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- Alerts & Advisories**
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BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS



Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department

72682 Maple Street
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Odanah, WI, 54806

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters
Phase II of the Old Head Start Project

The Tribe seeks comments on the proposed Antidegradation Decision related to Phase II of the old Head Start Project.

Project Summary
The Bad River Facilities Department is proposing a construction project involving the creation of a foundation, modification of drainage systems, and the installation of utilities for a new prefabricated childcare building. The proposed project will involve constructing a crawlspace to accommodate the new childcare building, re-grading the project area to improve surface drainage and prevent water pooling on site, and creating a shallow swale to direct water from the project site in a northerly direction to a drainage ditch located along Maple Street. There will be Exterior and Interior drain tiles installed to facilitate efficient water management around the new building, and the water and gas lines will be extended to the new building to support the facility's operation. The proposed project will provide a safe, well-managed environment for the new childcare building, while also improving the site's drainage and utility systems. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented throughout the duration of the project water resources, manage stormwater runoff, and minimize any potential environmental impacts during construction. The proposed project is anticipated to commence in October 2025.

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:

Kaylee Houle, Water Regulatory Specialist
Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD)
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
waterreg@badriver-nsn.gov

Comment deadline is **September 27, 2025**.

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 water from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have 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 Water Quality Standards. A web map of the Reservation waterways and wetlands, highlighting the tier associated with each waterbody, may be found on the Bad River website (under Services>Natural Resources>Maps & GIS Services. The link found in the Interactive Maps section). <http://www.sns.gov/apps/View/index.html?app=444&371217&de=84811&c27067c7c2d>

Posted as of: August 27, 2025

~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

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Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources

COMMON GROUND

2025 DAGWAAGIN EDITION (FALL)

HAPPY FALL g'all!

Why do I need a Wetland Delineation?

Kristen Vensland, Wetland Specialist - wetlands@badriver-nsn.gov

From new homes to community buildings, Bad River has grown over the last few years and will continue to grow with every new project. But before a project starts, the plans must be reviewed for environmental impacts so any necessary permits can be issued to protect the community and the natural resources of the Reservation.

Many permitting agencies, like the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will often ask project managers for more information about the natural resources on a site before they can issue permits for a project. One common source of information about natural resources is a wetland delineation.

A wetland delineation is a process that identifies the type and location of wetlands on a site. Trained delineators use online tools and on-the-ground observations to create maps of a site for project

The yellow arrows are pointing to pink flagging that trained delineators use to mark the wetland boundary in the field.

....continued on page 7....



Jelly balls Along Lake Superior: The Rise of Holopedium gibberum

Nick Blanchard, Water Quality Technician/Lab Coordinator - WaterTech@badriver-nsn.gov

Each summer, Bad River members encounter strange, jelly-like blobs along the Lake Superior shoreline. These translucent globules, often mistaken for pollutants or fish eggs, are actually remnants of a native zooplankton species called *Holopedium gibberum* (Kinnunen, 2014).

What Are *Holopedium* Jelly balls?: *Holopedium gibberum* is a cladoceran zooplankton that lives

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The White River Hydroelectric Dam

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

The White River Subwatershed is one of the six main subwatersheds that form the larger Bad River Watershed. The White River is connected through its many tributaries and drainages to approximately 334 square miles of land that is a mix of farm and pastureland, small rural communities, and natural lands including hundreds of streams, wetlands, and lakes. Within the watershed there are many smaller recreational dams forming different lake flowages, including Lake Owen, Hay Lake, Drummond Lake, and many others, but there is only one larger hydroelectric dam in the watershed. The White River Hydroelectric Dam, operated by Northern States Power (i.e., Xcel Energy) is adjacent to where State Highway 112 crosses over the White River in Ashland County approximately 9.5 river miles upstream of the western boundary of the Reservation at the location of a natural falls along the river.

