

COMMON GROUND

Overview of Manoomin 2023 Season Events

Daniel Powless Sr., Manoomin Oshkaabewis - manoomin@badriver-nsn.gov

Manoomin program activity was on hold until my return to work from medical leave on July 10th.

Wiigoob preparation took place for bundling in the following week along with site visits to the sloughs and slow-no-wake buoys removed by the hatchery crew on July 26.

Three new members were added to the wild rice committee: Ron Parisian Jr, Ben Connors Sr, and Matt Deloney at the

Connors Sr, and Matt Deloney at the August 1 council meeting bringing it to 7 members.

The Manoomin Blessing feast took place at the hatchery on August 9. Approximately 40 people attended. During this event it was evident that the rice was returning to the area above



Continued on page 9...

ᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ

2023 DAGWAAGIN EDITION



Special points of interest:

- *Manoomin Program Updates*
- *Climate Change Update*
- *Bad Rivers Burning and Fire Prevention Ordinance*
- *IRMP Survey Updates*
- *Nixle Alerts*

Bad River's Burning and Fire Prevention Ordinance

Nathan Kilger, Air Quality Specialist - airquality@badriver-nsn.gov

All burning and fire use within the exterior boundary of the Bad River Reservation is regulated in Chapter 367 of the Bad River Conservation Code.

Burning permits are issued by the Bad River Conservation Wardens for burn barrels and burning piles of wood (trash and recyclables must be disposed of properly and may not be burned). Permits must be signed and valid before using fire, list safety restrictions, and apply to all property within the exterior boundary.



Continued on page 3...

Inside this issue:

Climate Change Impacts on Reservation	2
Bad River Emergency Response Tabletop Exercise	3
Project Reviews: A Necessary Nuisance	4
IRMP Survey Flier	5
Ornithology Updates	6
NIXLE ALERTS	7
Introductions	8
Land Office Updates	10
Forestry Updates	11
Summer Climate Summary	12

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON THE RESERVATION

Jillian Lojas, Climate Change Specialist - Climate@badriver-nsn.gov

This Summer, people around the country experienced multiple climate change driven events. Here on the Reservation, we lived through heat-waves, spring flooding, and our air quality was affected by smoke from the Canadian wildfires. But what does this mean for life on the Bad River Reservation?

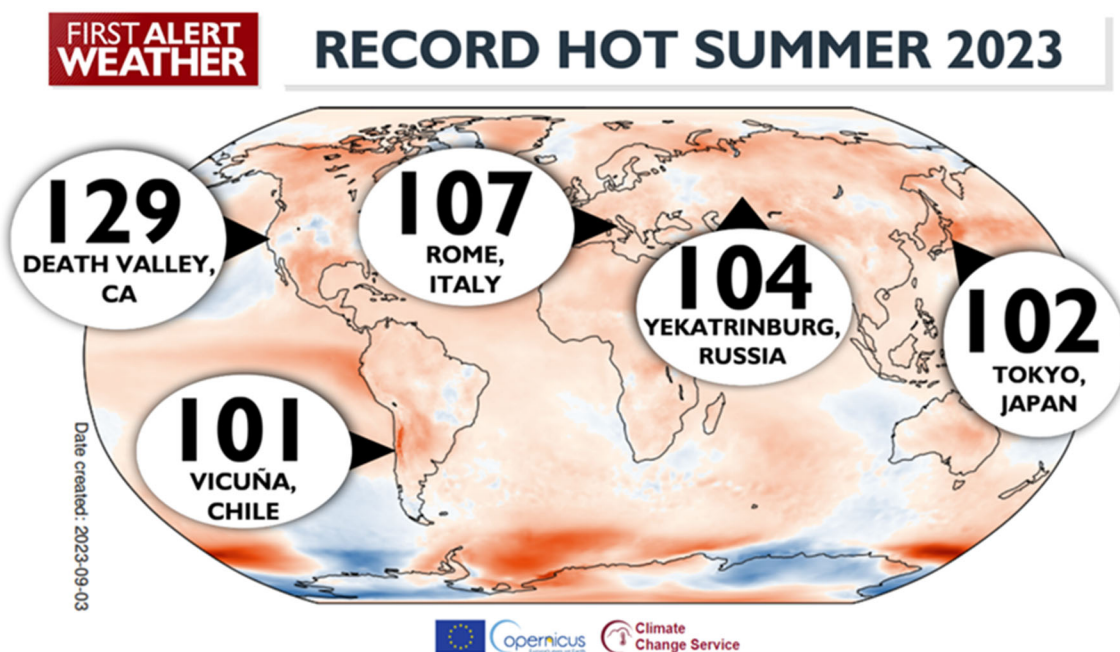
Temperature Increase:

