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A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe

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Spring 2000

Spring treaty fishing off to early start

By Sue Erickson
Staff writer

Odanah, Wis.—An early ice-out on many lakes this spring made March the month for treaty fishermen to get their boats out and tune up the motors in preparation for some walleye fishing. The surge of warm air in February and spring rains in March set the stage for the earliest start to spring netting and spearing since the *Voigt* Decision.

In Minnesota Leonard Sam, Mille Lacs, got the spring season underway by setting a net on Mille Lacs Lake on March 7, even though he was fishing under the 1999 quota. His catch showed a few walleye, some northern, burbot and a tullibee—a nice variety but indicative that the walleye were not yet set to spawn. As of April 1, treaty fishing on Mille Lacs Lake will be under the 2000 quota.

In Wisconsin, Bad River tribal members Joe Bates and Dennis Haskins opened the spring spearing season on March 24 with a trek to Lake Wissota and Long Lake, both in Chippewa County.

Winds prevented any fishing on Lake Wissota, so the team headed to Long Lake where they took 16 walleye.

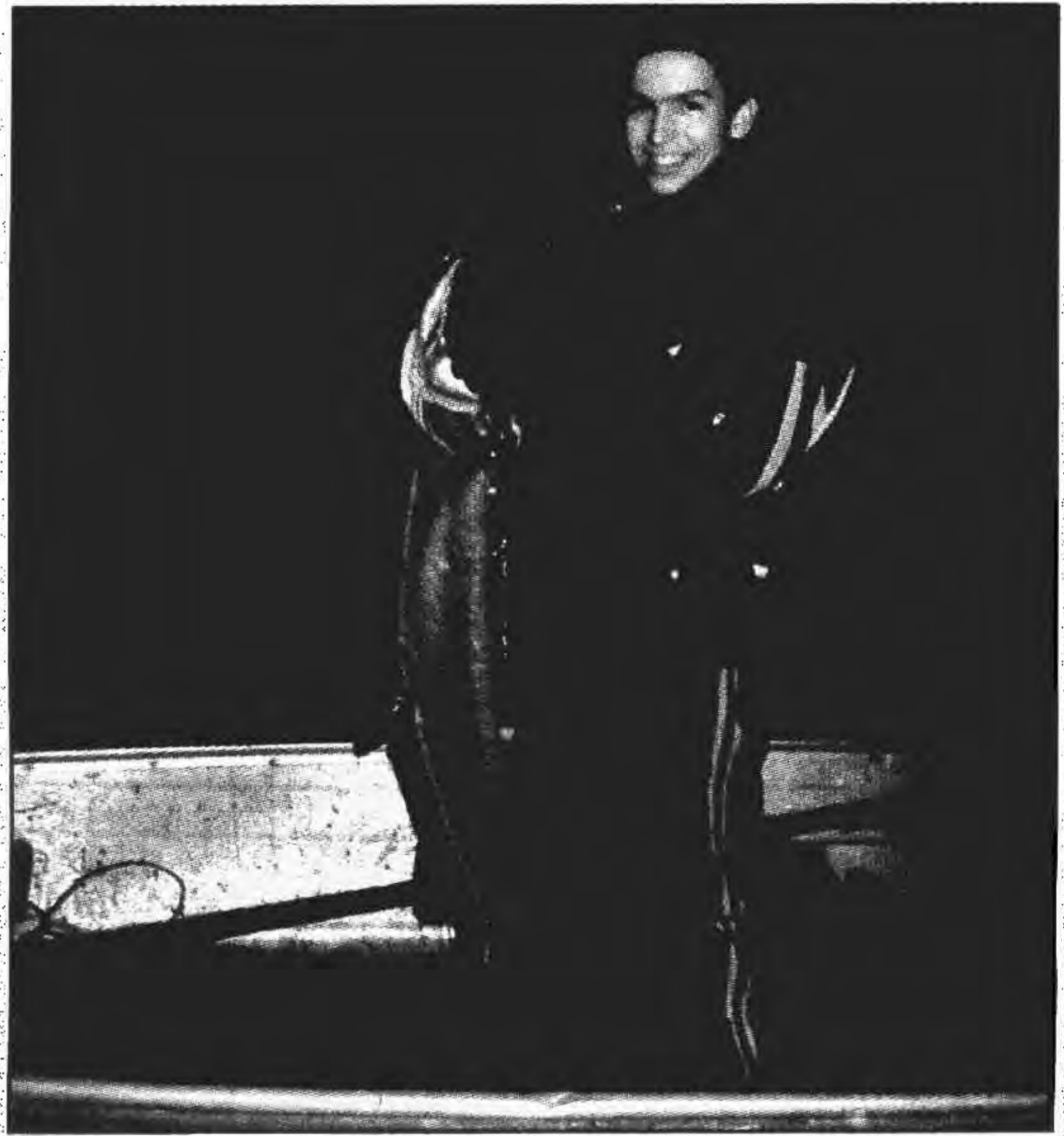
The next night, March 25, Bates and Haskins speared 18 walleye from Island Lake, Rusk County and returned to Long Lake where they harvested 77 walleye.

Opportunity in Wisconsin ceded territory for 2000

In preparation for the spring fishing season, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) submitted tribal declarations for walleye and muskellunge quotas in the Wisconsin ceded territories to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by the March 15th deadline.

The tribes declared quotas in 253 lakes plus five chain entries in Wisconsin, with a total combined quota of 40,797 walleye out of a safe harvest level of 70,536 in the 253 declared lakes.

If the tribes harvest 100% of their declared quotas, state licensed anglers would have a three bag limit on 116 (See Plenty opportunity, page 2)



Mark Bisonette, Jr. hoists a musky speared on Round Lake in Sawyer County, Spring 1999. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Wild turkeys right at home in the ceded territory

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Odanah, Wis.—At first glance they may look like ravens congregating in a fallow field—not an uncommon

sight for motorists in the north country. After a full-blown double-take, however, it's clear that this is a bird of another feather. A much bigger feather.

Wild turkeys are thriving along the southern tier of the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories and have surprised bi-

ologists by extending their range even further north.

"There are great new turkey hunting opportunities for tribal members in the ceded territory," said Peter David, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) biologist. "A decade ago, at the time of the *Voigt* litigation, there was only one small turkey management zone in the Wisconsin ceded territory. Today there are ten. Public lands near active agricultural areas offer the best chance for harvest."

Despite their increasing abundance, few tribal members hunt the big birds, and annual treaty harvests have hovered in the single-digits over the last decade. Unlike state turkey harvests, most treaty-hunted birds are killed in the autumn.

"There's a more opportunistic aspect to harvests by band members," David said. "It often occurs when a small game or grouse hunter encounters a turkey by chance."

Hunters from St. Croix, Lac Courte Oreilles, and Mole Lake Sokaogon generally account for the handful of birds bagged in Wisconsin each year. In the Minnesota and Michigan ceded territo-

ries, where the marginal habitat supports fewer birds, there are no treaty harvests on the books.

Good wild turkey habitat includes around 40 to 60 percent of the land in agriculture, according to Keith Warnke, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) wildlife ecologist. Row crops, like corn, are important to turkey survival in the northern range, especially when natural foods like acorns or insects are unavailable, he added.

Historically distributed across the southern portion of Wisconsin and southeast Minnesota, wild turkeys were killed off by the 1880s until stocking efforts took root in the mid-1970s. Through the combined efforts of the National Wild Turkey Federation and state wildlife agencies, turkeys have reclaimed all of their original range and then some, expanding onto farms grubbed out of the northern forest.

In Wisconsin, WDNR personnel are wrapping up a 21-year program to release birds into all of the state's suitable turkey habitat. Birds trapped with rocket nets near the lower Wisconsin (See Turkeys, page 9)



Mizise (wild turkey) released in Taylor County, Wisconsin. (Photo by COR)

The spring 2000 off-reservation turkey hunting season runs from April 12 to May 21. A small game hunting permit and turkey carcass tag are required and available from GLIFWC enforcement officers or tribal conservation departments.



Bizhiw (lynx) listed as threatened species

Special rule may address concerns of tribal trappers

By Sue Erickson
Staff writer

Fort Snelling, Minn.—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the Canada lynx as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), filing the rule in the Federal Register on March 24. Listing the lynx was first proposed in 1998.

The listing pertains to the contiguous United States and includes a special regulation allowing for the take and export of lawfully obtained captive-bred lynx. The rule will become effective on April 24, 2000.

Once effective, the lynx will be protected from "take," defined as to

"harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect," according to Janet Smith, USFWS field supervisor, Green Bay.

In a letter to interested parties, Smith says that harm might include changes in habitat which could kill or injure the species by impairing ability to feed, breed, or find shelter.

After the listing was first proposed, tribal concerns over impact on tribal hunting and trapping activities were raised, says Jonathan Gilbert, wildlife section leader, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

While lynx populations are sparse within the ceded territories, incidental take of a lynx while trapping for other species could occur.

Gilbert says that the USFWS will be proposing a special 4(d) rule to enable legal hunting and trapping to continue while minimizing potential of taking lynx. Both tribes and states cited hunting and trapping issues as a concern prior to the listing.

According to Gilbert, northern Minnesota provides habitat more conducive to a lynx population than northern Wisconsin, and even then, northern Minnesota represents the southern parameter of its range.

Larger lynx populations are found in Canada and in the western states, primarily on federal lands.

After studying the lynx in the United States, the USFWS concluded that the lynx was threatened primarily

The lynx, called bizhiw in Ojibwa, is a symbol for an Ojibwe clan.

to due lack of "guidance to conserve lynx and lynx habitat in federal land management plans," Smith states.

Addressing this problem in part, the U.S. Forest Service signed a Conservation Agreement with the USFWS to promote conservation of the lynx on federal lands, an action which Smith believes will play a crucial role in lynx recovery.

The goal of the Endangered Species Act is to recover species to population levels so federal protection is no longer necessary.

Plenty opportunity for good fishing in Wisconsin and Minnesota ceded territories

(Continued from page 1)

lakes, a two bag limit on 121 lakes, and a one bag limit on 12 lakes.

For muskellunge in Wisconsin the tribes declared a combined quota totaling 1,410 muskellunge out of a safe harvest level of 2,640.

1999 Wisconsin spring fishing figures

Last year, tribes declared a combined total quota of 39,586 walleye in 204 Wisconsin lakes. In 1999 the combined total harvest was 26,105 walleye, or 66% of the declared walleye quota. Biological creel staff sexed 23,616 walleye in 1999 of which 91% were males.

Tribes harvested 275 muskellunge from 169 Wisconsin lakes in 1999, taking 19.2% of the declared quota.*

Minnesota 1837 ceded territory spring fishing opportunity

Eight Ojibwe bands share a combined quota of 70,000 lbs. of walleye from Mille Lacs Lake in 2000. 35,000 lbs. are available to the Mille Lacs band, with the remaining seven bands allotted 5,000 lbs. each.

Other species with quotas in Mille Lacs Lake are yellow perch, cisco, burbot, and northern pike. (see table 1)

In 1999 the walleye quota for Mille Lacs lake was 55,000 lbs. for the treaty season.

Annual, tribal walleye quotas for Mille Lacs Lake are pre-determined by the federal court approved Interim Treaty Fisheries Management Plan for the 1837 Minnesota Ceded Territory for the Years 1998-2002. Under this plan, tribal walleye quotas are scheduled to increase at a rate of 15,000 lbs. annually during the five year period.

Mille Lacs Lake—Walleye and other quota or cap species (in pounds)

Species	Method & Tribal Quota (Pounds)	Tribal Declaration								Total Pounds	Percent of Tribal Quota
		Bad River Pounds	Fond du Lac Pounds	Lac du Flambeau Pounds	Lac Courte Oreilles Pounds	Mille Lacs Pounds	Mole Lake Pounds	Red Cliff Pounds	St. Croix Pounds		
Walleye	70,000 Spearing Netting	1,500	1,500	2,000	500	1,000	400	1,000	1,000	70,000	100.00%
Yellow Perch	135,000	5,714	1,000	10,000	5,714	40,000	10,000	22,500	9,642	104,570	77.46%
Cisco	12,000	857	1,000	1,600	857	5,000	857	714	857	11,742	97.85%
Burbot	14,000	1,000	1,000	200	1,000	7,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	13,200	94.29%
Northern Pike	11,500	659	659	565	847	6,399	866	753	753	11,500	100.00%

(Table 1)

The bands have also declared walleye quotas in 24 other lakes in the Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory. (see tables 2 and 3)

Monitoring the spring spearing and netting seasons

Tribes must provide notice to GLIFWC by noon if lakes are going to be speared or netted that evening, giving GLIFWC opportunity to have monitoring teams assigned to open lakes.

In Wisconsin ceded territory lakes, a permit system has been in place since 1988. Permits are issued at tribal registration offices or the designated boat landing on a daily basis. The number of permits issued is determined daily by dividing the remaining tribal quota for a lake by the nightly bag limit selected for that lake.

Once the quota for walleye is reached, a lake is closed to further spearing or netting.

All tribal spearing and netting is monitored nightly at landings designated for fishing activity. A team, composed of a creel clerk and a warden, is assigned to each lake open for fishing. Prior to leaving a landing, each fisherman's catch is checked. All walleye are counted, and the first 100 walleye plus all walleye harvested by the last boat in are measured, and sex is determined.

Harvest of each lake is totaled and reported to GLIFWC's administrative office by 9:00 a.m. the following morning.

In Minnesota, the spring spearing and netting season is managed in much the same way. Permits are required and monitoring teams are present for all net lifts and for all harvest by spearing. In this way, the quota is adjusted on a daily basis.

With the exception of about 13 lakes, quotas are based on poundage rather than number. In all lakes monitoring teams count and weigh the catch on the landing when tribal fishermen come ashore.

*Information on the 1999 spring treaty spearing is taken from GLIFWC's Administrative Report 2000-05, *Open Water Spearing in Northern Wisconsin by Chippewa Indians During 1999* by Jennifer Krueger, GLIFWC database manager.

Statistics on 2000 declarations and quotas was provided by Rick Madsen, GLIFWC data analyst.

Walleye declaration (in pounds) in lakes other than Mille Lacs

County	Lake	MnDNR Area	2000 Harvestable Surplus from Gill Net Survey (Pounds)	Tribal Declaration								Total Pounds	Percent of Total Quota (Pounds)
				Bad River Pounds	Fond du Lac Pounds	Lac du Flambeau Pounds	Lac Courte Oreilles Pounds	Mille Lacs Pounds	Mole Lake Pounds	Red Cliff Pounds	St. Croix Pounds		
AITKIN	PINE L (SOUTH)	372	405	139				63				202	49.88%
CHISAGO	GOOSE L	442	1,315	120				120				240	18.25%
CHISAGO	GREEN L	1,715	5,378		1,000							1,000	18.59%
CHISAGO	RUSH L (EAST)	1,359	3,175					122		299		421	13.26%
CHISAGO	RUSH L (WEST)	1,464	1,405					122				122	8.68%
CROW WING	BORDEN L	1,038	175					50				50	28.57%
CROW WING	LONG L	1,313	2,143	100				100				200	9.33%
KANABEC	ANN L	633	269	134								134	49.81%
KANABEC	ELEVEN L	290	312					25				25	8.01%
PINE	BIG PINE L (NORTH)	387	545					75				75	13.76%
SHERBURNE	ELK L	353	2,100							1,050		1,050	50.00%
Total			17,222	493	1,000	0	0	677	0	1,349	0	3,519	

(Table 2)

Walleye declaration (in numbers) in lakes other than Mille Lacs

County	Lake	MnDNR Area	2000 Quota Threshold Level Formula (Number)	Tribal Declaration								Total	Percent of Total Quota (Number)
				Bad River Number	Fond du Lac Number	Lac du Flambeau Number	Lac Courte Oreilles Number	Mille Lacs Number	Mole Lake Number	Red Cliff Number	St. Croix Number		
CHISAGO	CHISAGO L	873	175	175								175	100.00%
CROW WING	CAMP L	478	96					96				96	100.00%
CROW WING	PLATTE L	1,674	335					38				38	11.34%
CROW WING	WHITEFISH L	696	139					15				15	10.79%
ISANTI	GREEN L	802	160						50			50	31.25%
ISANTI	NORTH STANCHFIELD L	143	29					29				29	100.00%
ISANTI	SOUTH STANCHFIELD L	398	80					40		40		80	100.00%
MILLE LACS	OGECHIE L	410	82					82				82	100.00%
MILLE LACS	SHAKOPEE L	675	135					135				135	100.00%
MORRISON	SULLIVAN L	1,221	244	96				38				134	54.92%
PINE	POKEGAMA L	1,536	307	100								100	32.57%
PINE	RAZOR L	100	20					20				20	100.00%
PINE	ROCK L	77	15					15				15	100.00%
Total			1,817	371	0	0	0	508	0	90	0	969	

(Table 3)

On the cover

A wild turkey takes flight near Medford in north-central Wisconsin. In cooperation with the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe and private landowners, the WDNR trapped birds in southern Wisconsin and released them in four ceded territory locations. See pages one and four for more on wild turkeys. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Anderson celebrates treaty case victory

Decries continued racism and intolerance

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Mille Lacs reservation, Minn.— Mille Lacs Chief Executive Marge Anderson clearly handed credit to band members for the Mille Lacs Band's great forward strides in 1999, including the significant 1837 Treaty case victory in the Supreme Court, during her State of the Band address in January.

Speaking to a packed audience in the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center, she attributed the Supreme Court win to the collective "Will of the People," whose power, determination and courage have led the Band forward through bitter years and recent victories.

Anderson, who also delivered her presentation in the Ojibwe language, outlined the ongoing battles fought by the Mille Lacs Band over the centuries which were won because of the people's determination to retain their homeland and way of life.

In the 1700's it was hand-to-hand combat with the Sioux in the Battle of Kathio that kept the homeland for the Mille Lacs people. In the 1800's the Mille Lacs people fought "a battle of wills with the United States" when the federal government attempted to move the Band under the Nelson Act. However, the Mille Lacs Band of Non-Removable Chippewa refused to be removed and stayed.

In the 1900's the Band battled the State of Minnesota in order to preserve the treaty rights retained in the Treaty of 1837. "But we knew our rights. We knew our treaty. We took the State to Court. We faced the challenge. We took the blows; we fought the good fight together, side by side, as we always have," Anderson related.

"On both sides, there were those who thought we would lose. There were those who were angry that we would ask for what was ours. Then they blamed us for causing anger and hostility. There were those who said that we were just wrong. But in March of last year, the United State Supreme Court said that we were right. In a landmark decision, we won."

Many elements contributed to the victory in court, but Anderson attributed the win primarily to the "Will of the Band":

"We had a strong Treaty. We had excellent attorneys. But for other tribes, this has not been enough. This same

Supreme Court which sided with us, has almost always ruled against other tribes. What is it, then, which caused us to win?

I say to you, that it was the **Will of the Band**. Last year, when we were awaiting the High Court's decision, I asked each of you to pray to the Great Spirit. To use your songs, your tobacco, and your hearts. I know that you did these things. I was there with you at the ceremonies. I saw how full your hearts were. And I know that because of you, the Great Spirit helped us. It was you, the Band Members, who won our case. Because you believed. Because it was your Will."

While a new day has dawned for the Mille Lacs Band in the year 2000, the journey the Band must take together is not done, Anderson said. The Band must continue to work for the benefit of generations to come so that in another 1000 years the Band will celebrate complete self-sufficiency, "that everyone has an education, that all of our social ills and diseases have been beaten. I believe this," Anderson said.

Challenges for the Y2K

Directions for each division of the Mille Lacs government were put forth by Anderson for the upcoming year, basing her directives on the Band's Strategic Plan, "our road map to the future."

She read a section which defines the Band's vision: "...To safe-guard the future and security of our children, respect the traditional teachings and cultural values of our elders, promote the spiritual, physical, social and mental well-being of our Communities, protect, develop and enhance our natural resources and educational and economic opportunities, by: Exercising and protecting our inherent sovereign and treaty-guaranteed rights as a unified, self-sufficient, self-governing Nation."

Anderson highlighted the achievements over the past year and defined goals for the coming year.

Some of 1999 highlights included the completion of the Band's Strategic Plan, community centers in Districts I and II; the Lake Lena Clinic, and the lower level of the administration building.

Anderson complimented Natural Resource Commissioner Don Wedll on implementing the enforcement of the



Mille Lacs Commissioner of Natural Resources Don Wedll and Mille Lacs Chief Executive Marge Anderson were honored for their role in promoting the successful conclusion of the 1837 Treaty litigation. Following the State of the Band Address last January at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center, Wedll and Anderson were presented with blankets and statues of eagles in recognition of their leadership. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

off-reservation treaty seasons and an effective resource management program. Wedll was the recipient of a national award from Harvard for the Band's conservation code.

Anderson declares war against racism and intolerance

The final challenge

"I want to win my last great war against the evil of intolerance. And I challenge all Band Members, and friends, to join me," Anderson closed her State of the Band address with a final challenge to the Band and the community at large.

However, the battle will not be easy she warned. The Treaty case was the most important battle the Band has fought, she said, but this "hatred is the toughest opponent I have ever known."

Anderson very directly addressed the problems of racism which have plagued the community for generations.

She pointed out that in previous days, the Band members had little choice and little power. "I have walked with those who hate all my life. I went to school with them. I paid rent to them. I bought goods and services from them. **Because I had no choice.**"

Anderson said there is a "small faction of people" who are fear-mongering by spreading misinformation about the Mille Lacs Band. "They say that because we are buying land, we are trying to gain power over our non-Indian neighbors. They are saying worse about us—things which hurt our children, which hurt us as Indian people, which hurt us as human beings."

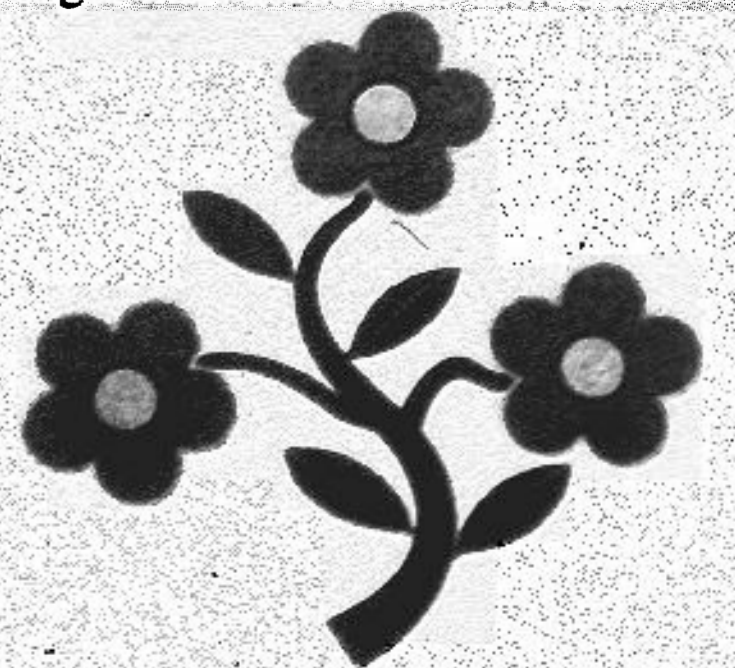
Fortunately, the faction involved in the campaign of misinformation is small and does not characterize the entire non-Indian community. Anderson pointed out that the majority of the Band's non-Indian neighbors are good people who continue to be understanding neighbors.

But those who have "lost their ability to talk with others, and to listen to others," lost their ability to talk with people of another heritage can no longer be ignored.

Anderson said the days of ignoring racism and tolerating intolerance can no longer be. "We must fight against the ignorance which breeds this evil. We must use every weapon in our arsenal. And we will not lose, because, the good and decent of this community are stronger than those who are not."



A highlight of the Mille Lacs State of the Band Address and ceremonies was entertainment by the Negamojig Choir composed of Mille Lacs elementary students. (Photo by Sue Erickson)



The outer limits

Wild turkeys put to test at Lac du Flambeau

By Charlie Otto Ramussen
Writer/Photographer

Lac du Flambeau, Wis.—Of the 31 wild turkeys released on the Lac du Flambeau (LdF) reservation this past winter, better than one-half are entering spring in good condition, according to Larry Wawronowicz, LdF natural resource director.

The unprecedented introduction effort is designed to test the habitat limits of wild turkeys at northern latitudes and explore the prospect of establishing a huntable population.

Seventeen birds captured in southern Wisconsin with rocket nets were released on the reservation in late January, followed by a flock of 14 several weeks later. Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) staff assisted the LdF Natural Resources Department in fitting a number of second-release turkeys with radio transmitter backpacks to track their movements.

“Overall, the turkeys from the original release are doing pretty well,” Wawronowicz said. “Most of the losses came from birds from the later release. They were more difficult to remove from the net. And, I think the extra handling required to put on the transmitters stressed the birds to the point that they were more vulnerable to exposure and predators.”

