges the viewers to also become a "Keepers of the Water." (Photo by Amoos)

it, and through Wesley Andrews, who was hired by Exxon as an ethnologist to research issues related to sacred and culturally significant sites.

As Andrews states: "I had to write the lies they (Exxon) wanted me to write, or write the truth and resign." He chose the latter.

Plenty of footage of the Wolf River and the Wisconsin River bring the viewer close to the issue—Wisconsin's water resources.

The video not only presents the issues confronting Wisconsin today, but also looks at the performance of mining elsewhere and in times past. The legacy speaks for itself.

Beyond an education about the mining issue and the people involved in assuring that mining will not damage the water resource, the video is clearly a challenge to viewers to join those who have actively been "keepers of the water" since Exxon first took interest in Wisconsin's cop-

per resource in the 1970s.

The responsibility to be "keepers of the water" lies within all of us, who depend on it for life, whether young or old, rich or poor, Indian or white, sportsman or housewife.

The video runs about 38 minutes, is nicely accented with original music, and appealing to an audience from junior high level on up.

To order contact: Al Gedicks, 210 Avon Street #4, LaCrosse, WI 54603. For more information call (608) 784-4399. Purchase price: \$45. Rental information available.

Study to produce maps showing mercury levels in speared lakes

By Jenny Krueger
Mercury Data Base Clerk

Tribal members in six Wisconsin Chippewa bands will be able to look at maps depicting levels of mercury contamination in lakes they use for spearing this spring.

The production of color-coded maps through the Geographic Information System (GIS) is one goal of a comprehensive sampling of fish for mercury during the spring of 1996, according to Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC biological services director.

A total of 583 walleye filets (skin-off) from 66 ceded territory lakes were collected during spring 1996 and analyzed for mercury levels. Four hundred eighty-seven walleye were taken from 55 Wisconsin lakes; 50 walleye were collected from five Minnesota lakes; and 46 walleye were from six Michigan lakes (See table below).

The GIS maps will show the minimum size of walleye where 0.5 ppm of mercury was detected and provide information on the health risks of mercury to tribal members. These maps will be available at on-reservation permit stations during spring 1997.

Nearly one-third of the walleye filets (180) and about 80% of the lakes (53)

contained mercury levels greater than or equal to 0.5 ppm (parts per million). The Wisconsin Department of Health recommends limiting consumption of fish with 0.5 ppm mercury, and no consumption of fish with 1 ppm or more. About 7% of the walleye filets (39) and 30% of the lakes (20) contained mercury levels of 1 ppm or more, Kmiecik says.

The data collected by GLIFWC in 1996 have been entered into a database. This database includes results of all available mercury testing for all species in the Wisconsin ceded territory. A printout of this database listing results of mercury testing by county, lake, and species within a lake is being prepared by GLIFWC.

Funds for testing fish were provided by an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant. The comprehensive collecting of samples was greatly aided by the cooperation of tribal spears, who helped supply fish for samples.

Assistance from the following tribal spears in providing walleye samples is recognized and appreciated: Arlyn Ackley Jr., Jeff Ackley Jr., Ed Bearheart, Ken Big John, Charles Bresette, Cindy Carufel, Samantha Churchill, George Clements, Brian Cross, Gary Davis, Henry Davis, Ronald Davis, Michelle Deering, Art Defoe, Dave Dennis, Gary Gerard, Skip Hipsher,

Michael Homesky, Wayne LaBine, Dean Louis, Gary Maki, Patrick Maki, Gerald Mann, Edward Martin, Charles McGeshick, Peter McGeshick, Richard McGeshick, Frank Mitchell, William Mitchell, George Morrison, Joel O'Brien, Leva Oustigoff, Patrick Pete, James Peterson, Emmanuel Poler, Sylvester Poler, Brian Poupart, Duane Poupart, Scott Poupart, Mike Skindoor, Robert Thompson, Leon Valliere, Larry Vanzile, Joseph Wildcat Jr., and Jim Williams Jr.



583 walleye filets were collected and analyzed for mercury levels during the 1996 off-reservation spearfishing season. (Photo by Amoose)

Lakes where at least one fish had a mercury level ≥ 0.5 ppm

County	Lake	State	Minimum Length of fish with ≥ 0.5 ppm	Number of Fish Tested
1 Gogebic	Clearwater L	MI	19.9	3
2 Gogebic	L Gogebic	MI	18.1	10
3 Gogebic	Langford L	MI	19.9	8
4 Gogebic	Lindsley L	MI	21.0	13
5 Iron	Indian L	MI	18.5	6
6 Ontonagon	Bond Falls Fl	MI	14.5	8
7 Aitkin/Mille La	Mille Lacs L	MN	26.3	12
8 Pine	Big Pine L	MN	19.3	12
9 Pine	Nomacher's L	MN	16.4	11
10 Barron	Sand L	WI	19.4	11
11 Bayfield	Diamond L	WI	19.9	7
12 Bayfield	Middle Eau Claire	WI	18.2	10
13 Bayfield	Siskiwit L	WI	13.7	10
14 Burnett	Sand L	WI	20.0	4
15 Forest	Butternut L	WI	21.0	11
16 Forest	L Lucerne	WI	17.7	10
17 Forest	L Metonga	WI	18.4	12
18 Forest	Roberts L	WI	15.7	12
19 Iron	Turtle-Flambeau F	WI	18.8	12
20 Oneida	Big Fork L	WI	12.9	8
21 Oneida	Booth L	WI	18.7	10
22 Oneida	Dam L	WI	18.4	5
23 Oneida	Hasbrook L	WI	17.0	10
24 Oneida	Kawaguesaga L	WI	19.7	12
25 Oneida	Planting Ground L	WI	15.4	7
26 Oneida	Sevenmile L	WI	14.7	5
27 Oneida	Squirrel L	WI	23.0	10
28 Polk	Balsam L	WI	27.0	11
29 Polk	Big Round L	WI	23.3	2
30 Price	Turner L	WI	15.9	8
31 Sawyer	Grindstone L	WI	28.3	12
32 Sawyer	L Chippewa	WI	13.8	11
33 Sawyer	Lost Land L	WI	16.8	7
34 Vilas	Alder L	WI	12.3	7
35 Vilas	Annabelle L	WI	12.9	7
36 Vilas	Big Arbor Vitae L	WI	23.1	9
37 Vilas	Big Portage L	WI	18.5	11

Lakes where at least one fish had a mercury level ≥ 0.5 ppm continued

County	Lake	State	Minimum Length of fish with ≥ 0.5 ppm	Number of Fish Tested
38 Vilas	Boulder L	WI	17.6	6
39 Vilas	Crab L	WI	13.4	10
40 Vilas	Island L	WI	18.3	9
41 Vilas	Kentuck L	WI	20.2	6
42 Vilas	L Laura	WI	22.3	8
43 Vilas	Little St. Germain L	WI	26.6	6
44 Vilas	Mamie L	WI	26.6	9
45 Vilas	Manitowish L	WI	15.9	7
46 Vilas	Palmer L	WI	20.4	8
47 Vilas	Papoose L	WI	14.0	11
48 Vilas	S Turtle L	WI	14.6	8
49 Vilas	Sherman L	WI	20.5	8
50 Vilas	Spider L	WI	12.0	7
51 Vilas	Squaw L	WI	15.0	10
52 Vilas	Trout L	WI	18.0	12
53 Washburn	Bass L	WI	15.6	9

Lakes where all fish tested were below 0.5 ppm

County	Lake	State	Number of Fish Tested
54 Kanabec	Ann L	MN	12
55 Morrison	Pierz Fish L	MN	3
56 Douglas	Lower Eau Claire L	WI	12
57 Florence	Patten L	WI	8
58 Forest	Franklin L	WI	9
59 Oneida	Carroll L	WI	2
60 Oneida	Crescent L	WI	12
61 Sawyer	Round L	WI	8
62 Vilas	Clear L	WI	11
63 Vilas	Eagle L	WI	9
64 Vilas	High L	WI	9
65 Vilas	Little Arbor Vitae L	WI	11
66 Washburn	Long L	WI	10

Cooperation brings 500 whopping big lake trout to Round Lake for tiered-fishery study

By Susan Erickson, Staff Writer

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Five hundred lake trout, averaging eight to ten pounds each, are currently exploring their new home in the 3,000 acres of water in Round Lake, Sawyer Co. The large fish from the federal hatchery in Iron River, Wisconsin were stocked into Round Lake last November.

Staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe, and volunteers from the Round Lake Property Owners Association and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation ignored chill November winds and the sting of numbing fingers as they unloaded, tagged, measured, and hand-planted the slippery monsters into the cooling waters of Round Lake.

The large, feisty all-male fish arrived at the Peninsula Road landing via transport tanker from the Iron River hatchery operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The lake trout were taken from the brood stock being maintained by the hatchery. The fish were either past their prime for brood stock or considered too small, according to Glenn Miller, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist.

All fish stocked are also hatchery-certified disease free and originate either from the Apostle Island or Isle Royale area.

Interest in promoting a two-tier fishery is not new to Round Lake, according to Miller. In the 1960s the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) stocked rainbow and brown trout into Round Lake in an attempt to create a tiered fishery.

While the trout population did not maintain itself, that stocking project provided the WDNR with comprehensive information regarding the lake which has been useful in the current study relating to the viability of a lake trout fishery, Miller says.

A tiered fishery refers to a variety of fish in a given lake, each inhabiting a different depth of water, thus the tiers. Miller explains that lake trout and ciscos, called pelagic fish by biologists, prefer the cold, deep water. Walleye and musky like cool water, and bass and panfish choose the warm water usually closer to the surface.

The Round Lake Property Owners also never lost their interest in establishing a tiered fishery in the lake despite the unsuccessful first venture. It was they who contacted the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe in regard to studying the possibility of the tiered fishery.

According to Miller, Round Lake seems to have good potential to maintain such a fishery. The forage base for the lake trout is present, offering plenty of ciscos, golden shiners, and sculpins. Temperatures and oxygen levels also seem to offer suitable lake trout habitat.

However, fishery managers are proceeding with caution and will introduce the fish on an experimental basis at first. Biologists are wary of possible negative impacts on the existing fishery.



At the Round Lake landing the lake trout were each measured and tagged prior to stocking. Above Ed White, GLIFWC fisheries technician, and Glenn Miller, GLIFWC fisheries biologist, measure and tag prior to releasing the fish. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



A group effort landed five hundred lake trout averaging ten pounds each into Round Lake, Sawyer County this fall. Volunteers from the Round Lake Property Owners Association worked with staff from GLIFWC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation cooperated in the project. Pictured above are: John Antilla, USFWS hatchery maintenance; Ed White, GLIFWC fisheries technician; Glenn Miller, GLIFWC inland fisheries biologist; Al Reineman, WI Wildlife Federation; Kurt Kratchmer, Round Lake; and Mike Daugherty, Bayside Resort, Hayward. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

The newly stocked fish will provide material for study before any attempt is made to create a self-sustaining lake trout population, Miller says. For this reason, only one sex was introduced, guaranteeing that there will be no reproduction. (See Stocking, page 14)



Ed White, GLIFWC fisheries technician, grips a struggling lake trout with hands numb from cold water, and runs it down to the shore for release to its new home. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Chippewa Flowage to be focus of 1998 celebration

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Lac Courte Oreilles, Wis.—Planning a celebration of the Chippewa Flowage on its 75th anniversary brought representatives from many aspects of the Flowage community to a meeting hosted by the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) band at the LCO Convention Center on November 13th.