Our Winters are warming twice as much as the other seasons we experience here on the Bad River Reservation. Over the next century, Northern Wisconsin temperatures are projected to increase between three and nine degrees. This is dependent on future greenhouse gas emissions. If we can lower our emissions over time, we won't experience as drastic of a temperature increase.

Precipitation Changes:

Our annual precipitation rates are increasing. Over the last century, our late fall and winter seasons have experienced the largest increases with more precipitation falling as rain than snow. Extreme precipitation events are expected to occur more frequently as climate change continues. Heavy rainfall has significant impacts on soil moisture, depth of snowpack, frozen ground duration, flooding, and surface runoff.

Rainfall trends vary across the state, but Northern Wiscon-



sin now receives around two more inches of annual precipitation than it did a century ago. This is expected to increase by up to an additional three inches by 2100.

Wildfire:

By the end of the century, wildfires are projected to be more frequent and burn more acres. Land use and management decisions will influence whether we experience that increase here in Northern Wisconsin. Larger, less managed forest areas will likely be the first to burn.

Please reach out if you have questions about climate change impacts, and please take the time to complete our survey to help us update our Integrated Resources Management Plan. (See page 5 for details)

Bad River's Burning and Fire Prevention Ordinance continued...

Smokey Bear on US Highway 2 in Odanah is updated with current fire danger levels. When fire danger rises or when fire weather reaches critical levels, Smokey Bear will reflect that danger. If fire danger becomes high enough, Wardens or the Fire Chief may issue a burning ban.

Chapter 367 is posted on the Bad River Tribe's website with some of the basic guidelines and restrictions highlighted on the website: <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/burn-ordinance/>

Outside of the Reservation boundary, Wisconsin regulations and Wisconsin permits are needed for fire

usage. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources also issues burning bans for those areas. More information for areas outside of the Reservation can be found on the Wisconsin DNR website.

In Wisconsin, 98% of wildfires are started by human activities. Fire safety is paramount for our homes, communities, and the health of the environment.



Bad River Emergency Response Tabletop Exercise

Andrew Spychalla, Brownsfield Specialist - Brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov



On July 19th, 2023, the Bad River Band hosted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for an all-day emergency response tabletop training. Federal on-scene coordinators (spill responders) from EPA Region 5 led the sessions during the day-long exercise. The hypothetical scenario that was developed by EPA, with the help of MNRD staff, revolved around a spill of oil from Enbridge Energy's Line 5 pipeline into the Bad River during a summer flood. This flood event in some ways mimicked the flood of 2016 on the Bad River Reservation.

The first half of the day was solely Bad River staff and contractors, Tribal Council members, and the EPA. The goal of the morning session was to determine how the Tribe would respond to such an emergency event. Everything from the equipment we possess, to the knowledge we share, to the roles and responsibilities of certain staff and departments, was discussed. Lists of important topics and follow-ups were



US EPA On-Scene Coordinators setting the scene.

kept; things to be looked into further, or changed in the future to make such a response activity a little easier. In total, there were approximately 40 individuals from various departments of the Bad River Band who attended the morning session. It was great to see everyone communicating with each other and bringing different perspectives to the "table."