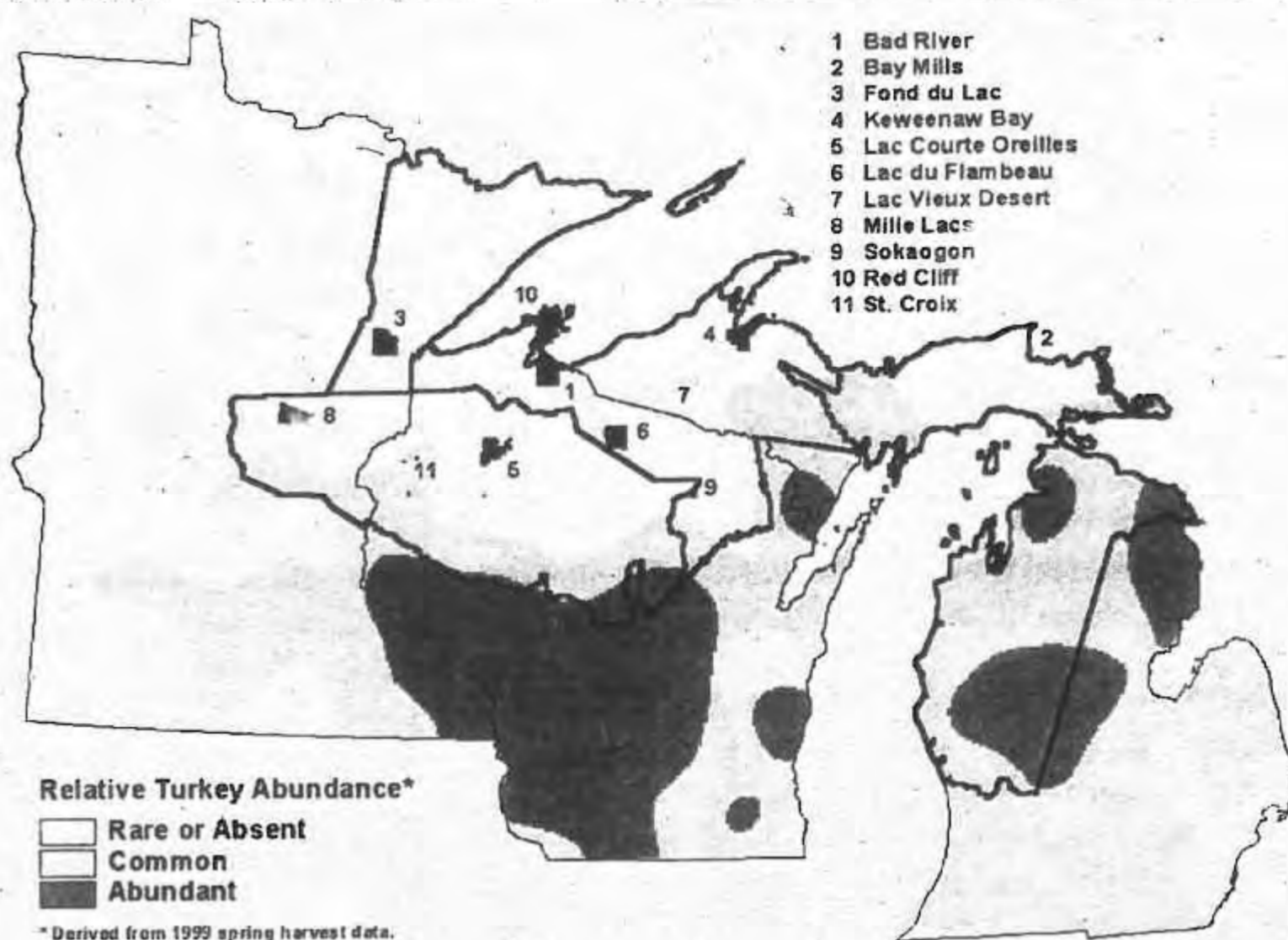
In the heavily forested Lac du Flambeau region there’s no shortage of hungry carnivores. Wawronowicz said that evidence of fisher, fox, bobcat, and possible wolf depredations have claimed turkeys.

“This is probably the longest step we’ve taken in our turkey release program,” said the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Keith Warnke, who helped organize the project. “It’s an investigation to learn if wild turkeys can survive in an area without substantial row-cropping.”

While forest, marshland, and lakes dominate the region’s habitat base, limited agriculture and food plots established through the Circle of Flight program in the mid-1990s offer open spaces and forage. In addition, the Lac du Flambeau reservation is checkered with acorn-producing oak ridges and mature white pine—a favored roosting tree for turkeys.

The turkeys spent late winter browsing on plant material and scratching for organic debris on the forest floor. Based on radio telemetry data and visual observations, Wawronowicz said that the birds stayed relatively close to the release sites until the mid-February melt-off. “When the snow was gone, the birds became very active, going from the marshes to ridges and everywhere in between,” he said.

As the spring breeding season gets underway, Wawronowicz plans on col-



Wild turkey range in the ceded territories and GLIFWC member tribes. (Map by Miles Falck, GLIFWC)

lecting additional data from gobbling surveys. Male turkeys, or toms, gobble throughout the spring to communicate with other birds, especially hens looking for a mate.

“Certainly a primary goal is to establish a self-sustaining wild turkey population to provide tribal members with hunting opportunities,” Wawronowicz said. “Turkeys that range off the reservation will help create opportunities for non-tribal members as well.”

Tribal wildlife managers have

ruled out supplemental feeding even during the harsh cold-weather months. Still, backyard deer feeders loaded with corn are common throughout the area and could provide hungry turkeys with winter sustenance.

Meanwhile, it’s an exercise in wait-and-see as to how the turkeys adapt to life on the reservation.

“This project is a good example of partnership between state and tribal agencies,” Warnke said. “We are all very interested to see what happens.”



This wild turkey hen is one of seven birds fitted with radio transmitters on the Lac du Flambeau reservation (LdF) this past winter. With some helping hands, including LdF Natural Resource Director Larry Wawronowicz (left), GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Peter David attaches a backpack transmitter that includes a whip antenna. A total of 31 birds were introduced on the reservation, and data from the transmitters will help biologists learn how the turkeys utilize the habitat. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Two trumpeter swans shot in Dane County

Madison, Wis.—State conservation wardens and wildlife officials are investigating the apparent shooting of two endangered trumpeter swans in Wisconsin.

The swans were recovered in late February near the junctions of State Highway 78 and County Highway H in Dane County, according to Department of Natural Resources Conservation Warden Dave Wood. A necropsy performed on the swans determined that they had been shot with a shotgun.

One bird wearing a neck collar was identified as being a male swan that was hatched in the wild at the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County in 1994 from swans released through Wisconsin’s trumpeter swan reintroduction program. The other swan was not collared or banded so officials were unable to determine its origin, said Sumner Matteson, who coordinates the trumpeter swan program for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources.

“It would appear this was an intentional shooting, as there were no waterfowl or other hunting seasons going on when these birds were shot,” Matteson said.

The intentional shooting of a swan can result in fines and restitution exceeding \$5,000. Additionally, hunters found guilty of shooting a swan can lose their hunting privileges for up to three years.

Anyone who may have information on the shooting should contact Conservation Warden Dave Wood at (608) 275-3468 or call the toll-free DNR poaching hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367).

For more information contact Sumner Matteson—(608) 266-1571 or Conservation Warden Dave Wood—(608) 275-3468.

(Reprinted from Wisconsin DNR News & Outdoor Report.)



Trumpeter swans have returned to the Bad River reservation where they were released in the spring of 1996 as part of an effort to re-establish a once native trumpeter swan population to the area. (Photo by Sarah Sattler)

Voigt Task Force joins Lac Courte Oreilles in opposing proposed 345,000 volt power line through ceded lands

By Rose Gurnoe
HONOR Regional Director

On February 3, 2000, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force, a constituent committee of Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, approved a resolution to support the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe (LCO) in their opposition to the 345,000 volt transmission line proposed by Minnesota Power and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.

The proposed 250 mile transmission line would bring power from hydroelectric dams in the Province of Manitoba through portions of the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin.

The Pimicikamak Cree Nation of Canada was greatly affected by the creation of this hydroelectric project when approximately 3.3 million acres of traditional aboriginal territory was devastated by flooding. Hunting grounds, fishing, transport routes; traditional economies and ways of life were decimated, and the Cree Nation continues to be negatively impacted by the flooding of their lands.

In September 1999, LCO passed a resolution opposing the construction of transmission lines anywhere on the reservation or within the ceded territory. Some of the impacts of the line may not be clear at this point, but there are serious concerns about the impact on human health, the environment, and the resources Native people depend on when they hunt, fish and gather for their subsistence.

The transmission line is proposed to be built on 20% of public lands where

Chippewa retain the right to exercise their treaty rights.

In addition, there is the proposed construction of a 115-kilovolt feeder transmission line from Rhineland to the proposed mine site near the Mole Lake reservation, another possible negative impact on Native people.

On January 30, 2000, an informational meeting was held in Superior, Wisconsin on the proposed Wausau to Duluth 345,000-volt transmission line. Representative Frank Boyle scheduled the meeting after receiving numerous calls concerning the powerline.

With standing room only, it was evident that a majority of those attending were opposed to the line. Most in attendance owned property along the proposed route of the line and questioned the real need for the line itself.

Neither Representative Frank Boyle nor Representative Gary Sherman were convinced of the need for the transmission line. Both expressed the need to look at alternatives rather than purchasing additional environmentally and socially destructive electricity from Manitoba Hydro.

Property owners along the route relayed stories to those in attendance of not being able to sell their land since it is located on the proposed route. They also questioned the impartiality of the three member Wisconsin Public Service Commission who is appointed by the Governor.

Contact your legislators and express your opposition to the construction of the 345,000 volt transmission line. Also attend public hearings this spring. If you need further information, contact the HONOR Regional Office at 715-779-9595.

Resolution in support of LCO's opposition to the transmission line

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is an organization consisting of eleven federally recognized tribes from Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin which have retained off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights in territories ceded to the United States in 1836, 1837, 1842, and 1854; and

WHEREAS, The Mission Statement of the Commission includes a duty to provide assistance to member tribes in the conservation and management of natural resources throughout the Great Lakes region thereby ensuring access to the traditional pursuits of the Chippewa people; and

WHEREAS, The Chippewa lifeway, as recognized and protected in by federal courts, depends upon clean and healthy natural resources for religious, medicinal, cultural, subsistence and economic purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force, a constituent committee of GLIFWC, develops natural resource management plans, assists its member tribes in developing suitable conservation regulations, and directs GLIFWC's programs with respect to territories ceded to the United States in the 1837 and 1842 Treaties with the Chippewa; and

WHEREAS, a 345,000 volt transmission line is being proposed to bring power from hydroelectric dams in the Province of Manitoba through portions of the 1837 and 1842 ceded territories in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed transmission line poses threats to a variety of natural resources that tribes rely upon to sustain their lifeway; and

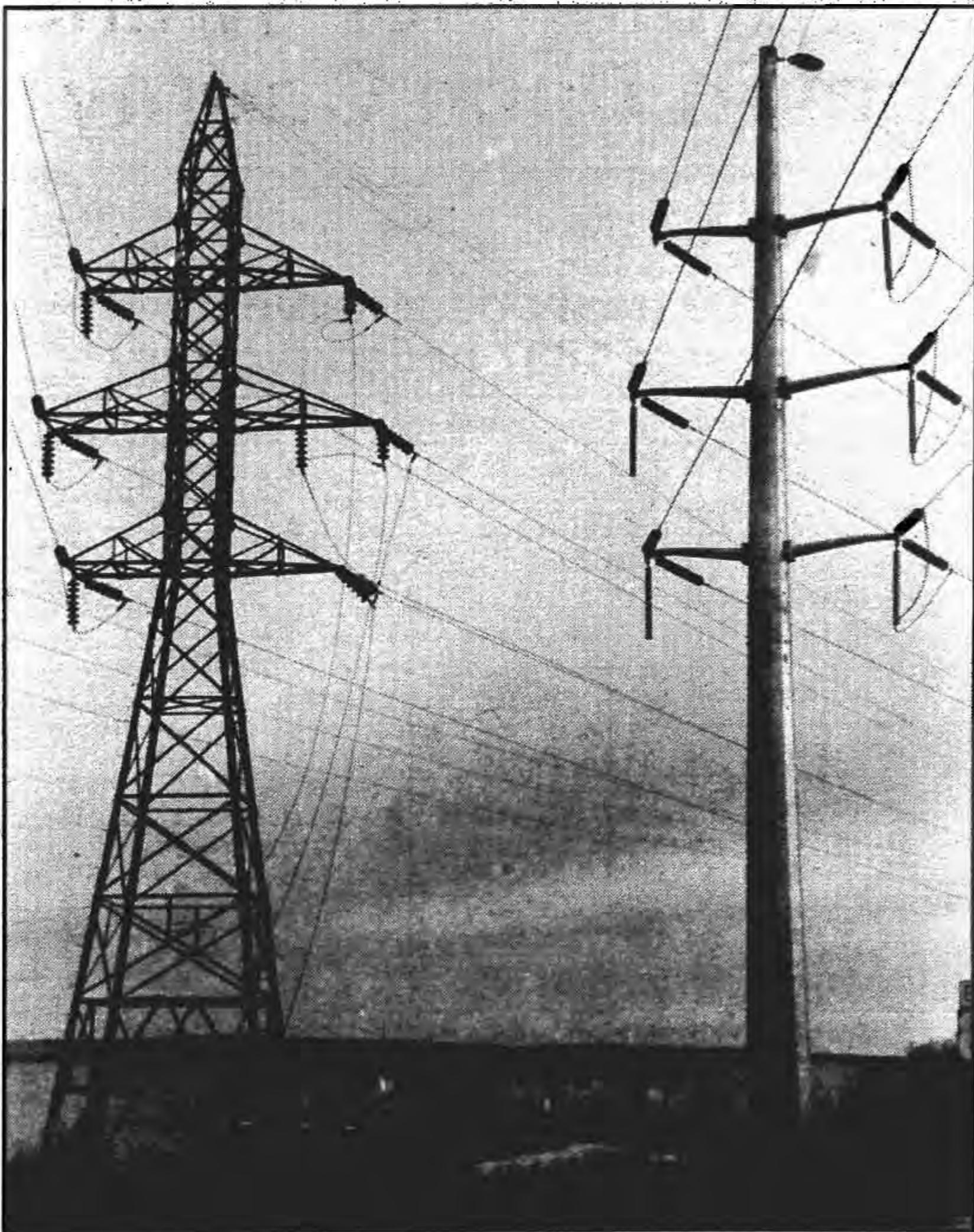
WHEREAS, a number of First Nations in the Province of Manitoba have been, and continue to be negatively impacted by the flooding of their lands for hydroelectric generation; and

WHEREAS, GLIFWC is a signatory to the Anishinaabe Akii Protocol, which recognizes the bonds of blood, clan, history tradition, language and custom among the Anishinaabe Nation, and pledges that the signatories will work together to conserve all resources, including land, water and air; and

WHEREAS, the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe of Lake Superior Chippewa, a GLIFWC member tribe, has passed a resolution opposing the transmission line, a portion of which may cross its reservation, and has raised a number of significant concerns associated with the project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission does hereby go on record in support of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe's resolution opposing the transmission line and the reasons that underlie it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consistent with the spirit of the Anishinaabe Akii Protocol, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission wishes to express its solidarity with the tribes of Manitoba that have been impacted by the flooding of their lands.



Health problems from stray voltage is one issue of concern to those questioning the proposed 250 mile, 345,000 volt transmission line carrying power from Manitoba Hydro to Wausau. Above high voltage transmission lines adorn the Lake Superior lake front, Ashland, Wisconsin. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Tribal consortium opposes power line

Groups cite 'ongoing environmental devastation'

Lac du Flambeau, Wis.—The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Inc. (GLITC), a consortium of tribes in Wisconsin, unanimously passed a resolution on Wednesday, March 15, that calls for increased investments by tribal, local, state, and national governments in energy conservation and renewable resources.

Local members of the GLITC include the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band (LCO) of Lake Superior Chippewa.

"We have reaffirmed our historic commitment to protecting the lands, waters, and people of Wisconsin," Tom Maulson, GLITC president, said. "We are sending a clear message to our utilities that we oppose the construction of power lines that will bring more harm to the LCO Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Hayward, and the Pimicikamak Cree Nation in Manitoba."

The 250-mile 345,000 volt power

line jointly proposed by Minnesota Power and Public Service Corporation of Wisconsin would cross a portion of the LCO reservation.

"LCO still suffers from our people's displacement when Northern States Power built a dam and reservoir 80 years ago on our traditional territory," said gaiashkibos, chairman of LCO band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

"We refuse to be a party to more destruction of indigenous peoples, their way of life, and our environment."

The GLITC resolution also says investments in locally generated resources will result in greater reliability and self-sufficiency for tribal members and for the citizens of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"Instead of exporting dollars to Manitoba, we'd be better off supporting the wind and solar resources of the Midwest," Maulson said.

(Reprinted from the Spooner Advocate, Spooner, Wisconsin.)

Review of deer population goals and unit boundaries

Tribes look for balance between deer and plants

By Jonathan Gilbert
Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—In accordance with the Voigt stipulation on deer and deer hunting, the tribes and the state of Wisconsin have agreed to review the status of over-winter deer population goals and the configuration of deer management unit boundaries.

These two components (goals and boundaries) are the cornerstones of deer management. Deer management is impossible without appropriate population goals and definitive management units. The periodic, comprehensive review allows deer biologists and the public to adjust these cornerstones as environmental conditions change.

The tribes (Voigt tribes) have a role in the review and ultimate decision to update population goals and unit boundaries as legally mandated in the Voigt stipulation. It mandates that the tribes and the state make efforts to reach consensus on population goals and unit boundary changes every three years.

The tribes and the State are both currently formulating their positions for this review. The State is using the Deer 2000 process and the recommendations coming from the work group on herd size as well as public input from local listening groups to determine its position.

The tribes work through the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VTF) to jointly determine a tribal position from an off-reservation treaty perspective. Individual tribes are working directly with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to express an on-reservation perspective. Information on deer population goals and carrying capacity has been presented to the VTF, and they are



Waawaashkeshi. (Photo by COR.)

reviewing this information with their tribal members.

In the past, deer population goals have been set based on 60%-70% of the unit's carrying capacity for deer. For example, if biologists estimate that a unit can hold 30 deer per square mile the goal was set to approximately 20 deer per square mile.

If the carrying capacity was estimated at 20 deer per square mile, the goal was set between 10 and 15 deer per square mile. Thus, there can be different population goals while maintaining a relatively high and consistent population in relation to carrying capacity.

Biologists now have information which suggests that high deer populations can have negative effects on many forest plant species. For many years foresters have known that when deer populations are very high it is nearly impossible for some tree species to sur-

vive after germination. The young trees are completely eliminated by deer browsing.

Recently, other ecologists have documented similar effects on understory-plant species. When deer populations are high these species decline in abundance.

Many of these plants, and in fact many of the tree species (cedar, for example), are gathered by tribal members for consumptive, utilitarian or spiritual use. Thus one of the tribal objectives in setting deer population goals is to strike a balance between having deer populations high enough to meet tribal deer harvest needs but not so high as to diminish the amount of important understory plants available for harvest. This is a difficult balance and may not be achievable in every deer management unit at all times.

One possible alternative is to have deer population goals which vary in relation to carrying capacity. Some units (those which historically held more

deer) could be at 70% of carrying capacity, while other units (which historically held fewer deer) could be at 40% of carrying capacity.

In this way there would be deer available for harvest in all deer management units. Some units would have high deer populations and sustain a larger deer harvest than others but other units would carry fewer deer while maintaining healthy populations of plants otherwise diminished by large deer populations.

The State and the tribes will be considering these issues at upcoming meetings and will attempt to reach a consensus on revised goals this summer. In that way the new population goals will be in place before harvest quotas are established for the 2001 hunting season.

Tribal members are encouraged to contact their Voigt Task Force representative, tribal conservation department or tribal council members to express their opinions on deer population goals.

1999 Wisconsin treaty deer harvest by registration station

Registration Station	Bucks	Does	Unknown	Total
Bad River	139	163	0	302
Fond du Lac	12	38	0	50
Lac Courte Oreilles	300	492	1	793
Lac du Flambeau	341	492	0	833
Mille Lacs	38	79	16	133
Mole Lake	102	208	0	310
Red Cliff	216	179	0	395
St. Croix	201	245	0	446
Total	1,349	1,896	17	3,262

1999 treaty deer harvest Minnesota 1837 ceded territory

Permit Area	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
154	0	4	4
156	2	4	6
157	8	7	15
159	25	24	49
183	6	15	21
222	0	3	3
247	0	0	0
249	10	34	44
St. Croix State Park	33	36	69
Unknown	1	0	1
Totals	85	127	212

1999 Michigan treaty deer harvest by ceded territory

Ceded Territory	Total
1836	89 (estimate)
1842	142 (registered)
Total	231

Harvest opportunities ahead Upcoming off-reservation, treaty seasons

For specific information and dates regarding any off-reservation treaty season, tribal members should contact their reservation conservation department or the on-reservation Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission satellite enforcement office or registration station.

Seasons may vary some from state to state, or from tribe to tribe. However, some of the opportunities for off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering in April through June 2000 are as follows:

Wisconsin 1837, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Maple sap gathering

Minnesota 1837 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Maple sap gathering

Michigan 1836, 1842 Treaty ceded territory

- Spearing
- Netting
- Hook and line
- Small game hunting, seasons vary by species
- Maple sap gathering

Treaty commercial fishing in Lake Superior, Michigan and Wisconsin waters
(Consult with tribal codes for specific quotas, units, and dates)

Wolf managers rendezvous in Duluth for international conference

Ojibwe speaker calls for hunting alternatives

By Charlie Otto Rasmussen
Writer/Photographer

Duluth, Minn.—Wolf advocates and researchers from Mongolia to Minnesota gathered at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center February 23-26 to discuss the global challenges of wolf management.

More than 700 participants from 26 countries attended the international symposium that featured oral presentations, films, and field trips to regional wolf habitats.

The heralded comeback of wolves in many parts of the world is tempered by less enthused livestock farmers and some pet owners who consider high wolf numbers as an unacceptable threat to domestic animals. Caught in the crossfire are legislators and wildlife managers charged with the seemingly hopeless task of appeasing diverse interests ranging from elimination to expansion.

While much of the symposium addressed scientific approaches to wolf issues, Red Lake Ojibwe Tom Stillday was on hand to provide a traditional Anishinaabe perspective on the wolf, or ma'iingan.

"Everybody's so busy; we're lost in this industrial shuffle, and we forget about the past," Stillday said. He encouraged people to reflect on the Anishinaabe oral tradition which speaks of the partnership between humans and wolves from the beginning of Creation.

"There is a strong relationship between man and ma'iingan," he explained. "Wolves and man have to take other animals to survive. Everything put on earth is here for a purpose—deer, elk, moose—that's all food."

As the state of Minnesota continues its lengthy debate on a wolf management plan, Stillday encouraged policymakers to explore alternatives to controversial management tools, like public hunting. Relocating animals to unoccupied state, federal, and tribal lands with suitable habitat is one option, Stillday said. A state-approved management plan is needed before the federal government will consider transferring management authority to the state of Minnesota.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources led state agencies in the Great Lakes region, approving a wolf management plan in October 1997. After considerable public and legislative debate, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board followed suit two years later.

A global issue

Ma'iingan is most often associated with the wild country of Alaska, Canada, and in recent decades, the upper Great Lakes. Yet one-half of the world wolf population lives outside North America, and wildlife biologists from Europe, Asia, and even Africa wrestle with how to manage this controversial animal.

"It's interesting to see how universal wolf problems are," said Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Biologist Peter David, who attended the symposium. "It places what's going on in the Midwest in a global context."



A not-too-serious bounty hunter shows off his wolf trap to GLIFWC's Peter David (left) and Lac Vieux Desert biologist Marilyn Whitens at the International Wolf Symposium in Duluth. The conference attracted wolf researchers from around the world, February 23-26. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Although skilled livestock shepherds and guard dogs are common in Europe, farmers protest over rising wolf numbers. Urban residents, like their American counterparts, tend to favor a large wolf population and in countries like Portugal and France, compensate farmers for livestock depredations.

Wolves are officially protected in many foreign countries and have proven to be highly adaptable in suburban and sparsely wooded habitat. Where fenced four-lane highways partition the Spanish landscape, wolves are utilizing asphalt bridges to access isolated territory. Wolves are recolonizing areas in Italy where shepherds have little experience deterring predators from their flocks.

"These animals really elicit emotional reactions from people around the world. That makes wolves much more difficult to manage than other species," David said. "Wherever wolves exist their survival will be dependent on human attitudes, and social tolerance will influence wolf numbers. If more people embrace the Anishinaabe perspective, I think we'll see more wolves on the landscape."

Meetings set on current wolf status in Wisconsin

Eau Claire, Wis.—Members of the state wolf committee, state and federal wildlife officials, and volunteers will meet this month to evaluate the status of wolves in Wisconsin, the number of established wolf packs and the number of wolves in the state.

The meeting is held annually to evaluate the number of wolves in the state. Wolf population estimates have been made annually since 1979 using aerial observations of radio-collared wolves and their companions and snow tracking by Department of Natural Resources biologists and volunteers.

The group also plans summer survey activity used to count wolves in Wisconsin. Last year, the group established that the Wisconsin population was 197 to 203 wolves, according to Adrian Wydeven a DNR wolf biologist in Park Falls.

Wydeven anticipates that this April's count will show continued growth in the population. The Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan calls for removing the wolf from Wisconsin's endangered and threatened species list when the population level reaches 250. Currently, the species is federally en-



dangered in Wisconsin and listed as a threatened species under Wisconsin law, which prohibits the sale, disturbance and harvest of animals on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List.

The meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. April 14 at the Ramada Inn in Wausau. A recognition meeting will be conducted at the Ramada Inn at 7 p.m. April 14 to honor those who have volunteered their services in counting wolf numbers and in wolf education efforts.

At 9 a.m. April 15 a Wisconsin Wolf Stakeholder Committee will meet with Wydeven and wolf committee members to discuss issues in wolf management and how the state Wolf Management Plan is being implemented. All meetings are open to the public.

(Reprinted from Wisconsin DNR News & Outdoor Report.)



Ma'iingan. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Siscowet assessments in Keweenaw Bay reveal strong numbers

New marketing strategies being considered

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Keweenaw Bay, Mich.—A thriving population of siscowet trout in the Michigan waters of Lake Superior came as no surprise to Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) fisheries staff performing summer siscowet assessment work in the Keweenaw Bay last year.

GLIFWC participated in a siscowet assessment coordinated by the Lake Superior Technical Committee of the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission in 1996 and used the same guidelines for the 1999 assessment activities, according to William Mattes, GLIFWC Great Lakes section leader.

While not part of GLIFWC's annual assessment activities in Lake Superior, a crew spent five weeks performing siscowet assessments under a grant from the Administration for Native Americans in relation to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program.

The crew captured a total of 540 siscowet trout using 27,300 feet of graded mesh gill net (2.5 to 5.5 inch stretch). In the fish management unit MI-4, relative abundance, measured as number of fish per 1,000 linear feet of gill net set, ranged from 5 to 38.

