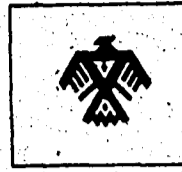


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A CHRONICLE OF THE
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APRIL 1985



At a press conference at Lac du Flambeau, representatives of both the Voigt tribes and the Wisconsin DNR announced the 1985 spring spearing agreement. Pictured above from the left are: Fred Ackley, Mole Lake; Tom Maulson, Lac du Flambeau; Mike Allen, Lac du Flambeau; James

Schlender, Voigt Inter-tribal Task Force Chairman, Lac Courte Oreilles; George Meyer, DNR Chief Negotiator; John Brasch, DNR Director, North Central District; Dave Jacobson, DNR Director, North Central District; Jim Adlis, DNR, Chief of the Bureau of Fish Management.

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'85 SPEARING AGREEMENT: "MEANINGFUL" or a "JOKE?"

More than any other interim agreement to date, the 1985 spring spearing agreement negotiated between the tribes and the Department of Natural Resources has received a hostile reaction from the various Voigt tribes, however, reasons for the reaction vary.

The spearing agreement was not ratified by two tribes, Lac Courte Oreilles and Bad River, and it barely passed ratification at Lac du Flambeau on a 111 to 129 vote. Red Cliff ratified the agreement, but will not participate in spearing and did not select six lakes. Mole Lake and St. Croix both ratified the agreement and exercised their spearing privileges.

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Chairman, Dr. Richard St. Germaine, called the spearing agreement "ridiculous," stating that the restrictions, especially on size limit were impractical. "It is clear that the DNR is making a mockery out of the whole process," he said. St. Germaine felt that asking spearers to measure their fish to be sure it is no more than 20" enters the realm of the ludicrous. The exercise of treaty fishing and hunting, he says, is overrestricted to the point that actual exercise becomes a joke. Overrestriction, plus rumors of violence, St. Germaine says, have discouraged Lac Courte Oreilles from exercising off-reservation spearing rights.

Restrictions in the spearing agreement seemed to be the major complaint among the tribes, with the exception of Red Cliff. Mole Lake's Tribal Chairman, Arlyn Ackley, said several of his tribal members were picked up for having fish 1/8 and 1/10 inch over the 20" size limit. The 20" size limit "isn't realistic," he said, and consequently the number of violations compound.

Ackley also commented on the harassment tribal members were receiving while spearing, and he said, "People at Pickerel Lake were threatening to kill Indians if they came on their lake."

St. Germaine's words were echoed by Bad River Tribal Chairman, Joe Corbine, who called the spearing agreement "ridiculous." Corbine said he hated to speak in those terms about an agreement which was the result of seven hard days of negotiations, but he said, "I guess that points to the problems we are having in negotiations."

Corbine also commented that Bad River did not ratify because of problems tribal spearers were already having with harassment in other areas and because of negative press the tribe had received in the past about the Gile Flowage. He said they saw a potential for danger, and haven't been involved on lakes before, so were "leary" of beginning to exercise under those conditions.



Lac du Flambeau held an informational meeting on spearing, having present biologists, GLIFWC wardens and DNR wardens, to prepare their tribal members for the spearing season.

Lac du Flambeau Voigt Task Force Representative, Tom Maulson, also called the size limit restriction "unreal." He said the opposition shown by tribal members to the spearing agreement as reflected in the 111 to 129 vote to ratify, was indicative of tribal members protesting over-restrictive limitations. Maulson says the number of citations being issued to spearing tribal members, almost entirely on the size limit, was predictable.

Despite problems with harassment on Lake McKenzie, St. Croix's Tribal Chairman, Eugene Taylor, feels the agreement is "workable." He feels there is a tendency on both parts, the non-Indian public and the tribes, to overreact to prove a point. Taylor does not view the agreement as being over-restrictive, however, he does feel that limitations requiring a reduced bag but allowing discretion on sale of fish would be more amendable for the fisherman. Several St. Croix members were cited for harvesting too many fish over the 20" size limit.

Red Cliff Tribal Manager, Thomas Gordon, said that Red Cliff with no interior lakes close enough in proximity, chose not to spear, though ratified the agreement. Red Cliff tribal members enjoy Lake Superior fishing, he said, but do become concerned over negative publicity which affects them and their area. Gordon objected to statements referring to "Indian warriors" if no spearing agreement was signed and overemphasis on treaty issues in lieu of other major tribal concerns.

Despite the many frustrations of the '85 spring spearing season, it is providing data for biologists and for negotiators to use as they consider future agreements. Did this agreement provide a "meaningful exercise of rights while protecting the resources," or was it, indeed, a "joke?"

SPEARING RULES

1. **Lakes.** Spear only in the six lakes designated by your tribe or in the lakes designated by one of the other tribes.
2. **Season.** Spear only during the seven-day period designated for the specific lake.
3. **Landings.** If you use an off-reservation landing it has to be one designated by the tribe.
4. **Hours.** Spearing is permitted dusk to dawn only.
5. **Streams and refuges.** No spearing is permitted in any streams and refuges.
6. **Inlets and outlets.** Spearing is allowed in the inlets and outlets of designated lakes; look for the markers showing where the inlet or outlet ends and the stream begins.
7. **Miscellaneous.** Live bait, waste, taking of endangered or threatened fish, use of poison or explosives, is prohibited. You must have a tribal ID with you, and you must cooperate with the creel census clerks and with state, local, and tribal wardens.
8. **Bag and size limits.**
 - Walleye: 20 per night, 20" maximum.
 - Note: One walleye of the 20 can be over 20"; on the Chippewa or Flambeau Flowages, two walleye can be over 20".
 - Musky: 1 per night, no size limit.
 - Bass: 10 per night, no size limit.
 - Note: Bag limit is for all species in aggregate.
 - Lake Trout: 4 per night, no size limit.
 - Sturgeon: 1 per season, no size limit.
9. **Sturgeon.** Any sturgeon taken must be tagged. Call your conservation department.
10. **Penalties.** Some violations, like fishing on a refuge, can lead to prosecution in state court as well as tribal court. Fishing in streams and catching double or more the bag limit carry minimum forfeitures: double the walleye bag—\$150 plus \$8.75/fish over double; musky—\$75/fish; sturgeon—\$400/fish; bass—\$125/fish double or more. Stream fishing minimum is \$150 plus a per fish forfeiture for each fish caught.

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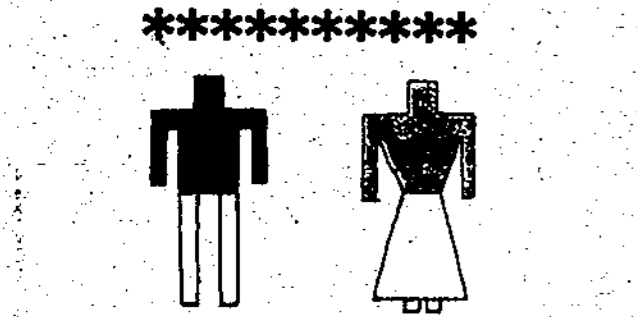
OPERATION UNDERSTANDING LAUNCHED



CAMPAIGN FOR TRIBAL SURVIVAL
 On March 27, 1985 the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Wisconsin Indian Resource Council announced plans for a joint educational outreach effort. Walt Brette, information specialist with the Commission, is one of the coordinators of the campaign. The following is background on OPERATION UNDERSTANDING: A Great Lakes Campaign for Tribal Survival.

Quite simply, this campaign is an acknowledgement of ongoing activities. We would like to give identification to ongoing positive efforts and make additional suggestions on direction. The theme of tribal survival has its most recent roots in the late seventies. Following the now famous "Boldt Decision," numerous treaty abrogation bills were submitted to Congress. Spearheading the seventies anti-Indian movement was the Interstate Congress for Equal Rights and Responsibilities (ICERR). Although headquartered in South Dakota, ICERR moved nationwide, with a particular emphasis in Washington State (Boldt). National Indian news reports of ICERR and congressional activity drew varied responses. There was "The Longest Walk" as well as various resolutions by local and national tribal organizations. Joe Delacruz, President of the National Congress of American Indians, developed strategies against the legislation. As Chairman of the Quinolt Tribe, he launched the Washington State Campaign for Tribal Survival. This time, ICERR is being joined by other groups, and based on the results of a Washington State referendum which passes (Initiative 456), we are at the beginning of a new era of legislative threats. Initiative 456 asks Congress to take away Indian rights—not only in Washington State, but in all states where treaty rights are being exercised. A bill, required by I-456 has been introduced in a senate committee. Although everyone agrees that it will go nowhere, some argue it is just the beginning of similar acts elsewhere. In an interview following the passage of I-456, a Washington Senator said that the I-456 sponsors are targeting similar measures in 23 other states. In an editorial in *Michigan Outdoors*, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) said that if I-456 passed, they will probably lead a similar drive in the 1986 elections. Similar-minded groups across the country are getting together in what's been recently termed the "National Anti-Treaty Network." These groups, including ICERR were active proponents of I-456. In Wisconsin, Equal Rights for Everyone (ERFE) recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby against the tribes. The Wisconsin Alliance for Rights and Responsibilities (WARR) contributed \$4,000.00 worth of paper to the 456 campaign. Despite these old and new anti-treaty groups, there is little concern yet that Congress will take them seriously. Lynn Greenwolt of the National Wildlife Federation said that a legislator would have to be out of his mind to introduce any abrogation bill. Nonetheless, their strategy continues—to line more and more states up against the tribes, eventually, they assume, Congress will be forced to act. Although the anti-treaty network is the most visible and blatant threat, there are other fronts the tribes must deal with in order to survive. These include reduced federal and state financial support, expanding populations on a limited land base, additional pressures on natural resources, continued benign neglect by all major institutions, and a lack of a unified tribal response. Out of this gloomy and uncertain scenario has come OPERATION UNDERSTANDING: A Great Lakes Campaign for Tribal Survival. A hook to hang a tattered hat, but one that promises some positive results.