...continued on page 9...

Project Reviews: A Necessary Nuisance

Jessica Strand, Environmental Specialist - environmental@badriver-nsn.gov

In August 2018 Tribal Council approved MNRD implementing a Project Review Process for development and other projects within the Reservation. Two of the purposes of the Project Reviews were: (1) to ensure proposed projects met the requirements and conditions of tribal codes (i.e., laws) before proceeding, and (2) to provide an applicant a single approach to getting their proposed project reviewed. In 2021, MNRD advanced the process, moving to an electronic application online that would help streamline the process for both the applicant and Department staff in the hopes of providing a more effective and efficient review for the applicants.

Over the 5 years since the Project Reviews Process was implemented, MNRD received 301 project review applications. While the review of these projects has not necessarily always gone as smoothly as everyone has hoped for, the need for and importance of these reviews has not diminished. From those applicants who have experienced hiccups in a process we have yet to perfect (but we're trying) we've heard both frustration and suggestions. We have taken those suggestions into account as we work to improve the system and we will continue to do so as we are aware that the process is not perfect.

However, even if the process isn't perfect, through it we are protecting and sustaining the Reservation and its earthly gifts for the Seventh Generation. Project Reviews allow MNRD staff to ensure that the Tribal codes and ordinances are followed, which helps protect the land, water, plants, and animals from unnecessary impacts from a project.

Project Reviews are necessary for almost all projects* proposed within the

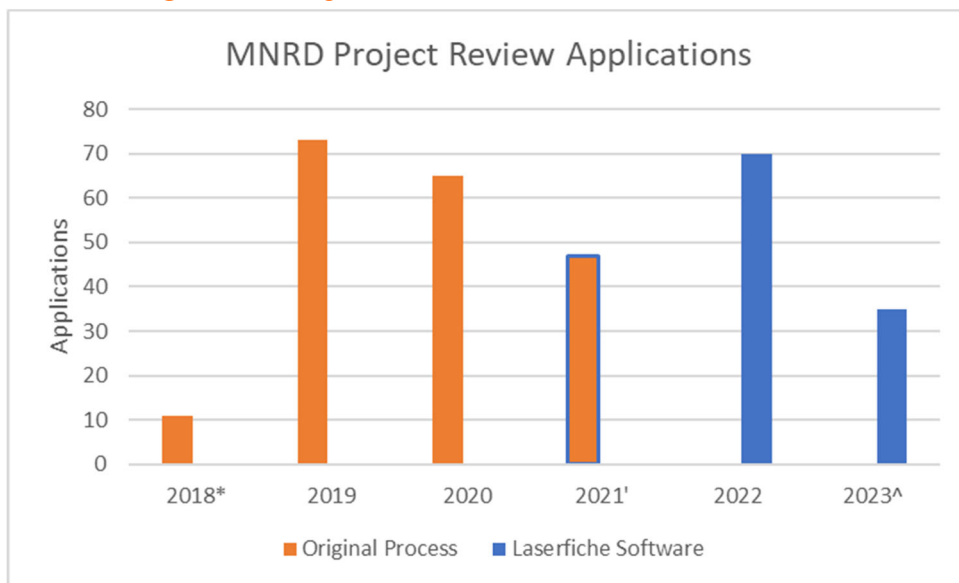


Figure 1. The number of Project Review Applications received by MNRD from August 2018 to September 2023. In 2018* there was only 5 months of data; in 2021' the applications were both in the original paper-based format and the electronic Laserfiche software; and, in 2023^ data only goes through September 8, 2023.