The highest relative abundance of siscowet occurred in waters from 60-79 fathoms. (see graph below)

Siscowet populations are definitely more abundant than lake trout, Mattes

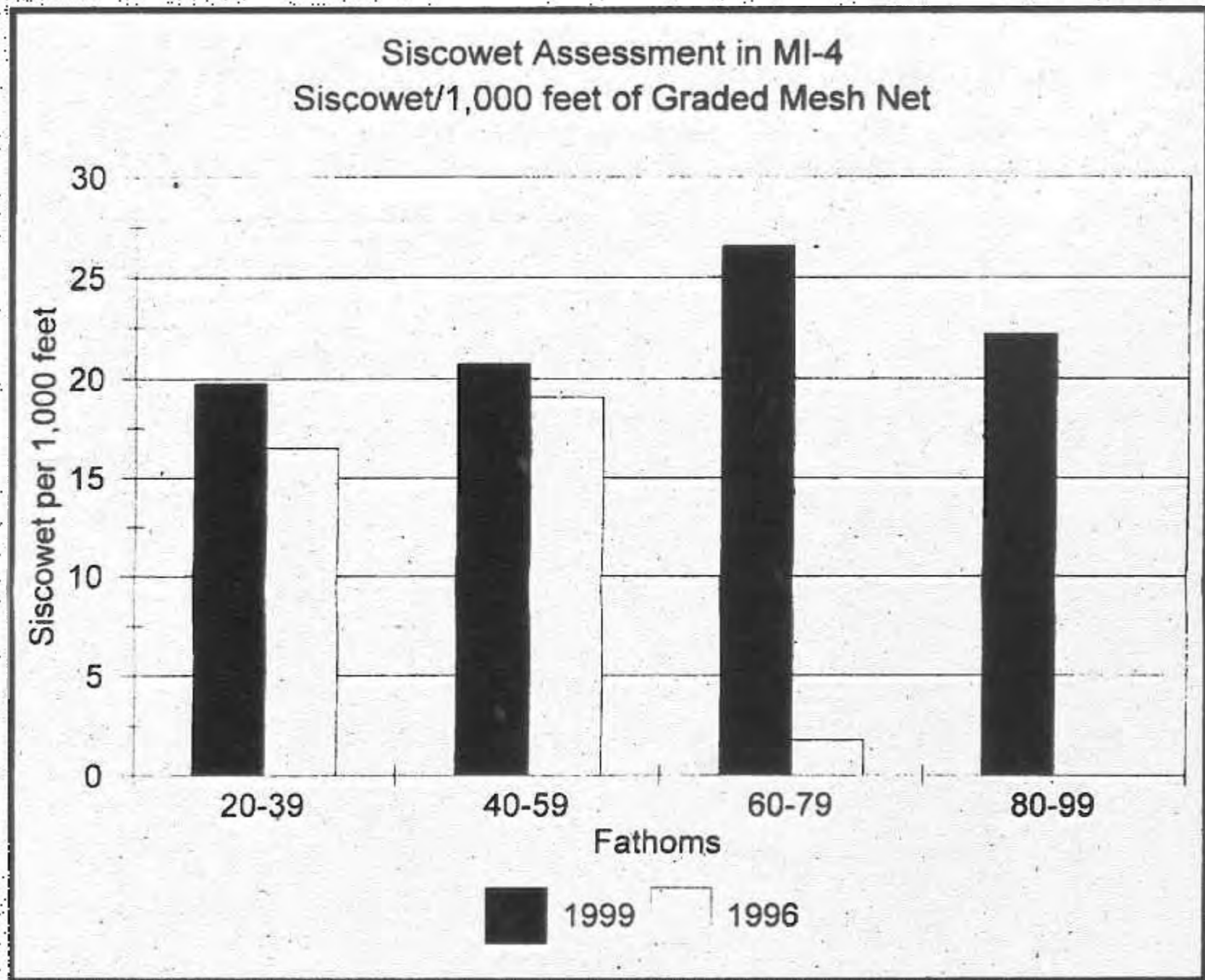
says, and the population's numbers do not appear to have decreased since 1996.

Mattes attributes the growing siscowet population to a number of possible factors. Like lake trout, siscowet benefit from the lamprey control program. Siscowet are not a popular fish for consumption because they are a fatty fish and today, people are concerned about contaminant levels in fatty tissues of fish.

However, an abundant population

in nearshore and offshore waters still makes the species of interest, and several market ideas for siscowet have arisen. Ideas range from marketing siscowet filets for smoked products, as is done for lake trout, to processing siscowet for Omega-3 oils or processing the flesh for pet food.

Mattes hopes to continue performing siscowet assessments in order to establish a more comprehensive data base on the species.



Hands-on practice comprised a significant part of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) workshop at Red Cliff last winter. Above, Larry Deragon, Red Cliff conservation warden, calibrates a thermometer, an important tool in maintaining proper temperatures of processed fish and refrigeration levels. Looking on are Ron Kinnunen, Michigan State University Sea Grant and HACCP instructor (left) and Jim Thannum, natural resource development specialist, GLIFWC. The training session was sponsored by GLIFWC through an environmental regulatory grant from the Administration for Native Americans. (Photo by Sharon Nelis)

IJC releases final report

Recommends strict controls on Great Lakes Water removal

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—All that glitters is not gold, but the glittering waters of the Great Lakes may look like gold to some who see it as a commodity to be sold.

For this reason the Great Lakes water resource needs a watchful eye, stricter water removal regulations and more research on its removal and use, according to the International Joint Commission's (IJC) final report entitled "Protection of the Waters of the Great Lakes."

The IJC, composed of Canadian and U.S. representatives, released its final report on water consumption and removal from the Great Lakes in March. The study and subsequent recommendations were prompted by the United States and Canadian governments' request for a report on consumption, diversion and removal of waters along the common border in the Great Lakes, including bulk removals for export.

A proposal to export Great Lakes water in bulk to Asian countries last year, provoked concern among numerous Great Lakes basin residents, including tribes, in regard to the water removal issue.

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission's Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in May 1999 in opposition to the sale or diversion of Great Lakes water, strengthening an earlier resolution on the issue passed in 1988.

IJC recommendations

Besides stricter guidelines governing the removal of water from the Great Lakes basin, the IJC also encourages federal, state, and provincial governments to "remedy water use data deficiencies," so there will be a more accurate understanding of how much and by what means water is removed; whether it is returned; and for what purposes it is used.

The IJC recommends that Great Lakes states and provinces should not allow any removal of water from the

Great Lakes basin unless the proponent can prove that removal would not endanger the integrity of the basin's ecosystem.

The IJC proposed guidelines for removal of water as follows:

- ① there are no practical alternatives for obtaining the water;
- ② full consideration has been given to the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed removal, taking into account the possibility of similar proposals in the foreseeable future;
- ③ sound planning practices will be applied with respect to the proposed removal;
- ④ there is no net loss to the area from which the water is taken and, in any event, there is no greater than a five percent loss (the average loss of all consumptive uses within the Great Lakes Basin), and the water is returned in a condition that, using the best available technology, protects the quality of and prevents the introduction of alien invasive species into the waters of the Great Lakes.

The recommendations state that

exemption should be made if water needs to be removed for short-term humanitarian purposes and that removal of water for ballast or in containers of 20 liters or less is not considered to endanger the integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Other recommendations include consideration of cumulative effects when evaluating new proposals for removal of water for consumption and coordinating basin-wide water conservation initiatives with target dates for consumption reduction.

Improved water use data from federal, state and provincial governments was another recommendation. The IJC report suggests coordinating research on individual and cumulative impacts of water withdrawals along with allocation of sufficient staff and funding to upgrade the accuracy of water use information.

The recommendations in the IJC report are provided to the U.S. and Canadian governments, which must, in turn, take the necessary actions to implement them. □

GLIFWC electrofishing crews make spring swing through 18 WI lakes and Mille Lacs Lake

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Mother Nature put electrofishing crews on an early alert this season with an extended period of spring-like warmth in late February, softening the icy covering on northern lakes.

As soon as shorelines opened enough for the boats to slip in, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission's (GLIFWC) survey crews began their annual spring patrol of lakes listed for walleye population estimates. Surveys began on March 27th, one of the earliest dates since spring assessments began in 1984.

This spring GLIFWC is coordinating electrofishing and fyke netting assessments on 18 lakes in Wisconsin and Mille Lacs Lake in Minnesota.

Surveys start in a lake soon after ice-out, and water temperatures begin to warm. Electrofishing boats and fyke nets are used to capture fish. It typically takes from 3-5 days to conduct these mark-recapture surveys.

During the marking period, walleye are tagged or given a fin-clip; length and sex are determined, and the fish are released. During the recapture period, the entire shoreline is surveyed, and

captured walleye are examined to determine if they were previously marked or not, and then released. This information is used to estimate the number of adult walleye in the lake.

Four GLIFWC electroshocking boats and crews work in conjunction with three boats and crew leaders from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and one boat and crew from the St. Croix band. GLIFWC also has two fyke netting boats and crews.

An additional 20 lakes will be assessed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) this spring.

Of the 18 lakes identified for assessments, GLIFWC will survey seven of its nine long-term study lakes, including Kentuck Lake, Vilas County, where a walleye rehabilitation plan has been initiated. GLIFWC, in conjunction with the Mole Lake, Lac du Flambeau and Red Cliff hatcheries, the USFWS and the WDNR, will continue to stock and evaluate the walleye population in Kentuck Lake this year. Assessments showed a declining trend in adult walleye abundance, alerting fishery biologists to a problem in the lake's walleye fishery.

The current list of lakes also includes two with an O-ST designation, meaning the lake has been stocked previously but no follow-up data is avail-

Year Class	Number of waters	As Age 0: Average Age 0 CPE	Number of waters	As Age 1: Average Age 1 CPE	Percent Decline in CPE from Age 0 to Age 1
1984			2	14.7	
1985	3	31.4	11	9.1	71.0%
1986	12	35.1	31	7.6	78.4%
1987	33	50.1	17	9.4	81.2%
1988	18	40.8	37	5.5	86.5%
1989	38	17.0	69	7.1	58.2%
1990	71	17.1	113	5.5	67.8%
1991	115	31.5	112	18.8	40.3%
1992	117	27.4	121	8.0	70.8%
1993	121	17.5	101	5.6	68.0%
1994	101	57.3	124	18.5	67.7%
1995	124	53.8	101	21.8	59.5%
1996	106	22.6	95	8.5	62.4%
1997	96	27.9	85	13.1	53.0%
1998	90	42.6	76	10.4	75.6%
1999	92	35.9			
Grand Total:	1137		1095		
Grand Avg:		33.9		10.9	67.2%

able on the success of the stocking or the status of the walleye population.

O-ST lakes to be assessed this spring by GLIFWC crews are Potato Lake, Rusk Co. and Durphee Lake, Sawyer Co. A fall assessment in 1999 showed Durphee and Potato Lakes to be maintaining a decent number of adult walleye, Miller says.

O-ST lakes are available for treaty spring fishing under a provisional safe harvest system. Current information on an O-ST lake, such as Potato Lake, may reveal sufficient numbers of walleye to remove the O-ST designation, thereby enhancing treaty harvest opportunities.

Lakes listed for spring 2000 assessment

Wisconsin lakes listed for assessments include: Lake Namekagon and Siskiwit Lake in Bayfield County; Butternut Lake in Forest Co.; Crescent Lake, Squirrel Lake, and Tomahawk Lake in Oneida Co.; Potato Lake in Rusk Co.; Durphee Lake, Lac Courte Oreilles Lake, Lost Land Lake, Sand Lake, and Teal Lake in Sawyer Co.; Kentuck Lake, Plum Lake, Sherman Lake, Squaw Lake, and Trout Lake in Vilas Co.; and Bass-Patterson Lake in Washburn Co.

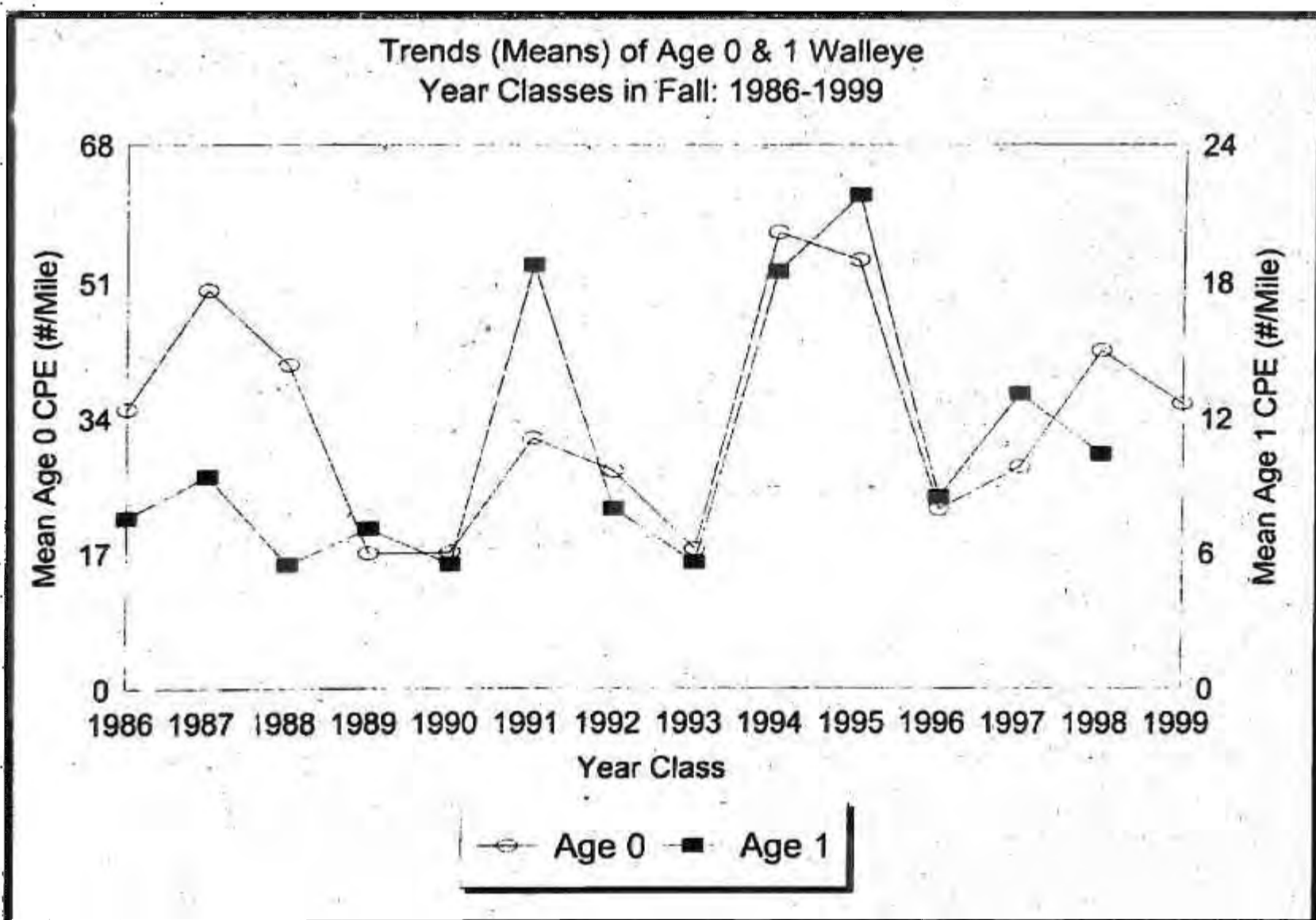
In Mille Lacs Lake, post-spawning electrofishing surveys will be conducted to sample juvenile walleye. Current plans include sampling the entire 78 mile shoreline of Mille Lacs Lake.

This fall plans are to sample a total of 100 Wisconsin lakes to determine if juvenile walleye have entered (or recruited into) the population. Recruitment surveys allow fisheries biologists to estimate the strength or weakness of the two most recent (young-of-the-year and age 1) year classes of walleye. Lakes surveyed are primarily ones in which a shared state/tribal fishery has developed or lakes that have a naturally reproducing population of walleye.

1999 assessment results

Last year in Wisconsin spring adult walleye population estimates were conducted on 15 lakes, and post-spawning juvenile population estimates were conducted on two lakes. A summer fyke net survey was conducted on Kentuck Lake. Fall walleye recruitment surveys were conducted on 96 lakes, and fall age 0 and age 1 mark-recapture population estimates were conducted on two lakes.

1999 assessment results show age 0 and age 1 Catch Per Effort (CPE) were comparable to the 16 year average from 1984-1999. (see figure)



Mitch Soulier, GLIFWC fisheries aide and Butch Mieloszyk, GLIFWC inland fisheries technician use electroshocking to assess walleye populations. The boat is driven by Joe Livingston, GLIFWC fisheries aide. (Staff photo)

Turkeys in the ceded territory

(Continued from page 1)

River in January and February were boxed up and trucked north to four different release sites, including three farmland locations in Rusk and Taylor counties and a test flock on the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

"At this point, the northern turkey range in Wisconsin is pretty well filled up," Warnke said. "We're reviewing additional sites on a case-by-case basis."

The current statewide population of around 250,000 birds originated from a 1974 deal between Wisconsin and Missouri swapping ruffed grouse for wild turkeys. By the end of the decade, turkeys flourished in southwest Wisconsin providing a foundation for trapping and relocating efforts in other regions of the state.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources continues their stocking program mainly in western and north-central portions of the state, and recently released birds south of Brainerd.

Tribal conservation departments and GLIFWC enforcement officers are good sources of information for band members interested in hunting this spring.

Male wild turkeys, or gobblers, can exceed 30 pounds and make excellent table fare.

State and tribal resource management in WI

Strong management for the future

Editor's Note: Information for this article is based on a presentation by William Smith, Northern Regional Director, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and James Thannum, Natural Resource Development Division Director, Great Lakes-Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) at a Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) conference on November 11, 1999 at the Lake of the Torches Convention Center, Lac du Flambeau. The article was prepared for the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Magazine.

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Within the Wisconsin ceded territories (approximately the northern one-third of the state) harvest of the natural resources is shared by Ojibwe treaty harvesters and state-licensed sportsmen and women. The shared harvest is a result of federal court decisions which re-affirmed the treaty-reserved rights of certain Ojibwe bands to fish, hunt and gather on off-reservation, ceded lands.

While the harvest of fish and game is shared, so is the management of those resources. State and tribal resource managers work closely together, sometimes with local organizations, to make sure Wisconsin's natural resources will remain healthy and abundant for years to come.

Today, the shared fishery is in good shape, and there is ample opportunity for all users to enjoy the resource. Tribal off-reservation harvests are closely monitored and biologically sound, and tribal harvests remain small in relation to sport harvests of fish and game.

Historically, the WDNR has been the agency principally responsible for managing the state's resources. Since the 1983 *Voigt* decision, the Ojibwe bands signatory to the 1837 and 1842 Treaties have also assumed management responsibilities in the ceded territories as part of self-regulating the treaty harvest.

Assisting the bands in off-reservation resource management is GLIFWC, an intertribal organization formed in 1984. GLIFWC represents eleven Ojibwe bands located in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, each with court-affirmed treaty rights.

Ojibwe bands with treaty rights in Wisconsin include the Bad River, Lac

Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake Sokaogon, Red Cliff, and St. Croix bands.

GLIFWC formed shortly after the *Voigt* decision to implement the treaty rights in the 1836, 1837 and 1842 ceded territories and in Lake Superior under the 1854 Treaty. Implementing the treaty rights means providing harvest opportunity, regulating harvest, managing the resources, and protecting them for years to come.

GLIFWC's responsibility relates specifically to off-reservation resources in the ceded territory. On-reservation resources are managed through each band's natural resource program.

While the bands are self-regulating, stipulations in federal court rulings provide a framework for the state and the bands to work together in managing the off-reservation resources.

Although state and treaty seasons vary, as do methods and monitoring practices, the state and bands have similar goals—providing harvest opportunity for their respective publics and maintaining a healthy resource.

The state and bands work together through technical working groups (TWGs) and committees for specific species, such as fish or deer. Through the TWGs, state, tribal and federal resource managers share and analyze biological information.

Assessments of resource abundance provide data from which resource managers recommend harvestable surplus figures on fish, game and furbearers.

Cooperative assessments on the fishery and sharing data help managers protect the fishery from depletion by the combined tribal and sport harvests. State and tribal resource managers also work cooperatively on resource enhancement projects, for instance, stocking lakes where necessary or working jointly on wetland preservation projects.

Comparison of tribal/state walleye harvest in Wisconsin, 1990-1999

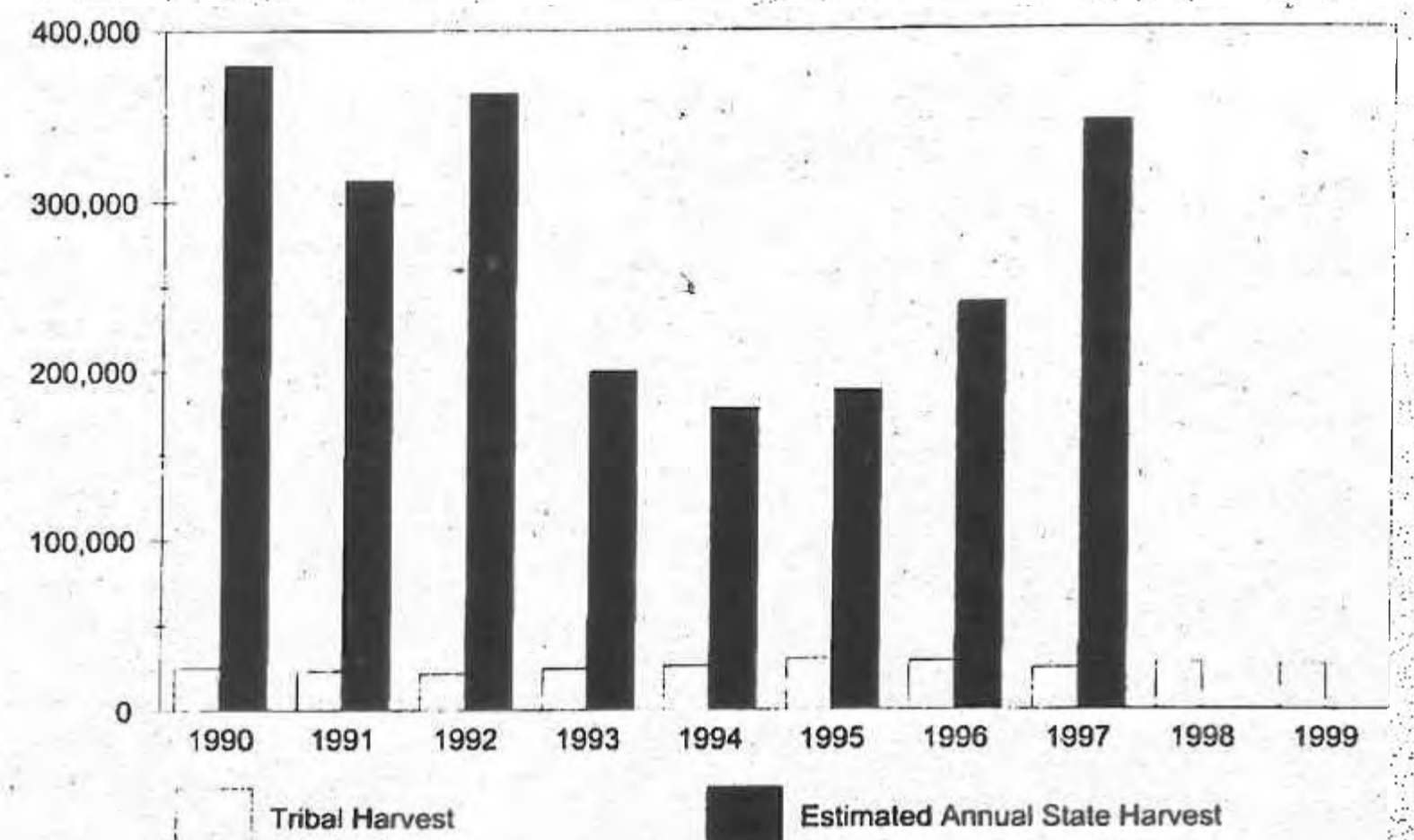


Figure 1. Estimated annual state harvest data from 1998 and 1999 was not available.

Managing shared walleye and muskellunge fisheries

Walleye and muskellunge continue to be popular species for both sport and tribal fishermen. For this reason much time and effort is expended by state and tribal fishery managers to monitor harvest and population levels.

Due to sound management the status of both the walleye and muskellunge fishery in Wisconsin's ceded territory lakes is good. Pressure on the resource from state-licensed and tribal fishermen in combination with habitat degradation requires, however, that the fisheries continue to be closely monitored.

While the Ojibwe use efficient methods (spearing/netting) to harvest fish each spring, their off-reservation harvests are small in relation to the state's sport harvest. (See figure 1)

In 1999 the tribal, off-reservation walleye harvest in Wisconsin waters was 26,105 fish. The largest number of walleye taken during a treaty spring spearing season was 30,249 in 1995. In comparison the angler exploitation for the 1997-1998 was estimated at 346,000 walleye.

During the last five years, the number of spears and number of lakes speared also remained relatively stable from season to season. 1998 had record participation with 489 participants, with an average participation around 450. Each year the bands spear in about 150 out of 822 available lakes.

In relation to muskellunge, the tribal harvest is also small. For the period from 1990-1998 the harvest ranged from 165 to 333 muskellunge in the ceded territories.

Both walleye and muskellunge are managed through the "Safe Harvest Level (SHL)" system, a system required by a 1989 federal court ruling which provides a conservative harvest figure for the combined state and tribal fishery.

Each year the fisheries TWGs must review information and calculate an SHL figure for walleye and muskellunge in each lake. Once these figures are established, the bands declare which

lakes they intend to fish and a quota which cannot exceed the SHL figure. (see figure 2)

Close monitoring of the treaty fishery also guarantees that tribes do not exceed their quotas on declared lakes. Nightly permits are issued by each band with a bag limit for a given lake. GLIFWC enforcement and biological staff monitor each open landing on a nightly basis, and count, measure and sex the first one hundred fish before they are transported from the landing.

Size limits imposed on the treaty walleye harvest also restrict the number of large fish taken by tribal spears and limits the number of female walleye taken. Data indicates that from 1985 to 1998, male walleyes constituted 83% of the walleye harvested by the tribes. Once the quota is filled for a lake, it is closed to treaty spearing and netting for the season.

For state-licensed fishermen, bag limits and a 15-inch minimum size limit have been used to regulate the catch. Bag limits are set on the basis of the declared treaty quota and then later are possibly revised on the basis of demonstrated and anticipated harvest.

Because management of the shared fishery requires accurate and current data on population levels, assessments have increased dramatically and the knowledge of the fishery has greatly improved. Electrofishing surveys of lakes are coordinated so that large bodies of water are often surveyed jointly, using all available crews. Smaller lakes are assigned to state, tribal or federal crews.

As WDNR Secretary George Meyer noted in a 1996 "Casting Light Upon the Waters" video, "Working together and pooling resources, we've learned far more than we ever knew about the fishery resources in northern Wisconsin, which means for better management."

With tribal, state and federal agencies cooperating, the number of walleye population estimates in Wisconsin's ceded territory lakes increased from 7-12 completed annually before 1985 to 53 completed in 1999. The data from these estimates is shared and used to establish each lake's SHL.