The idea for special events in 1998, the 75th anniversary of the Chippewa Flowage, was suggested by Cheryl Treland, Treland Resort, Hayward, at the October monthly meeting between the LCO band, GLIFWC and resort-owners from the Chippewa Flowage and Round Lake.

The result was the November 13th brain-storming session which tentatively decided on making the Flowage a focus of celebratory and educational events throughout the entire 1998 year.

Some ideas included the production of an historical video and magazine on the Flowage; a boat parade; a "kick-off" event during the state fishing opener; a powwow and feast; and developing a slogan for the year.

Jim Schlender, GLIFWC executive administrator and LCO tribal member, noted that the tribe would insist on an accurate historical presentation of the Chippewa Flowage's development, including a tribal perspective on the event and the

continuing impact on the tribe's community.

Marilyn Benton, LCO Community College, suggested that the celebration emphasize preservation of the Flowage environment, and the need for increasing vigilance in order to retain the valuable resources for the future.

Following general brainstorming, committees were established to coordinate and develop different aspects of the proposed '98 celebration. Committees included: historical; events; marketing; and communications/PR.

A meeting of the regular Chippewa Flowage, Round Lake, LCO, and GLIFWC committee was set for December 11th at the LCO Casino. Committee representatives are invited to report on committee activities at that time, and all participants are challenged to come up with a mission statement for the Flowage by the December meeting.

Treland noted that early planning is necessary to schedule events as well as to seek funding avenues. □



Planning for recognition of the Chippewa Flowage's 75th year was discussed at the December meeting of the Chippewa Flowage and Round Lake Property Owners, Lac Courte Oreilles, GLIFWC joint committee as follow-up to the November planning meeting. Pictured above: Marilyn Benton, LCOOCC; Mic Isham, LCO tribal council; James Schlender, GLIFWC executive administrator; Patt Dettloff, Chippewa Flowage Assoc.; Terry Gordon, WDNR; Jim Bishop, WDNR; Mark Fort, NSP; Frank Pratt, WDNR; John Dettloff, Indian Trail Resort; Al Reinemann, Round Lake Property Owners Assoc.; James Thannum, GLIFWC planner. (Photo by Amoose)

Tribal biologists among contributors to manual on walleye culture

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Billed as "wonderful, cumulative, and magnificent" by the Midwest Tribal Aquaculture Network, The Walleye Culture Manual is a must resource for people involved in the raising of walleye.

Available in either perfect bound or as a three-hole punch notebook insert, the manual explores all aspects of walleye care and propagation. A variety of contributors bring their expertise to technical areas of walleye culture, making the manual a compilation of articles.

Staff from tribal fisheries are among those who contributed to the publication. Elizabeth Greiff, St. Croix Tribal Natural Resources Department, contributed an article on "Stripping, Fertilizing, and Incubating Walleye Eggs with Big Redd Incubators." From the Red Cliff Fisheries Department, Biologist Michael Gallinat provided an article on "Stripping, Fertilizing, and Incubating Speared Walleye Eggs with Big Redd Incubators."

Larry Wawronowicz and Willis Allen, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resource Department, did a case study on "Walleye

Fingerling Culture in Drainable Ponds on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation." Gregory Wright, Nunns Creek Fishery Enhancement Facility, Sault St., Marie Tribe, wrote on "Walleye Culture in a 100-acre Drainable Pond in Northern Michigan."

A few of the general topics explored in the manual include:

- ✓ Reproductive Biology and Spawning
- ✓ Collection and Culture of Broodfish
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Culture in Drainable Ponds
- ✓ Culture in Undrainable Ponds
- ✓ Intensive Culture of Walleye Fry

The 415 page comprehensive manual was published by the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center which is one of five regional aquaculture centers administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Walleye Culture Manual is available for \$24.95 (\$19.00 plus \$5.95 shipping and handling). Orders should be sent to:

ISU Extension Distribution
119 Printing and Publications Bldg.
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011-3171

Stocking

(Continued from page 13)

Should the lake trout, for instance, prove damaging to the walleye population, managers would not want a self-reproducing population to remain in the lake.

All stocked lake trout have been tagged with the hopes of obtaining important biological information should the stocked fish be caught. The study will look at the lake trout's susceptibility to fishing as well as their eating patterns.

Biologists will examine stomach samples from the trout to determine their forage base. If they are preying extensively on walleye, bass, northern, or musky, for instance, managers may conclude that a lake trout population would damage the current fishery.

Anyone catching a stocked lake trout from Round Lake is encouraged to provide information regarding the length, weight and tag number of the fish, plus keep the stomach for the sampling study.

Signs posted around the lake will indicate drop-off points for the tagged fish where such information can be taken.

Drop-off points include AI's Timber Trail Lodge on Round Lake, the Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Department, the WDNR office in Hayward, and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission in Odanah, Wisconsin.

While Round Lake is closed to state-licensed ice fishing this winter, Miller says, the possibility of obtaining a special exemption for ice fishing is being explored. It could be that sport fishermen may have to wait until ice-out before trying their luck on those whopping big lake trout. ■



GLIFWC's first retiree is Richard Semasky, who served since January 1, 1985 with the Enforcement Division, Keweenaw Bay, Michigan. Semasky was the area supervisor for the Keweenaw Bay area and responsible for much of the monitoring of the treaty commercial fishery in the area. He began enjoying retirement as of November 15th this year and is looking forward to time spent hunting and fishing. Above Semasky displays a plaque presented to him by the Commission in appreciation for his years of service to the Commission and member tribes.



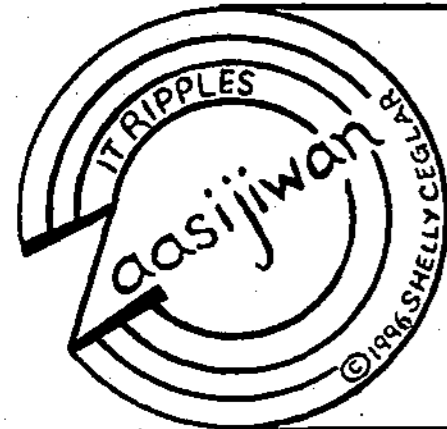
Resigning from GLIFWC's Enforcement Division due to a medical condition, Carol Wielgot was stationed at the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation since March 1988. Wielgot resigned her position in November. Above Wielgot was presented with a plaque from the Commission in appreciation for her work and with hopes that resolution for her medical problems will be found.

Photos by Amoose, GLIFWC photojournalist



Top photo: GLIFWC staff convened for a semi-annual staff day at the Chequamegon Hotel, Ashland on December 7th. Typically the day provided an opportunity to meet new staff, provide staff recognition, and cover general business pertinent to all personnel. Staff were treated to an hour of Ojibwe culture with guest storyteller Delores Bainbridge, Red Cliff tribal member. Right photo: Lisa Dlutkowski, wildlife biologist, recently resigned her position, opting for full-time parenthood. Lisa is pictured with her husband Peter David, GLIFWC wildlife biologist, and their son, Andrew. GLIFWC will miss Lisa but wish her the best in her family career.





Biboon — It is Winter

Mikwam, Mikwamiwadamon, Ozhaashikoshin, Akwa'waa, Daashkikwadin, Zhooshkwaada'e, Zhooshkwaagime, Zhooshkwajiwe, Aagimose, Zoogipon, Goon

(Ice, It is icy roads, S/he slips and falls on ice, S/he goes spear fishing through the ice, There is a crack in the ice, S/he skates, S/he skis, S/he goes sliding, S/he goes snowshoeing, It is snowing, Snow)

Bezbig—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (translations below)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin

Alphabet vowels: A, AA, E, I, II, O, OO

Consonants: B, C, D, G, H, J, K, M, N, P, S, T, W, Y, Z, glottal stop'

Double Consonants: CH, SH, ZH

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in mazina'igan.

—Generally the long vowels carry the accent.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

DOUBLE VOWEL PRONUNCIATIONS

Short vowels: A, I, O

Apane — as in about

Indigo — as in tin

gego — as in only

Long Vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Aabitoseg — as in father

Apegish — as in jay

Gijn — as in seen

Biboon — as in moon

A. Aabitoseg gigizheb ninga-akwa'waa gaye.

B. Gakina awiya awi-izhaawag Gichigamiing.

C. Owaabarnaawaan mikwamiin niibowa imaa. Mikwamiikaa.

D. Gego ozhaashikoshiniken!

E. Apane biboong zoogipon. Goonikaa.

F. Apegish minoseyan giin, miigwech.

I	A	G	V								
M	O	A	N	T	O						
A	G	Y	E	C	A	D					
A	O	E	A	W	I	Y	A				
M	O	E	G	L	Z	G	A	K			
B	N	N	Z	O	E	I	R	P	N		
M	I	K	W	A	M	I	K	A	A		
F	K	E	Q	O	I	N	A	O	J	N	
W	A	A	B	I	T	O	S	E	G	S	E
P	A	C	G	E	Y	H	N	O	S	I	Z
G	I	C	H	I	G	A	M	I	I	N	G

Niswi—3

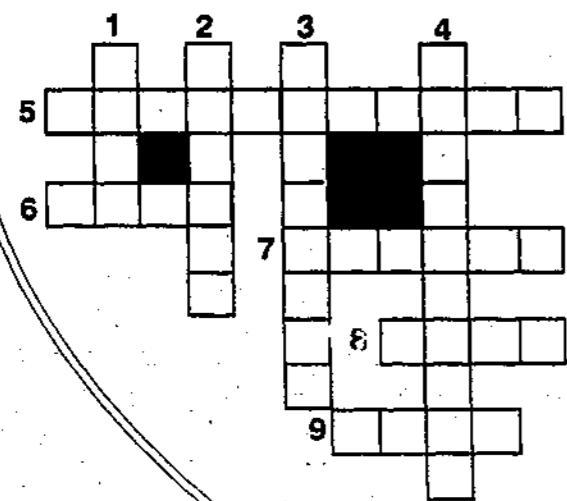
IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

Down:

- Also
- It is winter.
- It is snowing.
- Let's all play!