The first earthen dam at the site failed in 1909 with a more modern dam completed in 1926, making it over 100 years since the natural falls that were present at this site were seen. The current dam is 775 feet long and 46 feet high which creates a 39.9-acre, 7 to 26-feet deep impoundment upstream. The dam currently operates in a “run of river” mode, which means that a minimum amount of flow must be maintained in the river at all times unless the river is so low that the amount of water filling the reservoir also dips below the 16 cubic foot per second requirement. Additional water is released back into the river farther downstream after moving through the feedstock and turbines used to generate electricity.

Currently the dam is up for relicensing, which includes and allows for public comment and additional permit reviews. We here at the Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD) have worked hard to ensure that the Tribe’s concerns about the impacts the dam has on water quality, the environment, and historical and cultural heritage is minimized by reviewing and commenting on the relicensing as well as meeting with other agencies (like BIA, the National Park Service, GLIFWC, and WDNR) to discuss the project and share information. There have been at least six formal comment letters that we have helped draft and submit, including letters on December 31, 2020, June 2, 2023, July 31, 2023, December 13, 2023, August 13, 2024, and August 18, 2025. These letters have touched on concerns like impacts to sturgeon spawning, water quality, and cultural uses of the river and previous impacts seen downstream.

Since the White River flows through the Reservation before it empties into the Bad River upstream of the Powwow Grounds, there are Tribal Water Quality Standards that apply to the on-Reservation portion of the river that the State and Federal governments must ensure are met when issuing upstream permits. This means that since the White River Dam needs a FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) license to operate, the federal government has to complete an evaluation of whether the license



Picture captionView of the White River downstream from the dam in 2021.

would impact the Tribe’s water quality downstream. MNRD has recently provided additional information to EPA (the agency that completes this evaluation) showing the dam already has impacted water quality downstream and that continued operation of the dam may also impair the Tribe’s water quality and uses.

In July 2013, during an emergency drawdown of the reservoir that was necessary to complete maintenance on the dam, a larger storm event dropped a significant amount of rain in the White River watershed and increased river flows and reservoir elevation. This increased flow during drawdown and maintenance coupled with operation choices made by Xcel resulted in a significant amount of sediment (estimated by Xcel’s contractor to be 94,000 cubic yards, or roughly three times the amount of annual sediment load in the river) to be washed downstream from the reservoir. This sediment release was observed in increased levels of turbidity (or particulates in the water) downstream, including on the Reservation where it degraded water quality and disrupted fishing and other activities. In July 2016, during the catastrophic flooding in the watershed Xcel was also unable to maintain operation of the dam and ended up opening up spillway gates to release water downstream, which did ultimately protect the highway but impacted downstream reaches instead and caused an elevated risk to the Reservation as

...continued on page 4...

Metal Roof Project in Bad River

Naomi Tillison, MNRD Director - nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians secured Tribal Climate Resilience funding from the BIA to install metal roofs on the homes and community center located in the Birch Hill community within the Bad River Reservation. Climate change increases the risk of wildfire and heavier snowfall and increases the need for energy efficient homes and renewable energy. Metal roofs handle heavy snow loads, prevent snow accumulation, are fireproof, last longer than asphalt roofs, are energy efficient, and can support solar arrays. Replacing asphalt roofing with metal is a high priority mitigation action that was identified in the Band’s Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, which was approved by tribal leadership and FEMA in 2018.

Following procurement policies and procedures, the Band hired Boozhoo Construction LLC as the contractor to replace the existing asphalt roofs in the Birch Hill Community with metal roofs, and this project is being implemented in collaboration with the Bad River Housing Authority. Approximately 15% of the work has been completed thus far, and the contractor is using all tribal member crews. Work is anticipated to continue over the next 4-5 months. Please reach out to Tim Brown or Naomi Tillison if you have questions about this project.

Tim Brown, Bad River Housing Authority Project Manager
(715) 682-2271 ext. 1669 (Work) (715) 292-8848 (Mobile)

BRHPPM@badriver-nsn.gov



Job Opportunities

• NR Aide (Watercraft Inspector) (LTE)

• NRD Forestry Aides LTE

****Visit www.badriver-nsn.gov/careers/ for Full Job Descriptions****

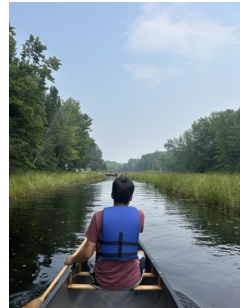
IAS Continued...