Similarly, the number of fall juvenile walleye recruitment surveys increased from 20 during 1985 to over 200 annually. (see figure 3) (See Resource, page 11)

Number of walleye

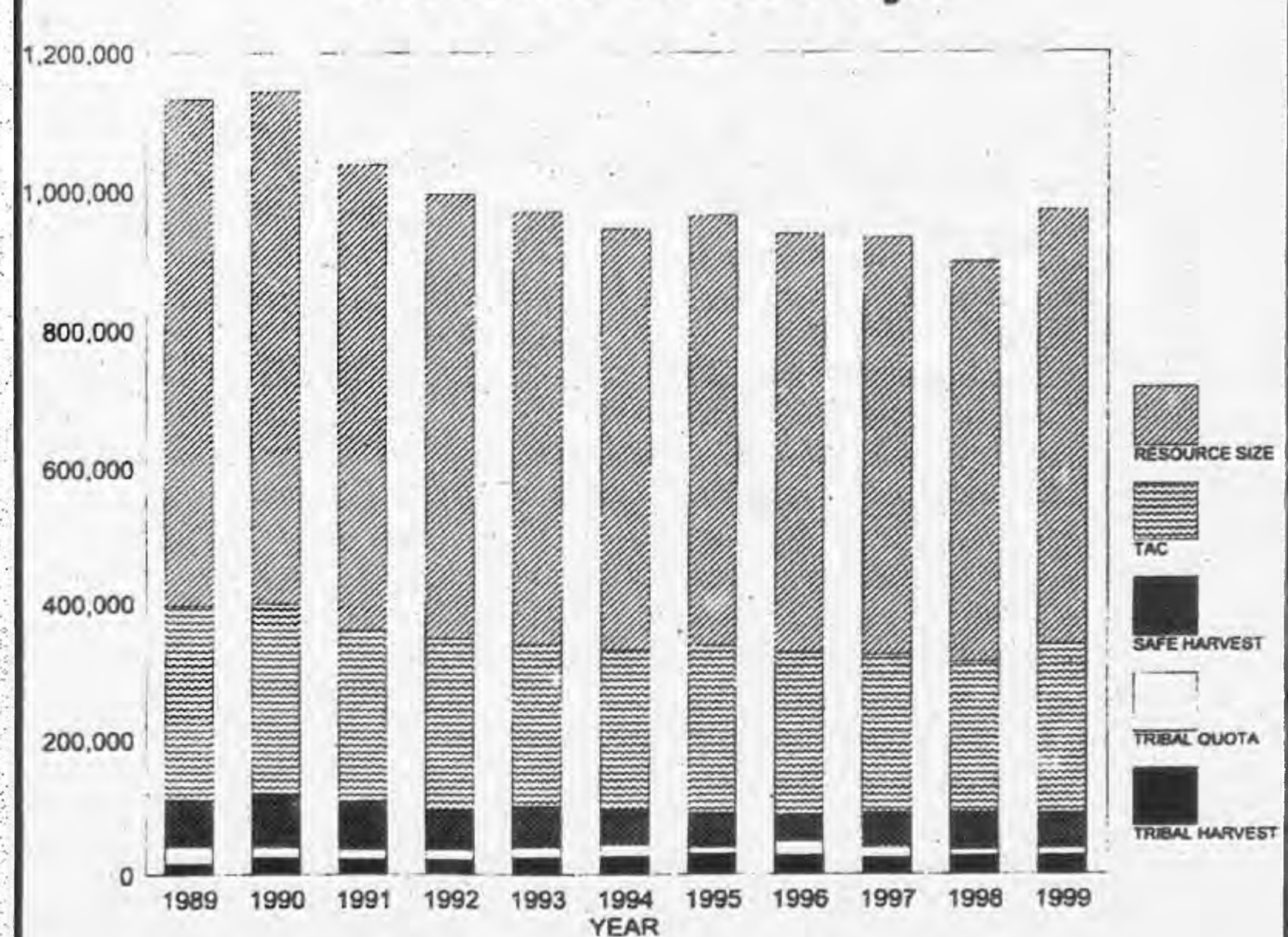


Figure 2

Graphs for this article were prepared by GLIFWC's Biological Services Division.

Tribal hatcheries release over 80 million fish into on and off-reservation waters in 1999

Tribal Hatchery/Rearing Component	Walleye Fry	Walleye Fgl.	Yrl.	Muskellunge Fry	Muskellunge Fgl.	Lake Sturgeon	Largemouth Bass	Whitefish	Rainbow Trout**	Lake Trout	White Sucker	Northern Pike	Total
Bad River	10,000,000	200,000											10,200,000
Fond du Lac						30,000							30,000
Grand Portage									56,200				56,200
Keweenaw Bay									42,000	100,000			142,000
Lac Courte Oreilles	5,400,000		1,050	27,000									5,428,050
Lac du Flambeau	31,616,600	216,456		300,000	508				30,228		2,000,000		34,163,792
Lac Vieux-Desert	60,000		300										60,300
Leech Lake	3,400,000	14,290						663,813			2,625,000		6,703,103
Menominee	400,000*					3,625*							403,625
Mole Lake	1,200,000												1,200,000
Red Cliff	700,000		2,650			1,200			99,311				803,161
Red Lake	17,100,000***	1,700*					10,000*		4,300*			1,200,000	18,316,000
Sault Ste. Marie	2,000,000	4,000											2,004,000
St. Croix	500,000	37,116											537,116
White Earth		91,452											91,452
TOTALS	72,376,600	565,014	4,000	327,000	508	34,825	10,000	663,813	232,039	100,000	4,625,000	1,200,000	80,138,799

*Fish produced or obtained by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service **Total number of one or combination of trout species ***Cooperative stocking with Minnesota DNR

Resource management

(Continued from page 10)
 Fall recruitment surveys help fishery managers determine the long term reproductive trends in the fishery. In 1994 and 1995 very strong walleye year classes were observed, and 1997 and 1998 also showed good year classes. These strong year classes bode well for good walleye fishing in the upcoming seasons.

Cooperative resource management

Tribal and state resource managers cooperate in a variety of resource management arenas outside the fishery. Management of large game, waterfowl, furbearers and wild rice all benefit from shared data and cooperative resource management planning. GLIFWC and the WDNR also cooperate in several on-the-ground conservation initiatives such as developing an elk habitat model through GIS mapping. Both also participated in sharp-tailed grouse restoration in the Chequamegon National Forest, Bayfield County.

GLIFWC and the WDNR work cooperatively in combating invasive plants such as purple loosestrife. Using an interactive GIS web site, they are able to share inventory data on loosestrife populations in an effort to identify and control the spread of this destructive plant.

They have also worked jointly in wetlands restoration and enhancement projects to increase habitat for waterfowl in the Chippenazie and Wilson Flowages.

Wild rice is yet another resource which has benefited from cooperative management. Tribal participation led the way in establishing management regulations for the harvest of wild rice, such as harvesting hours and specifications on equipment. Cooperative wild rice reseeding efforts enhance the wetlands and provide more opportunity for tribal and state wild ricers.

Through partnerships big jobs can get done. Sharing information, expertise, equipment, time and labor escalates management capabilities to the benefit of the resources and all who use them.

New fish parasite identified in yellow perch from the Eagle River Chain

Madison, Wis. — A new parasite that infects the muscle of yellow perch but doesn't threaten human health has been found in the Eagle River chain of lakes in Vilas County, Wisconsin fish health experts say.

There are no known reports of the parasite infecting humans, says Sue Marcquenski, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fish health specialist.

"Because the parasite infects the muscles, the texture and quality of the fillet will change and people may choose not to keep the infected fish," Marcquenski says. "Anglers should not throw the infected fillet back into the lake but properly dispose of it in the garbage or bury it."

In January, Marcquenski sent samples of the parasite to Jiri Lom, a specialist at the Institute of Parasitology in the Czech Republic, who confirmed that they were a microsporidian parasite called Heterosporis. The parasite has previously been reported only in eels in Japan and Taiwan and in aquarium fish in France and Germany. The Eagle chain and Leech Lake in Minnesota represent the first documented cases of the parasite in freshwater fish in North America, she said.

Heterosporis infects fish muscle cells, which causes the flesh to look as if it's already been cooked or has suffered freezer burn. The parasite infection is not visible from the outside of the fish.

Marcquenski and other Wisconsin fish health experts do not know how the parasite got into the Eagle River chain of lakes, nor do they know if it has infected other fish species in the chain or spread to other lakes.

"To our knowledge, it seems primarily to affect yellow perch," she says. "There is a possibility that the parasite may spread. It is too soon to tell if this infection can maintain itself over time or if this is a unique, one-time occurrence."

Last fall, anglers on the Eagle River chain started reporting unusual white, opaque areas in the fillet of yellow perch they were catching. DNR fisheries biologists sampled yellow perch from the chain, and Marcquenski, researchers at the La Crosse Fish Health Center and UW-La Crosse parasitologist Dan Sutherland examined the tissues and concluded the parasite was not typical of those found in Wisconsin or the United States. They asked Lom for help to confirm the parasite's identity.

Lom said the parasite spreads by forming spores that are released when the fish dies and decomposes and are in turn ingested by other fish. The spores can stay infective for at least one year when kept in water, Marcquenski says.

The DNR was already scheduled to assess fish in the Eagle River chain of lakes in coming months; fisheries biologists will now include efforts to determine how prevalent the parasite is.

"If anglers find this parasite in perch from other lakes, they can help the DNR get an idea of the parasite's distribution in Wisconsin by reporting their observations to a local fish biologist," Marcquenski says. Anglers are encouraged to take these steps when fishing the Eagle River chain of lakes:

When filleting a yellow perch, check behind the head for white, opaque flesh.

If very little flesh appears affected, anglers can remove that part and use the rest of the fillet. If more of the flesh is infected, anglers should dispose of the fish by throwing it in the garbage or burying it.

After fishing on the chain, dry nets completely. If possible, thoroughly wash and dry live wells before moving to new waterbodies.

All boaters can help prevent the spread by emptying their bilge water away from the other lakes and drying their boats before launching into other lakes or rivers.

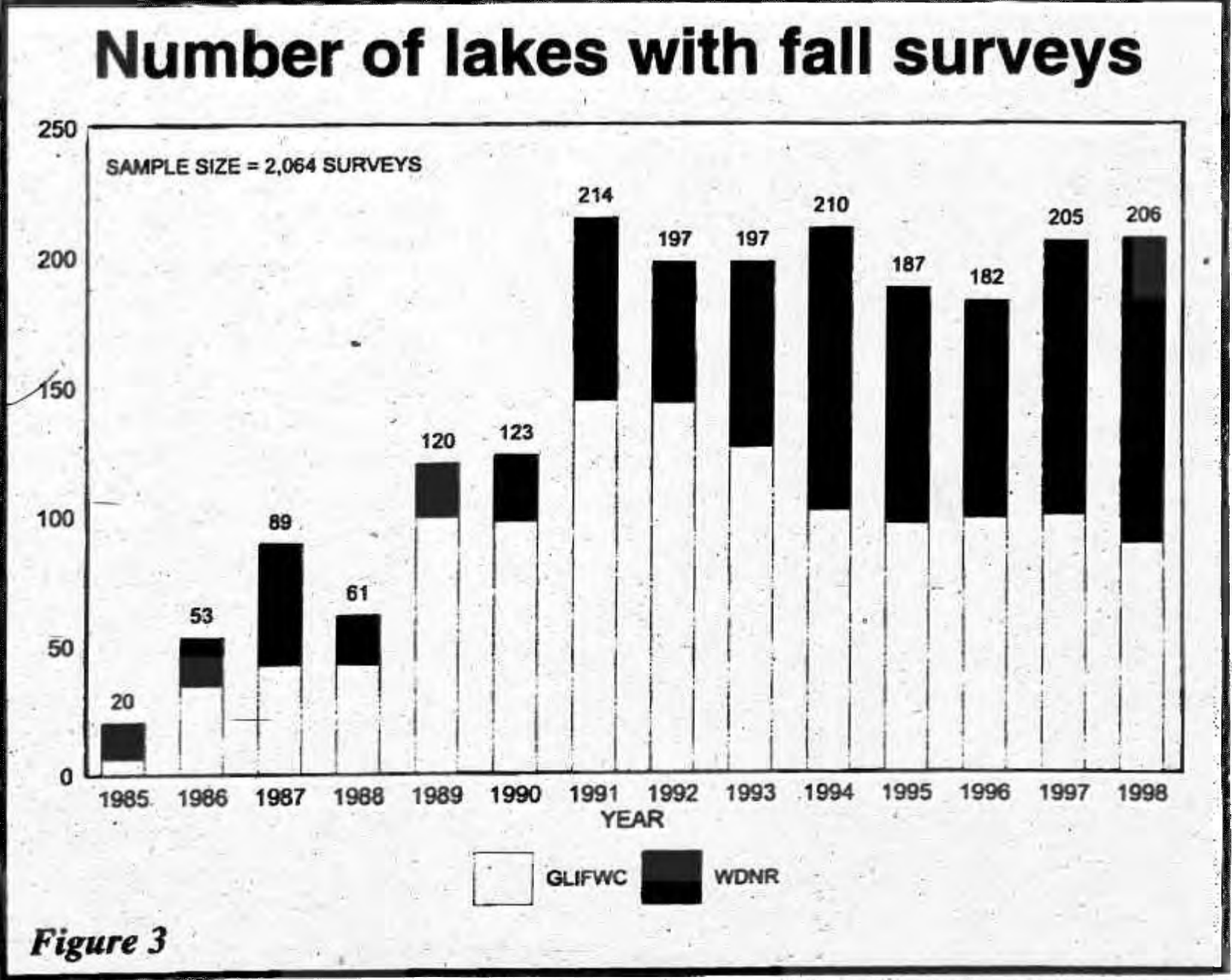


Figure 3

Northshore Mining proposal for direct reduced iron plant prompts tribes to request EIS

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Silver Bay, Minn.—Northshore Mining Company's (NSM) proposed new plant at its Silver Bay site in Minnesota carries the prospect of new jobs for the community, but it also carries prospects of increased mercury emissions (one to three lbs. per year) and emissions of carcinogenic, asbestos-like particulates in the Lake Superior basin.

Four Ojibwe bands submitted comments to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) asking that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be required for the proposed plant because of the increased emissions and their potential adverse impact on both the Lake Superior fishery and human health.

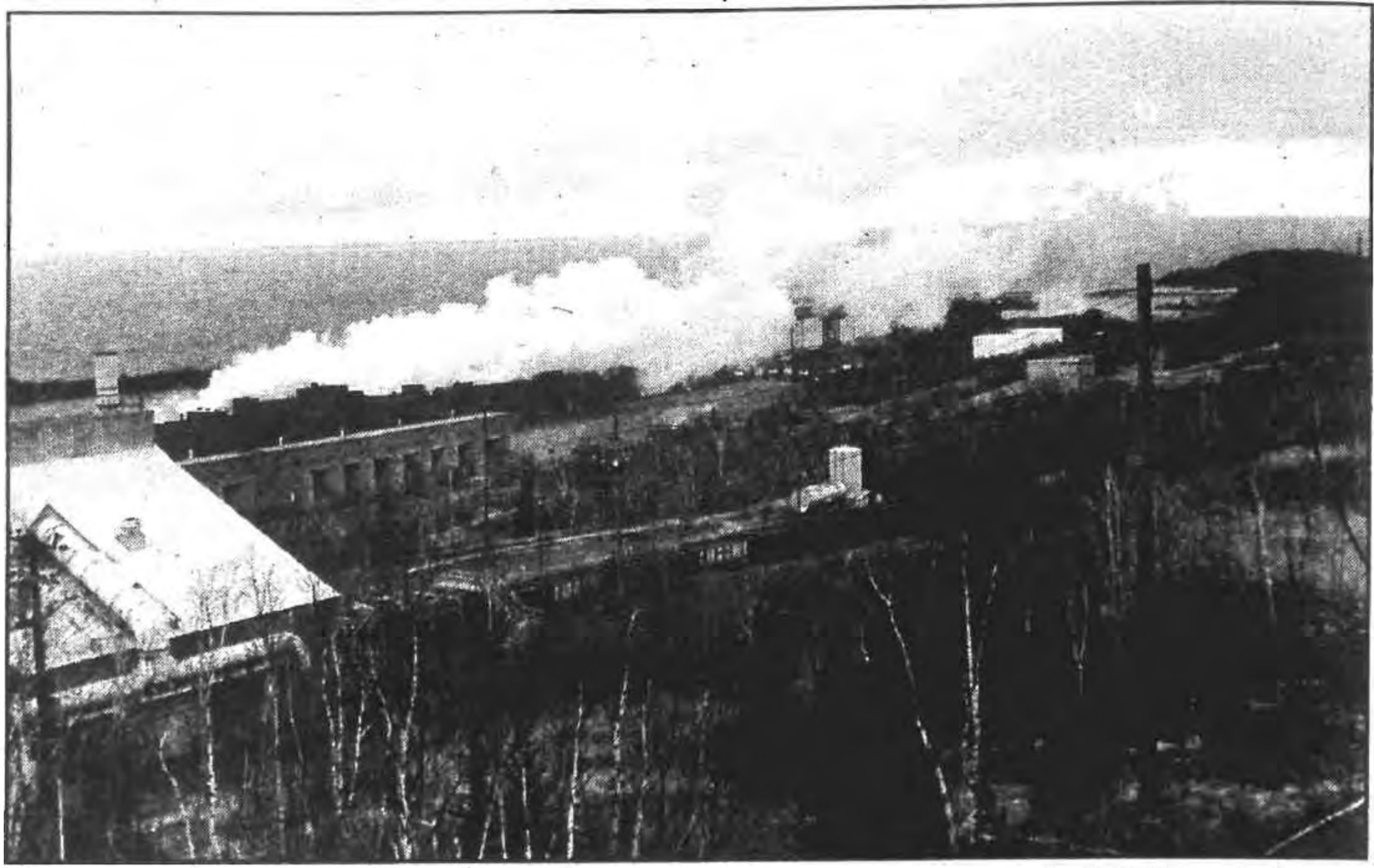
The Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Red Cliff and Bad River bands each submitted comments prior to the February 9 deadline for public comment. NSM plans to install a Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) plant at the Silver Bay site to produce a new product from taconite concentrate—a metallic iron for sale to steel mills and foundries, as well as a slag by-product for use in cement production.

The MPCA completed an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) prior to asking for public comment. An EAW provides detailed information regarding a proposed project which may have significant environmental effects.

In a letter to the MPCA, Bad River Tribal Chairman Eugene Bigboy said that an "EIS is warranted by the potential for increase in mercury deposition and by the potential negative human health and cultural impact posed by exposure to carcinogenic mineral fibers."

Bigboy also notes that an increase in mercury emissions from the proposed plant contradicts the Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan goal of zero discharge within the Lake Superior basin.

Margaret Watkins, environmental staff with the Grand Portage band, says the band is concerned over the impact of increased stack emissions on the fishery and on human health. The fiber-like particulates, Watkins says, remain in the lungs, posing a human health hazard.



A proposal from Northshore Mining, Silver Bay, Minn., for a new plant at their existing Silver Bay site, pictured above, concerns several Ojibwe bands because the level of mercury emissions into the Lake Superior basin would increase. This would directly contradict the Lake Superior Binational Program's goal for zero discharge. (Photo by CO Rasmussen)

According to John Ellington, MPCA project manager, the MPCA is currently in the process of reviewing and responding to the 315 comments received. Ellington expects to make a recommendation to the nine-member MPCA Citizen Board in May or June.

While not keeping an exact count, Ellington believes comments in opposition to the proposal outnumber those in favor of the plant.

The majority of the comments focus on the eight topics provided in the EAW summary. These include: 1) release of mineral fibers into the ambient air 2) increased mercury emissions into the atmosphere 3) impact on visibility 4) increase in acid deposition 5) increase in hazardous air pollutants 6) past water quality violations by NSM 7) air quality violations 8) solid waste disposal.

Northshore Mining (formerly Reserve Mining) is owned by Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Cliffs purchased the taconite plant from Cyprus Minerals in 1994.

Cliffs says the new plant would offer full-time employment to over one hundred people and, by the company's estimate, would produce 300 spin-off jobs in the area.

The EAW is available on the web at www.pca.state.min/eaw/index.html.

State-Tribal cooperation could work in efforts to protect the environment

A new project between the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) seeks to promote collaboration between states and tribes in reaching common goals. One benefit could be increased cooperation in addressing environmental concerns of Tribes.

"Tribes are increasingly delegated authority to run their own environmental programs through Congress," Susan Johnson of NCSL told attendees at a meeting of Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) March 6.

"Environmental protection is very important to Tribes in order to have control over their land and try to balance those needs with economic development needs," she said. "The jurisdictional nightmare of checkerboard lands and privately owned land in reservations has created a lot of problems for tribes trying to do that and for states trying to figure out where their jurisdiction is."

Tribal and state concerns considered

NCSL sees its collaborative project with NCAI as a way to explore opportunities for cooperative projects between states and tribes. The program, Improving State-Tribal Relations in the Face of Devolution, will be developed in such a way that the considerations of the tribes and state are considered to come up

with ideas for implementation, she said.

Attendees pointed out that some tribes do not want to be forced into, or encouraged to join in partnerships with states because they have concerns that states would use partnerships to try to claim jurisdiction of Indian lands.

"As Tribes increase political power... certain tribes and states can realize they can do a better job by working together," Johnson answered.

Project activities will include an advisory council of native and non-native legislators, legislative staff and tribal leaders. Two national meetings of state legislators and staff, tribal leaders and others will be organized. One will occur at the National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Session in Alaska in June.

State-specific assistance through focused conferences in Arizona and Washington will be provided. Technical assistance will be provided to any individual states that would like to understand tribal sovereignty and establish cooperative state tribal relationships on specific issues.

NCSL is the coordinator for FOSTTA, which serves as a mechanism for state and tribal officials to cooperate in addressing toxics-related issues and to improve communication among states, tribes and the Environmental Protection Agency.

(Reprinted from *Native American Report*, a publication of BPI, Inc.)

GLFC hails U.S. increase for sea lamprey control

Ann Arbor, Mich.—The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) hailed the just-completed U.S. Federal budget as a victory for the health of the Great Lakes fishery and the millions of people who rely on it for food, recreation, and aesthetic beauty.

The budget, which was negotiated by Congress and the Administration and signed this week by President Clinton, includes an additional \$1 million for Great Lakes sea lamprey control, largely to address the sea lamprey problem on the St. Marys River.

The federal increase, coupled with funds provided by the State of Michigan, will allow the Commission to reign in the last remaining out-of-control population of sea lampreys in the Great Lakes: those produced in the St. Marys River.

Sea lampreys invaded the Great Lakes in the early part of the 20th Century through shipping canals. Their impact on the valuable fishery was immediate and devastating: fish harvest declined dramatically and the thriving fish communities, based on native, self-sustaining fish stocks, were thrown seriously off balance. In 1955, the governments of Canada and the United States created the Great Lakes Fishery

Commission to control sea lampreys. Since then, the commission has been able to suppress lamprey populations in most areas by 90%, paving the way for successful stocking, rehabilitation of native fisheries, and the resurgence of sport and commercial fishing.

Despite the commission's success, there is a major trouble-spot in the Great Lakes: the St. Marys River, which currently produces more sea lampreys than all of the Great Lakes combined. These lampreys migrate downstream and feed on large numbers of fish in Lake Huron and northern Lake Michigan. Sea lampreys currently kill far more fish in Lake Huron and northern Lake Michigan than are harvested.

"Sea lampreys are a significant menace to the people who fish the Great Lakes commercially, tribally, and recreationally," said Commissioner Joe Day. "Lampreys are also a major threat to a healthy fish community. It is vital we do everything possible to manage and control the populations of these exotic pests."

"The additional funds provided by the U.S. Federal government will mean a significant boost in sea lamprey control," said Commission Vice-Chairman Bernie Hansen.

GLIFWC steps up battle against invasive plants

By Miles Falck
GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist

Odanah, Wis.—Plants that are found outside the area where they originally evolved are considered exotic or non-native. Exotic plants that flourish in their new environments and displace native plants are referred to as *invasive* or *noxious*.

In recent years, global trade and travel have dramatically accelerated the rate of exotic plant introductions worldwide.

GLIFWC has been actively involved in exotic plant control since 1988 because of the threats posed to tribal harvest and gathering opportunities; opportunities that depend on healthy native plant communities.

Plants out of place

What Is an Invasive, Exotic Weed?

A weed, by definition, is any plant that is unwanted and grows or spreads aggressively. When we hear "weed," we often think of dandelions. But many weeds are much more destructive than common lawn pests. Exotic weeds that overrun natural areas and agricultural lands reduce biodiversity and burden local economics.

Plants that occur outside of the area where they evolved are considered introduced, exotic or non-native. Occasionally when an exotic plant is introduced into an area where it did not previously exist it is able to flourish and quickly dominate its new surroundings. The terms *invasive* and *noxious* are used to describe such species.

Not all exotic introductions cause long-term problems. Many non-native species are valued for their agricultural and aesthetic qualities. But when a species becomes *invasive* and shows up in unwanted places, public land managers, recreationists, and property owners become concerned.

When a plant is introduced into a new area, it leaves its natural enemies behind. Non-native plants are prone to become *invasive* because their populations are no longer controlled by insects, fungi, disease, herbivores, and competition from other plants. In addition, most *invasive* plants are highly adaptable and prove successful in a wide range of habitats and conditions.

Whose Problem is it?

Invasive, non-native plants out-compete native plants, degrade fish and wildlife habitat, reduce agricultural yields, decrease gathering opportunities and hinder recreational activities.

Exotic plants diminish fish and wildlife populations by displacing the native food and cover plants that these organisms depend on for survival. Purple loosestrife, a garden exotic, replaces native wetland plants, reducing important food and habitat resources for waterfowl.

Bison, elk, deer and domestic livestock avoid sites that are infested with exotic plants such as leafy spurge or spotted knapweed. This avoidance con-

Invasive, non-native plants that have become established in North America pose a substantial threat to natural ecosystems by out-competing native plants, displacing fish and wildlife habitat, restricting access, and altering physical properties of the environment like fire frequency and soil erosion rates.

For example, purple loosestrife replaces native wetland plants, reducing important food and habitat resources for waterfowl.

Bison, elk, and deer avoid grazing in sites infested with leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. This behavior concentrates grazing on smaller areas, increasing the impact to native plants while allowing the exotic plants to flourish and expand their range. Many experienced land managers now list exotic

plant infestations as one of the largest single threats to wildlife habitat, second only to habitat destruction.

Once established, exotic plants are especially difficult to manage, requiring a substantial commitment of manpower and funds. Obviously, the best solution is not to introduce them in the first place!

GLIFWC's noxious weed program has evolved over the years to include a substantial educational component. Hopefully, by increasing awareness of this problem, fewer introductions will be made in the future.

Last summer an ambitious educational program was initiated to inform people of the threat purple loosestrife poses to native habitats. GLIFWC produced brochures, slide shows, and a web page devoted to purple loosestrife education.