Across:

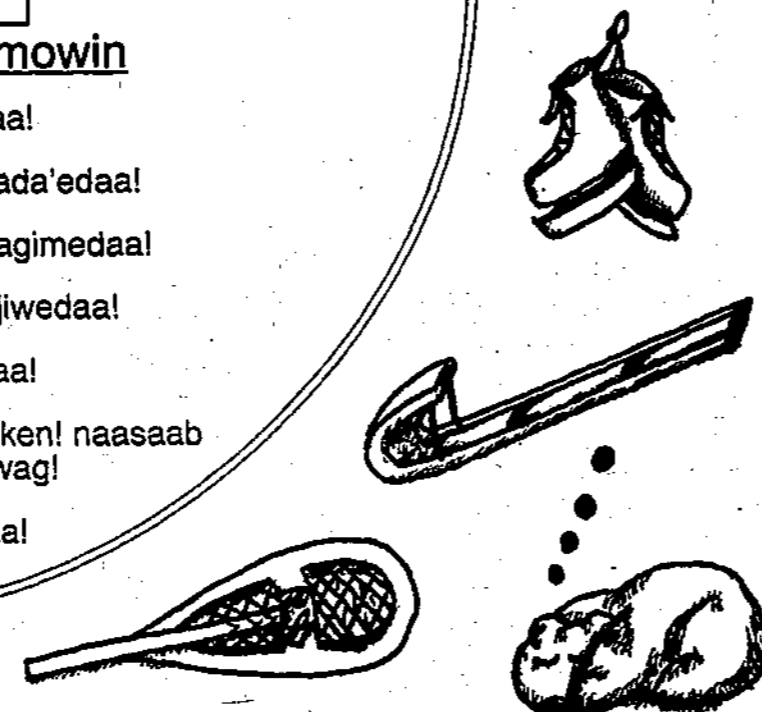
- Let's all snowshoe!
- Don't!
- Just like
- Snow
- There



Niiwin—4

Ojibwemowin

- Akwa'waadaa!
- Zhooshkwaada'edaa!
- Zhooshkwaagimedaa!
- Zhooshkwajwedaa!
- Aagimosedaa!
- Gego nibaaken! naasaab indigo makwag!
- Odaminodaa!



Translations:

Niizh—2 A. When it is halfway day/Weds. in the morning I will go ice fishing. B. All somebody (everyone) they go over to Great Shore (Lake Superior). C. They see him/her ice, plenty there. There is much ice. D. Don't slip and fall on the ice! E. Always when it's winter it snows. There is much snow. F. I wish for you good things you, thanks.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Gaye. 2. Biboon. 3. Zoogipon. 4. Odaminodaa. Across: 5. Aagimosedaa. 6. Gego. 7. Indigo. 8. Goon. 9. Imaa. **Niiwin—4** 1. Let's all go ice fishing! 2. Let's all skate! 3. Let's all ski! 4. Let's all go sliding! 5. Let's all go snowshoeing! 6. Don't sleep! the same just like bears! 7. Let's all play!

There are various Ojibwe dialects, check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any foreign language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. All inquiries can be made to MASINAIGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 or e-mail pio@win.bright.net.

Coloring contest

Elementary age children

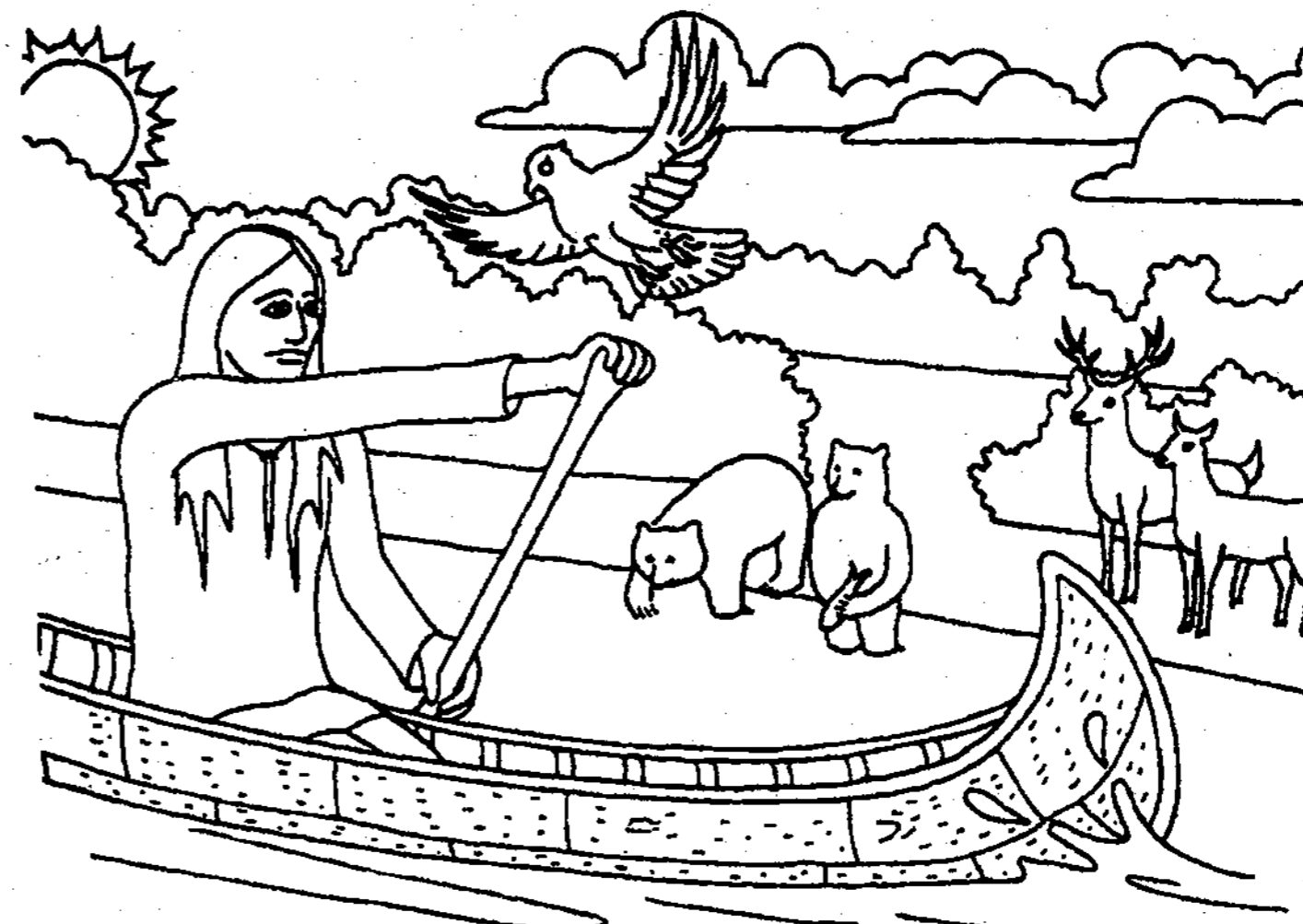
Rules & prizes

There will be two winners chosen from each of the following grade levels: K-1, 2-3 and 4-5. All winners will receive \$50.00. Deadline for entries is January 30, 1997.

Fill out the following information and send it along with your coloring entry to: Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861. Don't forget to have your parent or guardian sign your entry or you will be disqualified.

This can be xeroxed for use in the coloring contest only.

All winners will be announced in the spring edition of MASINAIGAN.



Reprinted from The Mishomis Book, by Edward Benton-Banai © July 1988, by Red School House.

The gifts of the trees

An Indian fable retold by Ann Hudson Downs

Many, many moons ago when Man first came to live on the earth, he looked at the vastness that surrounded him and a great loneliness filled his heart. "How shall I live?" he cried. "The world is so big and I am alone!"

The trees were glad the Great Spirit had sent Man to live among them and wanted to help him. "You are not alone. We are your brothers and we will help you," they murmured softly. Man felt comforted.

The maple tree touched him with her tender branches. "I will give you sweet water to drink and to make into sugar," she said.

The hickory tree, shook a host of nuts from his tall branches. "See? I will give you food to satisfy your hunger." "We will help," spoke up the hickory tree's cousin, the chestnut, the beech, and the walnut.

"Then you will need baskets," said Goungah, the elm tree. "Make them with my soft bark and strengthen them with thongs of my tough muscles."

Now there was happiness in the heart of Man as he set out to explore the world, for he had food and drink and friends. But soon a wide river blocked his trail. "Alas, I can go no further!" he cried.

Wigwass, the birch tree grew near the great river and heard his cries. "I will help you, my brother," she called. "Take strips of my skin and tie them together with the tough thongs given to you by the elm tree. Then you will have a canoe strong enough to carry you across the wide rivers."

Man did as Wigwass suggested and soon the fearful river was behind him. But in the meantime the sun had entered his lodge on the West. Man shivered with cold.

This time it eyed the balsam who saw her brother's need. "Do not suffer cold," she said. "In my heart there is much sun-fire. Rub my branches together and they will give you sparks to kindle a flame."

Man followed balsam's instructions and soon a great camp fire roared before him. Balsam's instructions and soon a great camp fire roared before him. When he was warm his eyes grew heavy with sleep.

"It's our turn to help," spoke the great pine and the cedar. And they shook a mound of sweet smelling needles beside Man. He spread them into a soft bed and slept.

All through the long night North Wind blew his icy breath over him. But Man rested warm and secure until Wabun, the east wind chased the darkness down the valley and brought the morning to Man's camp fire.

When he awoke there was a great gratitude in his heart. "How can I repay you for your kindness?" he asked the trees.

"We want no pay," they replied. "Giving is the secret of our happiness. We only ask that you use the gifts of the forest wisely. Never waste or destroy what the Great Spirit has given freely to his children."

Indians have never forgotten. They take only what they need and leave the rest for others.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

I certify that my child colored this picture on his/her own.

Parent/Guardian signature(required) _____

What makes a hero?

Comic book brings Ojibwe culture/values meaning in modern day life and style

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Mille Lacs, Minn.—A new resource for learning about Ojibwe culture, history, and values is available through a comic book produced by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians and released this fall.

A Hero's Voice is directed toward a fifth-grade level, but is appropriate for other grade levels as well. A teacher's guide is available to assist teachers in making optimum use of this unusual resource.

The main character is Georgie, a typical nineties kid, whose concept of heroism relates to Superman and jumping off tall buildings.

During the course of the comic, Georgie's grampa introduces him to six heroes, all members of the Mille Lacs Band who have passed on but left a legacy of a truer heroism to the people that follow them.

Georgie learns that heroism in the real world has nothing to do with superman feats, but rather relates to actions which betray strong beliefs, self-sacrifice, wisdom, and the type of bold determination that held the Mille Lacs Band together against the odds.

The heroes portrayed in the book include Naygwanabe, an important or medicinal leader during the late nineteenth century; Shawbaskung, a famous chief and treaty negotiator; Migizi, a Mille Lacs chief who encouraged his people not to give up; Nodinens, an elder woman who provided invaluable information about the Mille Lacs Band to famed ethnologist Frances Densmore; Ayshpun, former chairman of the Mille Lacs Band; Waywinabe, a contemporary chief who lead the Band through tremendous change and initiated the building of the Grand Casino Mille Lacs.

