

Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department

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~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.

Were on the Web!
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Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources

COMMON GROUND



Forestry Equipment Vandalized

2025 NIBIN EDITION
(SUMMER)



Tyrese James TJ, Forestry Technician – foresttech@badriver-nsn.gov

On Monday June 9, 2025, it was brought to our attention that the Forestry skid steer had been vandalized on Birch Hill. Upon inspecting the damage to the skid steer, we found the coolant reservoir, hydraulic oil reservoir, fuel tank, and Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) tank were all filled with rocks, sticks, and sand respectively. There were parts of the skid steer that were missing like the coolant cap and the windshield wiper. The repairs needed for the skid steer cost \$16,000 to get all tanks replaced, refilled and missing parts replaced.



Missing Windshield Wiper Arm



Right Photo: Coolant reservoir filled with sticks and rocks. **Left Photo:** Remnants of debris around fuel intake

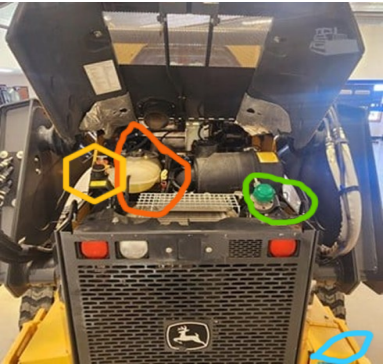
For any future comments or questions we can be contacted at Forester@badriver-nsn.gov or foresttech@badriver-nsn.gov or 715-685- 8929 or 715-682-7123 extension 1563



Forestry skid steer after vandalism



Coolant reservoir with missing cap



Above is a diagram of the parts that had debris in the components: Yellow is Hydraulic oil, Orange is Coolant, Green is Fuel tank, Blue is DEF

Special points of interest:

- Equipment Vandalized
- Meet the Plover Monitors
- Energy Program Updates
- Lake Superior Days Celebration
- Beach ATV Closure
- New MNRD Staff
- Updated Registration Station Flier

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Burn Barrels and Burning Trash

Zakk Zander, Air Quality Technician - AirQualityTech@badriver-nsn.gov

It has been a while since the **Bad River Open Burning, Burn Barrel, and Fire Prevention Ordinance** has been written about. So here is reminder to everyone that Bad River burning permits are required within the boundary of the Bad River Reservation. These permits are free and available by coming into the Bad River Natural Resource Department. (Bad River Conservation Code §3.24 enacted by Tribal Council in 2002)

I recently came across an article written by Mr. Ralph Dashner about burning garbage and would like to take this opportunity to republish his words.

Burn barrels used to be a popular method of reducing the volume of household trash, disposing of cardboard boxes, packaging materials, and many other miscellaneous items. Although you do not see as many around as you used to, they are still present in rural communities in northern Wisconsin. Burning of some household wastes continues to be a method of disposal for a significant part of the population. Polluting the soil and water in your own backyard, that's what's happening when you fire up a burning barrel.

The tradition of putting a match to the family garbage has been around for generations, so what's the big deal? Until a few decades ago, it wasn't so dangerous to your health because most of the things burned were made of paper and wood, and gave off smoke and ash. This is not the case anymore. Modern household products and packaging materials contain a mix of plastics and other synthetics that release cancer-causing chemicals and other toxins when burned. Packaging for fast food and convenience items such as containers for frozen pizzas, microwave dinner, beverages, may seem harmless, but when burned they can give off toxic emissions. These emissions



may include PCB's, dioxins, arsenic, styrene, formaldehyde, and that's just a small part of what is released.

Household wastes placed in burn barrels, fireplaces, and similar devices burn at temperatures that rarely exceed 500 degrees Fahrenheit. A municipal garbage incinerator by comparison will operate at temperatures near 2200 degrees to ensure complete combustion of refuse and more of the pollutants. Because burn barrels operate at lower temperatures and lack filtration, they emit seventeen times as much dioxin and forty times as much ash per pound of garbage as an incinerator.

Burn barrels give off high levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and metals such as lead, arsenic, mercury, barium, chromium, and cadmium. All of these can cause a wide variety of health problems. They need not be directly inhaled from the smoke; some of these toxins remain in the immediate vicinity and the area downwind of the barrel for years. This accumulation exposes you, your family, neighbors, and future generations to ever increasing levels of hazardous substances.