A number of presentations are planned for this coming summer to get the word out. Additional materials are also being developed to include a broader range of exotic plants that threaten northern Wisconsin plant communities. Look for our new educational poster "Plants out of Place," on Memorial day weekend.

GLIFWC crews will continue their loosestrife control work this summer

with a new tool in their arsenal—beetles. Already being used successfully throughout the United States and Canada, *Galerucella* beetles feed exclusively on purple loosestrife.

A biological control workshop is also planned for Saturday, June 3rd at the Ashland Agricultural Research Station at 9 am to demonstrate the rearing and release of *Galerucella* beetles for purple loosestrife control. This workshop is intended to assist individuals and organizations implement biological control projects of their own.

GLIFWC will also continue its assessment of exotic plants in northern Wisconsin this summer. Baseline distribution data and scientific literature will be compiled for each species encountered. This information will be used to prioritize the threat each species poses to treaty resources, identify control options, and determine those that are feasible to control.

These efforts will focus primarily on exotic plants that have already earned a "bad reputation" within the ceded territories. These include: leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, Eurasian water-milfoil, buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckles. For more information on GLIFWC's noxious weed program, visit our web site at www.glifwc.org



Purple loosestrife.

centrates grazing on smaller areas, increasing the impact to native plants while allowing the exotic plants to flourish and expand their range.

Weed Control costs continue to rise as exotic plants displace both forage and crop plants. Reduced yields and increased control costs force prices up, further limiting the profits available to farmers.

Recreational activities can be severely restricted by the uncontrolled growth of exotic plants. Eurasian watermilfoil chokes waterways and restricts boat access, while the toxic properties of wild parsnip deter hiking and other land-based activities. These impacts increase maintenance costs and reduce the attraction of recreational areas.

Whether it is reduced harvest for hunters and fishermen, restricted access to a favorite lake or trail, or the increased cost of agricultural products, *invasive* weeds impact all of us. Consequently, we all share the responsibility of preventing the spread of *invasive*, exotic weeds.

(Text has been excerpted from a brochure "Plants Out Of Place," which will be available through GLIFWC in May 2000.)

VTF seeks review of Wisconsin's noxious weed laws

Odanah, Wis.—The Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VTF) has authorized a joint tribal/state review of Wisconsin's noxious weed control laws. It asked the Wild Plant Policy and Management Committee established in the Voigt case to make recommendations.

The Committee is composed of Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists plus other representatives designated by the tribes or state.

According to GLIFWC Wildlife Biologist Miles Falck, Wisconsin's weed laws are out-of-date and do not control harmful weeds. He notes that the DNR has already initiated a state-wide review process at the Wisconsin Legislature's request.

He emphasizes that, "the Task Force wants to ensure that its member tribes' treaty rights are protected by any revisions that eventually may come before the Legislature."

The Wild Plant Policy and Management Committee, co-chaired by GLIFWC Forest Ecologist Karen Danielsen, will begin its review in April. According to Danielsen, items that may be considered include better public education on weed issues, a state-wide weed control program, weed identification and management guidelines, guidelines for creating and updating noxious weed lists, and enforcement procedures.

There is no set timetable for the Committee's review, but the State Legislature may consider revisions in 2001.

U.S. Senate expresses support for combating invasive species

In a recent letter to President Clinton, nearly half of all U.S. Senators expressed their support for combating *invasive* species in this country. Support was offered for the Administration's efforts (Executive Order 13112) to "prevent, research, track, control, and eradicate destructive non-native species."

They cited such species as the Asian long-horned beetle, zebra mussel, fire ant, and kudzu. It is estimated that non-native species cause \$123 billion in damage annually.

On February 3, 1999, President Clinton signed the order directing federal agencies to expand and coordinate their efforts to combat *invasive* species. The Departments of the Interior, Commerce and Agriculture are leading the program to control existing non-native species and to prevent the introduction of new ones.

Non-native species have become a great concern in this country. Gypsy moth destruction of hardwood forests, Asian long-horned beetle destruction of native maple trees, kudzu choking out native plants, and leafy spurge taking over range land, are just some of the problems.

Recognize the Problems

Invasive, exotic plants destroy habitat



Plants Out Of Place

Today, nearly every corner of the globe is impacted both economically and environmentally by invasive, exotic plants. Plants that occur outside of the area where they evolved are considered non-native or exotic. Occasionally, when plants are introduced into a new area, they become invasive and are able to flourish and replace the existing vegetation. This uncontrolled growth threatens native plant communities, degrades fish and wildlife habitat, restricts recreational activity, and reduces agricultural yields. Exotic weeds are becoming a considerable economic burden to everyone, and we all share the responsibility of preventing the spread of invasive, exotic plants.

What You Can Do:

Learn to identify these and other invasive, exotic weeds

Remove known invasive plants from your property and continue to screen new plantings for invasive properties before you plant

Educate friends, neighbors, and local nurseries about the problems caused by invasive, exotic plants

If you find a weed infested area, inform the landowner or land manager so they can take steps to control the problem

Avoid spreading exotic plants you may come in contact with while enjoying outdoor activities

Never take plants from a wild area for transplanting or ornamental purposes if you aren't sure what they are!



Leafy Spurge invades a variety of open habitats, including prairies, pine barrens, oak savannahs, roadsides and pastures. Deer and cattle avoid grazing in spurge infested sites because of its toxic properties.

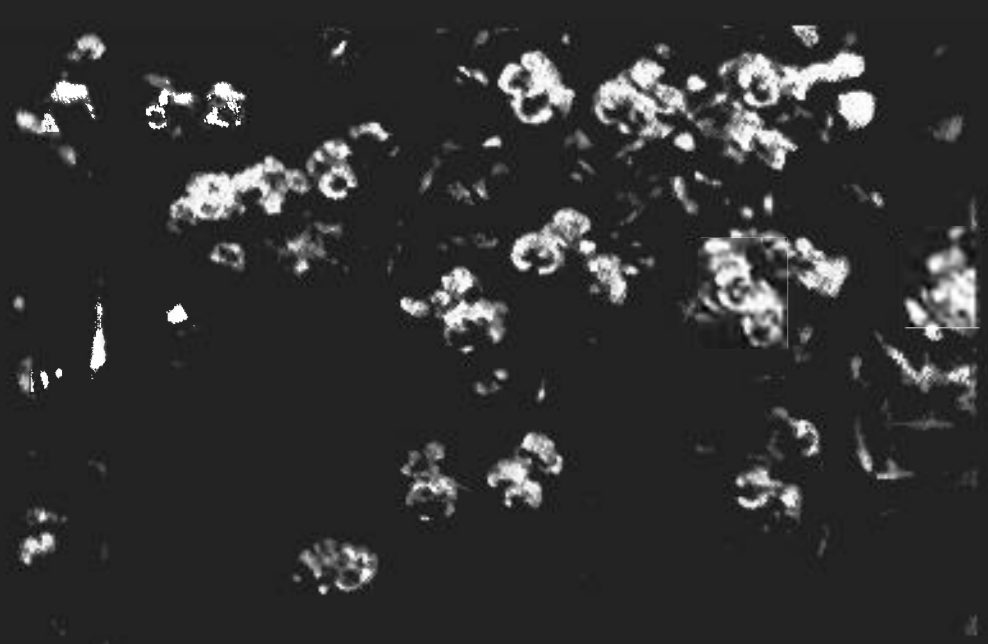


Purple Loosestrife infests wetlands, shorelines, wet meadows, and roadsides. Dense stands of purple loosestrife replace native food and cover plants that wildlife species depend on for survival.



Photo: WI DNR

Eurasian Watermilfoil infests our lakes, ponds and rivers. Dense



Leafy Spurge invades a variety of open habitats, including prairies, pine barrens, oak savannahs, roadsides and pastures. Deer and cattle avoid grazing in spurge infested sites because of its toxic properties.



Photo: WI DNR

Eurasian Watermilfoil

infests our lakes, ponds and rivers. Dense mats shade out native aquatic plants, degrade wildlife habitat, and restrict boat access. Watermilfoil is commonly spread by root fragments caught on boats and trailers.



Spotted Knapweed

invades a variety of open habitats, including native grasslands, pine barrens, dunes, sandy ridges, roadsides and pastures. Knapweed's shallow root structure can greatly increase soil erosion.

non-native or exotic. Occasionally, when plants are introduced into a new area, they become invasive and are able to flourish and replace the existing vegetation. This uncontrolled growth threatens native plant communities, degrades fish and wildlife habitat, restricts recreational activity, and reduces agricultural yields. Exotic weeds are becoming a considerable economic burden to everyone, and we all share the responsibility of preventing the spread of invasive, exotic plants.

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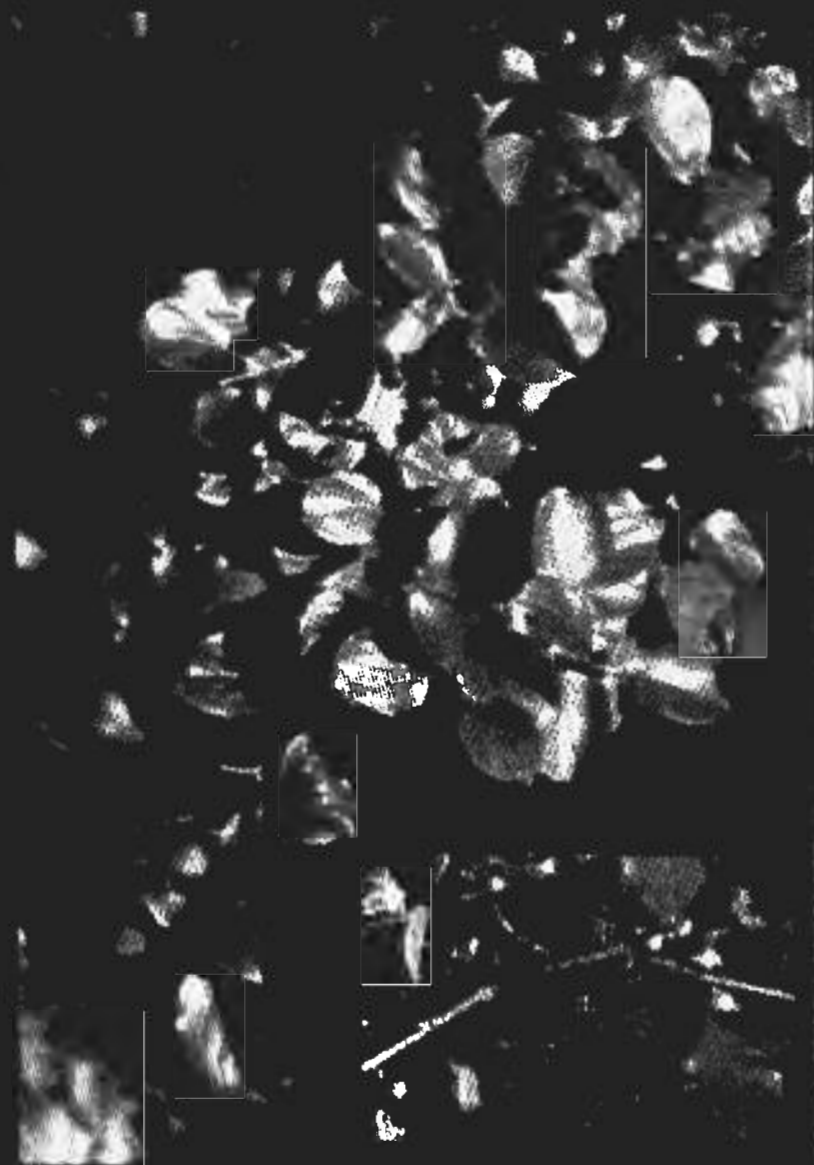
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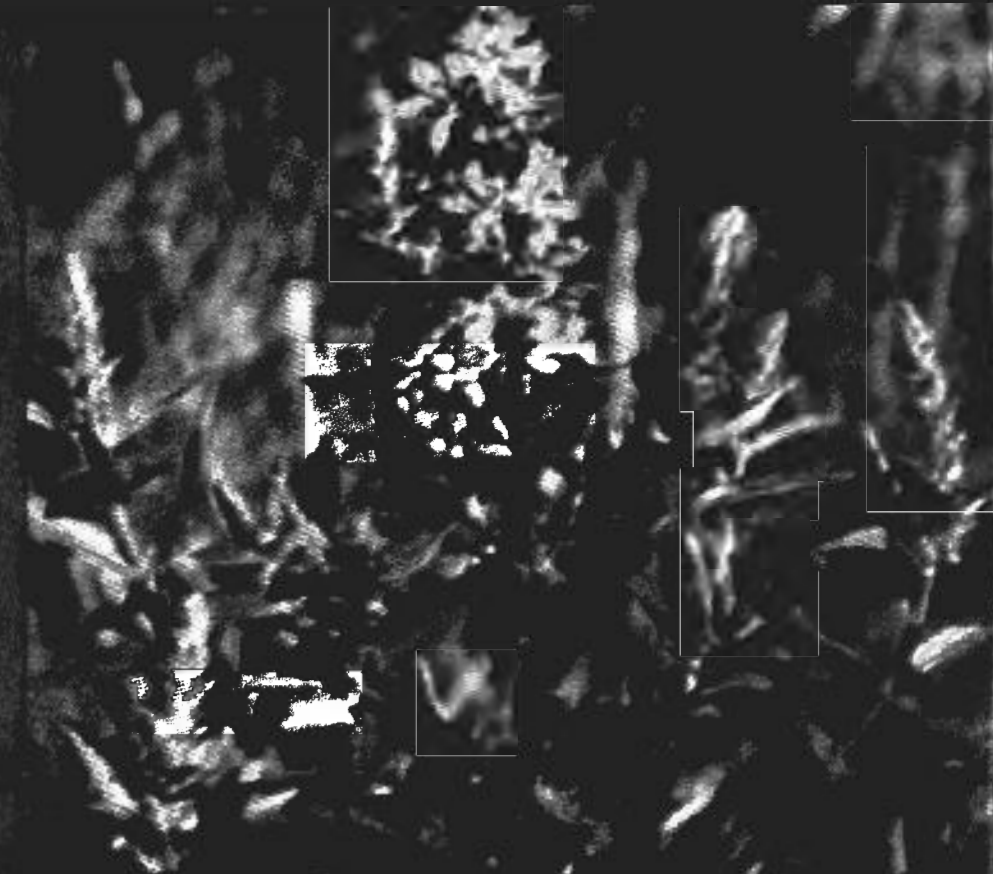
Exotic Buckthorns

invade forests, pastures, riverways and open areas. This small tree utilizes an extended growing season to shade out young native trees and plants. These common ornamental shrubs are widely dispersed by birds.



Garlic Mustard

invades undisturbed forests and roadsides. An early bloomer, garlic mustard shades out spring wildflowers and other native understory herbs before they can get a chance to develop.



Purple Loosestrife infests wetlands, shorelines, wet meadows, and roadsides. Dense stands of purple loosestrife replace native food and cover plants that wildlife species depend on for survival.



Photo: Robert J. Dean, WI DNR

Wild Parsnip invades prairies, pine barrens, oak savannahs, roadsides, and pastures. Brushing against this plant can make your skin photo-sensitive and cause extreme reactions to sunlight, including blisters and burns.

For control information, consult the "Wisconsin Manual of Control Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive Plants," released by the WI DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources. www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/invasive_species.htm
For a copy write to:
Bureau of Endangered Resources, WIDNR
PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
(608) 266-7012 A \$5 donation is requested to cover costs.

Developed by the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission with a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Copies of this brochure will be available starting in May 2000 through the GLIFWC main offices and other participating agencies.

GLIFWC wardens complete rigorous training

Six certified by USCG as vessel inspectors

Odanah, Wis.—“Safety in the field for enforcement officers and the general public alike requires that officers continue to maintain and improve skills related to the use of firearms and to meeting emergency situations, whether it be a rescue or an arrest,” according to Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) Chief of Enforcement Gerald White.

For these reasons, White encourages his staff of conservation officers to not only meet required training standards, but to also diversify their expertise. Over the fall and winter months, GLIFWC's wardens have completed routine training and many have achieved certification in related areas.

GLIFWC requires four annual, twenty-four hour training sessions in-house, designed to maintain and improve officers' basic skills with firearms as well as arrest and rescue procedures—all potentially dealing with life and death situations, says White.

Winter training included qualifying shoots for all GLIFWC officers, a review of cold water rescue techniques,

and defense and arrest tactics (DAAT) training.

In addition to the GLIFWC quarterly training session, six officers became certified as vessel inspectors by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Basically, vessel inspectors assist boat operators of either commercial or pleasure vessels in determining equipment needed for safe boat operation.

Recommendations from inspectors can help operators avoid potential fines should the boat be boarded for inspection during operation. “Our officers sought certification primarily to help our tribal commercial fishermen maintain their vessels in compliance with safety regulations,” White says.

The vessel inspector training covered a week, including two days of hands-on experience with USCG staff inspecting vessels.

GLIFWC wardens who participated included: Tim Tilson, Bay Mills; Suzy Jondreau, Keweenaw Bay; Vern Stone and Jack Lemieux, Bad River; and Mark Bresette and Mike Soulier, Red Cliff.

Also in relation to tribal commercial fishing activities, two officers received certification as inspectors under the Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulation, designed to regulate safety standards of commercially sold, processed fish. Red Cliff wardens Mark Bresette and Mike Soulier completed the HACCP certification.

Lt. John Mulroy, Mole Lake, became a certified instructor of “Simunitions,” a method of enforcement training that simulates real life circumstances while allowing officers to use their own equipment, i.e. guns loaded with paint balls. White notes that GLIFWC has moved away from firearm training that places officers in front of stationary targets, preferring simulated real life situations and moving targets.

Officers Mulroy and Lemieux also completed a firearms instructor re-certification course sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Justice at Ft. McCoy.

Ken Pardun, St. Croix, successfully completed a three week refresher

training, qualifying him for re-certification in Wisconsin. The training included a Wisconsin state law update, firearms update and a defense tactics update.

While there, Pardun did some record-breaking shooting with a shotgun, hitting a record number of moving clay targets and nearly scoring 100% on the still targets.

Three officers attended Supervisory Officer Training sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Officers Tilson, Stone and Pardun completed this course.

Seven officers completed the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Certificate requirement. These officers are: Chief Warden Gerald White, Mark Bresette, Red Cliff warden; Mike Soulier, Red Cliff warden; Ken Pardun, Western District Supervisor and St. Croix warden; Sgt. Ken Rusk, Lac Courte Oreilles warden; Sgt. John Lemieux, Bad River warden; Vern Stone, Central District Supervisor and Bad River warden; Sgt. John Mulroy, Mole Lake warden; and Joseph Kane, Mole Lake warden.

Articles by Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Enforcement division fills Mille Lacs position

Reassigns two wardens

Odanah, Wis.—The winter months witnessed a few changes within GLIFWC's Enforcement Division. A position at the Mille Lacs satellite enforcement office was filled by Jayson Churchill, and two wardens have been assigned to different satellite offices, constituting lateral moves within the division, according to Chief Gerald White.

James Mattson, Area Supervisor, moved from the St. Croix satellite office in Wisconsin to the Mille Lacs office in Minnesota. Shifting from Mille Lacs, Sgt. Ken Pardun is now assigned to the St. Croix satellite office.

New recruit, Jayson Churchill, joined the staff on January 31, 2000. Churchill is a Mille Lacs band member and has resided on the Mille reservation for the past fourteen years.

Prior to joining GLIFWC's Enforcement Division, Churchill worked as an enforcement intern with the Mille Lacs Tribal Police for two years, assisting with all aspects of tribal enforcement. He has also completed one year towards a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement at the Central Lakes Community College, Brainerd, Minnesota. Churchill looks forward to completing work towards the degree.

Since coming aboard, he has participated in an orientation, become certified in cold water rescue following training in Baraga, Michigan, and participated in firearms training at the Bad River reservation.

To Churchill, the position as a GLIFWC conservation officer is an opportunity to combine his long-time interest in law enforcement and love of the outdoors. He is an avid hunter and fisherman.

As a member of the Black Hawk Singers, Churchill also enjoys traveling to pow-wows and singing with the drum. He hopes to dance again in the near future once his outfit is complete.

Churchill and his wife, Rebecca, have two daughters Danielle (6) and Sierra (3).



Jayson Churchill



Sgt. Ken Rusk, Lac Courte Oreilles, instructs a boating safety class in Hayward. Rusk and many other GLIFWC wardens are certified instructors for boating, ATV and huntersafety courses. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

A speedy delivery tests GLIFWC warden's EMT skills

Odanah, Wis.—At 8:00 a.m. March 8th, Sgt. Jack Lemieux, GLIFWC warden and Bad River Fire Chief, just sat down for coffee and breakfast at the Bad River casino's restaurant. He was waiting for the delivery of a fire truck from Great Lakes Fire.

By 8:05 Lemieux had barely tasted the coffee when his pager rang and Archie Shinaway, a casino security guard, came after him. A woman in labor had stopped at the casino hotel unable to complete her trip from Ironwood, Michigan to the Memorial Medical Center (MMC), Ashland, Wisconsin.

Minutes later Lemieux found Stacy Foy in full labor and her companion Travis Peterson by the hotel's front door. Shinaway, a trained First Responder, helped the couple to a room, while Lemieux ran to his vehicle for his emergency kit. “The only thing I didn't have with me was an O.B. kit,” Lemieux comments.

At 8:10 a.m., Lemieux, state-licensed in Emergency Medical Training (EMT) Basics, was back in the room.

At 8:20 a.m., Lemieux delivered baby boy Noah Travis Peterson, who was wrapped in blankets the hotel had warmed in the dryer.

At 8:25 a.m. the ambulance from MMC arrived, just in time to cut the cord and take Noah and his mom the rest of the way to the hospital.

This was Lemieux's first delivery. He has helped women in labor get to the hospital, but never assisted a delivery.

Fortunately, delivery is taught in EMT Basic and First Responder courses, so Lemieux had experience through his training.

Lemieux is a teaching assistant for the EMT Basic Training at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Ashland and will be taking a CPR instructors training this spring to be certified as a EMT Basic and First Responder instructor.

For information on safety classes in your area, contact your local GLIFWC warden or phone (715) 682-6619.

GLIFWC welcomes Charles Mead McCoy

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Charles Mead McCoy, known as Mead, recently joined the Biological Services Division of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) as an inland fisheries biologist. Mead will be working in the 1837 Treaty ceded territory of Minnesota with a primary focus on Mille Lacs Lake.



Charles Mead McCoy.

Mead holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Penn State University and a Master of Arts degree in biology from the State University of New York. His career in fisheries began with a three year stint in the Peace Corps working with fish culture in Cameroon, West Africa.

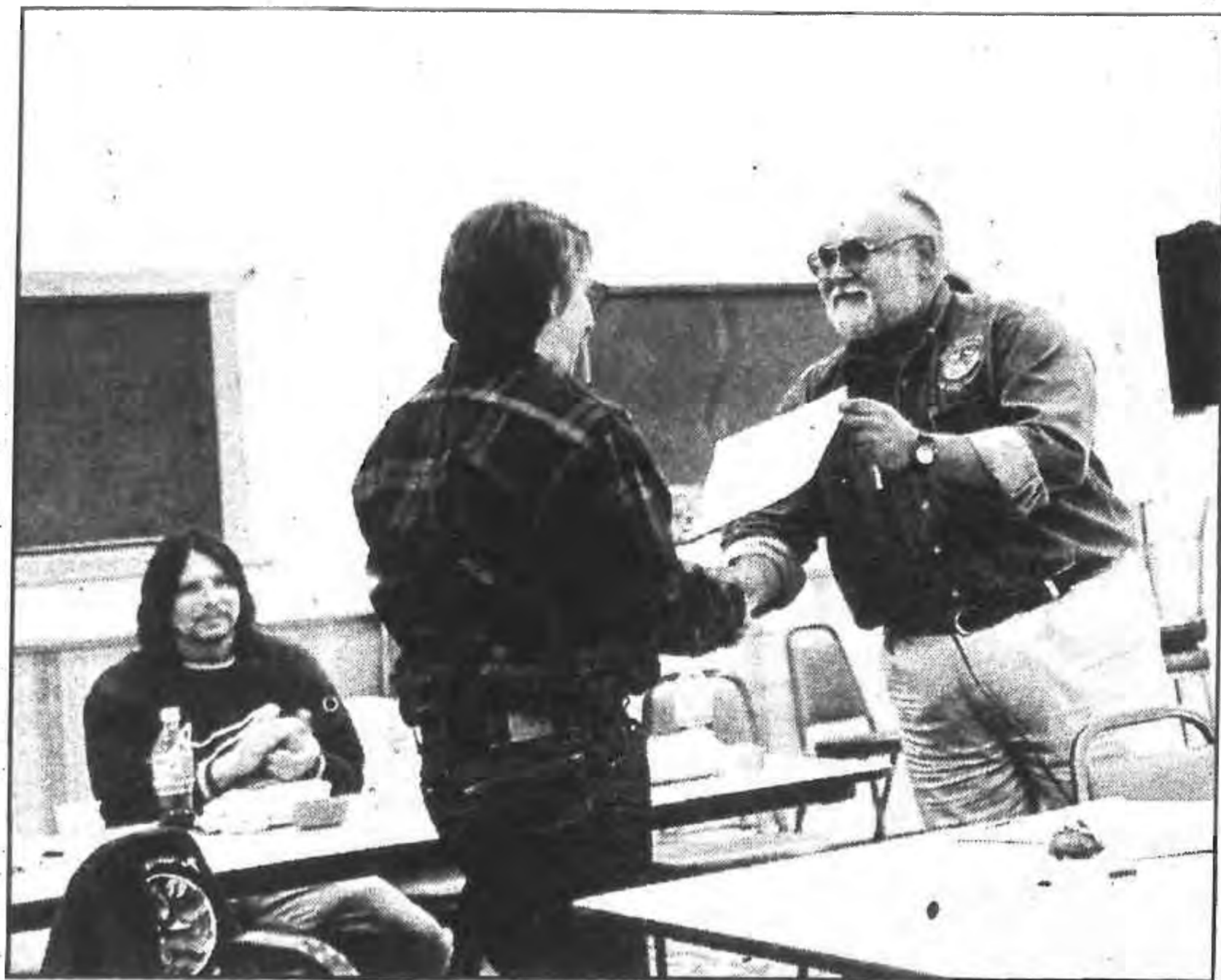
Upon return to the U.S., Mead worked as the staff ecologist for the Vermont Natural Resources Council, a private, non-profit environmental organization in Mt. Pelier, Vermont. Working his way westward, he later moved to Michigan where he was employed as a visiting lecturer in ichthyology (study of fish) at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti and then as a biologist for the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor. While at the Science Center, Mead's work focused on population studies of lake sturgeon and fresh water mussels.