Part of the program's special emphasis is partnering with Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Dept so that the youth get exposure to tribal natural resource careers. The youth split up between the Manoomin, Forestry, Water Quality, Wildlife, and Non-local beings programs to shadow and assist the programs in their field work.

The youth learned important job skills as well as got a window into aspects of MNRD work. The Wildlife program also took the whole group out to Chequamegon Point to observe and monitor the endangered Piping Plover nest sites from afar.

A select few of the youth who will be aging-out of the IAS program had the option of joining an inter-tribal group of youth and mentors from Mashkiziibii, Miskwaabekaang (Red Cliff Band), and Gichi Onigaming (Grand Portage Band) to travel to Minong Minis (Isle Royale). This group set nets, hiked, kayaked, and learned together for four days.

Overall, this was a fun and dynamic summer full of unique learning opportunities and memorable experiences.



Radon article Continued...

out of a 1,000 (whom never smoked) are still estimated *that could develop cancer*¹. Where can we hide and why test if even low levels can cause cancer?

The idea when monitoring and/or lowering radon levels is to minimize the amount and time of exposure, therefore lowering the chances of developing lung cancer. A person who wants to reduce their smoking wouldn't smoke more just because they found one cigarette can still cause lung cancer. The same should go for your home. Just because you found rather low levels does not mean you should not apply radon reduction methods and techniques to your home, if the opportunity is available.

The trend in construction will eventually be to build every home radon resistant utilizing material, methods, and techniques during the beginning stages of constructing. Building a home radon resistant may be found sufficient for reducing levels initially, and if levels are still found high, will make the application of future radon reduction methods and techniques less labor intensive and less expensive. Although some contractors and companies do emphasize their radon resistant structures, which they offer, many still remain passive. Many contractors, developers, renters and even housing authorities are aware of radon but still do not apply or even offer these options when it is available, possible, convenient, and/or least expensive. Right now, it is up to the homeowner to empha-



size radon resistance and protection to the contractor and/or renter. **Testing can be very persuasive and a powerful tool!**

Radon is everywhere! It is very difficult to find a city, country-side, or suburban community that has not found at least one home with high indoor radon levels. Unfortunately radon will always be an issue and even at low levels, possibly cause a person to develop cancer. However, it may be important to utilize radon resistant construction and reduction methods/techniques, in the beginning stages of construction or during any time of your home's-lifespan. **Testing your home is still essential in knowing the extent of your radon issue.** Once you have a known concentration lowering that amount effectively can ultimately lower your chances of developing lung cancer.

If you have any questions please contact Zakk Zander, the Air Quality Technician, at 715-682-7123, extension 1553 or email at Airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov.

PLEASE START BY TESTING YOUR HOME FOR RADON!

Testing is free for Bad River Tribal Members!

¹ *A Citizen's Guide to Radon: The Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon, U.S.*

EPA 402-K-07-009, Revised 2007

Non-Local Beings Program Fall Update

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

If you see flagged plots around the Reservation, you are looking at buckthorn removal test plots. The non-local beings program is experimenting with different removal methods for buckthorn. We have set up these plots, pictured on the right, to test the best methods for the removal of buckthorn. The control methods we are testing include complete removal of the buckthorn plant, severing the roots of the plant, and repeated cutting at the base of the plant.

You may be noticing purple flowers around the Reservation that look similar to fireweed. These purple flowered plants are called purple loosestrife, and although they



are very pretty, they can outcompete other native plants and alter the environments that they invade. An easy way to tell the difference between purple loosestrife and fireweed is to feel the stem. The stems of purple loosestrife are square shaped, and the stems of fireweed are round. The non-local beings program has put a lot of effort into removing

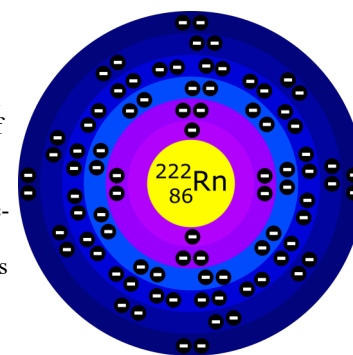
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Everyone is at Risk!