OPERATION UNDERSTANDING
 The purpose of this campaign is to give shape and definition to already existing efforts by Wisconsin tribes. Another purpose is that, in light of the growing threats against tribal people, the campaign will suggest direction and scope of existing and new tribal initiatives. By framing our efforts in a campaign format, we'll be able to measure our effectiveness as well as provide specific areas where non-Indians can interact with tribes here in Wisconsin. The underlying strategy is to provide access to and information about Wisconsin tribal people. Although there may be reluctance to have this open door philosophy by some, the record clearly shows that as soon as the public gets adequate information, their fears give way to cooperation. This cornerstone of the campaign is the belief that through education, more and more people will view the tribes as protectors of the environment and essential, albeit different, elements of American society and democracy. The success of the campaign for tribal survival depends primarily on non-Indian people. If, after the various campaign activities have been implemented, the people of Wisconsin still view the tribes as threats, then there will be little more than waiting until the Wisconsin legislature joins the other states in petitioning Congress to abrogate treaties and terminate reservations. Despite this ominous future, the campaign coordinators are confident that citizens support rather than join the anti-Indian movement. In order to achieve this support, however, it will be entirely up to the tribes, their members and existing supporters. This will require sacrifice, additional work, extensive study and money. Like other campaigns, Operation Understanding is fueled by purpose, commitment, good management and dollars. If these factors are there, within two years Wisconsin will be a better place for all people to live, regardless of race, color, culture or politics—that is the goal of Operation Understanding.



HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?
 Below is a list of suggestions on how people can participate in Operation Understanding. We would like to recruit individuals and groups. If they write the Commission or WIRC, a packet of material will be sent them. With a contribution, a certified plaque will be sent which identifies them as participants in Operation Understanding.

- Sponsor workshops, seminars and forums on Indian issues;
- Invite tribal members to speak at your group's meeting;
- Review school curriculum to see if your children are getting an adequate education regarding treaties, tribal government and Indian history and culture.
- Educate yourself and become a speaker on behalf of Operation Understanding;
- Hold a fundraising event on behalf of the Campaign;
- Clip out, discuss and distribute articles about Indian issues;
- Make sure your school and local library has good materials—do a bibliography;
- Write the nearest tribe to let them know how you feel about the issues, both pro and con;
- Attend a pow-wow or other reservation event;
- Drag an Indian along to your next play, concert, meeting;
- Encourage local chambers and tribal governments to work together on tourism projects;
- Arrange field trips to local reservation programs—invite some to your community;
- Call 715/682-6619 or 715/346-2476 whenever you have a question;
- Send money—it's tax deductible!
- Write the Commission or WIRC if you'd like more details about Operation Understanding.

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES
 Achieving understanding is much easier said than done. Over the course of the next few years, the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Wisconsin Indian Resource Council will undertake a series of specific projects which is designed to open up communications. If communications ensue then understanding should result. Specific project areas are split between the two sponsoring organizations. WIRC, which represents the tribes as well as urban groups, will focus on social and cultural issues. The Fish and Wildlife Commission, which represents six Chippewa tribes who've recently won off-reservation treaty rights, will focus on treaties and resource management issues. The Commission will invite non-Chippewa tribes to join in the campaign. Both organizations will act as primary coordinators of information about Wisconsin tribes. Both will develop a variety of information directories which will be made available to the public. Also, both have developed a list of speakers which are available for civic organizations, schools, and other institutions interested in Indian issues. A mailing will soon go out to various interest groups requesting meetings between the tribes and these organizations. By the end of 1985 there should be no excuse for anyone in the State of Wisconsin to not know about Indian issues. Priority projects for WIRC include the publishing of a statewide newspaper about Indian issues, expanding their relationship with clergy, sponsoring leadership gatherings, meetings with other non-Indian groups, coordinating contemporary and traditional cultural events, and fundraising. The Commission is planning on publishing a book about the "Voigt" decision, developing additional educational materials for public distribution, hosting media and other tours on the reservations, and hosting public forums about treaty issues. The biggest goal for this segment of the campaign will be to meet with and plan for a conference with other environmental groups in Wisconsin. The target for a conference on environmental issues is late '85 or early '86. Obviously the key to understanding to get enough awareness about our goals. In addition to mailings and word of mouth, we must rely on the media to let people know our plans. We will be using TV, radio and newspapers to let people know how we can be reached. So soon, people will be seeing and hearing ads about Operation Understanding. Only if people call or write will we know if the campaign will succeed; we'll be standing by ready to respond.

NUKE WASTE MANDATE FOR TRIBAL INVOLVEMENT
 Despite this clear mandate for tribal involvement, only three tribes have achieved "affected" status. The Yakima, Umatilla and Nez Perce will be affected if the Honford site is chosen. Other tribes in the northwest and here in the midwest have been denied "affected tribe" status. One of the reasons given for denial is that some tribes are not "treaty" tribes, as the act states. Proposed Nuclear Regulatory Commission, opposed by NCAI, would even further narrow the ability for other tribes and groups to participate. A second concern was the fact that states such as Wisconsin are already receiving federal funding support as "affected states" yet tribes within those states are unable to receive a similar status. According to Leo LaFrenier, Vice Chairman of the Red Cliff (Wisconsin) Tribal Council, a meeting to address midwestern tribal concerns should be called. He said that he will raise this at an upcoming Indian Leadership conference and at the upcoming Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting in Duluth. NCAI will be hosting a session in early June on nuclear waste, with a focus on transportation. Corridor states and municipalities will be invited to meet with the tribes.



SPRING SPEARING ANNOUNCED

1985 SPRING SPEARING AGREEMENT
 Lauding both the tribes and the state for achieving a 1985 spring spearing agreement, spokesmen for both parties indicated at a press conference in Lac du Flambeau on April 3 that the agreement was reached after strenuous negotiations. The agreement provides that each of the six Wisconsin Chippewa tribes may select six lakes either border lakes or over 500 acres, on which to exercise spring spearing for a seven-day season. George Meyers, chief negotiator for the WDNR urged the public to review the spring spearing agreement carefully before making judgements. He warned that there may be a "strong knee-jerk reaction" but also said people must keep in mind that because the method is effective, it doesn't mean it will harm the resources. Meyers gave several reasons why he felt the spearing season would not be harmful to the resources and termed the agreement as a "strong resource protection agreement." For one, Meyers said, small numbers of people are anticipated to exercise this right, and spearing will be limited to larger lakes (over 500 acres) or border lakes. Bag limits are also established as well as a walleye size limit, and the DNR will be bringing large numbers of wardens to the area to monitor the season. He also noted that stipulations in the agreement prevent harvesting in streams, refuges or lakes used for research and disallowed the sale of fish as well as gillnetting. Minimum fines were also established. James Schlender, Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force Chairman, underlined the safety factors built into the agreement in terms of resource protection. He noted that the season would be monitored by Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) wardens in addition to DNR wardens and that biologists from both the DNR and GLIFWC would be on site assessing the harvest and the effect of the spearing season. Both Schlender and Meyers spoke of their fear of violence against tribal fishers exercising their rights. Meyers urged that anyone attempting to interrupt the exercise of treaty rights should "think carefully," as the agreement allows for an "orderly exercise of those rights."

NUKE DUMPS AND INDIAN COUNTRY
 On April 24 and 25 the Nuclear Waste National Indian Review Committee held a conference at the Leaning Tower Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sponsoring the conference was the Natural Resources project of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). Conferees included tribal representatives, CERT Council of Energy Resource Tribes, Interior BIA officials, Department of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, various state agencies and other environmental research groups. The following is a report compiled from the April conference.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Despite remaining technological and geological concerns it seems a foregone conclusion that sometime near the turn of the century, the United States will be "permanently" disposing of high level commercial nuclear waste. "The nuclear waste issue is a combination of below ground geology and above ground politics," said Russell Jim, spokesman for the Yakima Nation. Yakima, whose reservation boundary is 12 miles from the Honford nuclear site, is one of three Indian tribes designated with "affected" status under the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA). Jim and others called on other tribes to get involved in the siting process. The second permanent disposal site will be in crystalline rock. Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are all under consideration for the second site. The first permanent site has been narrowed to three sites. As reported by the U.S. Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the 99th Congress will receive three key documents from the DOE. These include a Mission Plan for permanent disposal, an interim MRS (monitored retrievable storage) proposal and a study of developing an independent waste management organization outside DOE. In this OTA summary report the role of tribes in the process is heavily underscored. According to some tribal leaders it is perhaps the clearest recognition of sovereignty recently articulated by the U.S. government. "NWPA requires DOE to engage in an extensive process of consultation with States and affected Indian tribes throughout the repository site selection and development process," states the report. "The Act gives the State or tribe the right to veto the President's selection of a repository site, a veto that can only be overridden by joint action of both Houses of Congress."

MERCURY CONTAMINATION: WHY AND WHERE?

But are the fish edible?

Following the designation of spearing lakes, both Lac du Flambeau and Mole Lake fishermen were surprised to hear from a DNR advisory that selected lakes contained fish with dangerous levels of mercury in them and were listed among the fifteen lakes with an "advisory" status—meaning unsafe for expectant mothers, small children, or to be limited to a half pound consumption per week. Mole Lake promptly changed from mercury-contaminated Lake Kentuck to Post Lake, and Flambeau switched from Trout Lake to Big St. Germaine. Tribal leaders from both tribes expressed concern that other lakes, yet untested, may contain mercury-contaminated fish. GLIFWC Chief Biologist, Tom Busiahn, says the DNR has agreed to test sample fish supplied by the tribes. If tribes are concerned about mercury contamination, they may contact GLIFWC and biological staff will collect fish samples for testing. Lac du Flambeau called for a seminar on April 19 to find out from DNR officials why area lakes are becoming contaminated. Bob Martini, DNR, Rhinelander, was there to provide information. According to Busiahn, who attended the seminar, the actual reason for contamination is undetermined. Usually mercury is produced by burning coal, as with power plants, and enters the atmosphere. It returns to the land and lakes carried in rain. Sometimes, mercury can come from the soil, but Busiahn says the infected lakes have no point sources for the contamination, such as a paper mill, near them. Some lakes also have a naturally high level of mercury. Unlike other contaminants such as PCBs, mercury lodges in the muscle tissue rather than in fat, and therefore is contained in the most edible portion of the fish. Mercury can be ingested by the fish, according to Dewey Schwalenberg, Director of the Flambeau Fish and Game Program, or can be absorbed across the gill tissue if it is in solution.

State-Protected Lands—Comparably significant to federally protected lands, state-protected lands, which are dedicated to resource preservation and were established prior to the enactment of the NWPA;

Population Distribution and Density—Highly populated areas and areas of 1,000 or more persons per square mile;

Deep Mines and Quarries—Rock and mineral resources greater than 100m in depth.