Here are some alternatives to burning trash: Reduce waste by cutting down on what you buy. Buy in bulk when possible and avoid choosing products that are over packaged. Reuse, sell, or give away items you no longer need. Compost leaves, grass, and weeds. Take garbage and other unrecyclable trash to the Solid Waste Transfer Site. Recycle! You can make a difference.

The **Bad River Open Burning, Burn Barrel, and Fire Prevention Ordinance** prohibits the burning of any trash or items that are recyclable. Also prohibited are any items containing plastics, rubber, oils, or wood coated in stain or paint. A full list of prohibited items, along with more Ordinance information, can be found on the Bad River website at (shortened URL): <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/burn-ordinance/>
A valid permit must be in your hand if you are burning within the Reservation boundary.



New Faces in MNRD

My name is Russell "Russ" Corbine Jr. I am the new Deputy Director of the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD). Here are a few things about me:

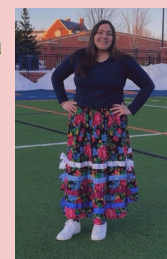


- I am from Bad River and grew up in Diaperville.
- I joined the U.S. Army in 1999 and served a little over 20 years before retiring in 2019. I participated in several combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. I have also spent a considerable amount of time serving in other foreign duty locations like South Korea.
- I served as the Deputy Director of MNRD from July 2020 to December 2020 before pursuing a career with the U.S. Army as a Dept. of Army Civilian employee in South Korea.
- I served as an Organizational Consultant for the Commander of US Army Forces-Korea located in Camp Humphreys, South Korea from January 2021 to August 2024.
- I returned from South Korea last August and have been consulting for the Adjutant General of the Minnesota Army National Guard which is headquartered in St. Paul, MN.

My leadership philosophy is centered around four principles: Empowerment – empower those around you, Accountability – hold myself and others accountable, Set the example – give your best effort and have the personal courage to do what is right, even when no one is looking & Humility – be humble and know when to ask for help. If you see me out and about, please say hello. I look forward to meeting and working with you as we help the Tribe and community reach our goals. Thank you and have a great day!

Email: NRDeputy@badriver-nsn.gov

My name is Emma Parisien, I'm from Bad River and this is my 3rd year back working as a Natural Resources Aide for the Non-Local Beings Program. I love working outdoors and helping the community with all of the invasive species we work with. I'm excited to continue working for natural resources this summer.



My name is Dalton Stone and I work with the Non-Local Beings Program. This is my second year with the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department. I like to hunt, fish, and work with non-local beings.



Hello, my name is Madeline, and I am Bad River's energy program intern for two months. I'm happy to be here learning about the grid, solar, governmental structures and energy! I'm a geology major interested in renewable energy such as geothermal, and this is a great introduction to the different interconnections and utility aspects of introducing new power sources to the grid. In my free time I enjoy lapidary, canoeing and foraging.

My name is Craig Bigboy and I was born and raised here in Bad River. I have been working with the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department off and on over the years, but for the past 2-3 years I have been working for the Non-Local Beings crew from the Spring to the Fall. I enjoy sports and being outdoors.



Job Opportunities in MNRD

Click Link>> <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/careers/>



2025 Registration Station

Location:

Bad River Chief Blackbird Center
Natural Resources Department
72682 Maple Street, Odanah

Hours of Operation:

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
8am - 12pm and 1pm - 4:30pm.
Saturday & Sunday
By Appointment Only!



For Appointment contact Registration Station Clerk, Bruce Ford

Issuing: Permits for On/Off Reservation fishing, hunting, gathering, and camping.

Person of Contact:

Bruce Ford, Registration Station Clerk: 715-685-4313

Registration@badriver-nsn.gov

Off-Reservation Regulations Questions contact:

Jim Stone, GLIFWC Warden: 715-292-3234, jstone@glifwc.org

On-Reservation Regulations Questions contact:

Brad Bigboy, Chief Warden: 715-292-7822

Pierce Maday, Conservation Warden: 715-292-2234

Augilucho "Auggie" Godinez, Conservation Warden: 715-292-3118

Other Registration Questions contact:

Malita Smart, Administrative Assistant: 715-682-7123

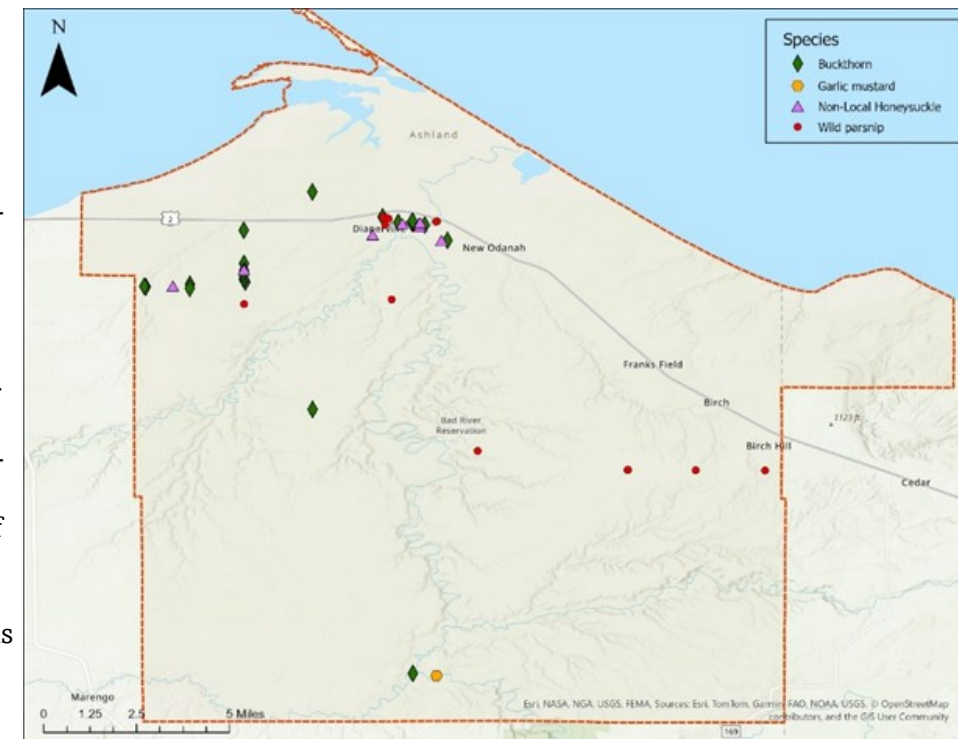
Non-Local Beings Program Summer Update

Bridget Thornberg, Non-Local Beings Program Manager- nonlocalbeings@badriver-nsn.gov

The non-local beings summer crew has been working hard this summer to remove buckthorn, garlic mustard, non-local honeysuckle, and wild parsnip. The map above shows areas where removal work has taken place so far this summer. If you have any concerns about non-local beings on your property or want to report a population of non-local beings please contact nonlocalbeings@badriver-nsn.gov or 715-979-1510.

On June 26th non-local beings staff and others attended a training to learn how to operate the Mobitrac harvester. The Mobitrac harvester is an amphibious machine that was previously purchased by the Tribe. It has different attachments that allow it to cut and collect vegetation. We had a great day and are very thankful to have had the opportunity to receive this training. Going forward we hope to use the harvester in future projects to restore and maintain balance between non-local beings, native vegetation, and manoomin in the Sloughs.

We are still looking to hire a natural resources aide to work as a watercraft inspector at the boat launches on the



reservation; if you or anyone you know is interested, you can find the job posting on the Bad River website under "Careers." We hope everyone is having a great summer, check back in the Fall for another update!



Mashkiiziibii Manoomin Youth Initiative

Dan Powless, Manoomin Specialist - manoomin@badriver-nsn.gov

Bad River was awarded the Mashkiiziibii Manoomin Youth Initiative grant submitted to the BIA under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative youth sub-focus in 2024. One part of the Initiative is to create a Youth Manoomin Committee partially modeled after Bad River's Wild Rice Committee. Through this committee, the self-selected youth will learn about manoomin from elders and knowledge holders to steward the ecology and productivity of the Kakagon Sloughs for the next seven generations. Specifically, David Nevala, Nathanael Secor and Dan Powless will work with the youth on regular intervals in conjunction with the Wild Rice Committee to understand manoomin throughout the plant's life cycle, learn the Ojibwemowin of Manoominikewin with Ojibwemowin speakers, learn best practices for harvesting and determining ripeness, engage in reseeding and other restoration efforts, travel to other communities to learn from active restoration efforts as well as to network with other ricers and knowledge holders, learn how to practice observation in the field, and contribute to ongoing monitoring projects.