Zakkary Zander, Air Quality Technician - air1@badriver-nsn.gov

Unfortunately a person who doesn't smoke isn't always awarded with a lifetime absence of lung cancer; however, the risk is still there! Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer behind tobacco smoke and the first leading cause for those who have never smoked (less than 100 cigarettes in a lifetime)¹. The chances of developing lung cancer from indoor radon can depend on three factors: 1) how much radon is in the home, 2) the amount of time you spend in your home, 3) and whether you are a smoker or have never smoked.¹

Smokers are at an obvious risk of developing lung cancer, and with the addition of living within a home that has high levels of indoor radon, are at an even higher risk. However, if you do not smoke and live within a



home with high levels the risk is still there, but much lower. Studies have shown that out of 1,000 people living within a home at 20pCi/L, and whom smoke, 260 could likely get lung cancer. If those same 1000 people have never smoked, and lived within a home at the same level, an estimated 36 people could get lung cancer¹. The obvious answer is quit smoking and mitigate your home, if you are a smoker. However, what if you are a non-smoker is it worth fixing your home? Short answer... YES! The rise in concentration of radon and an extended length of exposure increases your chances; therefore, if you can lower your indoor radon levels it will likely lower your chances.¹

Unfortunately, radon can cause cancer at very low concentrations, as well. Even at levels between 2 and 4pCi/L people still could get lung cancer. In addition, the EPA's action level for radon is 4pCi/L, which an estimated 7 people

Continued on page 10...

Jelly Balls continued...

in cold, nutrient-poor lakes. It is encased in a gelatinous mantle that increases its size and helps deter predators (Kinnunen, 2014). This mantle, composed of Acid mucopolysaccharides, also aids in buoyancy and slows sinking (Central Michigan University, n.d.). As part of their life cycle, *Holopedium* shed this mantle, which then floats to the surface and washes ashore, forming the jelly balls observed by swimmers (Kinnunen, 2014).

Life Cycle and Behavior: *Holopedium* reproduce both sexually and asexually. Females hatch from overwintering eggs and produce parthenogenic generations throughout summer. In fall, sexual reproduction occurs, producing the next generation of overwintering eggs (Central Michigan University, n.d.). They also exhibit diel vertical migration—rising to the surface at sunset and descending during daylight (Kinnunen, 2014).

Ecological Role and Disruption : *Holopedium* are omnivorous filter feeders, consuming phytoplankton and nanoplankton (Central Michigan University, n.d.). However, their increasing abundance is disrupting freshwater eco-

systems. They are outcompeting *Daphnia*, a more nutritious zooplankton vital to fish diets and algae control (Thelen, 2012). *Holopedium*'s larger size and lower nutritional value make them less suitable for fish, leading to reduced food quality and quantity (Thelen, 2012).

The Calcium Connection : The rise of *Holopedium* is linked to declining calcium levels in lakes—a phenomenon dubbed “aquatic osteoporosis.” Acid rain and forest runoff have reduced calcium concentrations, which are critical for *Daphnia* to build their exoskeletons (Jezierski et al., 2008). As *Daphnia* populations decline, *Holopedium*, which require less calcium, thrive (Jezierski et al., 2008).

Broader Impacts: This shift affects the entire food web. *Daphnia* act as “lawnmowers” of lakes, grazing on algae and keeping water clear (Thelen, 2012). Their decline can lead to algal blooms, reduced water quality, and stress on fish populations. *Holopedium* blooms have also been known to clog water intake systems, posing infrastructure challenges (Thelen, 2012).



