

PRESS RELEASE

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ODANAH – The Bad River Tribe received a Tribal Heritage Grant Award to develop a virtual tour and associated museum exhibit, centered on the Anishinaabe perspective of the importance of the Kakagon Sloughs.

The National Park Service (NPS) chose the Bad River project as one of 12 preservation projects from across the country to receive an award in its 2021 funding cycle.

“Through these competitive grants the NPS is able to work with American Indian Tribes, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities to help preserve their cultural heritage and connect people with traditions of the past,” said NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé.

Edith Leoso, Bad River Tribal Historic Preservation Officer is the Project Manager and Megan Powless, THPO Assistant, leads the effort to facilitate the project. The exhibit will be located in the Tribe’s newly renovated Culture and Education Building.

“Our project emphasizes the importance of the Kakagon Sloughs, a National Natural Landmark, and wetland of national and international significance Ramsar site” Leoso said. “The exhibit will not only provide the important environmental role the Bad River/Kakagon Sloughs has within the Bad River watershed, more importantly, it will highlight our historic relationship with Manoomin (Wild Rice) that centered us in this beautiful place in Creation.”

Leoso believes that the project will be a year or more in the making. Her primary objective is to educate and inspire a desire for knowledge about Creation from an Indigenous perspective.

“It is not unusual for local residents, especially youth, to not have an opportunity to see the Sloughs,” Leoso said. “Or if they have seen it, they may not have the historic and cultural context associated to our Tribal history, which explains why the Sloughs are so important to protect and preserve.”

The educational virtual tour and exhibit, funded through the Tribal Heritage Grant Program (THGP) through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) administered by the Department of Interior - National Park Service (NPS) will be easily accessible in Odanah at the Culture & Education Center next to the Chief Blackbird Center/GLIFWC building along US Highway-2.

Those wanting to know more about the virtual tour and museum exhibit can contact Bad River’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office at (715) 682-7123, or email, THPO@badriver-nsn.gov.