Mead welcomes the opportunities offered by the position with GLIFWC to apply his science through field work and to focus on a lake such as Mille Lacs, known for its world class walleye fishery.

As an inland fisheries biologist he will focus on walleye harvest monitoring in the spring and assessment and survey work of multiple fish species in late spring, summer and the fall. He views Mille Lacs Lake as a real challenge because scientifically much remains unknown about the Mille Lacs Lake system.

Mead and his chocolate lab, Clay, reside in McGregor, Minnesota. Mead's two daughters, Emma (11) and Flannery (7), live with their mother in Vermont.

Mead looks forward to participating in the many opportunities for outdoor recreation available in the area. He enjoys scuba diving, cross country skiing, camping, and kayaking.



Jonathan Gilbert accepts an honorary diploma from GLIFWC Executive Administrator Jim Schlender at an All Staff Day in January. Gilbert, GLIFWC wildlife section leader, will receive a Doctorate in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in May 2000. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

March 24th—A date to remember 1st anniversary of Supreme Court ruling

GLIFWC staff took time for a brief ceremony and feast in recognition of the U.S. Supreme Court's favorable ruling in the Mille Lacs case on March 24, 1999.

Miigwetch to the many people who worked on the case, the Waabanong runners, and supporters!

Coalition urges repeal of 1867 cranberry law

A broad coalition of conservation and sporting groups and tribal governments has organized to urge the Wisconsin Legislature to repeal the 1867 law exempting the cranberry industry from state public water regulations.

Coalition spokesman Jim Burgess, President of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, said that the proposed bill would do nothing more than to put the cranberry industry on equal footing with every other industries in the state. "Most

cranberry operators conduct their business in a way that safeguards our public waters. But there are some who don't.

"The proposed legislation would ensure that we have the same review and regulations for cranberry operators as we do of every other industry in the state, from farms to factories," said Burgess, former publisher of the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison.

"Trout streams and other waters

around Wisconsin suffer from siltation, thermal impacts and chemical runoff from cranberry bogs which are exempt from regulation under the 1867 cranberry law," according to Trout Unlimited Chair Attorney John Welter of Eau Claire. "Wisconsin's fish and wildlife will benefit if cranberry growers are required to follow the rules that protect our waters."

Wisconsin is America's leading cranberry producer with a 1998 harvest of nearly 2.4 million barrels of fruit. The cranberry industry has been expanding rapidly in Wisconsin in recent years, adding an estimated 700 acres of cranberry beds in 1998.

Under the 1867 law, cranberry operators are permitted to manipulate water levels through the construction of dams and drainageways and to divert water from public lakes and streams without any state review or approval. All of these activities directly involve public waters and require permits from the Department of Natural Resources, except if they are undertaken by cranberry growers.

Through the permit process, the state can address potential fish habitat, water quality and other impacts of these activities and set conditions to safeguard public resources.

Charles Luthin, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetland Association, says that the cranberry industry

has been the major source of wetland loss in Wisconsin during the past two decades, in great part due to the exemptions from state standards allowed them under the Cranberry Law of 1867.

"Although wetland losses have been decreasing in recent years, cranberry cultivation still accounts for a considerable portion of wetland filling, excavation and alteration in the state. It is time for the State to rectify this archaic system of showing favoritism to a single industry. This inequity can be mollified by repealing the Cranberry Law of 1867," Luthin said.

River Alliance Executive Director Todd Ambs said, "Waterways are the state's life blood. They deserve better protections than what is provided by a law that dates back to the administration of President Andrew Johnson."

A recent study of pollution sources affecting water quality in Lac Courte Oreilles in Sawyer County identified improperly managed cranberry operations as the source of nutrients which have devastated the water quality of a large bay of that lake, according to Burgess.

"There is no justification for exempting any one group or industry from the water quality regulations that we all rely on to protect public lakes and streams," Burgess said.

(Reprinted from the Cranberry Clean Water Coalition.)

Cranberry basics

The cranberry is a fruit native to the sphagnum bogs of northern and eastern United States, including Wisconsin. Cranberries have been harvested by Native Americans and European immigrants for centuries and cultivated in Wisconsin for almost 140 years. Today, approximately 200 individual cranberry growers maintain over 40,000 acres of cranberry fields and associated reservoirs and harvest over 2.4 million barrels (120,000 tons) of cranberries annually. Production has been increasing at a considerable rate. For five years in a row, Wisconsin has been the largest producer of cranberries in the nation, and there was a surplus of cranberries following the 1999 harvest.

Cranberry production entails flooding cranberry fields several times a year to eliminate weeds, to aid in harvest, and to protect the plants from freezing through the winter.

Large amounts of water are needed in the fall and winter, when ground water levels may be at their lowest. This water is discharged into waterways in the spring, when there may be potential flooding. Irrigation is common for cranberry cultivation.

Most cranberry operations construct wells and/or excavate reservoirs and extensive ditches to withdraw, hold and move water to and from their fields.

Ziigwan (spring)—the gathering of wild plants

By Karen Danielsen,
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Odanah, Wis.—As the biting snow releases its winter handshake, Delores (Dee) Bainbridge scatters spring throughout her home with handsome displays of soft, grey pussy willows (*ozisigobimizhiin*) and the delicate, sweetly aromatic flowers of trailing arbutus. Eventually, she will decorate her table with a bouquet of violets forming an unpretentious composition of blue, white, and yellow.

The arrival of spring also entices Dee, along with her friend and cousin Margaret "Aucky" Brokaw, to gather savory edible plants. The tender young leaves of dandelions (*doodooshaaboojiibik*) and cowslips (*ogitebag*) cooked in vinegar and bacon grease resemble the flavor and texture of spinach. Though not recalling the exact recipe, Aucky keenly recalls her mother's preparation of dandelion wine.

Wild leeks (*zhi/agaagawanzhiig*), with their robust garlic soaked onion flavoring, deliciously season soups and casseroles. Fiddleheads, the young and unfurling shoots of ferns, also provide an irresistible addition to soups. Dee still reminisces about her grandmother's scrumptious potato-fiddlehead soup.

Many wild plants have similarities to our modern-day, store bought vegetables. Uncooked, the new stalks of thimbleberry taste like celery, and the immature roots of cattails (*apakway*) taste akin to cucumbers. The tubers of the common yellow water lily can be prepared and eaten much like potatoes.

Growing up on the Red Cliff reservation, Dee and Aucky remember their relatives expending spring days



Delores Bainbridge

gathering many different kinds of plants. In those days, people on the reservation did not have the money for, or access to, pharmaceuticals, and the doctor, visiting once weekly, often offered little more than zinc oxide lotion to treat ailments. Consequently, tribal members relied primarily on the availability and superior effectiveness of herbal remedies.

Dee recalls her grandmother always maintaining a dependable supply of assorted dried plants. Aucky remembers accompanying her mother to a large meadow on many occasions. While Aucky played with other children and picked wild strawberries, her mother joined the other mothers and grandmothers in gathering, rather secretly, medicinal plants (*mashkiki*) along a nearby stream.

Most medicinal plants should be gathered during spring. Alum-root may be combined with lard and beeswax to

produce a poultice or salve, certainly more potent than zinc oxide. Common plantain (*ginebigwask*) and wild ginger (*namepin*) may also be used as poultices to clean and heal sores.

The roots of red raspberry (*miskominagaawanzh*) and black raspberry (*makade-miskomin*) supplement decoctions to treat dysentery. The bright yellow root runners of gold-thread (*ozaawaajiibik*) supplement decoctions to treat sore throats. Bloodroot (*meskojiibikak*), used as a tonic, cleanses the blood. All of these plants possess additional properties for healing numerous other afflictions.

The crimson-colored stems of the red-osier dogwood (*miskoobimizh*) provide the most stunningly attractive features on the brown, leafless early spring landscape. Dee and Aucky gather these stems to create exquisite dreamcatchers

and colorful baskets.

Years ago, Dee's grandfather and Aucky's mother each routinely combined the inner bark of red-osier stems with tobacco (*asema*) to produce distinctive smoking blends. Dee's grandfather incorporated apple peels to keep the blend moist. Aucky's mother gave portions of her blend to the Catholic priest.

Whether gathering plants during the spring or during any other season, Dee and Aucky follow the teachings they have learned from their elders. Most likely, they received different teachings and, thus, gather in their own unique way. However, both learned at an early age to respect the essence of plants. Before gathering, both request permission by gifting the plant and Mother Earth with an offering of *asema*.



John Heim, wild plant technician, GLIFWC, holds a handful of tasty wild leeks. The spring plant was traditionally part of Ojibwe diet and used also for medicinal purposes. (Photo by Sarah Sattler)

Draft National Forest campground agreement

By Karen Danielsen,
GLIFWC Forest Ecologist

Odanah, Wis.—An agreement, currently in draft form, between the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) member tribes and the U.S. Forest Service would allow tribal members exercising treaty rights to camp for free and without length of stay restrictions at many National Forest campgrounds.

The draft agreement is part of the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Tribal—USDA-Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands Within the Territories Ceded in Treaties 1836, 1837, and 1842 (MOU) adopted in December 1999.

Tribal members wishing to learn more about the draft agreement or offer comments may call GLIFWC offices at (715) 682-6619 and speak to Jim Zorn, Jon Gilbert, or Karen Danielsen.

At its May 4 meeting, the Voigt Intertribal Task Force will consider comments received, along with any resulting changes to the draft agreement. If acceptable, the Task Force will recommend that its member tribes and Bay Mills ratify the agreement and enact regulations for implementation in time for summer camping.

If ratified, camping will take place under tribal codes to be enforced in tribal courts. For most campgrounds in

the Chequamegon-Nicolet, Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee National Forests, tribal members will not have to pay a fee or limit their stays while exercising treaty rights.

Tribal members will be able to use special stickers, instead of money, to register for campsites at the fee exempt campgrounds. The stickers will be available from GLIFWC and from tribal conservation departments.

Some campgrounds operated by concessionaires will not be fee or length of stay exempt until the solicitation and awarding of new concessionaire contracts. Expiration dates for the existing contracts fall between the years 2000 and 2009.

Also, some fee exempt campgrounds will maintain length of stay restrictions between June 15 and August 15. The Forest Service reports that these campgrounds experience high visitation rates during these summer months. This provision will be periodically reviewed to ensure that these restrictions are not interfering with the exercise of treaty rights.

If ratified, the agreement will continue to be reviewed and revised if necessary to resolve any unforeseen issues or problems that may arise.

Tribal members are encouraged to report any difficulties experienced at National Forest campgrounds to GLIFWC or their tribal conservation department.

The nature of plants

—Excerpted from *Ojibway Heritage*, by Basil Johnston

The elders said that Kitche Manitou created the world in a certain order; first, the physical world of sun, moon, earth and stars; second, the plant world of trees, flowers, grasses, and fruits.

Plants were therefore prior to animals and to the Anishnabeg. They could exist alone; they were not dependent upon other beings for their existence or well being.

In essence each plant being of whatever species was a composite being, possessing an incorporeal substance, its own unique soul-spirit. It was the vitalizing substance that gave to its physical form, growth and self-healing. This inner substance had a further power. It could conjoin with other members of its own species and, more wonderful, with other species to form a corporate spirit.

Each valley or any other earth form—a meadow, a bay, a grove, a hill—possesses a mood which reflects the state of being of that place. Whatever the mood, happy, peaceful, turbulent, or melancholy, it is the tone of that soul-spirit. As proof, destroy or alter or remove a portion of the plant beings, and the mood and tone of that valley will not be what it was before.

Each plant was given a soul-spirit whose scope was determined by its physical form and substance.

Some Anishnabeg believed that the soul-spirit of a plant was unique, unlike any other; others thought that the soul-spirit of plant was that of being, not admitted into the Land of Souls, but returned to earth to complete its term of being and existence and to attain internal peace.

A call for true multiple-use on our national forest lands

By Dr. James Meeker
Associate Professor, Northland College

How should our northern forests be managed? Are the public forest lands predominantly places where trees are grown for wood products? How much of these lands should be open for motorized recreation? How much public forest land should be allotted as biological diversity investment areas, managed to minimize extraction and industrial tourism?

This debate on public land is part of the grand experiment in the democratization of our nation. The debate will never go away, but the dominant ideas do change. Ever since Pinchot, the first chief of the forest service, wrestled away the western public lands from the park concept, a preservation idea supported by John Muir, our ideas on how these lands should be managed has been constantly evolving.

For example, in Wisconsin and the other lake states our present public lands were created after the great cut-over, transferred from private holdings after the failure of widespread agriculture. Prior to this, at the eve of the 20th century, the dominant idea for the northern lands was to convert them to farms. Settlers and land promoters alike thought that the plow should naturally follow the ax.

Although there were a few visionaries who called for large northern forest parks, even before the cut-over. These voices were drowned out by those clamoring for agriculture, a "better" and more civilized use of the land.

We all know the story that followed. Many farms failed, and lands were abandoned. From this failure all of our public lands were born. For decades following this failed experiment, the debate over land use simmered on the back burner. Since most of these lands were recently cut over, the north consisted of a widespread young and recovering forest; the bulk of the timber industries had moved west. Additionally, human population levels were low, and the demand for recreational and sustenance minor.

Multiple use concept introduced

By the early 1960's, in this climate of low demand, we had evolved from the older idea of all the northern lands as farmsteads to the concept of some publicly owned forests and their multiple use. On the federal forests these ideas were codified into law in 1960, under the Multiple Use/Sustained Yield Act, suggesting that federal lands consider *equally*: outdoor recreation, range (grazing), timber, watershed services (e.g. erosion protection) and wildlife and fish.

Times changed. Beginning in the 1960's and 1970's our once cut-over northern forests had matured and the wood product industry had grown in the lakes states to become a major economic factor.

Additionally, outdoor recreation use sky rocketed, resulting in much of the increased demand for motorized trails and additional access to the forest lands. All this increased demand came at the same time as increased concern for native species populations and ecological functioning in our public forest lands.

These concerns were reflected in the National Forest Management Act (1976) that called for the maintenance of native species and their habitats. This leaves us with the question: "Are all these conflicting uses compatible?"



Dr. James Meeker

Most of us believe in the multiple use of our public lands, allowing that a variety of activities such as timber harvest, recreation (in all its forms), and wilderness (including lands for biological diversity) are appropriate.

Dominant uses—timber, motorized recreation

What is debated, however, is how this concept is implemented. At present we come down to two *dominant* uses of these public forests. This is true for all public forests, but I will specifically refer to the federal forests.

One dominant use of the federal forests is for timber. It appears that over 90% of the *productive* forest lands are available for harvest, while only the remaining 10% is set aside for wilderness and natural areas (biodiversity investment areas).

A second dominant use is recreation, the lure of the north woods. Whether it is the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness experience, or motorized recreation, this use has risen from an incidental use in much of the Chequamegon/Nicolet to the second most dominant use. However, since about 80% of the Chequamegon/Nicolet National forest is within 1/4 mile of a road, motorized

recreation access dominates the recreational use.

Some recreational uses are very compatible with timber extraction. Witness the logging roads to increase access and young forests that promote deer and grouse for hunting.

Other recreational uses such as the wilderness experience, and other silent sports, are less compatible with some wood production, but mostly the two different recreational uses are not compatible with each other. Again motorized uses dominate all others with over 1000 miles of ATV and snow machine trails, many more than hiking.

So, we have two dominant uses in the public forests, timber and motorized recreation. Primarily because these two activities have been scattered across the forests at a very local level, without a large scale, ecosystem approach, these two dominant uses have generally precluded the successful implementation of a third use (better called a function), that of biodiversity maintenance. A truly multiple-use national forest would put equal weight to this third forest use, an investment in biodiversity areas. Wilderness often fits into this category, because native communities generally do best with minimal human impact.

Alternatives for true multiple use

We have two opportunities which better balance out the uses of the federal forest, away from the dominance of timber and motorized recreation. The first is through the current forest plan revision, which is a forum to incorporate new ideas and stress the charges of the National Forest Management Act, which calls to maintain viable populations of native plant and animal species and to protect the habitats that they reside in. There is a conservation alternative proposed for this plan revision that calls for an increase in biodiversity investment areas and less even-age (i.e. aspen) management around them to create, in essence, larger interior forests.

A second, more recent opportunity includes the adoption of the eastern version of the roadless initiative that requests all of our region's national forests to evaluate the appropriateness of additional roadless areas, out of the potential pool created in the late 1970's. My understanding is that there are potentially about 75,000 acres (5% of the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest) to evaluate in this charge.

You may have heard the outcry over this charge from the local governments and the lakes states pulp industry. Keep this in mind: at most, this initiative could add 5% more biodiversity investment lands to the forest, still considerably less than the lands allotted to timber.

Secondly, consider that *only about 8 to 10% all the pulp and timber* entering the wood product flow in Wisconsin comes out of the federal forests. Taking these two percents together, this roadless initiative has the potential to close off *less than 1/2 of a percent* of Wisconsin's timber supply.

Apparently, the wood product industry believes in the domino theory of public forest lands, that is they don't consider the magnitude of the proposal, just the direction of it. First of all, we are only talking of national forest lands. Secondly, it's less than a percent of the total supply. Apparently they think that any increase in wilderness and biodiversity protection is bad.

Additionally, local county boards are reacting more to the idea this came from the White House, it seems, than to the facts. For example, the Sawyer County Board passed a resolution opposing the roadless initiative, and upon questioning I found that none of the proposed acreage is even in the county.

So, what follows from this discussion? Ideas for the dominant uses of the national forest lands change over time. Once we thought farmland, then only timber and watershed protection were the best uses of our national forest lands. Now we are beginning to see the enormous importance of these lands to protect native plants and animal populations for the long term. The sooner we have true multiple use on the national forest lands, the more likely we will be successful in these protection efforts.

(Jim Meeker is an Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Biology at Northland College, and is active in regional conservation issues.)



Steam rises from Ron Parisien's vat of simmering maple sap at the Bad River reservation in mid-March. Robert Wiggins (right) was on hand to assist in pouring fresh sap through a seining device to filter out bits of debris. (Photo by Charlie Otto Rasmussen)

Mining threatens tribe's cultural survival

Editor's note: Below is an excerpt for a document compiled by Al Gedicks, Executive Secretary, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The document, entitled "What you should know about Exxon/Rio Algom's Proposed Mine at Crandon/Mole Lake" (1999 edition), discusses numerous aspects and potential impacts of the proposed Crandon mine and is chock full of interesting facts and figures regarding mining in general, Rio Algom and Exxon in particular—a great 19 page mining resource.

Masinaigan is reprinting a part of one section devoted to the cultural impacts the proposed mine could have on the Mole Lake Sokaogon band because it relates specifically to the cultural survival of tribes.

Threats to Native American cultures are inseparable from environmental threats

"Indian tribes in the northern portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are seriously threatened by sulfide mining operations in ways that are difficult for non-Indians to perceive. For Indian people, natural resource harvest is more than a means to provide food. It is a cultural activity that renews both the Indian person and the resource that is harvested." (1)

a. Threats to Native American cultures are primarily environmental. The Chippewa, along with other Indian nations in northern Wisconsin, already suffer a disproportionate environmental risk of illness and other health problems from eating fish, deer and other wildlife contaminated with industrial pollutants like airborne polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury and other toxins deposited on land and water.

"Fish and game have accumulated these toxic chemicals to levels posing substantial health, ecological, and cultural risks to a Native American population that relies heavily on local fish and game for subsistence." (2) The importance of subsistence hunting and can be seen in the fact that 86% of Sokaogon Chippewa families rely on hunting and fishing for food, and over 90% rely on gardening, ricing and picking wild plants.

b. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has noted the centrality of wild rice to Chippewa culture in their analysis of Exxon's proposed mine: "Rice Lake and the bounty of the lake's harvest lie at the center of their identity as a people...The rice and the lake are the major link between themselves, Mother Earth, their ancestors and future generations." Compare this to Exxon's biologist dismissing Chippewa concern over "those lake weeds."

c. A recent study commissioned by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) concluded that harmful effects on wild rice seedlings were noted at levels as low as 10 parts per million (ppm) for aluminum and 1 ppm for copper, mercury and cadmium.

d. Although the Exxon/Rio Algom proposed mine, immediately adjacent to the Mole Lake reservation, is still in the permitting process, the pre-mining operation has already threatened important reservation water resources: "As a result of groundwater discharges by Exxon Minerals Company to Duck Lake in the early 1980s, the lake's water chemistry was altered. A state threatened species of pondweed, which was found in the lake before the discharges, has not been found there since." (3)

e. The Mole Lake Reservation (formed in 1939) is a prime harvester of wild rice in Wisconsin. Mole Lake Chippewa leaders fear that Exxon's extensive groundwater pump tests in the area may already affected the flow of water into Rice Lake and be partly to blame for the failure of the 1995 rice harvest.

f. The Green Bay Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it was the opinion of the U.S. Interior Department "that the proposed Crandon Mining Company project may have a substantial and unacceptable impact on aquatic resources of national importance." (4)

Mining would interfere with the exercise of Chippewa off-reservation harvest rights

a. The planned mine lies on territory sold by the Chippewa Nation to the U.S. in 1842, and directly on a 12-square mile tract of land promised to the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa in 1855. Treaties guaranteed Chippewa access to wild rice, fish and some wild game on ceded lands. Any contamination of deer, fish, or wild rice from mine pollution would be a direct assault on Chippewa treaty rights.

b. Threats from mining are not new to the region. Just recently, the White Pine, Michigan smelter, operated by the Copper Range Company, agreed to a multimillion dollar settlement in an air pollution lawsuit. The smelter was emitting mercury, lead and arsenic over the waters of nearby Lake Superior at five times the legal limit. These emissions were seen by the Lake Superior Tribes as a direct threat to their treaty rights "to enjoy consumption of uncontaminated fish."

Mining would have a disproportionately negative impact upon tribal lands and cultures

a. With mining-related population increases, the Sokaogon Chippewa can expect increased pressures on their forest resources, particularly deer and fish. While recent court decisions have recognized tribal treaty rights to these resources, mining-related population growth may significantly reduce tribal access to these resources through a reduction in the absolute numbers of fish and deer.

b. The Sokaogon Chippewa community is especially vulnerable to the problems of acid mine drainage coming from the toxic mine waste area because of its extremely small land base (approximately 1900 acres), its delicate ecology of forests and forested wetlands and the direct connection between surface and groundwaters in most of Forest County.

The Interior Department concluded that "The drawdown of ground water (cone of depression) which will lower water levels in adjacent lakes, streams, and wetlands and potential contamination of ground water may affect the value of these waterways for fish and wildlife, and the subsequent human (tribal and non-tribal) use of these resources." (5)

"The Mole Lake reservation was designed to guarantee forever the Sokaogon's control of the aquatic resources of Rice Lake, its clean water, fish, waterfowl, and, most important, its wild rice."

—Robert Gough, An Analysis of the Socio-Economic and Environmental Impacts of Mining and Mineral Resource Development on the Sokaogon Chippewa Community

c. There is an environmental justice issue here because the long term costs of the project will be borne by the tribes and local residents. The Interior Department has emphasized that "Even if the mining company makes substantial financial commitments for restoration of the site, there will more than likely be damages not provided for with financial assurances.

The neighbors, particularly the tribes, will receive a relatively meager proportion of the short term economic benefit, but by virtue of the location of their lands, will inherit the brunt of the environmental problems and economic bust cycle. It seems unfair that a large and powerful, but temporarily involved, interested party can reap the benefits, but leave the majority of the costs to less powerful interests who cannot reasonably move from the area to escape long term costs." (6)

Exxon and Rio Algom have demonstrated a pattern of disrespect for and a devastation of Native lands and cultures

a. Despite possible negative impacts upon cultural sites of importance to the Mole Lake, Potawatomi and Menominee Tribes, Exxon's consultant, Wesley Andrews, was pressured to write that there would be no harm to cultural sites. Mr. Andrews refused to go along with this because he believed it was a lie. He said that the material he wrote for an environmental impact report to state and federal agencies was "changed in many ways," including the insertion of a statement that the mine would have no adverse physical impacts to traditional cultural properties of the tribes. In a letter to the tribal chairmen at Mole Lake, Potawatomi and Menominee, Mr. Andrews wrote that the firm he was working for, under contract to the Crandon Mining Company, had a "disappointing lack of respect for traditional culture and values of the tribes."

b. Exxon's huge coal mine in Colombia, South America, has earned it a place on Survival International's Top Ten list of the corporate violators of Native rights. The El Cerrejon mine has brought both environmental and cultural devastation to the Wayuu (Guajiro) Indians, who have lived in the region for over 500 years, and survived the Spanish conquest with a large degree of independence.

c. In Colombia, the construction of a 95-mile rail and road connection between Exxon's El Cerrejon coal mine and the port of Uribia disturbed the cemeteries of the Wayuu people. Exxon's Intercor subsidiary removed the burials, and initially interred them in large structures without regard for the cohesion of families. The Wayuu, many of whom were relocated for the rail corridor, forced Intercor to rebuild the structures.

d. In Alaska, the Exxon Valdez spilled oil into the waters of the Chugach and Eyak tribes. The Chugach had sold the port of Valdez to the oil companies in 1969 for one dollar, and a pledge that the environment would be protected. As we know now, the spill damaged the fishery in a way that hurt white fishermen, and damaged the resource-based cultures of local Native peoples.

(1) *Sulfide Mining: The Process & The Price: A Tribal & Ecological Perspective*. Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Odanah, WI, 1996, p. 17. (2) *Tribes at Risk: The Wisconsin Tribes Comparative Risk Project*, Washington, D.C., October 1992, p. ix. (3) Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, Comments on Crandon Mining Company's Notice of Intent to Collect Data and Detailed Scope of Study, Crandon Project, Crandon, Wis., April 23, 1994. (4) Comments on Janet Smith, U.S. Department of the Interior, November 1994, p. 2. (5) Janet Smith, Department of the Interior, Comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, November 1994, p. 5. (6) M. Catherine Condon, Comments of the Menominee Indian Tribe on Crandon Mining Company's Notice of Intent to Collect Data and Detailed Scope of Study, May 1994, p. 1.



Aaron Van Zile harvests manomin (wild rice) from Rice Lake on the Mole Lake Sokaogon reservation in Wisconsin. A valued, traditional food, manomin has long been an important mainstay in the diet of the Sokaogon community and is also important culturally as part of feasts and ceremonies. The impact of the proposed copper/zinc mine on the wild rice bed is of great concern to tribal members. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

Crandon mine opponents hold speaking tour, plan Capitol rally

Madison, Wis.—The Wolf Watershed Educational Project (WWEP) has announced plans to hold a Wisconsin Students/Youth Rally to Stop the Crandon Mine, on Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. at the State Capitol in Madison.