Step 2—This step applies to potentially adverse and favorable conditions specified by the DOE Siting Guidelines as scaled regional screening variables to identify the most suitable rock bodies/candidate areas that warrant further analysis in subsequent screening phases. Individual weights are associated with each variable in Step 2 to assign a relative importance to the variables and to help discriminate the most suitable candidate areas from alternate points of view on the relative importance of the variables. Step 2 screening variables are:

- Rock mass extent
- Major ground-water discharge zones
- Rock and mineral resources
- Seismicity
- Quaternary faulting
- Postemplacement faulting
- Proposed Federal-protected lands
- Population density
- Proximity to existing Federal-protected lands

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Lakes with high acidity will contain mercury in solution: Mercury is more likely to accumulate in older fish and in predator fish, such as walleye, northern pike and bass.

Normally, lakes have certain characteristics conducive to high levels of mercury. Busiahn says those lakes are usually not spring fed or surface fed with inlets and outlets, and they tend to be acidic. However, Busiahn also notes that Trout Lake is an exception because it is not acidic, rather is slightly alkali, and is spring fed with surface water flow. Also he notes the only fish in Trout Lake with a high mercury level are walleye. The lake, he says, may have a naturally high level of mercury.

Testing for mercury contamination entails a difficult chemical test, which is performed by the State Hygiene Laboratory at the UW-Madison for the DNR. Busiahn says the DNR has been accelerating the rate of testing over the past several years.

Schwalenberg emphasizes that considerably more information is needed to formulate sound conclusions regarding mercury contamination. He feels the DNR has closed lakes, in some cases, on the basis of two fish samples. But, he adds, "people do have the right to know." Schwalenberg thinks the issue may be blown out of proportion, because there is not enough data gathered as yet to make sound judgements.

On the other hand, Busiahn feels the DNR may have been "a little slow" in releasing information. He indicates that the data on Trout Lake fish, for instance, is already one and a half years old. Although the information was available, no advisory was issued based on that information.

Busiahn also commented that the St. Louis River tests found high levels of mercury in walleye and are considered on the "advisory" level of contamination. Some of these fish, he said, are harvested by Red Cliff's Lake Superior fishermen.

continued page twelve

DATA, DATA, AND MORE DATA...



INLAND FISHERY BIOLOGISTS: FENCE LAKE STUDY AND CREEL SURVEYS

The inland fisheries biologists, Neil Kmiecik and Bob Williamson, coordinated creel studies to be performed during the spearing season. Surveys took place on-reservation at Lac Courte Oreilles and Lac du Flambeau and off-reservation at St. Croix and Lac du Flambeau.

Data gathered through creel surveys provide the information needed to make decisions in regard to managing a fishery, according to biologist Neil Kmiecik.

Essentially, the survey monitors what fishermen catch—like fish species, number and size of fish caught, as well as how long it took to catch those fish. Through the acquisition and compilation of such data, biologists can provide important information in regard to the nature of the fishery.

Kmiecik says that the nature of a fishery which uses spears to harvest fish during spring is poorly understood. Increasing the knowledge of a spear fishery should provide biologists with the information needed to make responsible management decisions, he says.

Surveys are being performed jointly by GLIFWC wardens, tribal conservation departments, and tribal members hired to work-off-reservation. DNR is also cooperating by adding the information which they collect.

A creel survey is being planned at Lac du Flambeau for the open-water (non-spearing) fishing season and will be part of the Fence Lake Chain study.

FENCE LAKE CHAIN STUDY

Fyke netting, creel surveys and electro-fishing will all be components of the Fence Lake Chain study being coordinated by GLIFWC inland fisheries staff. The study is designed to provide detailed information regarding the fishery in that area. Estimating the population for walleye, and other game fish, if possible, is one of the targeted goals of the study.

The overall goal is to determine the impact of spearing on walleye and, perhaps musky. To determine this, biologists need to know how many fish are in the chain and how many are being taken by tribal and non-tribal members using different gear (spears, nets, hook-and-line).

The Flambeau hatchery crew, along with GLIFWC staff, will obtain spawning walleye by fyke netting. After fish have been spawned, the captured walleye will be weighed, measured, and have a scale sample taken, and be tagged prior to being released. The tagging will allow biologists to follow the progress of the fish by obtaining similar statistics if tagged fish are re-captured, either by anglers or by additional fyke netting during mid-summer.

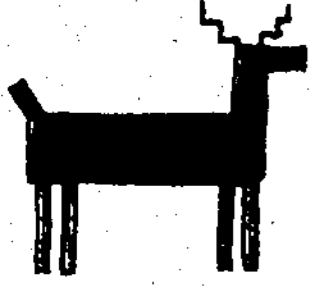
GLIFWC biologists, Bob Williamson and Neil Kmiecik, will be spending five weeks in Flambeau area this spring and four weeks in the fall working on the study. Additional staff has been hired, one to assist with the creel survey and one to assist with the electro-fishing for two months in the spring.

RESERVATION DEER SURVEYS

Spring deer pellet group surveys have begun on three reservations and one off-reservation management unit. These surveys on Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles and Lac du Flambeau have been conducted periodically in the past. However, consistent, systematic monitoring of wildlife populations is a necessary prerequisite to wise management activities.

The pellet group survey is one method of determining over-winter deer population levels. Other information on ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare will also be collected. The information gathered during these surveys will assist reservation personnel in the development of wildlife management plans.

In addition, data obtained will be used to assess the impacts of unregulated hunting activities on deer populations. This aspect is part of a larger study sponsored by the GLIFWC and assisted by a UW-Stevens Point graduate student.



GLIFWC biologist Tim Andryk (foreground) and Glen Miller, bird bander, set up a mist net aimed at snaring hawks and falcons as part of an annual survey. They, in conjunction with

Tom Doolittle, ornithologist from Cable and the Bad River Fish and Game Department, are banding raptors (hawks and falcons).

RAPTORS ENRAPTURE BIOLOGISTS

The study of the endangered peregrin falcon and the threatened merlins is the target of a cooperative raptor banding program recently begun in the Kakagon Slough, Bad River reservation. Raptors are birds such as falcons and hawks.

Tom Doolittle, free-lance ornithologist and museum naturalist for the Cable Natural History Museum, is working with the Bad River Fish and Game Department and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) in performing the study.

The Kakagon Slough area was selected, according to Tim Andryk, GLIFWC biologist, because it is one of the few places where raptors migrate in large numbers. Because the area hosts a large number of migrating birds (over 240 species have been documented), it is a natural drawing card for falcons and hawks.

This banding program, which will recur annually, provides information to biologists on migration patterns and population characteristics of the birds, according to Andryk. All information from the banding program is sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Banding Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland where the information is computerized and analyzed.

Banding permits are issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, but only to qualified individuals knowledgeable in banding techniques and expert in bird identification.

Andryk says the birds are caught in mist nets, specially designed nets for banding purposes. Live birds of non-native species, such as starlings and

pigeons, are obtained from research laboratories are used as bait. When the falcon or hawk descends to attack the prey, it becomes entangled in the net, from which it is carefully extracted.

The banding procedure is much like fishing. Legal bait is used and the hawks are mist netted as a result, and immediately removed from the nets. Banders, Doolittle and Miller, remain in a blind all the while the net is up, never leaving the site unattended. Banders are also required to record the number on the band, the kind of bird, its age, sex, size and parasite assessment.

Persons finding banded birds are encouraged to return the information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20810 with your name, the numbers and letters on the band, the date and place where you found the band and how you found the band. They ask the band is also taped to a sheet of paper and returned. However, do not remove bands from live birds. In this instance, read the number on the band, record it, and release the bird.

Andryk hopes the data obtained from the study and return of the bands will help wildlife biologists in their efforts to preserve the peregrin falcons and merlins and other birds of prey by understanding the patterns of their existence.

The banders are also monitoring the spring waterfowl migration in the Kakagon Sloughs with the assistance of the Bad River Fish and Game Department, which will provide useful information for management purposes.



Alligator Survey in Kakagon Sloughs

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GLIFWC represents a merger between the Voigt Task Force and the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries Committee. It is concerned with the protection of treaty-right hunting, fishing and gathering privileges.

The Commission also provides a staff of biologists which assist the tribes in assessing and managing the resources. Without this capability, the tribes would not be able to effectively self-regulate the resource which they are responsible to maintain.

Comparably, in the area of enforcement, GLIFWC provides wardens to the various tribes to assist with enforcement of regulations.

The Commission represents 10 member tribes in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota.

The Mole Lake Chippewa

SMALL "BAND" FEATURES BIG MUSIC

MOLE LAKE CHIPPEWA AND THE BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL



Being the smallest of the Wisconsin tribes hasn't prevented the Mole Lake Band of Chippewa from thinking big—especially when it comes to Blue Grass! In fact, the tribe has successfully hosted nine annual Blue Grass Festivals, drawing crowds which range between 35,000-40,000 fans—perhaps the largest event in northern Wisconsin.

The tribe, with an on-reservation population of 291 and a reservation totalling 1800 sq. acres, brings mammoth crowds of music-seekers each summer because they have also brought in the big names of Blue Grass entertainment to provide four consecutive days of the best music this nation can offer. Singers like Doc and Merle Watson, John Hartford and Bill Monroe have been on stage at the Mole Lake Blue Grass Festival—and will be returning for more.

Part of the charm of the Festival is the down-home feeling and "grass roots" atmosphere which is so in-keeping with the nature of the Festival. The arena is a large open field, equipped with a stage, concession stands and public facilities—but nothing fancy. It represents a time and place to be out in the open, enjoying not only the music, but the sense of nature and comradery with music-lovers who come from all parts of the country, and, yes, even all parts of the world.

The tribe offers free rough camping to visitors, and people usually start arriving the weekend prior to the event. Nearby towns also have accommodations. Tribally operated concessions offer a variety of menus to hungry people—from breakfast through supper, some offering more exotic cuisine such as venison burgers or Indian tacos.

The Tenth Annual Blue Grass Festival is now in the planning stages with the Festival being entirely run by the tribe, a Blue Grass Festival Committee

has been appointed to take care of the many organizational details such a large event entails. The Committee begins early, especially in lining up entertainers who must be booked well in advance. The Committee also prepares promotional materials and arranges for security which is provided by the tribe.