Figure 2. Across the world, areas where there are fewer or less-enforced environmental protections have seen environmental degradation, like these rainforests that are being removed to make way for palm oil and rubber plantations. Photo by Richard Whitcombe via iStock

external boundaries of the Reservation, regardless of land ownership type (fee, trust, tribal, private, etc.). This is because the Tribal codes and ordinances that MNRD is tasked with also apply to all lands within the Reservation.

especially making it more timely for tribal residential projects, we hope the community will begin to see the benefits of having the process in place that allows us to look at a project and assess site-specific and ecosystem impacts to holistically care for the aki

While we work on improving the process,

...continued on page 6...

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!!

**FAMILY
CAMPING SET**

**2 NIGHT CABIN
STAY
ON
MADELINE ISLAND!**

**FAMILY
FISHING SET**

~Provide Your Input Today~

The Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department is working on revising the Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP) from 2001. We would like to incorporate the thoughts and input of the community to make the document wholistic, relevant, and representative.

Please take the time **today** to provide your thoughts and get entered for a chance to win some great prizes!

Please provide Name and Contact info at end of survey to be entered in prize drawings.



Please take the time to provide feedback to MNRD to use in the revision process by snapping the QR code or visiting this link:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7154905/Mashkiiziibii-Natural-Resource-Department-IRMP-Revisions-Community-Feedback-UPDATED>



Questions? Call our office at 715-682-7123. Hard copies available.

Chi miigwech! We are excited to hear your thoughts and improve our stewardship of the resources for you and seventh generation

Project Reviews: A Necessary Nuisance continued...



Figure 3. Development in wetland or in floodplain can have unexpected consequences, both for an applicant and adjacent or downstream habitats and residences. Experts and MNRD can help identify these issues in a Project Review to hopefully avoid or mitigate these problems.

(land) and nibi (water) that makes this place a healthy home for so many beings. Our aim is to help implement sustainable growth that benefits the community, allowing current and future generations to thrive here on the Reservation.

If you have any questions about the Project Review Process, comments, or any suggestions on what types of outreach and informational materials might help clarify the process and guide applicants through it, please reach out to us at 715-682-7123 or email your thoughts to DNRrecept@badriver-nsn.gov.

Ornithology Update

Louis Lozinski, Ornithology Specialist - ornithology@badriver-nsn.gov

Birds are generally known to be good parents, watching over their children and caring for them until they're ready to fly. That isn't always the case though, and the parents may abandon the nest for various reasons, whether it is due to predators getting into the nest, or the birds being harassed. Early in the plover season, there was one such case where the parent plovers had abandoned the nest due to the male having a second nest away from his first one. Since plovers are endangered and every bird counts, a nest abandonment was of great concern and, because of the diligence of the plover monitors, immediate action was taken to save the eggs. We quickly boated out to Chequamegon Point, where the eggs had been sitting for 5 hours without either of the parent birds checking on them. Since no parents were present when we got there, the eggs were placed on some sand in half



of a take-out container so they wouldn't roll around. For keeping the eggs at the right temperature, I am unfortunately a human, and thus not able to sit on the eggs to incubate them in the same way a parent plover would, so they were temporarily kept in a cooler converted into an incubator. They had to be held over night before being driven over to Michigan where the eggs can be incubated in captivity until they eventually hatched and fledged. All 4 chicks did hatch and make it to adulthood. They even made history as they were released in Green Bay, Wisconsin, becoming the first plovers released outside of Michigan.

The rest of the plovers did well, with 4 total nests on Chequamegon Point, and 9 total chicks fledging to adult hood. The father of the abandoned nest even improved his parenting skills and raised 3 chicks from his second nest to adulthood by the end of the season.