The rally—which is open to all ages—will demand a halt to the proposed Crandon mine and electrical transmission lines, as part of what organizers call a grassroots “people power” movement against “corporate power” in Wisconsin.

The rally will also support environmental justice, and back a Seventh Generation Amendment to the State Constitution, protecting Wisconsin’s environment as the common property of all citizens.

Until April 29, the WWEP is holding a Mining Speaking Tour to colleges, high schools, and youth groups around the state. For more contact information, call toll-free (800) 445-8615, or log on www.treatyland.com.

Legislators seek action on mining rules

Keshena, Wis.—On February 14, 2000, eighteen members of the state Assembly initiated legislative action requesting that the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules vote to require the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) establish rules to enforce the mining moratorium.

Since the mining moratorium was signed into law in April 1998, it has received intense scrutiny from Crandon mine opponents because it has not been interpreted according to its original intent.

The law prohibits any new sulfide ore mines until a mining company can verify another sulfide mine that has operated for 10 years and been closed for at least 10 years that has not caused environmental pollution.

Even after hearings where several concerned citizens voiced the need for administrative rules, the Wisconsin

Natural Resources Board still refused to write rules.

The WDNR, under pressure from the mining industry, has refused to issue the rules necessary to strictly enforce the moratorium.

The Legislature’s Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules has the legal authority to order that the rules be written.

Legislators noted the requirement rules be written is established under state law to protect the public’s right to review and comment on an agency’s interpretation of the law.

This process gives the public a chance to comment and gives the Wisconsin State Legislature a chance to review an agency’s interpretations to ensure these interpretations are consistent with legislative intent.

(Reprinted from Menominee Treaty Rights & Mining Impacts Office.)

***STUDENT/YOUTH*
RALLY**

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STOP
CRANDON
MINE**

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APRIL
29TH
1 P.M.**

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CAPITOL**

**WOLF WATERSHED
EDUCATIONAL PROJECT**

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**SCHOOL SPEAKERS
AVAILABLE**

(The Wolf River Watershed Educational Project will hold a Student Youth Rally to stop the Crandon Mine at the state Capitol on Saturday, April 29. The group is now conducting a statewide speaking tour to colleges, high schools and youth clubs. The above posters are available for printing from their website at www.alphacdc.com/treaty/poster_info.html.)

Citing European disaster, environmentalists call for cyanide ban at Crandon mine

Madison, Wis.—Representatives of five Wisconsin environmental groups today decried the destruction of the Tisza River in Hungary and Yugoslavia, resulting from a cyanide spill at a Romanian gold mine owned by the Australian company Esmeralda Exploration.

They made demands of the company proposing the Crandon mine in Forest County to drop its plans for the use of cyanide at the mine site and to disclose its core samples and reveal the amount of gold and silver in the deposit.

Zoltan Grossman, a spokesperson for the Wolf Watershed Educational Project, said that “The Tisza was one of the largest and most beautiful rivers in Hungary, figuring in many Hungarian songs and legends. Its waters fed enormous wetlands rich in migrating birds, and its plentiful fish fed numerous fishing communities. We are angry that metallic mining has destroyed the river, and the disaster makes us more committed to protect the pristine Wolf River fishery from the same fate.”

Mining companies are increasingly using cyanide to extract gold and silver from metallic ore. The Crandon mine would use 5 to 18 tons of sodium cyanide per month during its operation, according to the September 1995 Crandon Mine Permit Application by Foth & Van Dyke.

Tom Wilson, co-chair of the mining subcommittee of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network and Northern Thunder spokesperson, observes that “sodium cyanide can be used in the flotation process to extract precious metals such as gold and silver from the crushed ore.”

Environmental, Native American, and sportfishing groups have raised concerns about the transportation of sodium cyanide and other highly toxic materials for the Crandon mine over Wisconsin roads and railroads. Tiny amounts of cyanide is fatal to human beings and animals.

The proposed Crandon mine is commonly referred to as a zinc-copper mine, but the 1986 Final Environmental Impact Statement estimated that the mine would also produce 60,000 troy ounces of gold and 3,600,000 troy ounces of silver a year. In Wisconsin, mining companies do not have to reveal economic valuations of proposed mines. They are by law allowed to keep this important information secret, including assessments of its exploratory core samples.

“We have suspected for some time that the mining company wants the Crandon deposit for its gold and silver, because the prices of zinc and copper have remained very low,” said Dave Blouin of the Mining Impact Coalition,

“And by far the most common technique to mine gold is cyanide extraction, which has caused numerous disasters around the world—from Colorado and Nevada, to Spain and Romania, and to Guyana and Kyrgyzstan.”

Besides environmental concerns, Blouin raised an economic concern about gold and silver mining in Wisconsin: “We are blocked from knowing how much gold Kennecott took out of its Ladysmith mine in 1993-97. The public has long demanded a full accounting of mining profits from all metals, so the companies cannot get away with natural resource burglary.” The Ladysmith mine did not process ore on-site, but shipped it by rail to Canada for processing.

The five environmental groups—Wolf Watershed Educational Project, Mining Impact Coalition, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, Northern Thunder, and Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, demanded:

1) That sodium cyanide be removed from the list of toxic substances allowed for operations at the Crandon site, or at any Wisconsin metallic mine, much as Montana voters have banned cyanide extraction at mines;

2) That Nicolet Minerals Company release the secret valuations of its Crandon exploratory core samples so Wisconsin citizens can know whether

gold or silver cyanide extraction is a future option for the Crandon mine;

3) That the Department of Revenue disclose to the public how much net proceeds tax was paid by the Kennecott Corporation on all metals at the Ladysmith mine between 1993 and 1997. Al Gedicks, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, explained: “Wisconsin’s mining tax law needs to be changed so that mining companies are required to disclose the amount of each metal that is taken out of an ore body, not just the total net proceeds.”

Linda Sturnot of the Mining Impact Coalition in Milwaukee commented that “This cyanide spill in Europe is a grave reminder of the careless, irresponsible behavior we have witnessed over and over again by mining companies—they simply cannot operate their mines safely. Wisconsin citizens must continue our fight to deny Nicolet Minerals the opportunity to pollute our precious Wolf River.”

Rich Bogovich of Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade, said, “This disaster provides proof, once again, that mining companies the world over will exploit environmental laws. Wisconsin’s laws have their shortcomings, so even here mining companies should not be trusted, especially when the river at stake is the Wolf.”

Change is on its way:

Two northern counties act to eliminate "squaw" word

By Sue Erickson,
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—Both Sawyer and Bayfield Counties are pursuing the possibility of changing names for places within their counties using "squaw," a derogatory term for women in the Ojibwe language.

"It's great to see these changes coming about," says Rose Gurnoe, Red Cliff tribal member and HONOR regional coordinator. An HONOR goal has been to educate people and work with them so they understand how offensive the s-term is to American Indian people.

"I've heard people say that the s-term is meant to honor women. How can a word like this honor anything? It is derogatory, offensive and has long been considered unacceptable by many American Indians, especially women," Gurnoe says. "At the boat landings, signs carried the message 'Save a wall-eye, spear a squaw.' Does this sound honorable to you?"

The process does not end at the county level, however. The recommendation must be sent to a state board for name changes and, if approved, sent on to a national board, the U.S. Board for Geographic Names, for a final approval.

Bayfield County: Unanimous support

Bayfield County Board took action at their February meeting to change the name of Squaw Bay to Mawikwe Bay at the request of Jim Nepstad, management assistant, National Park Service (NPS). About two-thirds of the bay

lies within the boundaries of the Apostle Island National Lakeshore.

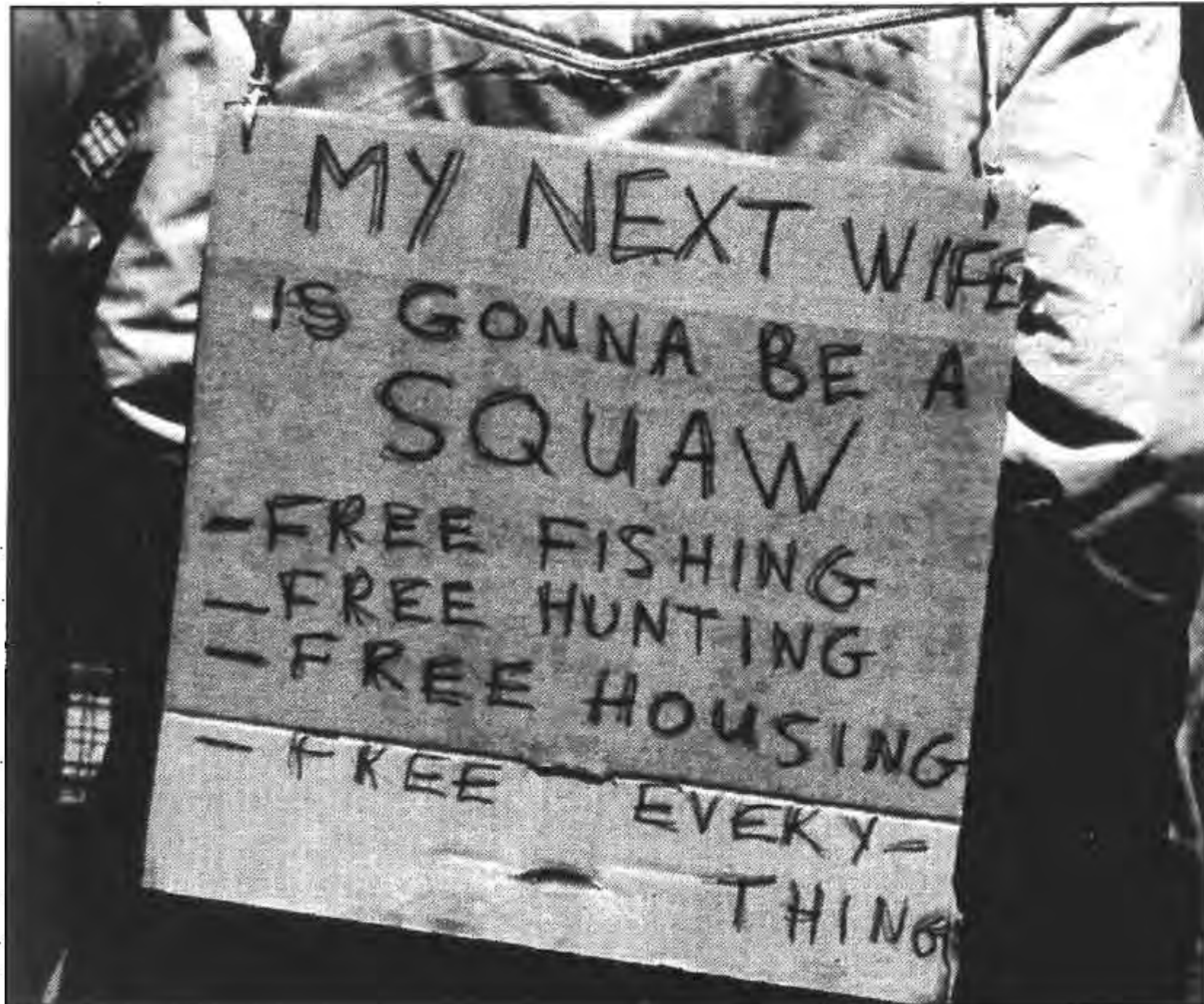
Prior to gaining county support, Nepstad got supportive resolutions from the Town of Bayfield and the Red Cliff band.

A letter to the NPS from Red Cliff tribal member Larry Balber pointing out the offensive nature of the term to Ojibwe people prompted NPS's concern, Nepstad said. For one, the NPS wanted the name changed because they wanted to stop using the term in their publications.

Action was also prompted when the Town of Bayfield needed to finalize a 911 system, making name changes on roads very difficult once the new system is in place. Since the former Squaw Bay Road leads to Squaw Bay, it was necessary to get the road name changed quickly. The Town supported the suggestion of Mawikwe Bay Road.

Nepstad suggested the name be changed to Mawikwe (mourning woman) Bay after researching historical references to the site. Known for its caves, the sounds produced from the caves can sound like a wailing woman, probably giving rise to an early designation as "mourning woman." Nepstad sought assistance from Delores Bainbridge, Ojibwe language instructor, Red Cliff, for translation into Ojibwe.

"This was one of the most fun projects I've worked on," Nepstad comments. Once he explained the meaning of "squaw," he received full support for the suggested change. "There was not one vote of opposition," he says. Nepstad does not anticipate any problems with getting the recommendation



Squaw is a derogatory term often used in a derogatory fashion as seen in the sign above. Yet, it has been used in names for some of Wisconsin's most beautiful places. It is time for change. (Photo by Sue Erickson)

through the state and national level boards since he has support from town, county, tribe and the NPS.

It will just be a matter of the time.

Proposal at committee level in Sawyer County

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) band passed a resolution in support of a proposal before the Sawyer County Board to eliminate the use of squaw in names of places within the county, according to Sawyer County Clerk Chris Mayberry.

A recommendation to the Board in support of the change came from the county's Conservation Committee. On March 23rd the Personnel-Administration Committee voted to memo every town, village and city within the county requesting them to advise the county of any concerns they might have over the change and to recommend alternative, easily pronounced names. The LCO band has also been asked for suggested name changes for places within the reservation.

Mayberry is unsure of how many place names in the county might be affected.

Some states act to ban s-term

Action to remove the s-term has been taken in Minnesota and Colorado, according to Gurnoe. Maine's Assembly recently passed a bill banning the use of the term.

The bill is expected to pass in Maine's Senate shortly. If passed, the bill will remove the s-word from 25 areas statewide.

Want to promote change?

HONOR assists people seeking to change place names by providing copies of applications, petitions and articles on the process.

"It's such a long process to change a place name, and there are so many hoops to jump through," Gurnoe says. "It's really this whole process that needs to be changed."

The HONOR office can be reached at (715) 779-9595, or write P.O. Box 694, Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814.



A road sign on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation may be changed if the Sawyer County Board passes a favorable recommendation. The proposed change is currently in the Personnel-Administration Committee. (Photo by Jim Schlender)

Ashland's Daily Press calls for WI to pass law removing "squaw" from names

Officials in Bayfield County, both tribal and non-tribal, have decided it's time to change the name of Squaw Bay to the more culturally appropriate Mawikwe Bay, or "weeping woman bay."

It's an issue the Sawyer County Board is dealing with, too, looking at changing 17 place names in that county from "squaw"—a derogatory term—to other names.

Time for the state to mandate changing place names

While it's god that local governments are making these changes, it's time for the state of Wisconsin to follow Minnesota's example and pass a state law mandating changes from names including the word "squaw." Along with the law should be a modest pot of money to cover the cost of new signage for towns and counties.

For many years, most people were ignorant of just how nasty a word "squaw" really is. But now that we know, there's no excuse for not acting as a state.

(The above editorial was reprinted from the Ashland Daily Press.)

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“Indian Hunting Season” flier

U.S. Senator Campbell calls for investigation

Washington, DC—U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell called on the Department of Justice to launch a hate-crimes investigation into a newspaper ad announcing the start of “Indian Hunting Season.” Campbell received a copy of the ad, which ran in a South Dakota newspaper, that is intended to look like a real hunting season announcement.

The ad declares open season on the Sioux reservations, sets a limit of ten kills per day and other regulations for where and in what manner Indians may be killed.

Campbell, Chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, wrote Attorney General Janet Reno that “when such an ad authorizes hunting season on human beings and places a limit on how many can be killed, surely it is reason for law enforcement to take action. Such a solicitation to commit mass homicide must run afoul of federal law. I am requesting that you direct an investigation by the appropriate hate crimes office within the Department.”

He also pointed out that in the 1800’s, some Coloradans expressed support for the Sand Creek Massacre. “For those that think anti-Indian sentiment and feelings are a relic of the past, I urge them to read this product of a twisted and hateful mind,” Campbell said in a Congressional Record statement last week.

“At the turn of the millennium here in the greatest nation on earth, there are pockets of hate that continue to thrive. After my tenure here in Congress, I know full well the limits of government. I know we can pass no law forcing people to respect each other, or forcing them to be tolerant. But this ad goes beyond mere hurtful worlds and actually advocates murder and I condemn it in the strongest possible terms,” Campbell concluded.

To the right is a copy from the newsletter of the actual “Indian Hunting Season” flier. (A similar flier was found distributed in the Ashland County Courthouse, Ashland, Wisconsin in the 1980s.)

(Reprinted from January/February HONOR DIGEST.)

Boyle blasts Indian school logos, mascots as racist

Joanne M. Haas
Capitol News Service

Madison, Wis.—The use of Indian mascots and logos for public school sports teams are an embarrassing use of tax dollars to teach young people how to stereotype and hate, witnesses told the Senate Education Committee recently during a Capitol public hearing on a bill from Frank Boyle, D-Superior.

The use of Indian symbols in stereotyped images in state-supported schools “constitutes state-supported racism,” Bob Chicks, the chairman of the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe, told senators in urging them to support Senate Bill 217.

Senate Bill 217, a Democrat sponsored bill introduced at the request of groups including the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council and the Wisconsin Indian Education Association, changes the handling of a complaint on a school district’s use of an ethnic name, nickname, logo or mascot. Current law puts the burden to prove the use of the symbols promotes discrimination, pupil harassment or stereotyping against a student.

“The bill sets up a formal process,” said Rep. Frank Boyle, D-Superior, the lead author of the Senate bill on the Assembly side. The bill shifts the burden of proof from the family or child to the school district.

Under the bill, a resident may complain about the school district’s use of the name or symbol to the state superintendent, who then must slate a hearing during which the district must prove the use does not promote discrimination or harassment.

If the superintendent finds in favor of the complainant, the school board will be ordered to end the use of the logo or symbol in question. A school board will be subject to a forfeiture of not less



(Indian mascot. www.arttoday.com)

than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each day it uses the symbol in violation of the order. The superintendent’s order will be subject to circuit court review.

“The process for Indian people simply has not worked,” Boyle said, citing the recent recall efforts of the Milton School District members who voted the school’s use of the name “Redmen” and an accompanying American Indian portrait were not racially sensitive. Student voters selected the replacement nickname, the Red Hawks.

He said what happens is the attempt to change a school name becomes very emotional and cantankerous for “the old crusaders”—meaning people who are out of high school—who attach a lot of meaning to the name.

Boyle said he has been working on this issue for about eight years and several districts have eliminated the use of Indian names and logos for mascots. “We can do better in this century,” he said.

Boyle, acknowledging local control is always a concern, said in this case the state needs to step in and take a lead on this issue since it is hard to make this change at the local level. “The political rightness is now,” Boyle said. “This kind of imagery ought to be done with ... We ought to be rid of it.”

No vote was taken on the bill.

STATE OF South Dakota

Game, Fish and Parks Department Pierre, SD (605) 224-0000

PROCLAMATION

RE: Indian Hunting Season hunting fees: Free to first 7,683 hunters/\$ 1.00 thereon.

Dear South Dakota Hunters:

The 1999 Big Game hunting season in the state of South Dakota has been canceled due to shortages of Deer, Turkey, Elk and Antelope. However, this does not mean there will be no hunting. In the place of the big game animals this year we will have open season on the Sioux Reservations. This will entail the hunting of Americans Worthless Slounis Pyutus, commonly known as “Worthless Red Bastards,” “Dog Eaters,” “Gut Eaters,” “Prairie N....s” and “F....Indians.” This year from 1999-2000 will be an open season, as the f....Indians must be thinned out every two to three years.

It Will be Unlawful to: * Hunt in a party of more than 150 persons * Use more than 35 bloodthirsty, rabid hunting dogs * Shoot in a public tavern (Bullet may ricochet and hit civilized white people) * Shoot an Indian sleeping on the sidewalk

Trapping Regulations * Traps may not be set within 15 feet of a liquor store * Traps may not be baited with Muscatel, Lysol, Rubbing alcohol or food stamps * All traps must have at least 120 lb. spring strength and have a jaw spread of at least 5’3.”

Other rules and Regulations * Shooting length-wide in a welfare line is prohibited * It will be unlawful to possess a road-kill Indian, however, special road-kill permits shall be issued to people with semi-tractor trailers and one-ton pick-up trucks. * With such a permit you may bait the highway with muscatel, Lysol, rubbing alcohol or food stamps.

How to Know When an Indian is in you Area * disposable diapers litter the street * Large lines in front of the welfare office and for free cheese * Trails of empty wine bottles leading from the city parks to all city alleys * Empty books of food stamps thrown all over * Car-loads of Indian children waiting outside liquor stores

Remember limit is ten (10) per day.

Possession of limit: Forty (40) Good Hunting!

Proposed Assembly bill to bolster Indian curriculum dies in committee

By Sue Erickson - Staff writer

Madison, Wis.—Proposed legislation to increase staff and funding levels necessary to implement Wisconsin Act 31 (a 1989 Indian curriculum act) was not been acted upon this session, so will have to be reintroduced next session, according to Ron Jetty, Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC). The legislation died in the Assembly’s Education Committee, which did not act on the proposed bill following a hearing on February 22 in Madison.

The 1999 Assembly Bill 586, introduced by the Joint Legislative Council, would restore funding and staff which have been cut since Act 31 was passed, according to J.P. Leary, American Indian Studies Program coordinator at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Leary says much of the testimony heard on February 22nd was favorable to the bill, including support from the WEAC and the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers.

Opposing the bill were the Wisconsin School Board Association and district school administrators.

Act 31 requires Wisconsin school boards to include curriculum on the history, culture and sovereignty of Wisconsin’s federally recognized Indian tribes at two levels during elemen-

tary grades and at least once in the high school grades.

The Act also requires the development of curriculum for grades 4-12 on the off-reservation treaty rights of the Chippewa Indians.

To implement the Act’s provisions, it provided \$100,000 in fiscal year 1989-90, \$200,000 in fiscal year 1990-91 and authorized three full-time positions in the DPI.

During the mid-1990s, a period of budget cuts and staff reductions, the DPI cut the program’s staff to 1.6 full time positions and allocated only \$111,744 in program dollars.

Bill 586 creates a separate annual appropriation of \$250,000 to DPI specifically for the implementation of the Act 31 requirements, restoring the funding and DPI positions to the original level of three full-time staff.

The staff would develop curriculum relating to Chippewa off-reservation treaty rights and assist school boards in complying with Act 31’s requirement to provide instruction on Wisconsin’s American Indian tribes.

They would also annually audit school districts to determine compliance with Act 31 and the DPI would also be required to annually report the results of school district audits to the Joint Legislative Council’s American Indian Study Committee.

In addition staff would sponsor educational conferences and projects relating to the program.

Looking through our window: The value of Indian culture

(Editor's note: The following article is excerpted from a speech by Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson at the First Friday Club of the Twin Cities on March 5, 1999. Subsequent to the presentation the speech was selected to be printed in a national periodical, *Vital Speeches of the Day*, which premieres significant messages given by leaders from many segments of our society.)

"... I want to talk to you about what it means to be Indian. About how my People experience the world. About the fundamental way in which our culture differs from yours. And about why you should care about all this.

The differences between Indians and non-Indians have created a lot of controversy lately. Casinos, treaty rights, tribal sovereignty—these issues have stirred such anger and bitterness.

I believe the accusations against us are made out of ignorance. The vast majority of non-Indians do not understand how my People view the world; what we value, what motivates us.

They do not know these things for one simple reason: they've never heard us talk about them. For many years, the only stories that non-Indians heard about my People came from other non-Indians. As a result, the picture you got of us was fanciful, or distorted, or so shadowy, it hardly existed at all.

It's time for *Indian* voices to tell *Indian* stories.

Now, I'm sure at least a few of you are wondering, "Why do I need to hear these stories? Why should I care about what Indian People think, and feel, and believe?"

I think the most eloquent answer I can give you comes from the namesake of this university, St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas wrote that dialogue is the struggle to learn from each other. This struggle, he said, is like Jacob wrestling the angel—it leaves one wounded and blessed at the same time.

Indian People know this struggle very well. The wounds we've suffered in our dialogue with non-Indians are well-documented; I don't need to give you a laundry list of complaints.

We also know some of the blessings of this struggle. As *American* Indians, we live in two worlds—ours, and yours. In the 500 years since you first came to our lands, we have struggled to learn how to take the best of what your culture has to offer in arts, science, technology and more, and then weave them into the fabric of our traditional ways.

But for non-Indians, the struggle is new. Now that our People have begun to achieve success, now that we are in business and in the headlines, you are starting to wrestle with understanding us.

Your wounds from this struggle are fresh, and the pain might make it hard for you to see beyond them. But if you try, you'll begin to see the blessings as well—the blessings of what a deepened knowledge of Indian culture can bring to you. I'd like to share a few of those blessings with you today.

Earlier I mentioned that there is a fundamental difference between the way Indians and non-Indians experience the world. This difference goes all the way back to the Bible, and Genesis.

In Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, God creates man in his own image. Then God says, 'be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of the heaven, and all living animals on the earth.'

Masters. Conquer. Nothing, *nothing* could be further from the way Indian People view the world and our place in it. Here are the words of the great nineteenth century Chief Seattle:

'You are a part of the earth, and the earth is a part of you. You did not weave the web of life, you are merely a strand in it. *Whatever you do to the web, you do to yourself.*

In our tradition, there is no mastery. There is no conquering. Instead, there is kinship among all creation—humans, animals, birds, plants, even rocks. We are all part of the sacred hoop of the world, and we must all live in harmony with each other if that hoop is to remain unbroken.

When you begin to see the world this way—through Indian eyes—you will begin to understand our view of land, and treaties, very differently. You will begin to understand that when we speak of Father Sun and Mother Earth, these are not new-age catchwords—they are very real terms of respect for very real beings.

And when you understand this, then you will understand that our fight for treaty rights is not just about hunting deer or catching fish. It is about teaching our children to honor Mother Earth and Father Sun. It is about teaching them to respectfully receive the gifts these loving parents offer us in return for the care we give them.

And it is about teaching this generation and the generations yet to come about their place in the web of life. Our culture and the fish, our values and the deer, the lessons we learn and the rice we harvest—everything is tied together. You can no more separate one from the other than you can divide a person's spirit from his body.

When you understand how we view the world and our place in it, it's easier to appreciate why our casinos are so important to



Marge Anderson

us. The reason we defend our businesses so fiercely isn't because we want to have something that others don't. The reason is because these businesses allow us to give back to others—to our People, our communities, and the Creator.

... I'll tell you a story that sums up how my People view business through the lens of our traditional values.