Besides benefiting the entire area's businesses through the swell of visitors who arrive, tribal members directly benefit through their concessions, which vary from food to traditional or non-traditional craft items. Proceeds from the Blue Grass Festival are returned to the Festival's fund to sponsor the next year's event, but have also contributed to tribal projects in the past, such as the purchase of land, a backhoe and buildings.

The Blue Grass Festival came to Mole Lake ten years ago when several promoters of the event approached the tribe for use of their reservation land. They had been turned down by the Nashville town board with a similar request to hold the Festival on farm land in Forest County. However, the tribe decided to okay the Festival plans. For the past seven years, the Blue Grass Festival has been entirely tribally run.

The Tenth Annual Blue Grass Festival is coming up on August 1-4 running from Thursday through Sunday. Some of the stars to be featured include John Hartford, Benny Martin, Tom Grizzly Adams, Jimmy Martin, Bill Monroe, Piper Roads Spring Band, J.D. Grove, Doug Kershaw, Jim and Jesse, plus many others.

The Tenth Annual Festival, like all its predecessors, will provide four big days of big sound with the big time singers, thanks to the continued push of the Mole Lake Tribe—a big effort for a small community.

MOLE LAKE'S ANNUAL GREAT NORTHERN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

RAIN OR SHINE FREE ROUGH CAMPING WITH ADMISSION TICKET



Planning early for the Tenth Annual Bluegrass Festival, the Bluegrass Committee meets regularly. They have the entertainers booked well in advance, but for a large event, there are many details.

THE SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA: THE STRUGGLE FOR THEIR LAND

"Sokaogon" is derived from the Chippewa words for petrified posts. Post Lake, which is unique because of large tree stumps rising from the middle of the lake was used earlier by tribal members to describe the area from which they came—near the lake with petrified posts. Consequently, the band has been referred to as the Sokaogon, but is also known as the Lakes Band or the Mole Lake Band of Chippewa.

The fight to retain their land, their ricing lake, their ability to subsist and their pride as Chippewa people is a centuries old tradition with the Sokaogon Chippewa, who occupy the smallest reservation in Wisconsin, known as the Mole Lake Reservation. What is lacking in size and numbers is made up for in determination and dedication to assure a future home for their children, a home belonging to the Sokaogon.

Currently, the Sokaogon, also known as the Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, feel their existence is being threatened by the proposed mining plans of Exxon Corporation, who seek mining privileges one and a half miles from the tiny reservation's boundaries. The impact on the only reservation ricing lake, Rice Lake, is feared as well as disruption to the reservation's ground water. With only 1700 acres of reservation to cherish and preserve, tribal members cannot afford to sacrifice the potential of resource devastation the mining project could entail.

The Mole Lake Band is still also pursuing the twelve square miles of reservation land promised to them in a 1855 treaty made and signed in Washington D.C. By Chief Great Marten. The treaty has since been lost, and the tribe was literally without reservation land until 1934. Following the Reorganization Act, the tiny plot surrounding Rice Lake was purchased for the then destitute band.

However, the necessity to fight for their land, for their rights to the resources is centuries old. In the 1700's the Sokaogon Chippewa regularly fought with the Sioux who also desired their rich ricing lakes, and later with the Menominee, who were relocated in the area. The fighting between the Sokaogon and the Sioux climaxed in the Battle of 1806 on the shores of Rice Lake, where over 500 warriors from both sides were slain in hand-to-hand combat. Receiving assistance in the battle from Chippewa warriors from other Great Lakes Bands, the Sokaogon, with a heavy death toll themselves, finally succeeded in defeating the Sioux.

Women and children hid in the hillside of near-by Mole Hill. Following the battle, they came out of hiding and buried the bodies of their slain on the slopes of Rice Lake. The spot is marked by a historical marker, standing on the reservation today.

By the time the Sioux were defeated, the encroachment of settlers—miners, loggers, furtraders, and farmers—was forming the next threat to the existence of the Sokaogon. In 1826 Sokaogon chiefs signed the 1826 Treaty which essentially defined boundary lines between the various warring Indian nations and identified the several Chippewa Bands as one nation—The Great Lakes Bands of Chippewa. Sokaogon Chiefs and Headmen participated in the signing of the cession Treaties of 1835 and 1842, as well, these were treaties which ceded land but reserved the rights to hunt, fish and gather on the lands.

MOLE LAKE

the Sokaogon Band of Chippewa. According to tradition the next generation to the Band was Gitshep or the Great Marten. Sokaogon Band came to hunt, and in the fall wild rice before they moved into the swamps of the winter season. of Sioux from the north in control of the rice to hand battle resulted with bows and arrows and hard battle. and Sioux were killed in a common mound. sive for the Sioux, who and never again attempted



Alice Randall, left, and former Chief Willard Leroy Ackley, stand by the historical marker commemorating the battle of 1806 when the Sioux were finally defeated and driven away from the precious ricing lakes of the Sokaogon. Randall and Chief Ackley are both remembered for their dedication to the

Typical of the Chippewa at the time, the Sokaogon were accustomed to following an annual migration pattern which was based on harvesting available resources. In the spring, the families would gather near Mole Lake to gather syrup from the sugar bush and then move north gathering berries and early rice as far up as Lac View Desert. In the late summer they would begin their journey south again following the deer herd and harvesting the later-maturing rice near Mole Lake. They would descend as far south as Peshtigo for the winter.

With this as an age old pattern of existence, it is little wonder that the Chiefs would never consider depriving their people of access to the lands and the resources which provided them a livelihood.

The Treaty of 1854, signed at LaPointe, accorded the various Chippewa Bands their reservation but omitted reservation land for the "Lakes" Band or the Sokaogon. The Sokaogon chief at the time, Chief Mi-gee-see, was unable to be at the treaty signing, but it is believed that Nig-gig, the head speaker for the Chief signed the treaty for him. Later, when Chief Mi-gee-see lead his band to L'Anse, Michigan to receive their share of payments, Chief Mi-gee-see called attention to the fact that Sokaogon received no reservation.

According to an account written by the late Chief Willard Leroy Ackley, a reservation was then agreed upon for the Lakes Band. Chief Ackley writes, "The officials asked him where he wanted his reservation. He replied by showing them a handful of wild rice, explaining that the territory he referred to had many lakes and streams in which this rice grew wild. He also told them there was a great quantity of timber, fish and game in this territory, besides the wild rice which he held in his hand... The officials agreed that this territory was the ideal location for the Sokaogon Chippewa. It was here in L'Anse, Michigan that the government officials gave Chief Mi-gee-see a map and patent of the Reservation with a metal marked 'President Franklin Pierce, 1853, Love, Virtue, Honor'."

tribe. Chief Ackley spent his life trying to reclaim the twelve square mile reservation once promised his forefathers. He died with a broken heart. His sister, Alice Randall, was Indian Woman of the Year in 1967, honored for her endless hours of volunteer labor.

Chief Mi-gee-see, or Great Eagle, lived only a few years after receiving the map for the twelve mile square reservation. Following him, Chief Wau-be-ski-be-ne-se lead the Sokaogon tribe. According to Chief Ackley's account, Chief Wau-be-ski-be-ne-se left to receive a payment in Peshtigo in 1873 and gave the medals, patent and map to William Johnson, a fur trader, for safe-keeping. Before William Johnson died, he gave the articles to Henry Strauss who sent them to Washington, D.C. to be recorded.

Later in 1896 Indian Agent Scott, Ashland, Wisconsin, visited the Band with an offer of a forty acre reservation around Rice Lake and a large piece of land north of the lake, but Chief White Eagle did not respond to his offer. One of his speakers, however, told the agent that the Chief wanted the amount of land promised to Great Eagle. The agent said he would take the matter up in Washington, but nothing was heard after that.

Successive Chiefs to the tribe have all worked hard to re-establish their claim to the twelve square miles promised them as reservation land. Chief Mesabe, or Edward Ackley, visited Washington, D. C. in an unsuccessful attempt to secure the long-promised reservation. Meanwhile, the people wandered, essentially homeless on the land which was becoming more and more populated with white settlements. Families stayed with those few tribal members who were fortunate enough to have secured property of their own.

Chief Willard Ackley, becoming a fully recognized chief in 1919, continued the quest for reservation land. According to Ackley's account, in December, 1934 he and his people were called to Ashland, Wisconsin to discuss the Reorganization Act. Commissioner John Collier then asked Chief Ackley where he would like a reservation, and the present location around Rice Lake was named. Following that, they agreed to buy the reservation for the Sokaogon Band—a reservation amounting to 1700 acres of land.

Since that time, Chief Willard Ackley took up the treaty claim case on a legal basis. Lawyers were acquired in 1937 and the Sokaogon approved another legal contract in 1862. Today, under the leadership of Chairman Arlyn Ackley, the quest for the promised reservation lands continue, along with the fight to protect the land currently possessed by the tribes from potential devastation by mining interests.



Tribal council members are elected every two years. Above the council holds a regular monthly council meeting. Members are from the left: Roger McGeshik; Arlyn Ackley, Chairman; Em

manuel Poler, tribal secretary; and Volgt representatives, Archie McGeshik, Sr.; Garland McGeshik. Not shown are George Poler, Jr., treasurer and Fred Ackley, Sergeant-at-arms.



EXXON: THE LATEST THREAT

TREATY RIGHTS VS. MINING INTERESTS

Several questions related to treaties are being raised as the Sokaogon seek to protect their land and its resources. One centers around the 1855 Treaty which, according to the oral history of the tribe, afforded them a twelve square mile reservation, which would encompass the mining site near Crandon. The Sokaogon feel they have a right to settle their treaty claim issue prior to the mine being developed. However, Exxon says that the corporation holds clear and undisputed title to the land.

Another consideration may be the implied rights to the resources on ceded territories as affirmed through the Volgt Decision. The legal ramifications of the tribe's rights to harvest fish, game, and rice may also give it a legal handle to protect the resources on the land from depletion by mining projects. Treaty rights may, indeed, be a significant weapon for environmentalists across the country, giving the tribes the authority to intervene in treaty-protected resources or habitat are threatened.

Support for the Sokaogon's right to settle their treaty claims came from the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, who own stock in the Exxon Corporation, in a way of the following resolution in 1983. The response of the Exxon Corporation's Board of Directors is also given below:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATION

AGAINST this proposal.