Sign up for Nixle Alerts



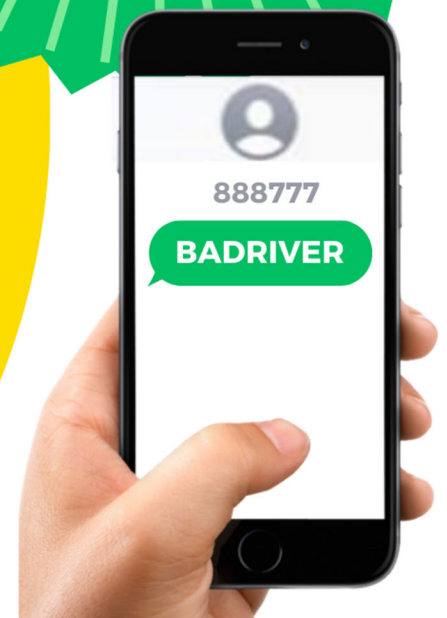
TEXT 'BADRIVER' TO '888777'

There has been a change to the Nixle alert system. You will only need **ONE** key word to sign up for each of the following

- **Tribal Events & Operations**
Gives you warnings of emergencies (ex. forest fires, floods, amber alerts)
- **Alerts & Advisories**
Gives you updates on community happenings..(ex. poll location times, unexpected department closures.
- **Pow Wow**
Gives you updates on Pow-Wow and other community feasts and celebrations.
- **Public Works**
Gives you updates on road closings and hydrant flushing.

Do you want
to know what
is happening??

Sign up for
Nixle Alerts
NOW!



BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS

...INTRODUCING...

Land Lease Specialist

Boozhoo,
My name is Brandon Neveaux. I am from Bad River. I started my new job as the Land Lease Specialist for the tribe. I am thrilled to be able to assist members of the community. It brings me great joy to be able to help others in any way that I can. Whether it's answering questions or providing guidance, I am always eager to lend a helping hand. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful community. When I'm not busy at the office, I love to spend time outdoors hiking, camping, and fishing. I'm also a big fan of video games and love to take landscape photos whenever possible. It's great to balance work and leisure, and I'm looking forward to finding that balance in my new role here at the tribe. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Email b.neveaux@badriver-nsn.gov



Miigwech!

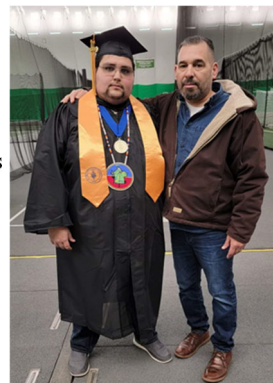
Bad River Deputy THPO

Hello Everyone,

My name is Gavin D'Acquisto, and I was recently hired as the Deputy THPO for Bad River. I was born and raised in Ashland, Wisconsin, to my parents David and Tammy D'Acquisto. I graduated a few years ago from Ashland High (Year of 2020!). I have a love for hunting, fishing, sapping, and exploring the beautiful wilderness we have in Northern Wisconsin. But ever since I was a kid, I developed a fierce passion for history and archaeology. Movies and literature got me hooked, and the fascination lived on as the exact passion that threw me into pursuing a college education. I recently graduated from Northwood Tech and Nicolet Tech (2020-2022) after participating in a 4-year University Transfer Program, where my course of study was on history, literary studies, and anthropology/archaeology. After graduating, I decided to step away from full-time studies and began looking for employment. I worked at the Casino for a short time until, to my surprise, I saw the position of Deputy THPO become available. I was ecstatic as this opportunity would allow me to use what I learned in college and allow me to gratify my love for history. But I'm glad to be here and look forward to my future position as Deputy THPO.

Miigwech!

Email: deputythpo@badriver-nsn.gov



**Scan QR
Code or
Click Link**

**to see
current job
opportunities.**

<http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/careers/>

Deputy Director

Boozhoo! Waabi-Binesi Indizhinikaaz. Makwa indoodem. Mashkiizibii Indoonjibaa.

My name is Daniel Wiggins Jr and have recently started as the Mashkiizibii NRD Deputy Director. I am a Bad River Tribal member and I have worked for the NRD for over 11 years as the Tribes Air Quality Technician.

During my tenure as the AQT a large focus was on Indoor Air Quality, helping homeowners and tenants address concerns within their home around indoor pollution and health effects. Most recognized by the community has specifically been radon testing and helping the Tribe establish non-smoking policies, prior to the COVID era.