The cover art was produced by Steve Premo, Mille Lacs Band member. Inside art was done by Paul Fricke, a Plymouth-based artist; and the story was created by Cindy Goff, a Twin Cities based freelance writer.

A Hero's Voice can be purchased for 50 cents a copy from the Mille Lacs Band. Send inquiries to Barb Benjamin-Robertson, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, c/o Goff and Howard, Inc. 255 E. Kellogg Blvd., suite 102, St. Paul, MN 55101 or call (612) 532-4181.



A Hero's Voice, a comic book about culture, history, and values was released this fall by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians. A teacher's guide is available to assist teachers in making optimum use of this unusual resource. (Photo by Amoose)

Paper birch (wiigwaas) still important resource for Ojibwe

By Beth Lynch, GLIFWC Botanist

Paper birch is extremely important to the Great Lakes Ojibwe. The bark is widely used in the construction of baskets and is also used for building canoes and shelters, lining underground food storage pits, artwork, and as a medicine.

Paper birch is native to the northern forests of North America and grows throughout the ceded territories. It is a pioneer species, meaning that it quickly becomes established in newly disturbed sites and then is replaced by other tree species within one generation. It is fast-growing and short-lived.



The above rolls of wiigwaas were gathered by Norman Clark, Mille Lacs Band member. (Photo by George Felix)

Paper birch trees typically live only 60 to 90 years and have a diameter of about 1012 inches when they are mature.

Across the ceded territories we see paper birch mixed with other hardwoods as well as with balsam fir and pine. It also grows in nearly pure stands that are the result of the intense fires that followed logging operations of the cutover period during the early part of this century. You may have noticed many dead birch trees in the forests around you. The birch stands originating from the fires associated with logging are reaching the age at which birch dies. As a result, many of the birch trees are being replaced by younger trees of species that have been able to grow under the shade of the birches.

The future of birch in the ceded territories is not so grim as the many lifeless, white birch trunks on the landscape might have us think. Birch regenerates well where the soil is disturbed, such as along logging roads or where trees topple over and expose bare mineral soil. As long as disturbances, both natural and human-made, continue there will always be some birch trees in the forests of the upper Great Lakes region.

There is some question as to whether stands of pure birch will or should be maintained on this landscape. It is difficult to regenerate birch stands because of the relatively dry summer weather in this region and because of high deer populations.

The dry conditions inhibit seed germination, and once a seedling starts to grow into a young tree it becomes a favorite food for deer. Many birch regeneration attempts in northern Wisconsin have failed, largely because deer eat the young trees before they can grow out of reach.

We know from the observations of early survey crews that prior to the extensive logging and land clearing by European settlers earlier in this century, extensive birch stands were rare in northern Wisconsin. Instead, birch was probably mixed in with other species such as balsam fir, northern hardwoods, and pine, much as it is today in many areas.

Somehow, Ojibwe people knew where to find the good birch trees for bark. Perhaps there were special groves of birch trees that bands returned to year after year.

However people kept track of their birch resource is in the past, GLIFWC is now committed to gathering and disseminating information about where good quality birch trees grow so that tribal members may continue to collect enough birch bark to meet their needs.

162 graduate from GLIFWC hunter safety courses in 1996

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—This was a record breaking year for successful completion of hunter safety courses on GLIFWC member reservations, according to Chief of Enforcement Charles Bresette, who is pleased with the increased attendance.

Out of 162 graduates on nine reservations this year, seventy-five were tribal members and eighty-seven non-tribal members. This year's figure also comes close to the total for the last three years combined, which was 185 graduates.

All GLIFWC wardens are certified to instruct hunter safety courses, Bresette states. He feels offering the courses on reservation is an important service because tribal codes require the successful completion of a hunter safety course for anyone born on or after January 1, 1977 in order to participate in off-reservation, treaty hunting.

An off-reservation permit will not be issued to anyone born on or after January 1, 1977 at the tribal registration stations if they cannot produce their certificate of accomplishment from a hunter education and firearm safety course.

The course taught on reservation follow the state hunter safety course curriculum. Sixteen hours of classroom work and eight hours of outside field work are standard. Frequently, WDNR instructors also participate in presenting the course.

Next year Bresette plans on including more information relating specifically to off-reservation hunting regulations as well as basic boundary information. This will tailor the course to answer the needs of tribal hunters who seasons and regulations vary from those of the state sport seasons.

In addition to hunter safety courses, GLIFWC also annually offers courses in boating safety, ATV safety and snowmobile safety on member reservations. Whether or not courses run usually depends on the amount of interest shown in the course, Bresette says.

Hunter safety instruction was offered on nine reservations this year, including Keweenaw Bay in Michigan; Mole Lake, Lac du Flambeau, Bad River, Red Cliff, Lac Courte Oreilles, and St. Croix in Wisconsin; and Mille Lacs in Minnesota.

In the case of Lac Vieux Desert and Bay Mills in Michigan, hunter safety courses are offered regularly in the schools each spring, so are not needed separately on the reservation.



A hunter education and firearms safety course was offered on the Bad River reservation this fall. Taught by Cpl. Vernon Stone, pictured above, and Sgt. Jack Lemieux both GLIFWC wardens stationed at Bad River, Mark Bresette, GLIFWC warden stationed at Red Cliff; and WDNR warden Mat McKenzie. (Photo by Amoose)



Four wardens recently graduated from the Chippewa Valley Technical College Basic Recruit Training Program. The course requires 400 hours of in-depth law enforcement training. Graduates include, from the left, George Felix, stationed at Mille Lacs; Tim Tilson, stationed at Keweenaw Bay; and Paul Baragwanath, stationed at Bay Mills. A graduate not pictured above is Jim Mattson, stationed at St. Croix. (Photo by Amoose)

Model Code Section 137
 Certificate of Accomplishment Required. Except as provided in subs. (b), no member born on or after January 1, 1997 may hunt while possessing a firearm, bow and arrow or crossbow unless the member has been issued a certificate of accomplishment under a tribal hunter education and firearm safety course.



Many of our readers wondered where the warden was. Forest Foliage provides a nice camouflage for Sgt. Larry Mann, Lac du Flambeau, who watches the road for people who attempt to illegally shoot decoy deer. (Photo by Amoose)

Agreement is reached regarding Ojibwe Bands' 1837 treaty rights

A product of hard work and cooperation

On July 23, 1996 an important Stipulation (or agreement) was reached in a long standing court case involving the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's rights under an 1837 treaty.

The Band, six Wisconsin Bands of Ojibwe, the United States, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Attorney General's office agreed to the Stipulation that resolves more than 200 issues pertaining to regulation and management of treaty fishing, hunting and gathering by band members.

"The best thing that came out of this negotiating process was the spirit of cooperation that surrounded it," said Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Environment for the Mille Lacs Band.

"It proves that regulatory agencies like the Band and the state can work together through difficult issues such as these and come to a reasonable solution that both parties can agree on."

Marge Anderson, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band, agrees that cooperation has been a key factor in dealing with the treaty issue. But it hasn't been easy for the bands.

"Making sure the 1837 treaty is upheld has been a long, trying effort," she said. "It's the kind of obstacle we've been facing throughout our history. But with the help of those who have already cooperated with us, I am confident we will eventually reach a just resolution."

Nevertheless, Anderson points out, this Stipulation is not the end of the fight—it is another step in a battle that started 157 years ago.



Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

fishing in the ceded territory—the Mille Lacs Band decided to sue the state and demand that its treaty rights be properly upheld.

The Band did not go to trial right away, however. Wisconsin bands had already gone through 18 years of similar litigation, which triggered protest and violent racism throughout the state. To avoid similar misfortunes, the Mille Lacs Band instead negotiated a settlement with the Minnesota DNR.

Treaty still holds true today

That settlement was voted down by the Minnesota Legislature in 1993. The legislature felt that the case should instead go to court to reach a final resolution. In June 1994, it did. Then, in August 1994, a federal judge affirmed Band members' rights to hunt, fish and gather in the territory ceded in the 1837 treaty. The implementation plan developed in accordance with that decision gave—and still gives—the bands the ability to more fully exercise their hunting, fishing and gathering rights than they would have received under the agreement that was rejected by the legislature.

The counties and landowners were not happy with this decision. But Wedll summed it up pointedly. "They said they wanted the court to decide," he said. "They said they wanted a judge, and that's what they got."

At that point, the next step (phase two of the court case) was to settle how the state and the Band would regulate these rights. That case will be litigated next year. In the meantime, the state and the bands had been working out a settlement to resolve as many issues as possible. They reached their breaking point—the Stipulation—on July 23. "We went as far as we could," said Wedll. "From here, it's up to the court to decide."

Don Wedll, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Making sure rights are upheld

In 1837, before Minnesota was a state, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe was one of several tribes to sign a treaty ceding land to the United States government. The bands involved agreed to sign the treaty only under the condition that they would retain their rights to hunt, fish and gather on that territory.

Unfortunately, this condition was not enough of a safeguard against non-Indian landowners who later insisted that authority over the resources on their land was not the Indians—as the treaty specified—but theirs.

Since it was signed, the Treaty of 1837 has not been fairly honored. That is why in 1990—after several Mille Lacs Band members had been wrongly arrested for hunting and

Menominee treaty case goes to the 7th Circuit

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Keshena, Wis.—Federal Judge Barbara Crabb refused to reconsider her decision in the Menominee treaty rights case.

The tribe had asked Judge Crabb for reconsideration following her September ruling against Menominee's claim for off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights.

"Judge Crabb's dismissal is unprecedented in this type of case," says Ken Fish, Menominee Treaty Rights and Mining Impact Office, who indicates the tribe intends to pursue the case further.

The Menominee tribe has already filed a notice of appeal in the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court and will be filing a brief on or before January 6, 1997, according to Fish.

The tribe is not satisfied that Judge



Crabb fully reviewed all the evidence presented, Fish says. Comprehensive documents providing evidence on the Menominee's claim was provided to Judge Crabb by September 3rd as scheduled by the Court.

Crabb's ruling was issued on September 16th, making tribal representatives skeptical regarding how completely evidence was reviewed, Fish says.

The Menominee first filed suit in January 1995 arguing for off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights comparable to those currently exercised by the Chippewa under the Voigt Decision.

The Menominee suit relates to about 10 million acres of public land in eastern and central Wis., off-shore fishing in Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Winnebago, and a portion of the Wisconsin River.

Questions remain as Bands await next trial

While most of the treaty issues were settled, who should manage the resources on the ceded territories remains one major question between the state and the bands. "The Mille Lacs Band tribal government has the right to manage and regulate the resources on its share of the land, just as the state regulates theirs," Wedll said. "We have no desire to disseminate any of the resources—we are simply implementing our treaty rights as we see fit."