In 1975, Exxon discovered a major zinc/copper deposit at Crandon, Wisconsin. In the ensuing several years, Exxon has obtained title to the relevant lands and the rights necessary to develop the deposit. Exxon's title to these lands and rights to the mineral deposit are clear and unencumbered. Exxon has filed an Environmental Impact Report with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The process of obtaining necessary permits to develop the mine is expected to take two or three years. In view of our clear title, Exxon does not believe it should delay the permitting process.

Accordingly, a vote AGAINST this proposal is recommended.

Currently, the Exxon Corporation is in the permitting stage of its operation, seeking permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop its mining operation. The Sokaogon, not likely to drop their cause, are waiting to see if permits are granted. This will determine their next move. The next phase of what will be termed the Sokaogon's battle for survival.

Not only mining may threaten reservations and surrounding lands, according to Arlyn Ackley, Mole Lake Tribal Chairman. Ackley also encourages tribal leaders to be aware throughout the State of Wisconsin of plans for nuclear waste dump sites as well as increased mining interests in other areas from his experience in battling mining interests at a local level. Ackley notes that other reservation lands, or adjoining lands may well be prime target for such pursuits.

Al Gedicks, Director of the Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy, Madison, also notes in an article appearing in the North Country (Nov./Dec., Summer/Fall 1984), that the Lake Superior region is considered a "prime place for mineral deposits... Its Precambrian glacial rock is believed to be some two billion years old." The nature of the rock which may make it rich in minerals or good "dumping" grounds. Al Gedicks also notes that the scope of the search for minerals in the Lake Superior region is emphasized by that fact that more than 40 multi-national organizations have leased mineral rights of more than 900,000 acres in the region.

The search, Gedicks feels, has fallen disproportionately upon Indian reservations—the Chippewa, Potawatomi, Menominee, Stockbridge, Munsee and Oneida. "The reason for this, Gedicks says "is that the Indian reservations were set up on areas of glacial rock, considered worthless for farming."

Gedicks continues to warn that "If Exxon gets the go-ahead, the entire northern two-thirds of Wisconsin could be made into a colony both for mining (including uranium) and for storage of nuclear wastes."

Because of the increased interest in the Lake Superior region over the recent years, both by mining companies seeking leases and by considerations of areas for nuclear waste dump sites, Ackley feels tribes should stand up and take note—the threats to reservation lands may be more imminent than believed.



STOP—the sign in front of roads leading to Exxon's exploration sites are clear mounted atop locked-gates. Mole Lake's

message to Exxon is the same—for the sake of our children—STOP!

Since the Exxon Corporation first became interested in the Crandon area for mining pursuits in 1969, the small Sokaogon Band of Chippewa have had to think very long and hard about their future. Consequently, they have been involved in extensive studies on the impact of mining for the past decade.

The potential benefit of mining to the community, such as jobs, increased populations and business, plus the possibility of mining on the reservation, have had to be weighed against the potential of their land and ricing lake being devastated by mining wastes and their social fabric destroyed. As with any issue, not everyone on the Mole Lake reservation agrees on what may be best for the tribe.

However, Tribal Chairman, Arlyn Ackley, clearly opposes the mining project and view it as jeopardizing the future of the entire band through contamination of the resources—the resources which comprise their heritage. Ackley points out that the 1800 acre reservation is their homeland. It contains the burial grounds of their forefathers, and a rich ricing lake which has provided the wild rice they have used for generations both for subsistence and for religious purposes. The question arises: How can you replace a homeland? Where would the Sokaogon have left to go should their land be depleted or overrun in a mining boom?

Several threats to the reservations primary ricing lake, Rice Lake, exists if the proposed mine were to go into operation. For one, the mine-dewatering operation could eventually lower the water table of the lake. But, more seriously, the disposal of mine wastes in a series of tailings ponds could contaminate the lake. Water removed from the surface of the tailing ponds will be treated and discharged into Swamp Creek, a tributary of the Wolf River which feeds Rice Lake and cuts diagonally across the Mole Lake reservation.

Other considerations in terms of negative impacts of the mine on the reservation include gas emissions and dust from hauling, noise, erosion and sedimentation, and ultimately, exposure of tribal members to contaminants found in the plants, water and animals they consume.

Resource contamination is only one consideration, however. Ackley is also concerned about the

effect of a large mining operation could have on the social and cultural existence of the tribe. A report prepared in 1980 by a private consulting group, Coact Research Inc., seemed to indicate the mining operation could, indeed, undermine the social cohesion of the Sokaogon band.

Among several conclusions in the Coact report were these:

- The "already marginalized economic and social status of the Sokaogon...will be further marginalized from social and economic interaction with the influx of white mine workers...in the Exxon mine...The social dislocations brought about by intense competition with white mine workers for jobs, recreational pursuits, fishing, hunting, wild ricing, etc., may well spell the end of Sokaogon Chippewa tribal cohesion and solidarity.
- Increased land use conflicts will arise causing local jurisdiction to impose land use restrictions, restrictions which will "limit expressions of tribal identity" because "Indian culture, lifestyle and social cohesions are closely tied to the land."
- If the mine is approved and tribal members currently living in urban areas move back to the reservation in hopes of receiving mining jobs, the problems surrounding the current housing shortage will be exacerbated.
- The Exxon mine "is more likely to exaggerate the unemployment and economic problems of the tribe than remedy them. The prospect of Exxon jobs and prosperity is liable to attract many more tribal members back to the reservation than there are actual jobs for."

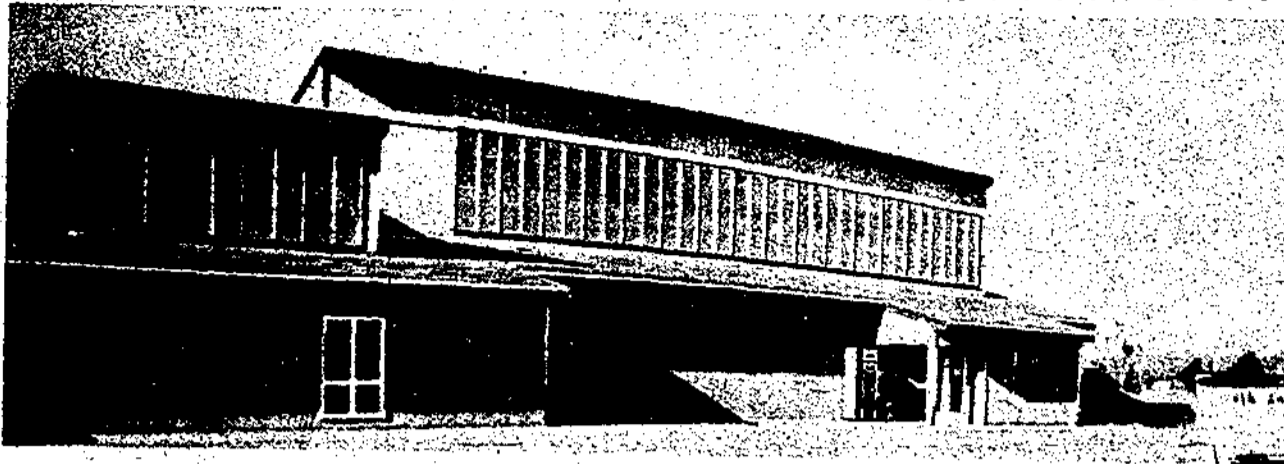
As one Sokaogon tribal member put it, "We have been fighting for our rice lakes since 1806. We have been fighting for 179 years to secure our right to the lakes. And now, in 1985, we are still fighting." And Mole Lake will continue to fight even so formidable a power as Exxon, known for its worldwide mining interest, lobbying strength and wealth. However, today the battles are legal—and treaties may well be the most valuable weapon of the Sokaogon.



Rice Lake, noted for its abundant wild rice harvest, is green with rice stalks during the summer season. Sokaogon fear that

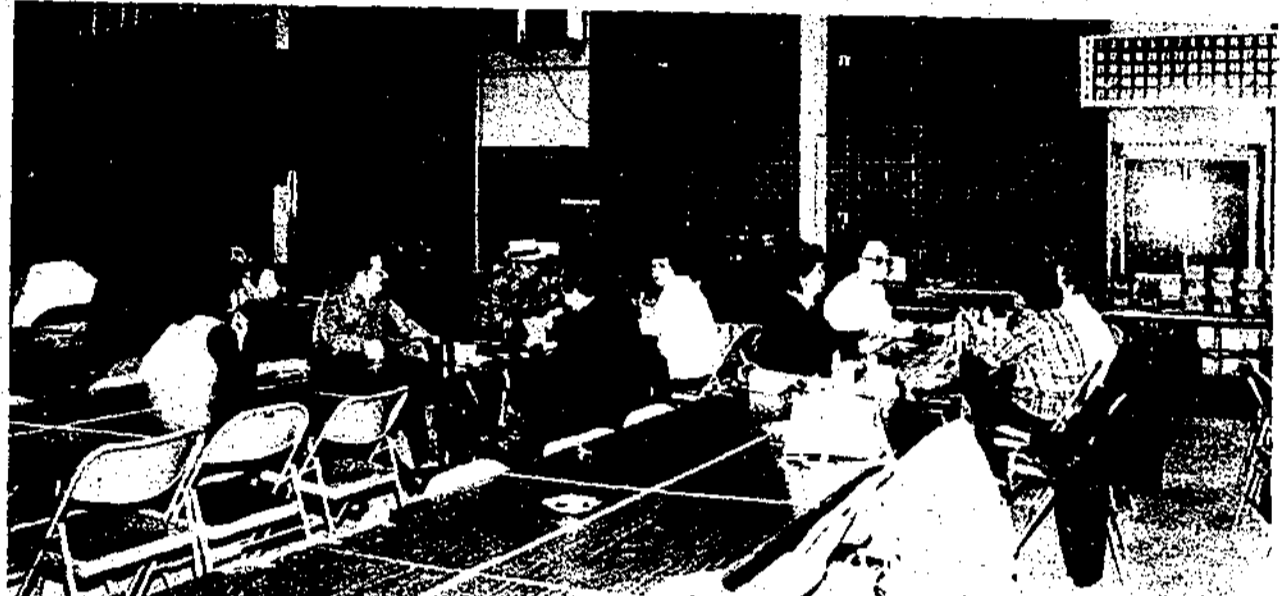
this, one of their few sources of the now precious wild rice, may be polluted by contaminants from the Exxon mine should it ultimately be permitted.