Other work included renewable energy, which included both the planning, development and execution of Tribal utility codes and the Tribe's Strategic Energy Plan. During my tenure I was able to assist in the installation of over 800 kilowatts of solar and over 1000 kilowatt hours of storage at tribal facilities and tribal homes.

I will not be stepping away from the Air and Energy Programs and am continuing to help the Tribe to acquire more funding towards residential clean energy projects. I also find myself in a role that can help the planning and development in all programs, including Air and Energy. I look forward to working with the MNRD staff and the Bad River Community.

If there are any questions, feel free to contact me @ nrdeputy@badriver-nsn.gov



Manoomin Update continued...

the hatchery after being decimated in the 2016 flood.

The Youth Ricing event occurred on August 16 with 5 participants. Food Sovereignty provided 8 boats and Manoomin Project provide 6 poles.

The Wild Rice committee made a trip on August 14 to the sloughs in which they thought the rice crop to be coming along pretty good and were to visit again on August 17 because the forecast showed sunny weather conditions for the week. An unexpected large thunderstorm with high winds occurred on Aug 16 that left a lot of the river rice falling back.

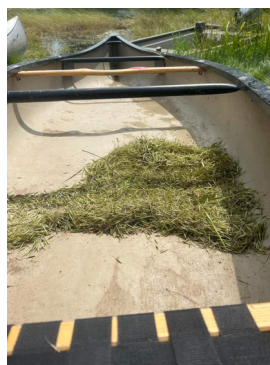
Windy weather conditions followed and a community bundling and filming event for tribal members was cancelled. However, 126 bundles were completed before and during openers. A couple of boats went down river and came back early.

Ricing was opened on Aug 18. We did get

feedback from some ricers that the rice was green or milky and took them into consideration.

On the other hand, in subsequent openings we stopped to ask the ricers what they were making and if the rice was ripe enough. No complaints. On the Aug 28th We counted 12 canoes making two to three bags in Big Slough and along the river and opened snake on the Aug 30th.

Ricers are not participating in the buy-back project due to the competitive prices' community members are offering. We did increase the price per pound to \$4.00 and heard another buyer was offering \$5.00 shortly after.



Please take the time to complete our Manoomin Abundance History Survey by scanning QR Code or following the link:

[Manoomin Abundance History \(office.com\)](https://www.manoominabundancehistory.com)



Bad River Emergency Response Tabletop Exercise continued...

The afternoon session discussed the exact same scenario, but included outside entities that would likely be responding if a spill of this type were to occur. Staff from Enbridge Energy attended the afternoon session, as well as staff from Wisconsin Emergency Management, Ashland County Emergency Management, USGS, and PHMSA. The inclusion of these outside entities provided Bad River staff with even more information on who would be responsible for certain aspects of a coordinated response. In total, approximately 50 individuals attended the afternoon session. While this was a hypothetical scenario, and not all questions were immediately answered, this tabletop exercise gave the opportunity for various groups to have a conversation that is always needed, a conversation about preparedness. It also helped identify gaps & next steps.

While the internal morning meeting and afternoon conversations have been in the works for quite some time, it is the hope of the Mashkizibii Natural Resources Department to host more of these trainings, and to do so more often. In the event of an emergency, whether it be a pandemic, an oil spill, a flood, or any



Discussions among various parties on what an oil-spill response would look like.

combination of those, preparedness and planning are important aspects to ensuring the safety and well-being of the community and the lands we hold dear.