White River Dam continued....

communication with the Tribe did not occur prior to the release. In 2022, during a scheduled draw-down for maintenance, Xcel reported that there were at least two instances where turbidity levels below the dam exceeded the turbidity level of the river above the reservoir by twice the amount, likely indicating sediment from the reservoir was being washed downstream. Through commenting and engaging in the relicensing process, MNRD is working to prevent and minimize risk to the Tribe for the next licensing period, including for impacts like the ones listed here.

If you would like to see more information about the relicensing, please visit FERC's website at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search> and type “P-2444” in the “Enter Docket Number” box of the search. This will allow you to see not only the comment letters submitted by MNRD and other groups, but also access application information provided by Xcel Energy.



Picture captionMNRD Air Quality Specialist, Nathan Kilger, was one of the MNRD staff who participated in a June 2021 field visit to the White River Dam to learn more about the operation of the dam from Xcel Energy and their contractors from Mead & Hunt (in red shirts).



Former MNRD Wildlife Specialist, Abi Fergus, was one of the MNRD staff who participated in a June 2021 field visit to the White River Dam to learn more about the operation—here Abi (farthest right) is standing on the dam listening to Xcel staff and WDNR staff.

Powering Bad River Together: Why the 3-Phase Line Matters

Brandon Semerau, Mashkiiziibii Minigrid Project Manager - b.semerau@badriver-nsn.gov

Bad River has embarked on an opportunity to improve the quality of life for its members: upgrading the current single-phase electrical lines to modern 3-phase power lines. This project is more than just wires and poles — it is about building the infrastructure that will support homes, facilities, and businesses for future generations.

What is 3-Phase Power?

Much of Bad River's existing power infrastructure is old “single-phase”, which is sufficient for basic household needs. However, single-phase lines are limited in how much power they can deliver and how efficiently they deliver it. 3-phase power is standard across much of the country for communities and businesses because it:

- Delivers power more efficiently with less energy loss.
- Supports larger equipment, making it easier to attract new business opportunities and maintain government services.
- Provides more reliable electricity, reducing outages and “brownouts” when electricity demand is high.

Benefits for the Bad River Community

- Stronger Infrastructure** – The upgrade will provide reliable power for homes, childcare centers, the clinic, and other government buildings.
- Support for Growth** – Local businesses, small industry, and future housing developments will all benefit from having modern electrical capacity.
- Energy Projects** – The Tribe's renewable energy projects, like new solar rooftops and the Mashkiiziibii Minigrid cannot be built without upgraded 3-phase systems.
- Community Resilience** – More reliable power means Bad River is better prepared for extreme weather, emergencies, and long-term sustainability.

Why Right of Way Consent Matters

For the upgrade to move forward, Bayfield Electric needs permission to place new poles and lines along existing corridors. This is called a Right of Way (ROW) process. A ROW agreement has to be issued under both federal and tribal laws.

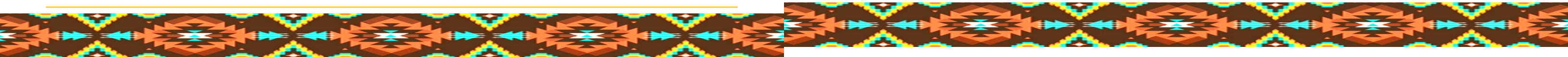
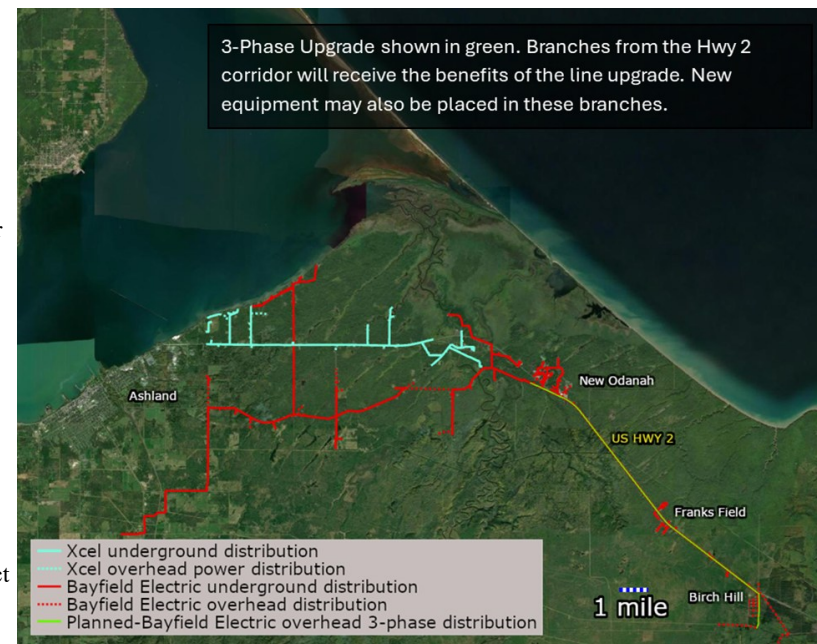
By signing the ROW consent form you may have received, you are not giving up ownership of your land — you are granting permission for the line to be safely placed and maintained. This cooperation ensures that the project can move forward smoothly, benefiting the entire Bad River community.