MOLE LAKE IN PROGRESS



New on the Mole Lake scene is the tribally run grocery store. Located several miles from the Town of Crandon, the store will certainly be a convenience for tribal members.

Inside the store, a person can find a little of everything, from soup to nuts. Besides being a convenience, it offers another source of employment.



BINGO—Big business for Mole Lake. The tribe runs regular weekly bingo games three nights a week. Above, people arrive early for an early round of games.



The elderly housing unit above provides comfortable apartment-style living for five elderly Mole Lake residents.



Assuring that the elderly are cared for is part of the Chippewa tradition. Mole Lake maintains an elderly feeding program. Above elders enjoy a noon meal prepared by cook, Elaine Bumell.

From the left and going clockwise are: Frank Smith, Earl Smith (driver), Archie McGeshik, Jack McGeshik, Hank VanZile.



Mole Lake Tribal Chairman, Arlyn Ackley

TRIBALLY RUN GROCERY STORE—New on the Mole Lake scene is the tribally-owned and operated grocery store. Besides providing employment to tribal members and offering the potential of profit to the tribe, the store represents a real convenience to reservation residents who no longer have to travel eight miles down the road to Crandon for daily necessities.

CENTRAL WATER SYSTEM—Residents of the Mole Lake community will soon be benefiting from a central water supply system. For some years, various homes throughout the reservation have had trouble obtaining suitable water for their needs. The central system should alleviate the problem for all.

TRIBAL COURT—Mole Lake is initiating their first tribal court system. The tribe changed the constitutional by-laws to give jurisdiction over the ceded territory. Judges, Honorable Fred Ackley and Honorable Deborah Van Zile will be presiding over the Mole Lake Tribal Court. Both judges have received training at the Judicial College, Reno, Nevada. The tribe has designated a room in the administration building to be used as a tribal courtroom.

NEW HOUSING—Forty new housing units are in the works for the Mole Lake tribal members. According to Arlyce Sparks, Executive Director of housing, five two-family, two bedroom duplexes are to be first on the agenda, followed by thirty more for which she has program reservations. One problem in housing development on the small reservation is finding percolable land. Potential sites for the housing are being tested.

ARTS AND CRAFTS CO-OP—A developing enterprise for tribal members is an Arts and Crafts Co-op, initiated by Judy Poler. Poler's interest in crafts is part of the heritage left her by her grandmother, Alice Randall, who was a skilled weaver and was able to earn from her weaving. Poler has been looking for a project which would offer herself and other interested tribal members an earning opportunity with some continuity. She attended a workshop on a co-op and has since obtained a kiln, clay and molds for the beginning of ceramic projects. Much of the effort has been financed through donations. Poler hopes to make ceramics a base product for the co-op but also include weaving and other home-produced items.

NEW DRUM—In attendance to things spiritual rather than material, tribal members have completed a new dance drum. They have also acquired a new pipe and new tobacco pouch for religious ceremonies. According to Frances Van Zile, Assistant Administrator of the tribe, the "people felt the need for the strength of a new drum—new strength, new courage—a need to be re-vitalized."



Judy Poler is initiating an Arts and Crafts Co-op at Mole Lake. Above she examines the new kiln to be used in the production of ceramics. She also has the clay and several molds to begin the project.

EXXON MINE: ECO-DISASTER

Exxon's proposed underground zinc-copper mine near Crandon, now in the final permitting process, is an ecological and economic disaster waiting to happen.

Located at the headwaters of the Wolf River watershed in Forest County, the proposed mine will generate an estimated 31 million cubic yards of acidic mine waste over the 20-year life of the mine. These wastes, or tailings, will contain high levels of sulfides and other heavy metals (arsenic, lead, zinc, cadmium, copper, mercury) which will be stored in tailings ponds covering more than 600 acres. Each pond will be 90 feet deep.

The technology for waste containment on this scale is at its infancy. Any seepage or sudden discharge of these toxic materials will quickly find its way into the groundwater and eventually into the Wolf River through the many lakes, streams, marshes and wetlands of the area.

An Exxon engineer once told a group of visitors to the mine site, "This is the worst place in the world to build a mine."

Neither Exxon nor the DNR has evaluated the possibilities for a major accident such as a tailings dam failure. Exxon says it simply won't happen so it doesn't need to be evaluated. This is the kind of technological doublespeak that leads to Love Canal, Churchrock, Times Beach and Bhopal.

Exxon claims that its tailings pond design will remain viable for hundreds of years but their lawyers were careful to draft state regulations which relieve mining companies of financial responsibility 10 years after closure of the mine. Under current state regulations, Exxon has no financial incentive to reduce the volume of the toxicity of the waste that will be generated.

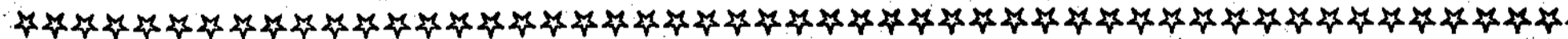
Exxon has in fact rejected a proposal for removing the hazardous sulfides from the waste before placing them in the tailings ponds. This technology is already available and would cost about one percent of the total mine project costs. From Exxon's point of view, this socially responsible investment is "uneconomic." By the time serious health and environmental problems begin to show up Exxon will have collected its profits and be long gone.

Exxon has tried to divert attention from the environmental problems by stressing the supposed economic benefits of the mine in the way of jobs and taxes. This argument is highly suspect.

The December 17, 1984 issue of *Business Week* ran a cover story on "The Death of Mining." The article stated that mines all across the United States were shutting down because of depressed metal prices, declining grades of ore and competition from lower cost Third World producers. Exxon's own mining division has reported substantial losses every year from 1971 to the present. Since Wisconsin's net proceeds mining tax is based on corporate profits, it is clear that if there are no profits, there will be no tax money generated. If there are problems with the mine there will be no tax money available for environmental repairs, victim compensation, etc.

Al Gedicks, author of this opinion, is director of the Center for Alternative Mining Developing Policy, 1121 University Ave., Madison, Wis. 53715.

Gedicks' article ran in the North Country Journal, Vol. 1, No. 1 and is reprinted with his permission.



WAUSAU — The Tribal-County Committee, which met April 10 in Wausau, is jointly sponsored by the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and the Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Council (WITC) and was established in order to provide avenues for tribes and counties to explore cooperative projects and an opportunity for open dialogue. Shown above are committee members, five representing the tribes and five representing the counties. They are from the left, bottom row: Larry Gleasman, Dane County Supervisor; Jack Miller, Chairman of the WITC;

Gene Taylor, St. Croix Tribal Chairman; Charles Tollander, Burnett County Chairman. Standing, from the left: Mark Rogacki, WCA Executive Director (non-committee member); Hillary Waukau, Menomonie County Administrator; Joe Corbine, Bad River Tribal Chairman; George Schroeder, Outagamie County Chairman; Al Skinner, Polk County Chairman; Richard Gurnoe, Red Cliff Tribal Chairman; Tony Lorbitske, Oneida County Chairman; Ray DePerry, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Executive Administrator (non-committee member).

COUNTY/TRIBAL COMMITTEE: "COMMON INTERESTS"

The first meeting of the County/Tribal Committee, held at Wausau on April 10, registered a commitment on the part of both tribal and county representatives to find avenues where the tribes and counties can work to improve life for all in Wisconsin. Of particular concern was the need to replace animosities, which spring from the reaction to the Voigt decision, with a spirit of cooperation and good faith.

face-to-face negotiations with good faith and an opportunity for open dialogue.

The meeting was largely organizational in nature, setting ground rules for committee action. Jack Miller, Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Council Chairman, and Charles Tollander, Chairman of Burnett County, were appointed as co-chairmen of the committee.

Other areas of mutual concern were also mentioned. Jack Miller, WITC, indicated a need for both counties and tribes to collectively secure more federal dollars to serve them mutually. Environmental protection, with the problems of acid rain and consideration of Wisconsin as a radio-active waste depository site, were also cited as high priority items.

Specific issues to be addressed by the committee will be discussed at the next meeting, scheduled for May 17. However, a prevailing concern of most representatives was the promotion of tourism and the need to combat the negative publicity generated by the reaction to the Voigt decision. Committee member and Dane County Supervisor, Larry Gleasman, said the committee's work should assure an even brighter future for all people of Wisconsin. "We all share the same land, the same state, and our common interests outweigh our disagreements," he stated.

Chairman Tollander stated that he feels the county/tribal committee is forming a county/tribal relationship hitherto absent; whereas state-tribal and federal-tribal relationships have already been augmented.

Comparably, Hillary Waukau, Administrator for Menomonie County and Menomonie Vice Chairman, indicated the need to work out problems through

Chairman Tollander stated that he feels the county/tribal committee is forming a county-tribal relationship hitherto absent; whereas state-tribal and federal-tribal relationships have already been augmented.

The next meeting, with place to be identified, will more specifically define issues for negotiations and provide a statement of purpose, spelling out the specific nature of the committee's activities.

The committee is jointly sponsored by the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Council. It was formed as a result of a recommendation stemming from the WCA sponsored conference on treaty rights held last summer in Cable.

PUBLIC LANDS RESOLUTION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, previous studies of the status of native Americans have not extensively examined the impacts on non-Indians living in or near Indian reservations, and

WHEREAS, Indian reservations substantially impact the lives of non-Tribal member populations living within or near such Indian reservations, and

WHEREAS, activities on Indian reservations substantially impact the natural resources of non-Indian lands within or near such reservations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Counties requests that a new Presidential Commission be appointed by the President of the United States to study the impact of federal Indian policies on non-tribal member populations and natural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association of Counties supports the features of such a Commission as outlined in a February 25, 1985 letter to President Ronald Reagan from the S/SPAWN Committee on behalf of voters of Washington State and other concerned U.S. Citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association of Counties recommends that membership on the proposed commission include representatives of county elected officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission propose comprehensive federal legislation to resolve jurisdictional disputes.

RESOLUTION ON THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN RESERVATION ECONOMICS

WHEREAS, county officials have presented their views regarding Indian reservation economies at official hearings of the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Counties strongly concurs with the findings in the final report of the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the support of the National Association of Counties for the findings in the final report of the Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies be communicated to the President of the United States.