Kakagon Sloughs

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK

In 1973, the Kakagon Sloughs was designated as a National Natural Landmark (NNL) and this year marks the 50th anniversary! The NNL Program recognizes and encourages the conservation of sites that contain outstanding biological resources, and Kakagon Sloughs was noted as “one

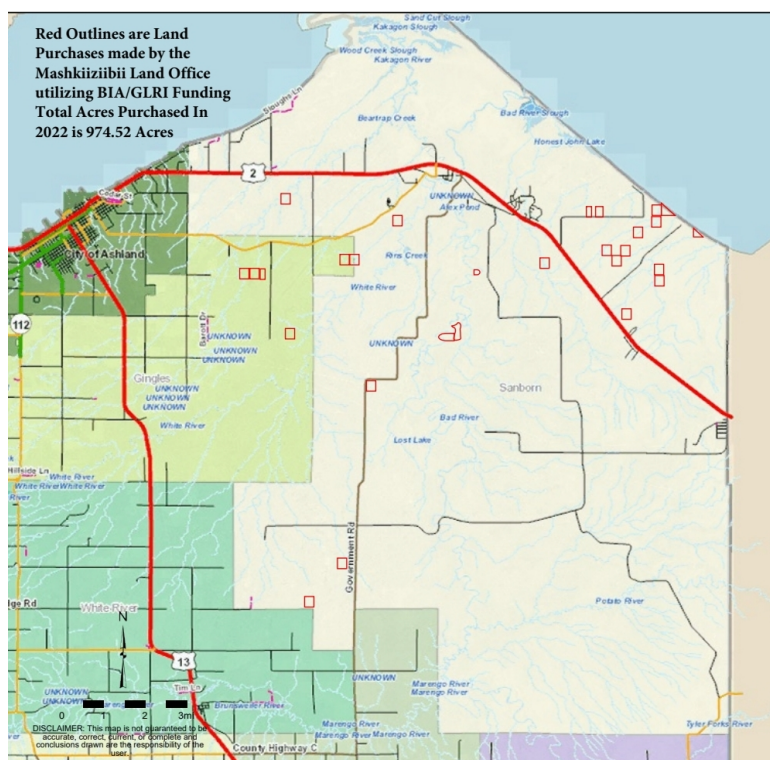
of the finest marsh complexes on the upper Great Lakes.”
Learn more at the National Park Service webpage.
www.nps.gov/subjects/landmarks

Mashkiiziibii aki ozhiibii'gewigamig (Land Office) Updates

Charles Connors Sr., Land Office Manager - landmanagement@badriver-nsn.gov

Boozhoo Wiidanokiimaaganan gaye Anishina-beg,

My name is Charles F. Connors Sr. (Chaz), I was hired as the new Lease Administrator in June of 2020 and was just recently promoted to the Land Office Manager for the Bad River Tribe's Land Office in January 2023. During this short time, I have been in the land office where I have provided services to our Tribal Members in locating and receiving residential sites. The Land Office has also been utilizing funding that the Bad River Tribe has been awarded through the BIA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to purchase private owned properties. During the previous 2 years, 2020 – 2022, the Land Office has been able to purchase and return a total of 974.52-Acres of non-tribally owned properties for the Bad River Tribe. On the attached map, the purchased properties are highlighted in Red. I am currently looking at purchasing more privately owned properties totaling approximately 611 more acres in the near future which will become Tribally owned land within the Mashkiiziibii Reservation Boundaries.



Forestry Update Fall 2023

Gena Abramson, Forestry Specialist - Forester@badriver-nsn.gov

Boozhoo nimbeshwaji'ag.

Bad River Forestry has been very productive this summer. We've contributed to the future generations in several ways, some of which we will highlight.

Unfortunately, we also have some very bad news to tell. Let's get that out of the way first.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, green, non-native beetle that lays its eggs in crevices of the bark of ash trees. The eggs emerge into larvae and eat the phloem (inside bark) of ash trees in an "S" shaped pattern. These galleries created from their tunneling through the phloem girdles (chokes off nutrients and water) the tree and kills it. These pests have been moving our way since they were first discovered near Detroit in 2002.



Emerald Ash Borer

In mid-August, we picked up our purple prism traps that are designed and baited to catch the (EAB) insect. We found at least one beetle on every trap hung west of the Mashkii-ziibii. The further west, the more beetles.