Last year, the Woodlands National Bank, which is owned and operated by the Mille Lacs Band, was approached by the city of Onamia and asked to forgive a mortgage on a building in the downtown area. The building had been abandoned and was an eyesore on Main Street. The city planned to renovate and sell the building, and return it to the tax rolls.

Although the Band would lose money by forgiving the mortgage, our business leaders could see the wisdom in improving the community. The opportunity to help our neighbors was an opportunity to strengthen the web of life. So we forgave the mortgage.

Now, I know this is not a decision everyone would agree with. Some people feel that in business, you have to look out for number one. But my People feel that in business—and in life—you have to look out for *every* one.

And this, I believe, is one of the blessings that Indian culture has to offer you and other non-Indians. We have a different perspective on so many things, from caring for the environment, to healing the body, mind and soul.

But if our culture disappears, if the Indian ways are swallowed up by the dominant American culture, no one will be able to learn from them. Not Indian children. Not your children. No one. All that knowledge, all that wisdom, will be lost forever.

The struggle of dialogue will be over. Yes, there will be no more wounds. But there will also be no more blessings.

There is still so much we have to learn from each other, and we have already wasted so much time. Our world grows smaller every day. And every day, more of our unsettling, surprising, wonderful differences vanish. And when that happens, part of each of us vanishes, too.

I'd like to end with one of my favorite stories. It's a funny little story about Indians and non-Indians, but its message is serious: you can see something differently if you are willing to learn from those around you.

This is the story: Years ago, white settlers came to this area and built the first European-style homes. When Indian People walked by these homes and saw see-through things in the walls, they looked through them to see what the strangers inside were doing. The settlers were shocked, but it makes sense when you think about it: windows are made to be looked through from both sides.

Since then, my People have spent many years looking at the world through your window. I hope today I've given you a reason to look at it through ours.

Mii gwetch."

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum

July 22—August 1, 2000
Mt. Evans Outdoor Education Lab School
Evergreen, Colorado

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is proud to sponsor its tenth national Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum, scheduled for July 22—August 1, 2000, in Evergreen, Colorado. The Practicum is designed to provide Native American students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the management of natural resources.

One of the goals of the Society is to encourage Native American youth to see the importance of professional natural resource management, to continue their education in order to seek degrees in natural resource management, and, ultimately, to pursue careers in the natural resource fields. The Society believes in a re-awakening of the traditional values of Indian-to-environment relationships that are needed for tribes to make effective and sound natural resource management decisions.

The program provides an academic experience in a mountain youth camp environment. During the program, students will spend their time at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Education Lab School of the Jefferson-County School District participating in classroom sessions, field education, recreational activities, field trips, traditional methods, and, most important, interaction with professional, cultural and spiritual people.

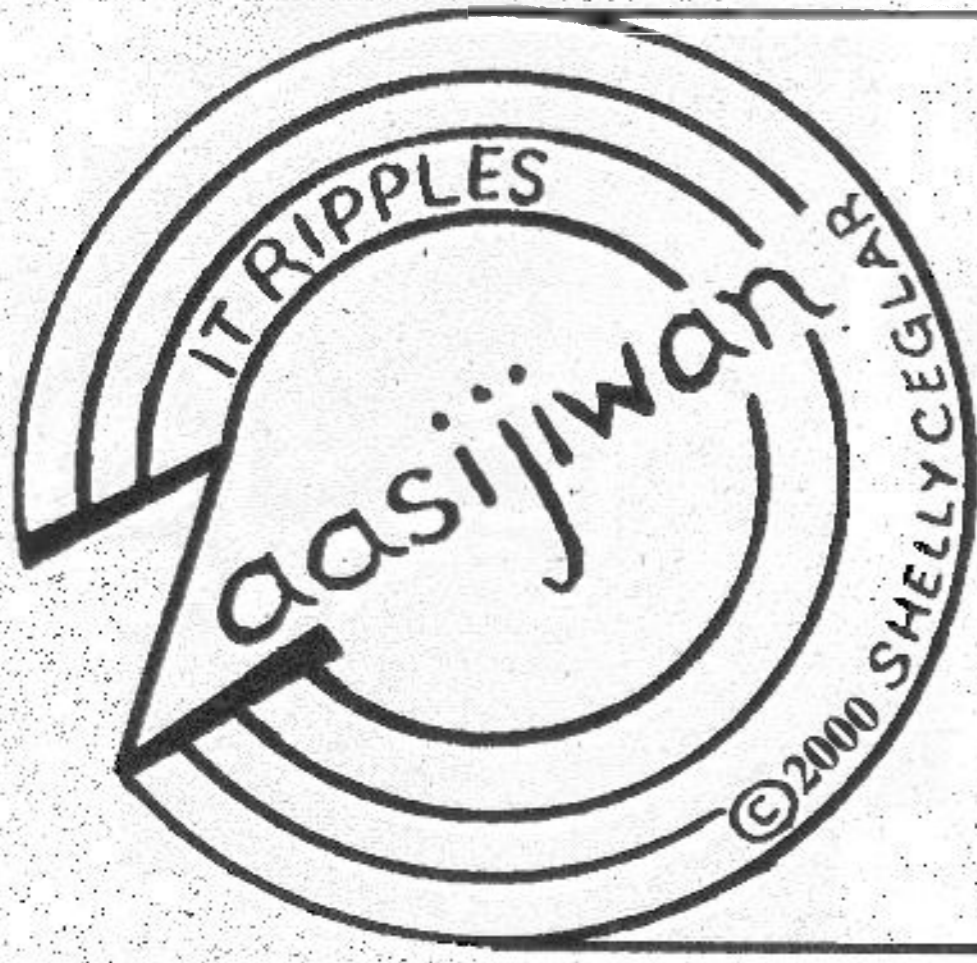
A unique aspect of the program is the use of Native American professionals who are active in the field and, even more important, the invaluable teachings from Tribal Elders.

The Youth Practicum is open to incoming 10-12th grade Native students who are interested in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of natural resources. Students must be in good physical condition as physical activities are a part of the Practicum.

For more information and/or an application, please write or call: Sally Carufel-Williams, Youth Practicum Coordinator, Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, 750 Burbank Street, Broomfield, Colorado 80020. Phone: 303-466-1725 Fax: 303-466-5414

Applications must be postmarked and mailed by April 28, 2000.

Only complete applications will be considered.



Ziigwan — It is Spring

Ziigwang, niminwendam. Nimbimose zaaga'iganing.
Bimoseyaan, ninzhoomiingwen. Bijiinaago, ningii-waabamaa a'aw
aandeg. Nimbabaamendam, bimised.
Anishinaabeg, iskigamizigewaad, maamawi anokiiwag.

(When it is spring, I am happy. I walk to the lake.
When I walk, I smile. Yesterday I did see him/her that
crow. I pay attention when s/he flies.
Ojibwe people, when they make maple sugar, together they work.)

Bezhiq—1

OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.
—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO
Waabamaa — as in father
Apane — as in jay
Ziigwan — as in seen
Naboob — as in moon
—Short vowels: A, I, O
Idash — as in about
Bimose — as in tin
Gii-ikido — as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.
—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

VAI Conjunct Form VAI's—He/She Verbs

Verbs, Animate, Intransitive
*Add a personal suffix, not a complete sentence on its own.

- Bimose—S/he is walking, walks.
- Bimoseyaan—When, if, while I walk,...
- Bimoseyan—When, if, while you walk,...
- Bimosed—When, if, while S/he walks,...
- Bimosewaad—When, if, while they walk,...
- Minwendam—S/he is happy.
- Minwendamaan—When/If I am happy,...
- Minwendaman—When you're happy,...
- Minwendang—When/If S/he is happy,...
- Minwendamowaad—When they are happy,...

Niizh—2

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

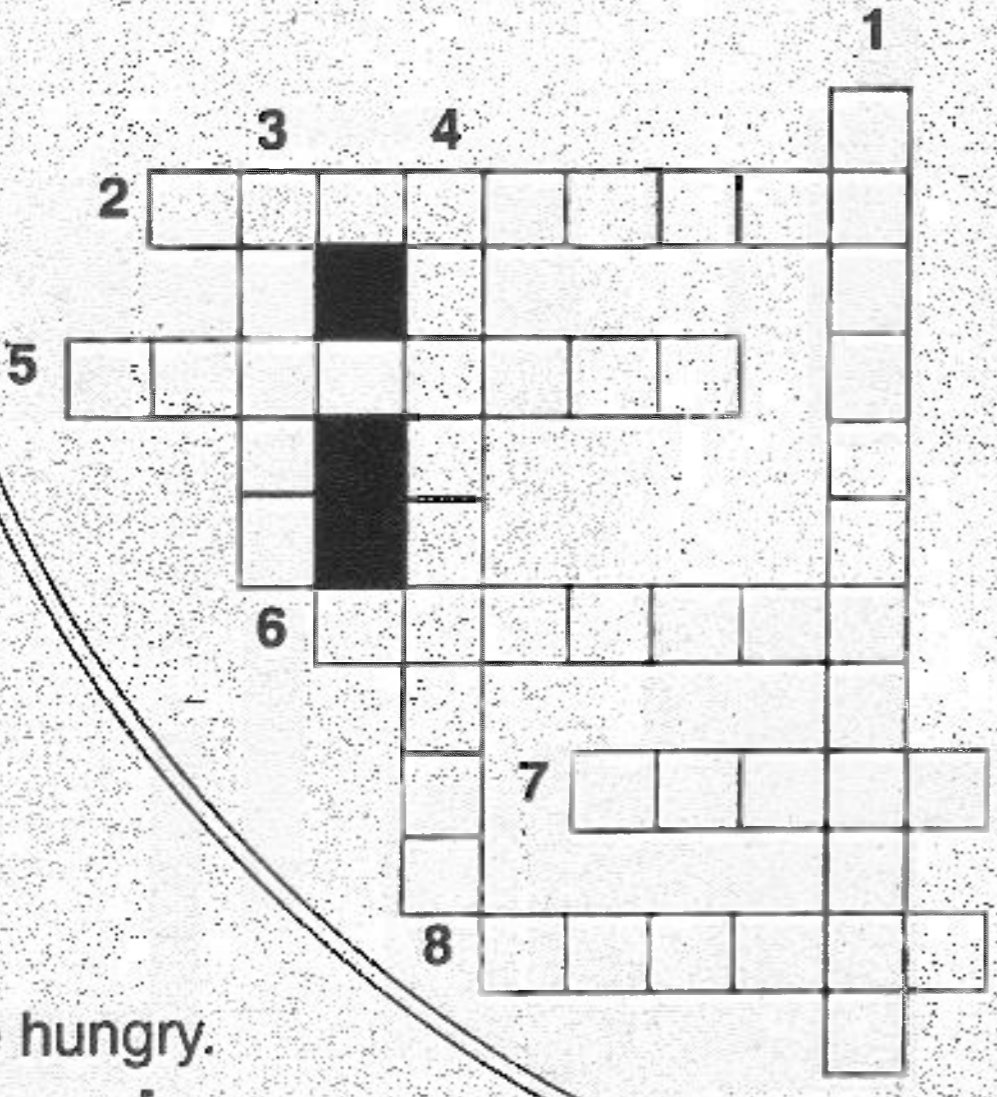
- A. Gii-kiikajyaan, gii-piboon idash gii-kisinaa.
- B. Abizidezoyan, ziigwan idash aabawaa.
- C. Iskigamizigeyan, giwii-naadobii megwaayaak.
- D. Iskigamizigewaad, apane giwii-akawaab idash giwii-manise.
- E. Onaabani-giizis izhinikaazo wa'aw giizis.
- F. Iskigamizige-giizis izhinikaazo wa'aw giizis.
- G. Ziigwang, biboonagad.

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

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

- Down:
- Ojibwe people.
 - Always.
 - They work.
- Across:
- When/If you are hungry.
 - S/he collects maple sap.
 - It is spring.
 - This (animate).
 - Crow.



Niiwin—4

Conjunct VAI's—When, if...

- Wiisini—S/he eats.
- Wiisiniyaan—When/If/While I eat,...
- Wiisiniyan—When/If/While you eat,...
- Wiisininid—When/If/While S/he eat,...
- Wiisiniwaad—When/If/While they eat,...
- Nibaa—S/he sleeps. Bakade—S/he is hungry.
- Bakadeyaan—When/If/While I'm hungry,...
- Bakadeyan—When you're hungry,...
- Nibaad—When S/he sleeps,...
- Nibaawaad—When they sleep...

Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- Wiisini _____, nimiijin naboob.
- Nidayekoz, nibaa _____.
- Bimose _____, minwendam nimaamaa.
- Bimose _____, megwaayaak, iskigamizigewag.
- Bakade _____, giwiisin endaayaan omaa.

yaan
yan
d
waad

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. When I was cold, it was winter and it was cold weather. B. When you have warm feet, it is spring and it is warm weather. C. When you make maple sugar, you will collect sap in the woods. D. When they boil sap always you will wait in watch and you will cut wood. E. Crust on the snow-moon she is called this moon. (March) F. Boiling sap-moon she is called this moon. (April) G. When it is spring, a year passes.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Anishinaabeg. 3. Apane. 4. Anokiiwag. Across: 2. Bakadeyan. 5. Naadobii. 6. Ziigwan. 7. Wa'aw. 8. Aandeg.

Niiwin—4 1. When/if I am hungry, I eat soup. 2. I am tired, when I sleep. 3. When/if she walks, she is happy, my mother. 4. When/if they walk in the woods, they are making maple sugar. 5. If/When you are hungry, you eat at my home here.

There are various Ojibwe dialects, check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose it's 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.

Minnesota seeks legislative action to pay tribes' attorneys' fees in 1837 Treaty case

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

St. Paul, Wis.—In a final segment of the *Mille Lacs v. Minnesota* case, seven Ojibwe tribes were awarded over \$3.9 million in attorneys' fees, expenses and costs by District Court Judge Michael Davis last December. This amount has increased to over \$4 million with the accrual of \$614 per day in interest on the unpaid bill.

In his ruling, Davis rejected the State's arguments for a reduction in the fees, noting the bands achieved "exceptional results," and required the State to pay the \$614 per day interest until the debt was paid.

The State of Minnesota could have appealed this December 1999 ruling;

however, in January 2000 Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura announced Minnesota would not appeal and recommended the expenditure to the Minnesota Legislature.

It is currently being considered in the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee with some legislators expressing concern over delayed action when each day represents another \$614 added to the debt.

The \$3.9 million was awarded to the Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, Mole Lake Sokaogon, and Red Cliff bands in Wisconsin and the Mille Lacs band in Minnesota.

(Some information for this article was taken from a St. Paul Pioneer Press article by Dennis Lien on 3/7/00.)

State income tax applies to tribal members living and working on another reservation

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—In a December 1999 decision the Wisconsin Court of Appeals ruled that Wisconsin's income tax laws apply to Indians who live and work on another tribe's reservation. Exemption from state income tax is allowable only if a tribal member lives and works on the reservation in which he or she is a member.

The case, *LaRock v. Wisconsin Department of Revenue*, considered the situation of a Menominee tribal member living and working on the Oneida reservation in Wisconsin.

According to GLIFWC Policy Analyst James Zorn, the rationale of the court's decision is "that a state income tax exemption is inextricably linked to a tribe's sovereign relationship with its own member and to internal self-governance and self-determination."

The Court used several precedent Supreme Court rulings as a basis for its opinion. These rulings found that a tribe's sovereignty, self-determination and self-governance are not affected by state taxation of non-members, either Indian or non-Indian.

Zorn notes that this ruling does not apply to a federal income tax exemption on income derived from activities related to treaty fishing rights. The treaty fishing exemption relates to the kind of work activity performed, specifically to work involved with a treaty fishing right of the member's tribe, rather than where the member lives and works.

Congressional committee for Native American affairs proposed

Washington, DC.—Below is a copy of a letter Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) sent in March to Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives urging that next year Democrats support the creation of a special committee in the House to focus exclusively on Native American issues.

"I am writing today to propose that the Democratic Caucus of the House of Representatives support the creation of a Select Committee on Native American Issues in the 107th Congress.

For the past twenty-five years, I have served on two committees in the House of Representative that have substantial jurisdiction over issues of importance to Native Americans, the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Education and the Workforce (and their predecessors in name).

I currently serve, as you know, as

the senior Democrat on the former, and the second most senior Democrat on the latter committee.

It is very clear to me as we address the issues of education, health, social services, economic development, tribal sovereignty and an host of other matters, that our current committee structure fails to provide them the prominence that the Native American population desperately deserves.

Responsibility for vital programs is spread over a half-dozen committees and often, issues of urgent interest to Native Americans are considered only in passing both in hearings and in legislation.

Inadequate staff resources are often devoted to the highly specialized legal and policy needs of Indian people. As a result, native people are not pro- (See Congressional, page 27)



Tobasanakwut Kinew, Ojibwe spiritual leader and Waabanong Run participant, makes preparations for an opening ceremony during a December 2, 1999 feast in Odanah, Wis. With food prepared by GLIFWC staff, the feast recognized the first anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court hearing, *Mille Lacs v. Minnesota*. The high court ruled 5 to 4 in favor of Mille Lacs, upholding treaty rights in the east-central Minnesota for eight Ojibwe nations. (Photo by CO Rasmussen)

Lawmakers call for end to improper taxation of Native American servicemen and women

Washington, DC—Hundreds of Native Americans in the military have likely lost millions of dollars because the Defense Department improperly withholds their federal wages for state income tax, several members of Congress charged.

In a letter to Secretary of Defense William Cohen dated March 6, the senior lawmakers called on the Defense Department to immediately stop assisting with the improper state tax withholding.

The Defense Department (DOD) withholds the Indians' federal wages on behalf of the states despite a well-established law that preclude states from taxing the income of Native Americans in the military who declare their reservation as their official residence for the purposes of taxation.

"We are writing to request that DOD review and revise the records of Native American service personnel to ensure that this practice of withholding federal wages for state income tax cease for those claiming the reservation as their home," the lawmakers wrote. "Please let us know of the steps you plan to take to redress this wrong and your progress towards that goal."

The letter was authored by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), the senior Democrat on the House Resources Committee which has jurisdiction over most Native American issues. The letter was co-signed by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), the committee chairman, and Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), the senior Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee.

"Although the law is clear, the Defense Department—unwittingly or not—continues to assist in the improper taxation of Native Americans in the military," said Miller. "It is time to stop this unjust practice and to look at ways to rectify the financial losses incurred by the honorable Native American men and women who serve our country."

Boundary Waters Canoe Area not accessible by motorized vehicles under 1854 Treaty rights

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Odanah, Wis.—The right to use motorized vehicles in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) is not a right reserved under the 1854 Treaty, according to a U.S. District Court ruling in Minnesota. The federal court decided against two Bois Forte members for using motorized vehicles to fish in the wilderness area, one for use of a motor boat and the other for use of a snowmobile.

The case is, however, on appeal before the Eighth District Court.

Although the BWCAW lies within the 1854 Treaty ceded territory in Minnesota, the Court found that the treaty rights did not include the right to use motorized vehicles in the Boundary Waters area.

The Court found that the travel restrictions may make the exercise of

the treaty right less convenient, but will not prevent the full exercise of the treaty right.

The Court also found that there was no evidence the Chippewa understood the treaty right to include motorized travel. Although the treaty right does allow the right to use motors, in the case of the BWCAW, federal regulations are reasonable and necessary for conservation and to fulfill the purpose for which the BWCAW was created—"to preserve the solitude of the region, protect sensitive ecosystems, and minimize oil and gas emissions into the lakes."

The use of motorized ice augers, however, is permitted. Use of fishing equipment, such as the auger, was viewed by the Court as falling "squarely within the conduct protected by the 1854 Treaty." The occasional drilling of a fishing hole with a power auger was not viewed as necessarily a threat to the conservation of the area.

Clinton proposes \$1.2 billion increase for Indian Country in FY'01

By Debbie Koch, HONOR Advocacy Office

Washington, D.C.—During the last session of the 106th Congress heavy campaigning detracts from legislative work. Congress is focusing on passing the budget and a few key bills before heading out to the campaign trail. However, there are some important bills coming up for Indian Country concerning education and health care. Additionally the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a series of informative briefings on important topics throughout the session.

Although Washington DC will be relatively quiet, this campaign season is an excellent time to attend political events or visit the home offices of your representatives and candidates to educate them about Indian concerns. The more people who voice concern, the more support for Indian issues. As always, for information on HONOR or current issues to share with them, contact the HONOR Advocacy Office at 202-546-8340 or email us at honor@dgsys.com.

Fiscal Year 2000 budget

The FY00 Budget that passed last fall included both good news and bad news for Indian Country. Funding for Indian programs increased overall. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) received an increase of \$86 million from FY99; the Indian Health Service (IHS) received an increase of \$155.6 million, and funding was approved for Indian education and violent crime reduction.

Additional good news is that the moratorium on program contracting for tribes was lifted unexpectedly, and \$10 million was added for implementation. The additional funding will allow more tribes to further self-determination and run their own programs.

Unfortunately, Congress authorized a "means-testing" measure that has been narrowly warded off several times in the past. Now the Secretary of the Interior will be able to redistribute Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) funds. TPA funds are one of the principal mechanisms through which the federal government fulfills its trust responsibilities to tribes. Tribes depend on TPA funds to support the operation of tribal governments, social services, education, law enforcement, tribal courts, and other vital services.

TPA funding levels have never been sufficient to fulfill the federal obligation to any of the tribes. With this new authorization, Secretary Babbitt can determine the amount of funding each tribe receives based on their need. Instead of fulfilling the trust responsibilities and granting enough funding for all tribes, the Interior Department is forced to divide up what has been allocated to tribes. The new means-testing authority compounds the perpetual under-funding problem for tribes by allowing the Secretary of the Interior to shift funds from one underfunded tribe to another that is even more so.

Fiscal year 2001 budget

On February 7, President Clinton released his budget proposal for FY01. This is the first step in a year-long process to create and approve the budget. Both the House and the Senate will propose their own versions of FY01, and after much debate and compromising, a budget will be passed and signed by the President some time next fall.

The President's proposal includes a \$1.2 billion increase for Indian Country over last year's budget, the largest spending increase ever sought for Indians. This money will go to new or expanded government programs in almost all federal agencies.

This year there is a heavy concentration of funding on school construction, the Indian Health Service (IHS), reservation roads, and law enforcement. In addition, there are several tribal college initiatives proposed which would increase funding for the Tribal College Endowment Fund, technical assistance, operation costs, and many other programs designed to increase opportunities for Indian students in science and technology.

Although the President's budget request for Indian Country is higher than in previous budgets, it is still inadequate to meet current needs. For example, it is estimated that \$4 billion is needed to make repairs on all reservation roads and \$1.2 billion is needed to repair or replace Indian schools. Reservations continue to be the most impoverished areas in this country with the worst health care.

The Indian Health Service reports the Indian death rate is 35 times higher than the rest of the population. Schools and opportunities for economic development are also sadly lacking. The unemployment rate on reservations is ten times the national average and only roughly two-thirds of Indian adults have a high school diploma, compared to three-quarters of the general population.

The budget is the primary practical way the federal government can fulfill its trust responsibility. Now is the appropriate time to let your congressional representatives know, whether in person or by mail, that Indian issues are high on your priority list and should be on theirs during the budget process.

Education act reauthorization

This year the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is up for reauthorization. Authorization is when Congress agrees a program should exist. Funding for the program through appropriations is a second step that sometimes occurs to make an authorized program actually happen.

The House passed their own version of the ESEA reauthorization in the fall, closely resembling the Administration's proposal. Both of these versions cut out several critical Indian programs, claiming that there are other state programs which cover the same needs.

Unfortunately this is not true for all tribes. Often state funds never reach tribes, so cutting money specifically designated for Indian educational programs may mean cutting Indian programs altogether.

The five programs that may potentially lose authorization include: Indian Fellowships; Gifted and Talented Programs; Grants to Tribes for Education Administration, Planning and Development; and Adult Education.

Although these programs have not been funded for several years, the hope for these programs to ever exist will be lost if their authorization is cut. The Senate is currently working on its own version of ESEA and so far it appears that they have no plan to cut these Indian programs. Because it is an election year, this piece of legislation should move quickly through the Senate and into conference committee, where the House and Senate will hammer out a final bill.

Indian health care

In addition to education, legislation on health care will be introduced this session. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA), first passed in 1976, expires on September 30, 2000. This Act authorizes Indian Health Service (IHS) programs, which provide health care to qualifying American Indians and Alaska Natives who reside within IHS service delivery areas.

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) held a hearing March 8 on draft legislation that would reauthorize this Act. The draft bill was produced by a tribal steering committee in consultation with tribal leaders. The resulting draft legislation calls for many changes from the original Act which include expansions in mental health care and urban programs.

Tribal witnesses gave support for the draft bill, stating that it was the result of consensus and has received the support of Indian tribes and communities across the United States. The SCIA will be holding further hearings on this legislation later on in this session.

Indian economic development bill passes

On February 29 the Indian Tribal Economic Development and Contract Encouragement Act (S. 613) introduced by Sen. Campbell (R-CO) passed the House by a 406-2 vote. This bill, passed by the Senate in June of 1999, revises the requirement that contracts relating to Indian lands be approved by the Secretary of the Interior. S. 613 would give the DOI Secretary 90 days to review the contracts, after which the tribe could proceed with the project if no government action was taken.

Tribes often have a hard time securing contracts because of the delays they face waiting for approval from the Secretary of the Interior. This bill would eliminate that problem by removing the need for approval from the Secretary while still allowing the government to take action within 90 days if necessary. The bill also specifically eliminates any requirement that the Secretary approve a tribe's attorney selection and attorney fees.

For more information on these or other issues please contact the HONOR Advocacy Office at 202-546-8340 or email us at honor@dgsys.com.



President Clinton's FY'01 budget proposal includes a \$1.2 billion increase over last year's budget for Indian Country. (Photo submitted)

Congressional committee continued

(Continued from page 26)

vided adequate opportunities to come before the House of Representatives and discuss critical subjects with Members of Congress.

Over two-million Native American people, who have the worst housing, the worst roads, the worst health care, the worst schools, and the worst pollution—have no institution in this House of Representatives to advocate their case, to advance their issues, or to defend their interests full time. That should be unacceptable to the Demo-

cratic leadership of the Congress.

I believe that what is needed is a select Committee that exists specifically to address the needs of Native Americans whose health, economic security, legal rights, education and general well-being are the fiduciary responsibility of the Government of the United States.

Native Americans deserve one place in the House of Representatives with a full complement of supportive Members and expert staff dedicated full time to the needs of Indian country."



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Masinaigan

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For more information see our website at: www.glifwc.org.

Ojibwe Ceded Territories and Member Tribes of GLIFWC