The state continues to oppose the bands' execution of their treaty rights, even those activities it has agreed pose no conservation, health or safety concerns. "We are deeply concerned about this conscious violation of the bands' decided treaty rights and will seek a court order to defeat it," said Wedll. "We have these rights, but the state doesn't seem to want to accept that. It's like having your car stolen; it's at the police station and everybody knows it's your car—but you don't get it back yet."

Chief Executive Anderson stresses that though these willful violations are disheartening to all Band members, she is grateful to Wedll and others who have struggled over the years to set things right for the Band. "Don has done an outstanding job throughout this case," she said. "His efforts—and those of everyone else involved—are an example of how far we can come as a People if we only stand up for our rights and make sure we are treated fairly in the face of the law."

The Band anticipates a ruling from Judge Davis after January 1, 1997. (Reprinted from *The Woodland Voice*, a publication of the Mille Lacs Band.)

Six issues left to be resolved

The parties in the Mille Lacs case were not able to reach agreement on six issues. Those issues, which will be settled by the court next spring, are:

- 1 the state's claim that it can make unilateral, unreviewable harvestable surplus determinations;
- 2 the Band's right in lakes that cross the boundary of the ceded territory;
- 3 shining deer in December;
- 4 netting in lakes under 1,000 acres;
- 5 hunting on private land with the owner's permission; and
- 6 whether a cap of less than 50 percent should be placed on the bands' harvests.

Legislative Update, 104th Congress

Bill No.	Title	House Committee	House Hearing	House Passed	Senate Committee	Senate Hearing	Senate Passed	P.L. Date	P.L. No.
H.R. 4	Personal Responsibility Act of 1995	+		3/24/95	FIN		9/19/95	Vetoed 1/9/96 H.Doc. 104-164	
H.R. 2623	Amendments to Indian Self-Determination Act making provisions for contracts applicable to Indian Self-governance compacts	RES							
H.R. 2631	American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1995	RES							
H.R. 2747	Water Supply Infrastructure Assistance Act of 1995	TI	H.Rept. #104-515-3/29/96						
H.R. 2766	Federal Lands prioritization Act of 1995	+							
H.R. 2800	Education Trust Fund Act	+							
H.R. 2807	Youth Development Community Block Grant Act of 1995	+							
H.R. 2854	Freedom to Farm Bill	+		2/29/96			3/12/96	4/4/96	104-127
H.R. 2977	Administrative Dispute Resolution Act	JUD		6/4/96					
H.R. 2997	A bill to establish certain criteria to extend federal recognition to certain Indian groups	RES							
H.R. 3034	Amendments to Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act	RES		4/16/96			4/18/96	4/25/96	104-133
H.R. 3049	A bill to amend section 1505 of the Higher Education Act to provide for the continuity of the board of trustees for the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development	EE	H. Rpt. # 104-505 3/28/96	4/23/96	LHR				
H.R. 3662	Interior Appropriations Bill for FY 1997	APP	H. Rept. # 104-635 6/18/96	6/20/96	APP				
H.R. 3666	HUD Appropriations Bill for FY 1997	APP	H. Rept. # 104-628 6/26/96	6/26/96	APP		9/5/96	9/26/96	104-204
S. 377	A bill to amend provisions of Part A, Title IX relating to Indian education			2/9/95	SCIA		2/16/95	3/29/95	104-5
S. 479	Indian Federal Recognition Administrative Procedures Act of 1995				SCIA	7/13/95			
S. 487	Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 1995				SCIA	7/25/95		S. Rept. #104-241 3/14/96	
S. 510	Bill to extend authorization for certain programs under the Native American Programs Act of 1974	EE			SCIA	3/7/95	5/11/95		
S. 764	Indian Child Welfare Improvement Act of 1995				SCIA				
S. 814	BIA Reorganization Act				SCIA			S. Rept. #104-227 1/26/96	
S. 1303	Indian Reservation Jobs and Investment Act of 1995				FIN				
S. 1304	Indian Tribal Government Pension Tax Relief Amendments				FIN				
S. 1305	Indian Tribal Government Unemployment Compensation Act Tax Relief Amendment				FIN				
S. 1307	Treatment of Indian Tribal Natural Resource Income Act of 1995				FIN				
S. 1485	Bill requiring Interior Secretary to submit a report on Indian tribal school construction				SCIA				
S. 1594	Department of Justice Appropriations for FY 1997				APP			S. Rept. #104-236 3/9/96	
S. 1821	Retirement Savings Security Act				FIN				
S. 1894	Defense Department Appropriations for FY 1997				APP				Text inserted in H.R. 3610 P.L. 104-208, 9/30/96

House Committees: APR=Appropriations; COM=Commerce; EE=Economics & Education; JUD=Judiciary; RES=Resources; SB=Small Business; TI=Transportation & Infrastructure; WM=Ways & Means Senate Committees: ENR=Energy & Natural Resources; ENV=Environment & Public Works; FIN=Finance; GA=Governmental Affairs; LHR=Labor & Human Resources; SCIA=Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; +=Multiple Committees. (Reprinted from *American Indian Report*, December 1996)

NCAI reviews the 104th Congress

Stresses unity to meet challenges in Indian Country

Phoenix, Ariz.—The 53rd Annual Convention of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in Phoenix this fall focused much of its attention on the ramifications of the 104th Congress—what it did do or tried to do in relation to Indian tribes nationally.

The motto was not only to get Indian Country out to vote in 1996, but to be vigilant as the new Congress convenes in 1997, and to encourage unification of Indian Country for a more effective impact on the political process.

"Anti-Indian bills introduced in the 104th Congress should serve as a reminder that tribal sovereignty and tribal rights require constant attention in the legislative and judicial arenas," NCAI warns in a review of the 104th Congress and major litigation over the last year.

Attempts to reduce Indian program moneys, attacks on Indian gaming, and efforts to impose taxes on tribal governments were all part of initiatives seen in the 104th Congress which are likely to reappear as the 105th Congress begins in January 1997.

Speakers noted that proposed amendments threatened to limit tribal protections for Indian children under the Indian Child Welfare Act and to transfer power over adoptions and foster care of Indian children from tribes to state courts.

There were proposals to slash funds for Indian education; proposals to cut funds for tribal courts and Indian law enforcement; and proposed amendments to environmental laws impairing tribes' ability to protect the environment.

While many of these initiatives did not pass this Congress, some, such as the rider relating to Rhode Island's Narragansett tribe's use of Indian land for gaming, did pass. In this case, it was attached to the Omnibus Appropriations bill and became law.

Senator John Chafee (R RI) by-passed the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and without a public hearing or tribal consent, attached a rider denying the Tribe use of settlement lands for the purposes of gaming. While not germane to the bill, the rider passed with the Appropriations bill.

Although Indian Country escaped the sword of the 104th Congress in some instances, vigilance in the 105th was clearly the password during the convention.

Unity PAC to help meet upcoming challenges

In response to the attacks on Indian Country from the 104th Congress, the NCAI Executive Committee has resolved to focus its energy on strengthening the impact of Indian Country on the political system, according to a report from NCAI President Ron Allen.

Avenues to achieve this include the formation of a new Political Action Committee (PAC) entitled National Unity Caucus and the promotion of a national unity campaign, encouraging more solidarity and focus among tribes nationally on specific issues.

On the same theme Minneapolis Area Vice-President Marge Anderson discussed a similar call to unity for the Minneapolis Area tribes during a presentation at the NCAI convention.

Anderson outlined a proposal from the Mille Lacs Band to form an inter-tribal organization designed to advocate more effectively on behalf of tribal interests. The organization would be regional, including Iowa, Mich., Minn., and Wis.

The proposal identifies the organization as a mechanism to develop and impact policy; provide a forum for tribal discussions; provide public education, and act as a political coalition within the area to protect resources and advance regional interests.



Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ada Deer (Menominee) found time to chat with representatives from many tribal nations during the NCAI convention in Phoenix this fall.

Some positive strides for Indian Country in 1996 court decisions

Phoenix, Ariz.—While controversies raged in Congress over Indian issues, others were determined in court proceedings. Some of the 1996 decisions were favorable for tribes. A few of many reviewed in the NCAI's publication, "104th Congress Legislative Review and Update on Major Litigation," are summarized below:

South Dakota v. U.S. Department of the Interior

One relates to the ability of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to purchase land for Indian tribes and place it in trust. An unfavorable decision from the 8th Circuit prevented the DOI from purchasing land off-reservation and placing it in trust.

However, a decision from the United States Supreme Court on October 16, 1996 vacating and remanding the matter to the Interior Secretary for reconsideration of his earlier decision. The DOI has issued a rule requiring a thirty-day waiting period once the Secretary has made an interim decision to put land into trust for a tribe in order to allow comments on the proposed acquisition.

Crow Indian Tribe v. State of Montana

In August 1996 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the State of Montana and one of its counties are liable to pay taxes to the Crow Indian Tribe for extraction's from mines on tribal land. The State was ordered to pay \$46 million and Big Horn County to pay \$11 million to the tribe. The court also indicated that the county could be liable for \$235 million in interest accrued.

In 1975, Montana instituted a 30% severance tax on coal extracted. Filing suit in 1978 the tribe alleged that the state tax violated tribal sovereignty, and that it prevented the tribe from levying its own tax on the mining corporation operating on reservation.

In 1987 the appeals court agreed with the tribe and the district judge awarded the tribe the money that the mining corporation had been paying into a court account since 1982. The appeals court refused to award pre-1982 tax moneys collected by the state and the county stating that the company, not the tribe, paid the taxes.

The Ninth Circuit, however, disagreed, calling the state measure "unlawful" and carried out with the "illegitimate intent of appropriating most of the economic rent from the tribe's soil."

The appeals court remanded the case to district court with instructions to consider the tribe's request for interest. (See 1996 court decision, page 25)

The great arsenal of sovereignty

The following speech was given by Marge Anderson, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe during the NCAI Annual Convention in Phoenix this fall.

Today, we hear the sound of distant drums. From the Narragansett in Rhode Island, to the Lummi in Washington State, from the Seminole in Florida, to the Native Villages of Alaska. We hear the drum. It beats a warning.

My friends, this day, this hour, this moment in history, our sovereignty is in danger. Our sovereignty is our right and ability to control our own destiny's. It is the definition of our political state. Our sovereignty is endangered.

It is not the Federal Court System which poses this threat, although we have seen the Courts make one decision after another against us, including the attack on gaming rights.

Nor is it the Congress which poses this threat, although we know all too well how the Congress can jeopardize our rights. During the 104th Congress, we witnessed first-hand the underhanded, sneak attacks which threatened sovereign immunity, threatened to tax gaming, threatened the Indian Child Welfare Act, took rights from the Narragansett, slashed appropriations for our children and our elders.

In spite of these challenges to our rights, the Courts and the Congress are not our enemies.