The first field session began with Jordan Gurnoe, NWU grad student providing a presentation to the YouthWRC about sensor field monitoring and data capture processes.

Bad River Staff and students participated in the manoomin plot study and next step of correlating phenologic data with manoomin.

Students and staff attended the State/ Tribal Manoomin committee meeting at LDF on 6-18-25. The youth were introduced and spoken of as our future who will be sitting at the table.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Current activities

Slow No Wake buoys were deployed on 6-10-25.

Rice has been in floating leaf stage for a week or so and now transitioning to emergent cycle. (photos taken 6-12-25)

While out assessing the manoomin life cycles a carp infestation was witnessed in big round and NE Slough. This has previously been observed during the floating leaf stages, we'll be following up on this issue.

Provided a general overview of the Head Water Restoration Planning Project at the Elderly Building. 20 elders in attendance. One elder discussed how the rice was when he harvested as a young man and believes the carp have created a decline in the rice as well. He stopped ricing because the rice had dwindled to very sparse conditions.

Another elder showed up at the hatchery who believes we should go back to the original rice opener of August 25 of not so long ago. He stated we need to change our tactics of just checking the rice on the river edge to going out into the bed or in ten years it could be gone. He talked of how we need to use our tobacco in that it comes from the heart when addressing the rice. He remembers the old ladies were still doing these things. He is very concerned and wants to be involved in the management. It's good to hear elders coming out and talking about the rice with concern.

Manoomin Program

Bad River: The Must-See Stop on the Energy Tour

By Bella Wabindato, Energy Coordinator- energycoordinator@badriver-nsn.gov

In the Tribal energy world, Bad River is well known for being a pioneer in renewable energy. We have 3 microgrids, 42 residential solar systems, some facility solar systems and 23 solar streetlights. In the near future, we will install six private electric vehicle charging stations, lease an electrical vehicle fleet, install a public electric vehicle charging station, add more residential solar, audit homes for energy efficiency, and install another microgrid. Because of this, we are a prominent stopping point for other organizations or Tribes to look at Tribal renewable energy. In June, we have had the Ho-Chunk Nation's energy program manager

come tour (picture shown above), as well as Wisconsin's Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy later in the month. In July, we can look forward to hosting the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and National Renewable Energy Laboratory. If you're ever curious and would like to tour, please reach out to the energy program manager at energycoordinator@badriver-nsn.gov. We would love to show anyone and everyone what the energy program is all about.



Save the Date

~July 18th, 2025~

Lake Superior Days Celebration



More Details Coming Soon!



Questions?

Contact MNRD Outreach Coordinator @ 715-682-7111 ext. 1589

Sign up for Nixle Alerts



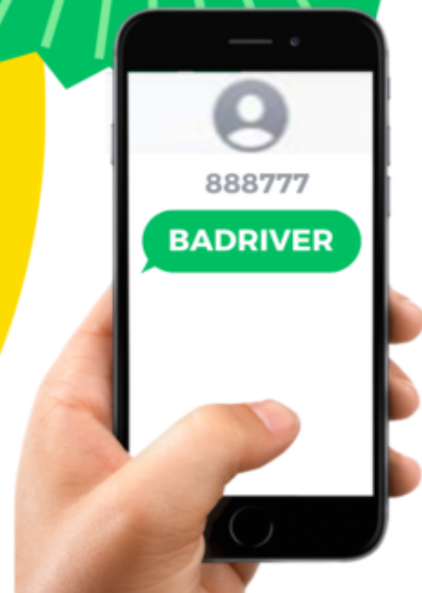
**TEXT 'BADRIVER'
TO '888777'**

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

Keeping our Summer Clean and Safe

By: Andrew Spychalla, MNRD Brownfield Program - brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov

As we enjoy the sunshine and take part in summer activities - whether it's boating, barbecuing, camping, or DIY home projects - let's all do our part to protect our environment and local waterways.

Preventing spills and pollution:

To prevent accidental releases of hazardous or toxic chemicals this summer, make sure to: use and store fuels, paints, cleaners, and other chemicals responsibly. Never dispose of waste - liquid or solid - on the ground or down storm drains. Keep vehicles, boats, and equipment well-maintained to avoid leaks of oil, gas, or other fluids. And, when attending outdoor gatherings, secure trash and keep recyclables and food waste contained. Simple things will prevent the majority of accidents from occurring during day-to-day activities.