The loss of all of our ash trees will be emotionally devastating. This is something that lower Wisconsin has already experienced. We will see the impacts in coming years.

The rivers and streams are lined with green ash trees. Black ash surround ephemeral ponds and drainages. White ash make up part of the hardwood forests. For those of us that love the woods and water, it will be like losing a family member.

I'm writing this to prepare you for the emotional toll that it will take. We have some very important ash that we will lose. The woods just east of Denomie Creek off Maple street is almost 100% green ash. The powwow grounds have over 50 mature green ash on the west side. The

Mashkii-ziibii, Beartrap, and Kakagon are lined with ash. The skeletons of these relatives will be left to remind us of our loss.

On a brighter note, over 100 hours were spent by Bad River's Forestry Program with the IAS Summer Youth Program in June and July. We kayaked, camped, mentored, and cared for around 15 youth. These opportunities help us to put names and faces with the future Bad River community we serve. Fostering this love and respect for your community helps us to do our best when it comes to managing the forest. Miigwech for sharing your community with us.

The Birch Hill Community Red Pine Thinning is about to begin (October 2023), and we want you to be prepared. In 2021, a majority of the thinning was marked, leaving about 2/3 of the red pine to grow and mature. Just recently (August 31st), Bad River Housing led us on a mission to allow more room for snow removal and protection to houses and garages.

Many more trees were marked near driveways that would have been left, had Housing not made this request. When we originally marked the trees in 2021, we tried to balance the need for thinning with consideration for residents. Because of that, we were conservative in marking. With the help of Housing, we were empowered to create more space and provide more safety for residents by marking additional trees. Miigwech to Sonny LaGrew for showing us which ones to mark.

Additionally, we will be creating a clearing in the wooded parcel south of the community. We're creating this clearing to prepare for a solar field which is in the works. The solar field will provide Birch Hill residents with clean energy. We can be proud of our Tribal Energy/Air Quality Program for leading us to a greener



Forestry Technician TJ collecting EAB Samples



Birch Hill Community Pine Thinning Project

environment!

Additionally, if you have any comments or questions regarding the Birch Hill Pine Thinning, (including additional trees that you'd like to be marked for removal) please reach out as indicated on the flyer that we distributed on August 29th. You can reach us at 715-685-8929 or Forester@badriver-nsn.gov.

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or requests for future newsletter article topics. We value your thoughts and input. You can reach us at 715-685-8929 or Forester@badriver-nsn.gov.

SUMMER CLIMATE SUMMARY

WARMEST

91.9°F

July 3

COLDEST

34.4°F

June 8

AVERAGE
TEMP

63.7 F

0.4°F Below Average

MAXIMUM
WIND GUST

49 MPH

June 29

Odanah



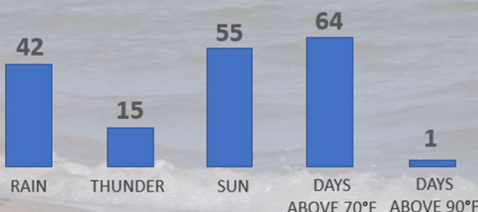
TOTAL
PRECIP

6.97"

3.69" Below Average

TOTAL
SNOW

0"



NUMBER OF DAYS WITH



Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Jun, Jul, Aug 2023



Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department

72682 Maple Street
PO Box 39
Odanah, WI, 54806

Phone: 715-682-7123
Fax: 715-682-7118
Email: NRDO outreach@badriver-nsn.gov

~MISSION STATEMENT~

The Department strives for resource management which both conserves the natural resources for the future generations and provide for the needs of the present. The departments existence reflects the importance the Bad River Tribe places on its right and ability to exercise sovereignty, self-determination and self-regulation in the area of natural resource management.

We're on the Web!
Visit www.badriver-nsn.gov