Rather, our true enemies are the same ones which our ancestors fought against, the same enemies which our children will fight against tomorrow, the same ones which we must stand together against here today.

The most dangerous enemies of Indian people are ignorance and greed. Ignorance of our history, our traditions, and our sovereignty is what we must fight against. Ignorance of our legal rights, our political systems, and our way of life is what we must conquer.

When ignorance has the power of number and persuasion, it is a dangerous weapon indeed. It is an enemy which we can only prevail against through education.

We must educate our young Indian people, so that when the torch of generations is passed onto them and they are the tribal leaders, they will have their own arsenal of weapons to fight ignorance. Further, we must continue to educate our non-Indian neighbors, to help them gain truth and understanding, so that their ignorance of our rights



Marge Anderson, Mille Lacs tribal chairwoman, stands by the raffle to raise funds for the National Unity Caucus at the NCAI convention in Phoenix.

will perish along with their fears, and we can walk side-by-side to protect the futures of all of our children.

The second enemy, that of greed, is deadly when partnered with ignorance. This is an age-old lesson which our ancestors learned all too well. Greed for our land, our economic development, our natural resources, and even our heritage, has always existed.

Greed is at its most powerful when it is disguised. Greed disguises itself as being noble, as wanting to protect our culture. It masks itself as being concerned for our children. It disguises itself as being concerned for the constitutional rights of our tribal members, for our neighbors. It disguises itself as being benevolent, humane, and kind.

I believe that the great majority of the American people are good, and despise greed in all forms. And so I have learned that the only way to fight greed, to conquer this enemy, is to unveil it for what it is, to remove the disguises for all to see.

Greed and ignorance are the enemies, the true threats to our sovereignty. To fight against these enemies, we must build the Great Arsenal of Sovereignty.

Like any structure, it must have a strong foundation. Four great walls provide the foundation.

The first is a wall of information. We must share information with each other. We must use all of the tools of modern technology to ensure that we are always informed. We must have a better network than our enemies.

The second wall is a wall of Organization. We must have grassroots involvement in politics at all levels. We must get out to vote and form our own tribal PACS. Most importantly, every tribe here today should make it their goal to join and support the Unity PAC, our only National Indian Political Action Committee.

The third wall is that of Action. We must use the Unity PAC to exert our strength when a showing of strength is needed. As we must reward our friends, we must punish our enemies. We must prepare our tribal members and other friends, to react, ensuring that they are ready to answer our call when grassroots campaigns are necessary.

The fourth wall is of Reaction. We must have rapid response teams of tribal leaders to react immediately to negative policies. We need to be in Washington the day after we learn of the surprise amendment that endangers our sovereignty.

With this foundation, we must protect our sovereignty through a solid framework of prudence, justice and liberty on our reservations. We must continue to protect our sovereignty by protecting the rights of all individuals who come before our council chambers and our tribal courts, in search of justice.

We must ensure that we are good neighbors and our visitors are not afraid to bring actions in our Court systems. We must be good businessmen and protect our sovereignty by being careful about when and how we choose to waive our sovereign immunity.

In order to build the Great Arsenal of Sovereignty, we must use sovereignty wisely, justly and prudently. We must build on the pillars of justice, fairness, and good government. We must enter into the 21st Century with the very best tribal court systems, the best codes of ethics and the best tort claims acts.

We must have a call to action as tribes and as individual Indians. Robert Kennedy once said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

Like Senator Kennedy, we must send out ripples of hope by empowering ourselves and our people, building the best governmental systems in the land, by being good business people and neighbors.

If we send these ripples of hope, and if we build a good structure to defend our sovereignty, if we focus on conquering ignorance and greed, then we will in fact enter into the 21st Century with renewed strength, unity and hope.

As a final thought, and in light of the Nation's recent observance of the arrival of Christopher Columbus to these lands, I want to take you back in time.

Five hundred years ago, we were a land of more than five hundred Nations. Most of us made war against each other at some point in history. Few of us could understand each other's languages, traditions and customs. We were not unified.

And when the greatest aggressor of all time arrived upon our shore with his own arsenal of soldiers, guns and disease, we were not prepared. (See Arsenal of Sovereignty, page 25)



The colorguard led the Grand Entry at the NCAI pow-wow. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

NCAI articles and photos by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer



Intrigued with the lights illuminating towering palms at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, a toddler checks out the system. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

White House Working Group summarizes progress on Indian issues

Phoenix, Ariz.—Two years have passed since tribal leaders were called to the White House for a meeting with President Clinton. At that time, tribal leaders were provided an opportunity to air major concerns affecting their respective tribes.

Subsequent to the meeting the White House established the "Working Group on American Indians and Alaska Natives" as part of the Domestic Policy Council.

The Working Group's purpose is "to coordinate and share information on Indian tribes and programs, provide a forum for resolution of issues amongst Federal agencies, ensure the implementation of Presidential directives on Indian policy and promote initiatives to better serve Indian tribes and their members," according to a 1996 report issued by the Working Group.

Chaired by Secretary Bruce Babbitt, DOI, the Working Group has five subgroups including: Religious Freedom, Consultation, Education, Reinvention, Environment and Natural Resource Protection. A few highlights of their work follows below:

Advancing the government-to-government relationship

- ◆ Many Departments and agencies have strengthened or begun to implement policies to deal with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis. These include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, and the Environmental Protection Agency. As part of this effort, several Departments and agencies have instituted Indian "offices" and "desks."
- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and 24 tribal governments have signed Tribal/EPA Environmental Agreements (TEAs) that identify tribal priorities for developing environmental programs and EPA technical and program assistance. EPA anticipates that an additional 15 TEAs will be signed by September 30, 1996.
- ◆ U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Forest Service signed formal agreements with most Southeast Alaska Tlingit and Haida tribal communities which acknowledge they are governments and require ongoing consultation regarding national forest programs and activities.
- ◆ The Forest Service is consulting actively with several affected tribes on the planning and management and activities of its units. For example, the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota is working with the Leech Lake Reservation on a formal agreement regarding tribal reserved rights on the forest. Similarly, National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region have included tribes in discussions of timber, fisheries and other natural resource issues (since they have reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights in those areas).

Advancing tribal sovereignty

- ◆ BIA acknowledged or clarified the status of six tribes in 1995.
- ◆ DOI's Office of Surface Mining is working to extend "primacy" (regulatory jurisdiction) to coal-producing Indian tribes with respect to regulating coal mining on their lands.
- ◆ Approximately 100 tribes now have EPA approval to administer 150 surface water, drinking water and solid waste programs in a similar manner to a state under federal law, including 18 regulatory programs. Approximately 20 tribes operate pesticide programs under cooperative agreements with EPA.
- ◆ In June 1996, EPA worked with DOI and USDA to successfully oppose an amendment to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act that would have limited tribal authority to regulate pesticide usage on Indian reservations.

Protecting trust resources and Indian lands

- ◆ Each agency within DOI has institutionalized the Secretary's Order on protecting Indian trust resources. This includes incorporating such considerations into the National Environmental Policy Act process.
- ◆ DOI is establishing a procedure that would uphold the Department's authority to take land into trust for Indian tribes.
- ◆ United States v. Pend Oreille County Public Utility District—DOI helped secure \$3,030,000 in trespass damages on behalf of the Kalispel Tribe and certain tribal allottees for the Utility's long-standing flooding of lands within the Kalispel Reservation.
- ◆ Williams v. Babbitt—DOI successfully defended in district court DOI's interpretation of the Reindeer Industry Act of 1937 as having reserved the reindeer industry in Alaska for the benefit of Alaska Natives. The case is currently under appeal.
- ◆ United States v. Washington—In this landmark, long-standing case, the US has continued its support and defense of Indian treaty fishing rights. Most recently, in Sub-proceeding 89-3, DOJ succeeded in obtaining a ruling from the district court that largely extended the 50/50 allocation rulings applicable to salmon to all species of shellfish wherever found in a tribe's "usual and accustomed" fishing area.
- ◆ United States v. Michigan—In this 23-year old Indian fishing rights case involving the Bay Mills Indian Community, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the district court recently



Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt speaks during the NCAI annual convention at the Civic Plaza in Phoenix. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

issued an order which adopted DOJ's and the tribes' argument that commercial harvest of salmon is not restricted by the 1985 consent order to a single area. This is the first time since entry of that consent order and the establishment of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism that the Judge has decided a "fisheries management" issue.

Protecting Religious Freedom and Cultural Resources

- ◆ On May 24, 1996, the President signed an Executive Order directing federal land management agencies to accommodate access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners. The President also directed the federal land management agencies to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sites, and to provide tribes notice of activities that may restrict access to sacred sites.
- ◆ The National Eagle Repository was opened on May 22, 1996 in Denver. The repository receives eagle carcasses and distributes eagle parts which helps resolve conflicts between the use of eagle feathers in sacred religious ceremonies with the need to protect bald and golden eagles. (DOI/FWS)
- ◆ Bear Lodge Multiple Use Association v. Babbitt—DOI and DOI are working to defend, as a permissible governmental accommodation to religion, a legal challenge to the National Park Service's (NPS) Climbing Management Plan for Devil's Tower National Monument, a sacred site for several northern plains tribes. The Plan imposes a temporary moratorium on commercial climbing during June, the height of tribal ceremonial use of the Monument.
- ◆ The Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming has successfully worked with the Crow, Northern and Southern Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arapaho, and Sioux Tribes and their tribal spiritual practitioners to accommodate the access to and ceremonial use of the "Medicine Wheel," a national historic landmark and sacred site of many Indian tribes and their members. This was accomplished with the support of local communities, State Historic Preservation Officers, and many others. (USDA)

Protecting Water Rights

- ◆ DOI, with DOJ's active involvement, has successfully negotiated water settlements for several tribes and reservations including Northern Cheyenne Tribe (Montana), Yavapai Prescott Tribe (Arizona), and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation (Nevada).
- ◆ State of Washington v. Acquavella—In this general stream adjudication, the DOJ successfully asserted a water right for the benefit of the Yakima Nation.
- ◆ In the extraordinarily complex general stream adjudication of surface and ground-water sources in the Snake River Basin, Idaho, DOJ continues to defend the water rights of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. DOJ's most recent victory was a decision rendered July 5, 1996, by the Idaho Supreme Court upholding the 1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement against attack by non-Indian water users. □

Native Alliance seeks protection of native land rights from Park Service action

Phoenix, Ariz.—The National Park Service (NPS) came under attack for its "bias and prejudice" against native peoples during a press conference held by the newly formed Alliance to Protect Native Rights in National Parks in Phoenix last November.

The press conference outlined existing problems and presented a resolution to the National Congress of American Indians during their annual convention.

The Alliance, composed of several native tribes and groups, was formed to seek a common voice and find solutions to issues regarding restoration of Native lands and accessibility to areas managed by the NPS for traditional people, according to a statement issued by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF).

