

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters GLIFWC and Northwestern University SAGE Node Relocation Project

The Tribe seeks comments on the GLIFWC and Northwestern University SAGE Node Relocation Project.

Project Summary

GLIFWC and Northwestern University are partnering to deploy sensors to study the waterways and the land in the Bad River Reservation. The SAGE node has been in operation at the Bad River Hatchery for the last two years. It is being relocated and installed on the second bridge on the Kakagon River near the Bad River Hatchery. The proposed project is focused on the relocation and deployment of a sensor-node capable of collecting, but not limited to, physical environmental conditions like temperature, pressure, humidity, and precipitation. The SAGE node is also capable of collecting and analyzing environmental audio and imagery data for various flora, fauna, and natural phenomena of interest. The node will be deployed at a height approximately 18 to 20 feet above the surface of the water on galvanized pole. A service line will be installed at the project site to provide power for the SAGE node. Additional sensors may also be deployed on the SAGE node for measurement of water quality parameters. The relocation of the SAGE node will serve as an ideal location to collect water quality data and help to understand patterns or shifts in Manoomin ecology and habitat.

The Tribe is currently evaluating whether the project meets the Antidegradation Demonstration requirements and the Decision criteria described in the Tribe’s WQS and seeks comments on the proposed work and conditions needed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the water resources. All comments are considered during the project review. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

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P.O. Box 39
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Comment deadline is May 19, 2024

Background

On July 6, 2011, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted **Water Quality Standards (WQS)**. The Antidegradation policy within the Water Quality Standards protects existing uses and prevents clean waters from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have the potential to lower water quality. Tiers identified in the Tribe's antidegradation policy include: Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 waters), Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 waters), and Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters). The Antidegradation Policy holds that **no new or increased discharges or alterations of the background conditions are allowed to Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters; however, a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality may be allowed if applicable Antidegradation Demonstration and Decision requirements are met, as described in the WQS.**

A webmap of the Reservation waterways and wetlands, highlighting the tiers associated with each waterbody, may be found on the Bad River website (under Services>Natural Resources>Maps & GIS Services. The link is found in the Interactive Maps section).

<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c5>