If you see a spill, report it:

If there is an obvious spill or a noticeable sheen - specifically in waterways - you can always let the MNRD Brownfield Program know. Sometimes, a sheen on the water could be from biological sources. A good trick is to poke the center of the sheen with a stick; if it reforms into one continuous blob, there is a good chance it is actually a petroleum product. If it disperses and floats in different directions without coming together again, it is likely from a natural source. If there is a spill of hazardous, toxic, or otherwise unnatural substances, even if it is small, it can cause big problems for our soil, rivers, and wildlife. If you witness or are involved in a spill or release of a potentially harmful substance:

1. Act quickly but safely to contain it, if possible.

2. Report it to the appropriate local environmental authority immediately - time matters for proper cleanup and environmental protection.

Stay clear of hazardous areas and follow all instructions from emergency or cleanup crews if they are on site. By staying alert and responsible, we can keep our communities clean, our water safe, and our environment thriving all summer long. If there are any questions about spill prevention, feel free to contact me at brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov. Miigwech.

Shining a Light on Solar

By Madeline, Inaakidese Intern

If you live or have been around the Birch Hill community you've probably seen some new streetlights placed throughout the area. These solar powered streetlights are new additions to the existing streetlights that bring improved visibility, safety and resilience to the neighborhood. When the power goes out these lights will still be shining on as they are 100% solar powered. There are currently 23 of these solar powered streetlights up and running, with efficient LEDs that have a 20-year lifespan before having

to be replaced and have no operating costs. The energy program also heard community concerns about the placement of the concrete bases and has addressed this with reflective tape around the concrete bases. This project was funded in full by a grant with the Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund. The energy program extends their thanks to all who have made this project possible



2025 Piping Plover Project

Jakob Wohlford, Ornithology Specialist - ornithology@badriver-nsn.gov

History was made! In the 52 years of monitoring the Great Lakes Piping Plovers at Chequamegon Point 2025 has set the record for the most nests in a season at seven nests with 28 total eggs. Once again, this year we have a nest that resides on the Bad River Mouth. The nest at the mouth was one of the most successful nests last year and is once again this year thus far! While we all love driving our ATV's it is important to have the ATV closure at the Bad River Mouth in place until August 15th or once the last chick is gone to give the species the best chance of survival.

It would be hard to know who somebody is if they didn't have a name right? We think the same is true for Piping Plovers! This year we have been lucky enough to have successful adult banding for 8 of 13 adults that needed adult combos, with one ex-

ample being X, L: Of, G, Y, who we gave the name Extra Large Guy. These combinations are unique to each bird to help with monitoring while on Chequamegon Point and at their wintering grounds. We are planning on banding chicks during early July after hatching.

If you find yourself out near any of the nests this summer feel free to ask our monitors any questions you may have. Please respect these endangered birds and the space that they need, so hopefully we can see Extra Large Guy back here next year!



<<<Piping Plover receiving adult bands

Meet the Piping Plover Monitors

Hello,

My Name is Aidan Doherty. I was born in Missouri and grew up in central Wisconsin. I recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a major in biology and a minor in Geographic Information Systems. For fun, I enjoy looking for agates, playing cards, thrifting, being outdoors, working with leather, playing guitar, and running. While in college, I ran twelve successful seasons as a collegiate distance runner. I just completed my first marathon and plan to continue running. One of my favorite fun facts to share is that I built an electric guitar completely from scratch. Working as a piping plover monitor has allowed me to apply my experience to something I'm truly passionate about.



Hi, I am Rowan Gibson, I'm enthused to once again be one of the Piping Plover monitors this summer. This is my second summer working this position. It's so fun! I'm from Madison, WI, but have been living in Ashland for the past three years attending Northland College. I love seeing and learning about all wild creatures and plants, and especially birds (I've been a huge birder since I was 8), so I'm very happy to be working on Chequamegon Point for the Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Department.



Beach ATV Closure

Piping Plovers were found nesting on the beaches at the Bad River Mouth

As of May 29th until August 15th, ATV and other motorized vehicle use will be prohibited at the following beaches per Chapter 3.01.040

Bad River Mouth

Foot traffic is still allowed. Please be mindful of nesting birds and to give them the space they need.

*Attachment may be posted in your community building for the public.

Elle Lozinski
NRD Wildlife Program Manager
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wildlife@badriver-nsn.gov



Posted: 5/29/25