NARF contends that the NPS promises "are being honored in the breach in more instances than not" when referring to the NPS' trust responsibility "to protect, conserve and manage Indian trust property, including traditional use areas" and to "preserve the cultural heritage of Native tribes and groups."

Alliance members include the Hualapai Tribe and Navajo Nation, Arizona; the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, California; the Miccosukee Indian Tribe, Florida; the Pai' Ohana (Family), Hawaii; and Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos Inc., New Mexico; and the Natural Resources Division of the Navajo Nation.

According to Richard Boland, spokesperson for the Timbisha's Land Restoration Project, the NPS not only took the tribe's land in 1933 to create Death Valley

National Monument, but has been trying to remove the tribe ever since.

"The Park Service must not be allowed to hide behind their public image as protecting the land while they steadfastly squeeze Native People off their ancestral homelands and out of the parks," he says.

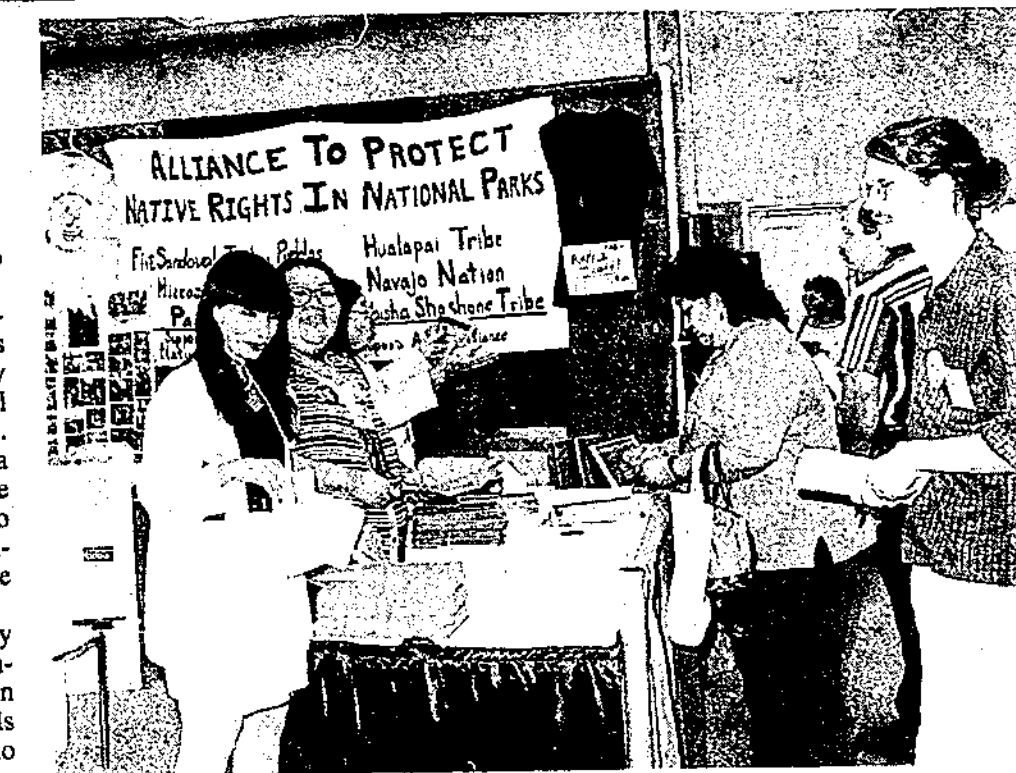
Down in the Everglades of Florida similar problems also exist. The Miccosukee Tribe has been struggling to build houses for their people in their traditional homeland, the Everglades, but have met resistance from NPS.

Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress claims that the NPS "has no understanding of their obligations to Indian people. They give the plants and animals more respect than the native people who lived on and cared for these lands long before the Parks existed."

The resolution which came before the NCAI enumerates sixteen ways in which the NPS has impinged on the lands and rights of native peoples, including such actions as: destruction of homes; diversion of waters; resettlement; denying access to sacred areas; preventing land restoration.

The resolution calls upon Congress to help resolve these issues by: 1) conducting oversight hearings on the NPS in relation to its treatment of Native people; 2) conduct oversight hearings on the failure of the NPS to follow the law and meet its federal trust responsibility; and 3) require the Park Service to create an atmosphere that seeks to perpetuate Native culture, rather than destroy it.

The resolution was passed by the National Congress of American Indians.



Informing the tribal public of problems encountered by native peoples in national parks are representatives of the Alliance to Protect Native Rights in National Parks. They manned an informational booth during the NCAI convention in Phoenix. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

The great arsenal of sovereignty

(Continued from page 23)

We have learned the lessons of history, and we now know how important unity among Indian Nations is for our mutual survival. This is why I am so committed to building our national Indian PAC.

Think about how different our history could have been, had our ancestors been completely unified five hundred years ago. It is not too late. I believe that the road to the future is paved with the lessons of history. What we do here today will be the history which our grandchildren read and learn about tomorrow.

When they look back upon what we have done today, it is my hope that they see five hundred unified tribal Nations, five hundred sovereigns who came together, who each gave of their own strength and resources to protect the futures of all of our Native children. We can accomplish this

through supporting our Unity Caucus, our National Indian PAC.

We have withstood 500 years of threats to our sovereignty. And if we take a stand against our enemies today, we will withstand another 500 years of threats.

On the 500th anniversary of Columbus landing on the shores of this great continent, tribal leaders from across America gathered at the Mall in front of the Capitol in Washington D.C. We celebrated our survival, and our hope for the future. We ended that day with this poem, which I will leave with you:

"We stand, young warriors in the circle
At dawn, all storm clouds disappear.
The future holds all hope and glory
Ghost Dancers rise
Five Hundred Years."

Mli gwetch



1996 Court decisions

(Continued from page 22)

State of Montana v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. District Court for the district of Montana rejected Montana's challenge of a decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to treat Indian tribes as states for purposes of setting water quality standards within the exterior boundaries of an Indian reservation.

The court ruled that the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have inherent sovereign powers to set environmental standards that must be met by all residents of the Flathead reservation, including non-Indians.

City of Albuquerque v. Browner

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a lower court's decision supporting the tribal exercise of environmental jurisdiction under § 518 of the Clean Water Act. The City of Albuquerque challenged the EPA's approval of the Pueblo of Isleta's water quality standards. Some issues were settled through a negotiated agreement between the City, the EPA and the Pueblo.

This case is especially significant because it is the first federal appeals court to address the issue of tribal sovereignty and rights to regulate the environment pursuant to federal statute.



NCAI royalty for 1996. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Washington tribes oppose Salmon marking program

A group of Indians from western Washington said they might seek a federal restraining order if the state tries to resume mass marking of Puget Sound hatchery coho salmon.

However, the state said it plans to resume the markings anyway.

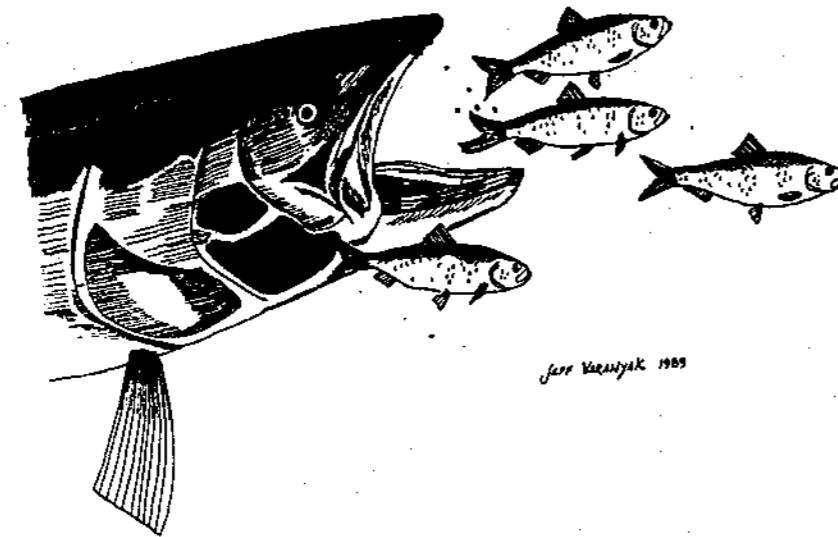
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife said the multimillion-dollar marking program is required by state law.

The department said it would resume clipping the adipose fins of coho salmon produced in the north coastal and Puget Sound hatcheries, to enable anglers to distinguish hatchery fish from wild ones when they reach harvestable size in 1998.

The agency said the mass marking is essential to its effort to rebuild wild salmon runs in Washington and meet the increasing challenges of the federal Endangered Species Act.

The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission said that the tribes are not opposed to the concept of mass marking as a tool to manage the salmon resources, but they want to be sure that the state takes the time to do it right.

The tribes signed an agreement with the state in May, promising not to mark any



fish after September 1 unless certain conditions are met. But so far, tribal officials say, not one of the conditions has been met.

The commission wants to be sure that Canadian-caught fish are checked for coded-wire tags. The adipose-fin-clip used for mass marking is the same mark that has been used to identify fish that carry the tags, which are not as visible. The tribes are

concerned that the mass marking could interfere with recovering coded wire tags.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has offered to provide the tribes and the Canadian government with metal detectors and sampling support that it said would enable them to determine which fish bear the tags.

(Reprinted from American Indian Report)

New Sea Grant exotic species web site is on-line

Anyone requiring science-based information on zebra mussels and other nonindigenous species can now obtain it through the touch of their fingertips thanks to the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network. The Sea Grant Zebra Mussel and Nonindigenous Species World Wide Web site (sgnis) contains a comprehensive collection of research publications and education materials produced by Sea Grant programs across the country.

The site can be accessed through the World Wide Web, Telnet, or directly through a modem. The address is: <http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/sgnis/>. A CD-ROM version will soon be available for those users who do not have Internet access.

This site is useful for industrial and municipal water users, shoreland property owners, boaters, resource management agencies, students, teachers, outreach professionals, and researchers.

Although currently focused on zebra mussels, the site also contains Sea Grant information on four other invaders, the Eurasian ruffe, the round goby, sea lamprey and the spiny waterflea.

"We hope the site will give people the information they need to help prevent or slow the spread and improve the control of invading species," said Al Miller, project coordinator from the Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute.

More than 150 research reports and 60 educational items are housed at the site, including four newsletters, proceedings of past international conferences and a slide library. The site also provides a brief introductory written and pictorial description of the exotics, for those who aren't familiar with them.

All entries, with the exception of conference proceedings and newsletters, have been peer-reviewed to ensure they are the highest quality science. The searchable site allows entry via "Products" available, "Users" of the materials, "Key Words" or through a site search engine. The search engine allows browsers to search for documents by title, author(s), the organization of the author, date of publication, users, products and keywords.

The site provides linkages to the National Biological Service's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Geographic Information System, the Great Lakes Information Network, as well as to nonindigenous species homepages of individual Sea Grant programs.