NACO CONCERNED ABOUT INDIAN IMPACT ON NON-INDIANS

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION BACKS TREATIES

Wisconsin Rapids, WI—The effects of treaty rights was one of numerous agenda items at the 37th annual conference of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The conference was held on April 19, 20 and 21 at the Mead Inn here in Wisconsin Rapids.

On Saturday, April 20th the conference heard a panel entitled "Treaty Rights and their Effects." This is the second year in a row the treaty rights were addressed by the conference.

Panelists included: Walt Bresette, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission; John Plenke, Law Enforcement Supervisor, WDNR Northwest District; and Lynn Greenwalt, Resource Conservation Department, National Wildlife Federation.

Both Bresette and Plenke reiterated the circumstance surrounding the Voigt decision and also discussed the on-going negotiations between the Chippewa and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Greenwalt, a former Interior Official when the Boldt decision came down, talked about impacts of treaty rights on resources.

He said that too many who are concerned about treaties are arguing from an emotional and not a factual basis. He said that if sportsmen are concerned about resources, there are far more important issues than treaties which are threatening.

He added that no congressman in their right mind would introduce treaty abrogation legislation, and he doubted that, even if such legislation passed, that it would be better for the resources.

Greenwalt cited the recent Washington State referendum (known as Initiative 456) as an example of emotional rather than factual response to treaty issues. Initiative 456 is an initiative that directs congress to review treaties. Greenwalt said that I-456, even though passed, is unconstitutional according to every attorney he's talked to.

In a news story by the Milwaukee Journal, it was reported that a resolution requesting congress to review treaty rights was not acted on by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.



CROSS-DEPUTIZATION: A Continuing Issue

Achieving cross-deputization is a major concern of GLIFWC Chief Warden Mike Cardinal. Cardinal says it's at the top of his priority list because it is imperative for effective enforcement capabilities.

Cross-deputization would give Commission wardens the authority to enforce state laws. Currently the state has the authority to enforce tribal agreements and state laws.

Primarily Cardinal says that wardens need the authority of cross-deputization in order to question people in the field and not be held liable. "They need more protection to do their job," he says. Considering that asking a white if he/she is an Indian is a racial slur, wardens are often presented with situations where their ability to investigate and enforce is deterred.

To date, Cardinal feels that the DNR has been delaying action on the cross-deputization issue and fears that delay will continue to be their ploy.

Cardinal says the DNR has objected to cross-deputization in the past on the basis that GLIFWC wardens are not certifiable. This argument is founded on regulatory language which does not include tribes in recognized "political sub-divisions."

Cardinal says, however, that Head of the DNR Law Enforcement Division, George Meyers, has indicated cross-deputization is possible if certification is acquired within a year.

Meyers has indicated to the GLIFWC that the subject of cross-deputization will be continued to be explored once open-water fishing negotiations conclude.



It's a long, long way down from the top of that white pine, but osprey insist on being at the top of things. GLIFWC biologists

Tim Andryk and Jonathan Gilbert assisted LCO Conservation Department mount four osprey platforms such as this on the reservation.

LOFTY HOMES FOR THREATENED OSPREY

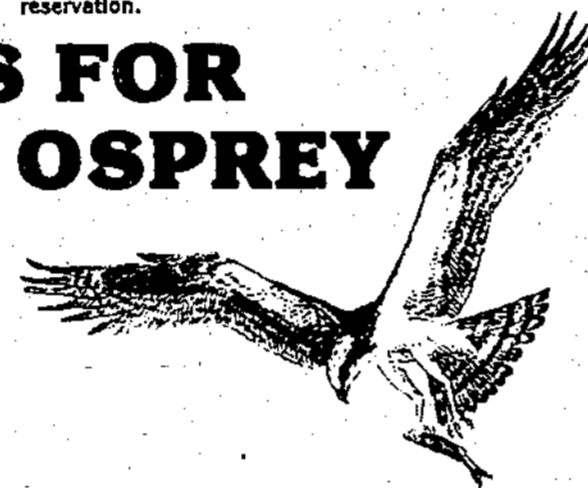
At the request of LCO Conservation Warden, Frank Lynk, GLIFWC biologists, Jonathan Gilbert and Tim Andryk, assisted the tribe with the construction and siting of four osprey nesting platforms this spring. The platforms will become permanent nesting places, supplementing and replacing deteriorating natural nests.

Osprey are listed as an endangered species by the State of Wisconsin. They are raptors, like eagles and hawks, with a wing span of approximately 4 to 5 feet. In 1983 only 172 active nests were counted.

According to Andryk, the birds have largely been threatened by the ingestion of toxics, such as DDT, in the fish they eat. The toxics caused thinned eggs which would never hatch, leaving the osprey with an inability to effectively reproduce.

Another problem for the osprey has been the loss of nesting sites. Osprey choose sites on the tops of the tallest trees adjacent to a body of water, as they survive almost wholly on fresh fish. However, the nests have been vulnerable to winds and fall from their high perches.

Andryk says the osprey are beginning to return, responding to increased regulations, such as the banning of DDT in 1970. However, the birds need to be encouraged, and the sighting of convenient perches, such as the platforms, can be a lure to returning osprey.



The platforms have to be placed on the very top of one of the tallest white pine at the water's edge. Osprey insist on a high perch so they cannot be harassed by other birds such as starlings and crows. Crew scale the trees, saw off the very top and bolt the platform to the trunk. A few sticks are usually scattered on the platform as well, says Andryk, in an effort to make the place look like home to an osprey.

Andryk says the platforms have proved to be more successful breeding sites for the birds than their natural nests as they are more stable and likely to withstand severe weather conditions.

Several osprey platforms are also being planned for the Bad River Reservation next year. Andryk and Gilbert hope to get a contract to provide osprey platforms for the ceded territory of northwest Wisconsin.

WESTERN MICHIGAN WATERS: MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Management recommendations for the shared inter-tribal commercial fishery in Western Michigan waters of Lake Superior await ratification from the councils of the three participating tribes—Red Cliff, Bad River, and Keweenaw Bay.

The recommendations prohibit any more than six large boats (greater than 28 ft. in length) to fish in the area at one time, and allow no more than two from boats from each tribe. However, it does not prohibit any one tribe from allowing more than two large boats to fish in the area during the fishing year, so long as only two boats from each tribe are in the area at any given time.

The number of boats and specific boats to fish in the area from each tribe will be determined by that tribe.

Small boats (under 28 ft. in length) are permitted under this agreement, but they must abide by their respective tribal commercial fishery regulations when fishing in the area.

The lake trout quota for the area will be 60,000 lbs. dressed weight, with 43,000 lbs. from management unit MI-2 and 17,000 lbs. from MI-3. The lake trout quota for each tribe is as follows: Keweenaw Bay 30,000 lbs.; Red Cliff 15,000 lbs.; Bad River 15,000 lbs. Quotas for the specific large boats will be allocated by their respective tribes. Once a boat's quota is reached, they will have to stop fishing in the area.

The recommendations also require that all lake trout be tagged before being taken off the boat, and the tag must remain on or with the fish at all times. The Keweenaw Bay tribe agrees to supply all the necessary tags to the fishermen.

All fishing for lake whitefish and lake trout shall cease between October 11 and November 20, with nets being removed by October 10. Should weather prohibit the removal of nets, fishermen must contact their respective conservation offices with that information and remove the nets as soon as possible. Fishing for whitefish and lake trout will commence again on November 21.

Each tribe is responsible to establish conservation codes through their tribal councils which allow conservation officers from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Red Cliff, Bad River, and Keweenaw Bay to enforce these regulations. All violations of established regulations will be prosecuted in the tribal court of which the accused fisherman is an enrolled member.

The Red Cliff Fisheries Department will contact all fish wholesalers in the area weekly to obtain a record of the lake trout and lake whitefish sold to the wholesaler by all fishermen fishing in the area.

For specific regulations, fishermen should contact their tribal conservation officers or the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. Also a model code and agreement is in the drafting process.

FLAMBEAU HATCHERY PRODUCTION...UP, UP, UP...

The Flambeau Fish Hatchery has not been at a standstill during the winter. In fact rainbow, brown and brook trout were hatched in December and raised to the fingerling stage over the cold winter months—that is 150,000 brook trout, 15,000 German brown trout, and 1,000 rainbows.

With the onset of spring, however, the winter's fingerling will have to move out of the building and take up temporary residence in the hatchery's rearing ponds, where they will stay until ready to be stocked. Hatchery manager, Willis Allen, explains that the extra time allotted to the fingerlings in a protected environment increases their chance of survival once in the lakes.

Currently, the hatchery is busy with the spring spawning season. Allen says the hatchery typically gets the brood stock from eight lakes, but they stock fish regularly in about fifty on-reservation lakes. Flambeau's stocking program includes species such as walleye, musky, and trout.

According to Flambeau's Fish and Game Program Director, Dewey Schwalenberg, the hatchery always re-stocks lakes from which they have taken spawn, returning well above the 10% minimum to each lake from which eggs were taken.

Last year Schwalenberg says the hatchery produced 27 million walleye fry, 10,000 walleye fingerlings; approximately 8,000 brown trout (stocked in Fence Lake); and 330,000 adult, 6-8 lbs. lake trout (stocked in Little Trout Lake).

The goals for this year's hatchery and stocking program include the production of 30 million walleye, one million musky eggs, two million northern pike and five million white suckers. Schwalenberg says this is the first time the hatchery will be culturing northern pike.

Overall the hatchery has been returning considerable numbers of fish into reservation lakes. Since 1960, statistics show that the hatchery has put into about fifty lakes: 321 million walleye fry; 3.2 million walleye fingerlings; 575,000 musky fry; 97,000 musky fingerlings; 49,000 hybrid musky fry; 7,000 hybrid musky fingerlings; 17,000 lake trout; and 10,000 brown trout.

Five 200 foot runways are under construction at the hatchery. Once completed, either later in 1985 or in 1986, they will provide space for continued expansion of this already successful and productive hatchery.



Willis Allen, hatchery manager, feeds trout fry.



Maturing trout occupy one of the indoor raceways at the Flambeau Hatchery. Five 200' raceways are presently under construction.



Brood stock, used for spawning, occupies another indoor raceway. That's a net full of big fish.