Even more Sea Grant research and educational information on zebra mussels and other aquatic nonindigenous species will be added in the future.

Developed as a Great Lakes Network effort by the Sea Grant Programs in Illinois-Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin and housed at Purdue University, the site provides a model for the transfer of university-based research and outreach to the public.



GLIFWC Executive Administrator James Schlender congratulates James Zorn, GLIFWC policy analyst, as he presents a ten year pin during GLIFWC's all staff day at the Chequamegon Hotel, Ashland. Also receiving recognition for ten years of service were: Georgiana Cloud, secretary/litigation support specialist; H. James St. Arnold, ANA program director; and Frank White, Lac du Flambeau area corporal. Receiving five year recognition were: John Heim, wildlife technician; Glenn Miller, inland fisheries biologist; and Ken Pardun, Mille Lacs area warden. (Photo by Amoose)

Reservation conversation



Masinaigan is beginning a new opinion "column" which will feature opinions from the public on member reservations regarding specific topics. This edition's questions were: How important are your treaty rights to you and why?



Charley Naganub, Fond du Lac Forestry Tech.

They have been important for along time. It's even more important now because they want to take them away. But why do they want to take them away? We have more issues that effect our treaty rights now, such as mining, logging, pollution, mineral rights, hunting, water rights, also clean air rights. I was always told by my mom that the treaty would protect us from outside control and influence. The way I believe is that these treaty rights we have as Indian people were put there so we would have something to protect us against all these things—occupation, dominance, exploitation etc—all those things that would hurt us as people the most. These treaty rights protect not only the Indian people, but all people.



Russ Rule, Fond du Lac Wildlife Tech.

Once we harvest our moose it helps fill the freezer for the winter, along with our deer—cuts the food bill way down. You know like a state permit you can get one moose in a lifetime. That one moose isn't going to feed you for a lifetime. A band member can get one a year, that is a party of 3-4. I do pretty much trapping. I don't know if I want to compare them. The harvest limits are so low. It is so hard to make any income from it. There's a big difference between them—the state harvest level and the ceded territory rights. Now our treaty harvesting rights extend way up north in Minnesota, as compared to Rez boundaries.



Marilyn Benton, LCO member and educator at LCO Ojibwe Community College

I think treaty rights are important to all people around the world. In this country they are our protection and our way to survive. They are an insurance policy...The direction came from the Great Spirit to our ancestors, chiefs, or leaders, to sit and allow this treaty to take place. It may be a legal document, but first it was a spiritual one. And from that we continue to hunt, fish, gather, and continue our way, the Indian Way.



Lois DeMars Jeffrey, LCO elder and student at LCOCC

I feel our treaty rights are important for our children to carry on. Children must be told what they mean to them, so they will not abuse them. They must learn to share with their elders, also share the hunting and fishing experience. I want the younger generation to be aware and to practice the Indian ways.

Today, our youth are a little confused about treaty rights, the right of the tribe as taught by our elders and the new rules adopted by the governments.

HONOR makes move to rez

Phoenix, AZ—The groundwork was laid to move the HONOR office from Milwaukee to a new site on the Red Cliff reservation in Wisconsin during an HONOR Board of Directors meeting in Phoenix mid-October.

The move actually establishes a new site on the Red Cliff reservation and increases the role of the Washington, D.C. based branch of HONOR.

The two offices will essentially split the roles filled by the former main office in Milwaukee, according to Sharon Metz, executive director, HONOR. Metz anticipates that both offices will be up and running by January 1997.

The D.C. office, coordinated by Diane Wyss, HONOR board member, will largely handle advocacy on the Hill, cover federal hearings, send out copies of pertinent legislation, and issue "Action Alerts" to the tribes on critical tribal issues which relate to HONOR's goals.

According to Metz, HONOR specifically deals with human rights, tribal land, natural resources, racial, and some education issues. Other areas, such as Indian health, gaming, or welfare, are only dealt with if they overlap into issues related to HONOR's guiding principles.

Wyss will be developing a Web site for HONOR out of the D.C. office and will be discontinuing the HONOR Bulletin Board in favor of the Web site.

The Red Cliff office will provide local and regional informational resources,

coordinate leadership training, the summer intern program, and handle general inquiries.

Tom Metz has contracted to handle HONOR's resource materials and will continue to make them available at educational and environmental shows and conventions nationally.

HONOR also elected a new slate of officers for the upcoming year and welcomed Jeff Smith, Makah Tribe, Seattle, as the new HONOR president. Smith is the director of American Indian issues for the American Friends Service Committee. Also serving as officers will be Sharon Metz, first vice president; Wendy Helegamo Esq., Ho Chunk Nation, second vice president; Diane Wyss, treasurer; and Sister Patricia Marshall, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, Philadelphia, secretary.

Metz, who has been the president of HONOR since its incorporation five years ago, will continue to be active as a volunteer in HONOR activities as well as provide a role of oversight and coordination as the two offices become established.

Metz is enthusiastic about the new direction in HONOR and feels that an on-reservation location "will send a signal to Indian Country that HONOR is in for the long term, serious, and available."

The HONOR Board traditionally meets in conjunction with the annual National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) annual convention which was set in downtown Phoenix this year.



Reggie Defoe, Fond du Lac Natural Resource Tech.

They are very important! They were established around 150 years ago, which is not that long ago. They were established between two groups who recognized each other as a sovereign nation. I don't think it is recognized that way today. There are many limitations today for a tribe to become self-sustainable, because the US government is not allowing the tribes to fully exercise their treaty rights. There are limitations on some of the rights. The tribes are not viewed as independent nations...To me that is very upsetting because the tribe is not viewed as a independent band or nation as they were back in 1854.



Valerie Nickience, LCO member and student at LCOCC

Treaty rights are important rights to me for our gaming and fishing, also for our children of the future. They are important to protect our natural resources, like gathering of food, medicine, fuel, and getting back to our natural way.

We need protection against pollution, so the animals can survive, and our plants need protection, so they can provide our medicinal purposes, food, shelter etc.

Ethnobotanical Thoughts

Secondary forest resources or primary concerns?

By Dr. James Meeker
Associate Professor, Northland College

On a winter's walk, if you're lucky, a solitary raven may be the only reminder that you are in a shared place. Contrast this landscape at rest to the remainder of the year.

Spring forests are alive with sounds and smells of awakening life. Our attention is outward. Woodcocks "peent" on the smallest patches of bare ground, and the trailing arbutus begins a whole parade of blooming wildflowers. By summer abundant life is literally "in your face" as the sea of green leaves obscures your view and hordes of bloodletting insects never let you forget that you are not alone in the woods.

This summer busyness is matched only by our lives as we pack as much outdoor activity as we can muster in our allotted time. By fall, although the pace slackens and we are pleasantly distracted by the fall brilliance, we hurriedly prepare for the winter season.

In contrast to the rest of year then, winter is a time to count our blessings, a time for reflection upon our surroundings. Whose woods are these? How does the concept of ownership relate to those who come after us? Simply put, what is the purpose of a forest and what do we want for the future of these lands? These questions are especially timely, as land managers are in the process of planning for the next decade. Throughout our public lands (county, state and national forests) decisions made in the next few years will influence what our forests will look like for many years to come.

Traditionally, harvesting a variety of wood products has been the dominant activity in our region's forests. Although forestry practices vary greatly from clear cutting with an emphasis on aspen for pulp, to select cutting saw logs for lumber and veneer, many still believe wood harvest should be the primary forest activity. It is easy to see why. Often timber management has been beneficial for select species that thrive in younger forests, including very popular species like grouse and deer.

In the 1980's however, concern for uncut, primary forests and biological diversity worldwide has led many people to look at "our" forests in a different manner. Here in the Great Lakes region, true old growth forests are generally not the issue because so little is left, but more subtle concerns relating to general forest health are surfacing. In aspen management, for example, researchers are just beginning to ask questions about the soil's ability to maintain its fertility with successive rotations.

Aspen has substantially more calcium (an important forest nutrient), in the trunk when compared to some of the evergreens such as balsam fir and white spruce. How much of this calcium can be taken off the site? In other words, how sustainable is the practice of continuous aspen production? We are without the answers. Even with select cutting of hardwoods we know little about the long term effects that these activities have on many of the forest species.

For example, little is known about how understory plants respond to ongoing forest management practices. Northern hardwoods communities, in particular, are likely to



Dr. James Meeker

respond significantly to the major changes in light, moisture and nutrients that are associated with tree cutting and removal, as the organisms associated with these communities have generally evolved with smaller disturbances such as single tree falls and tip-up mounds. There are more uncertainties than answers.

In addition to the timber trees and prominent wildlife species that call forests their home, there are thousands of other forest dependent species, and likely some still unknown to science, even in our region. Land managers have traditionally referred to these species and other benefits as "secondary forest resources," and they provide value to us in innumerable ways.

Dead fall and such debris in streams and moss covered slopes retard runoff that, if left unchecked, silt up our stream and lakes. Wild leek collecting provides spice both to our lives and our stews. Medicinal and ornamental plants protect our health and add joy to our lives. For many of us, these resources are valuable contributions to our quality of life. It makes me question why these resources are forced into a secondary role.

I have long balked at the notion of determining the "worth," or monetary value of a forest, in terms of these less visible resources. Value is difficult to place on benefits such as tranquility, peace of mind, and spiritually. How, for example, can you place a price tag on a mosquito-free hike at the peak of fall color?

However, economists are beginning to just that, and demonstrating in some cases, through a cost-benefit analysis that maintaining forests for their ecological functions, recreation opportunities and collectable resources provides a better income than a wood harvest can bring. These discussions are likely to become more common in the future as the many pressures on our forest increase.

I have to admit I'm still skeptical of cost-benefit approaches, remembering an old adage suggesting that those who make the rules usually win the game. On the other hand, we are recognizing more and more the need to protect native species and communities along with their ecological processes with a framework of the seventh generation. These new evaluations may help.

I hope that these words peak your interest and encourage you to use this winter as a time to reflect on our valuable forest resources. A number of us in the region have formed an informal group (Conservation Biologists of the Upper Great Lakes) dedicated to explore these issues.

For example, among a number of concerns, we are addressing the need for core areas, or sites where natural processes dominate in our forest to provide benchmarks or comparisons to the remainder of the managed forest. If you are interested in some of our views, or would like position papers on assorted conservation topics, call or write in care of me at the Northland College, Ashland, Wisconsin.

(Jim Meeker and Beth Lynch, GLIFWC Botanist, are offering a 5 week evening course entitled "Conservation Biology for Public Forest Management" through Northland College's Evening Degree Completion Program. The course begins in February 1997. Inquire at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northland College, 715-682-1260.)

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Letters to the editor and guest editorials are welcomed by MASINAIGAN. We like to hear from our readership. The right to edit or refuse to print, however, is maintained. All letters to the editor should be within a 300 word limit. Letters to the editor or submitted editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of GLIFWC.

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