Theno poll finds anger over treaties

BY MARC PERRUSQUA Staff writer

About two-thirds of northern Wisconsin residents favor abolishing or renegotiating Indian treaties, state Sen. Dan Theno, R-Ashland, said Monday.

Theno recently conducted a survey and said its results may be used in the growing effort by many Wisconsin residents to have Congress review treaties that grant Indians separate hunting, fishing and gambling rights.

"I don't think anyone in society

should get special benefits because of their ancestry," Theno said at a press conference in Superior.

Theno said he surveyed about 7,000 of the 150,000 people living in his seven-county 25th Senate District. The district includes Douglas, Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, Sawyer, Washburn, and Barron counties.

One of the questions on the survey — which is expected to be made public in about two weeks — dealt with Indian treaties. The survey was conducted by mail.

Theno said he would forward survey results to members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation, and also said he could use the survey to lobby federal officials for treaty changes.

"I do think (the treaties) ought to be reviewed and maybe terminated if that be the determination of the U.S. Congress," Theno said. Only Congress can make or break treaties.

Indian treaties have come under intense criticism by many white residents in northern Wisconsin

since the controversial Voigt decision in 1983, when a federal judicial panel reaffirmed an 1837 treaty allowing Indians to hunt, fish, trap, and gather wild rice off reservations on public land in the northern third of Wisconsin.

Many critics of the court ruling say it allows Indians special privileges and that such treaties are obsolete.

"I don't have any adverse feelings toward Indians at all," Theno said. "But (the treaties) perpetuate a state of discrimination."

The following is a response to Senator Theno written as an editorial by co-editor, Sue Erickson.

I would like to respond to the comments from Senator Dan Theno (R-Ashland) on the issue of Chippewa treaties in his recent opinion survey. I have some fears regarding his motives and tactics.

Frankly, I fear that Senator Theno is looking to the not-to-distant '86 elections and has an issue by the tail which looks like a "sure winner," according to his poll. With that in mind, he and other like-minded politicians find it beneficial to keep the old fires burning over treaty issues to ensure themselves of popular campaign rhetoric once the time draws nigh.

I find this frightening because so many positive and reconciliatory actions have been taken at various levels of government and in communities across northern Wisconsin, addressing problems caused by the reaction to the Voigt decision and overuse of it as an issue in the 1984 campaign.

To mention a few of the constructive measures which have been taking place in the wake of the '84 "war in the woods" publicity about northern Wisconsin, Indians and non-Indian leaders have formed working groups or appointed committees to seek cooperative endeavors in the Lac du Flambeau-Minoqua area, Lac Courte Oreilles-Hayward area;

between Bad River and Ashland County; between Crandon educators and social service workers and Mole Lake leaders. Also, the committee proposed by the Wisconsin Counties Association recently met with representatives of Wisconsin counties and Wisconsin tribes. Their purpose was to perpetuate harmony, diffuse the aura of hatred and hostility which has hung over northern Wisconsin, and seek avenues of cooperation and understanding. Taking advantage of the treaty "dispute" with an eye to an election issue could shatter the efforts of so many and lead us backwards down a crooked path.

If the populace applaud abrogation or termination measures, it is not because it is right to break treaties, nor because the tribes have damaged the resources while exercising their rights, but rather due to a lack of information, misinformation, or, in some instances, a response stemming from racism.

If discrimination is the issue, it would be real discrimination to allow a majority, by popular poll, to remove the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of a minority. The role of Senator Theno is not to lend credence to such thinking, but see the need for re-education and encourage cooperation for the good of the north.

At Christ's trial, an opinion poll would have registered 95% for "crucify." Pilate has never been applauded for yielding to the sway of the crowd.

THERE'S ALWAYS A WRONG WAY TO GO ABOUT IT





William Judd (center), U.S. Forest Service Ranger, recently presented copies of the 50-year plan for the management of the

Chequamegon National Forest to GLIFWC staff and Bad River Fish and Game Department staff.

50-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Odanah—Long range planning through the year 2030 for the Chequamegon National Forest is proposed in a 50-year management plan prepared by the U.S. Forest Service.

The four volume packet being circulated by the U.S. Forest Service contains both an environmental impact statement and the proposed plan, both ready for public comment.

William Judd, U.S. Forest Service ranger for the Chequamegon National Forest, recently presented copies to biological staff at the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Bad River Tribe.

Judd said the plan was ordered to be prepared by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and though it looks at forest management for multiple use over 50 years, is basically specific to the first ten year sequence.

The development of the plan began shortly after the 1976 directive and entailed soliciting concerns from the public and identifying various issues. This was achieved through public meetings, comment forms and individual contracts. Eventually, twenty-four categories of issues, concerns and opportunities were identified.

From that information Judd says nine separate alternative plans were devised, the present proposed draft being the chosen alternative.

This plan was selected on the basis of several considerations, including the best resolution of management problems, harmonious land-use patterns, cost efficiency, and improvement or maintenance of local income and employment.

Judd says that the draft plan emphasizes recreation, sawtimber and the production of aspen. The plan basically calls for more large size hardwood or sawtimber on less acreage and increased dispersed recreation, such as more trails.

There will also be an increase in semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation and developed recreation areas, as well as increased hunting and fishing opportunities. Although the forest will have more roads in 50 years, the increase will not be as rapid as it is under the current plan.

The Forest Plan will guide management of the Chequamegon National Forest's resources by establishing management direction and long-range goals, according to Judd, by specifying standards, vicinity and timing of practices needed to achieve the plan's direction.

It also provides for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the direction is being carried out and to evaluate the effect. Ten-year cycle updates are part of the requirement for such evaluation.

The basic intent of the plan is to provide management for multiple uses—recreation, wood, water, wildlife, wilderness, fish, forage, energy and mineral resources—to provide "the greatest long term public benefits."

The U.S. Forest Service is encouraging public participation and comment on the plan requesting that all written comment be submitted by July 5. After necessary changes to the draft, a final plan will be written detailing strategy for managing the forest for the next ten years.

NTCA:

WARNS OF INITIATIVE 456

Initiative 456 and the report from the President's Commission on Reservation Economies were several of many concerns discussed at the annual National Tribal Chairmen's Association meeting, held in Miami, Fla., on April 14-19.

Bad River Tribal Chairman, Joe Corbine, one of several Wisconsin chairmen in attendance, said that updates, forums and workshops were held on a host of topics of concern to tribal leaders.

One of those issues, he said, was the Washington State Initiative 456. Corbine said that speakers encouraged tribal leaders to recognize the potential seriousness of Initiative 456 and the damaging ramifications it could have on tribes. He felt there was a call for the tribes to unify nationally and get together in order to combat this initiative as well as others which may arise in various states threatening the states of treaties and tribes.

Gaming on reservations was another major topic, with tribal chairmen listening to several proposed pieces of legislation relating to tribal gaming. Education, self-determination contracts and alcohol and drug abuse were among other topics discussed. Workshops were also held on oil and gas leasing as well as water rights, an issue which may potentially affect Lake Superior tribes.

Corbine says considerable discussion also centered on the slashes to reservation programs, such as housing and education, which have been dealt out by the Reagan Administration. Also, he says, the NTCA will respond to their report from the President's Commission on Reservation Economies, stating that many chairmen feel the Commission's recommendations may contribute to termination of Indian tribes and of federal obligations to the tribes.

A new Board of Directors was elected. New officials are: Richard LaFromious, President; George Tallchief, Vice-President; Robert Youngdeer, Secretary; and Roger Jim, Treasurer. The representative to NTCA from this region is Richard St Germain, LCO Tribal Chairman.

Corbine says he is encouraged by the direction and initiatives currently being taken by NTCA and feels the new board will take affirmative steps in bringing the diverse interests of the tribes together.

Corbine also feels it is important to remain active in NTCA as it is an opportunity to share problems and perspectives with tribes from across the country and build relationships on a national basis. It also gives recognition to the specific concerns of a tribe, such as Bad River, which may otherwise go unnoticed.

However, he also feels that NTC has an obligation to be more vocal on issues affecting tribes as part of its responsibility to provide support to its members.

NUKE WASTE

continued from page three

THE SITE SELECTION PROCESS

The potential sites for the first dump is Honford in Washington State (basalt); the Nevada Test Site (tuff or compacted) volcanic ash; and, salt domes in Deaf Smith Country in northern Texas. Each of these three sites will undergo "site characterizations" with one being selected by 1991.

The second permanent repository will be selected five to seven years after the first site. Criteria for site selection will be similar to the first and also include:

- 1) Sites identified as potentially acceptable but not nominated for the first repository;
- 2) Sites characterized but not chosen for the first repository site;
- 3) Sites found potentially acceptable from rock formations (i.e., crystalline) not previously studied in the first repository selection process.

There are 17 states being looked at for the crystalline rock repository, all in the eastern United States. These include Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in the north central region; other regions are the northeastern (9 states) and the southeastern (5 states).

According to a DOE report, 15 to 20 areas in four to six states will undergo additional scrutiny. By 1986, DOE will begin area phase field work. In 1991 they will nominate sites for characterization and recommendation. And, in 1996, the President will recommend a site for the second permanent repository.

The commercial nuclear fuel cycle includes activities for preparing and using reactor fuel and for managing spent fuel and other radioactive wastes produced in the process. It was originally intended that spent fuel be stored for 6 months in water-filled basins at reactor sites to dissipate thermal heat and allow decay of short-lived fission products. The spent fuel would then be reprocessed and the resultant liquid high-level waste solidified and disposed of in a Federal repository. Since no repository has been developed and no commercial reprocessing is being done, spent fuel will remain in storage until repositories are available to close the nuclear fuel cycle.

NCAI MANAGES DOE CONTRACT

Gail Chehak and Robert Holden are staff persons to the NCAI Nuclear Waste Indian Review Committee.

According to NCAI "interest in the repository siting and transportation of radioactive wastes through or near Indian lands prompted NCAI to apply for DOE funding." The contract is to:

- 1) provide tribes with information about the Nuclear Waste Policy Act;
- 2) serve as liaison between government agencies and the tribes; and,
- 3) to develop policy position and technical papers.

NCAI has subcontracted the transportation part of the DOE contract to CERT (Council of Energy Resource Tribes) located in Denver.

For additional questions about transportation issues, contact Fred Millar, Environmental Policy Institute, 218 D Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

For more information, write NCAI Natural Resources, 804 D Street N.E., Washington, D.C., 20002, or phone 202/546-9404.