Building Together

This project reflects the Bad River Tribe's commitment to self-determination, sustainability, and economic growth. By working together — each household, each landowner, each community member — we can ensure reliable and modern power for decades to come.

If you have questions about the Right of Way consent form or about the 3-phase upgrade project, please contact the Mashkiiziibii Minigrid Project Manager via email at b.semerau@badriver-nsn.gov

Chi Miigwech,
Brandon Semerau

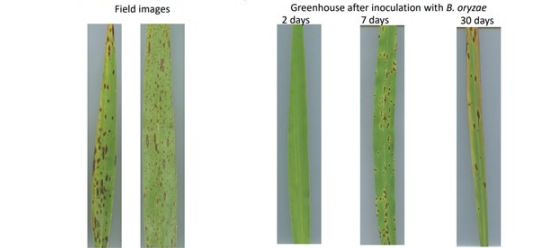


Manoomin Disease Survey Project

Dan Powless, Manoomin Oshkaabewis- Manoomin@badriver-nsn.gov

Bad River MNRD was awarded USDA funding in the amount of \$5,000.00 for WTCAC FY25 Aphis PPA7721 to implement a Manoomin Disease Survey "project." The main objective of this project is to better understand the presence of the brown spot fungal disease impacting wild rice beds and other possible contributors indicating the spread of the disease. This objective includes: field survey activities by manoomin program staff throughout the growing season to identify the prevalence and assessment of the Brown Spot fungal disease. Brown spot disease which basically has gone unnoticed until now in the Kakagon- Bad River sloughs. Most of the tribal harvesting community has misunderstood it as a natural part of the life cycle or ignored it. They do not know it is one of the most common and damaging diseases, but it is now coming into focus with the effect of climate change. According to recent research by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), wild rice is one of the most vulnerable plants when considering climate change "Brown spot creates lesions on the leaf tissue of the plant, causing destruction of photosynthetic tissue and reduction in seed production. Outbreaks are favored by high day- and night-time temperatures, high humidity, leaf wetness periods of more than 8 hours, and high plant densities. Under these conditions, the air-borne spores produced on infected tissue can spread rapidly." (David, Manoomin, Version 1.0, 2019 GLIFWC). When infection occurs in seeds or florets, unfilled

Fungal Brown Spot caused by the fungus (*Bipolaris oryzae* = *Cochliobolus miyabeanus*)



Note: This is the most important disease. Starts like small brownish to purple spots and then enlarge, mostly elongate and could develop chlorosis. Lesions can coalesce as well. There is a lot of variation in symptoms in the field depending on the growth stage of wild rice during the observations and likely the effects of the fungus.

grains (known to harvesters as Ghost Hulls or hay creating %5-50% loss or more in yield as described by a local tribal processor) or spotted or discolored seeds are formed. The fungus can survive in the seeds for more than four years and can occur at all life cycle stages.



To better understand the prevalence of the brown spot fungal disease impacting wild rice beds program staff have visited the Kakagon hatchery head waters, Big and Little round rivers, Wood Creek, Shit Island, Bear trap, Big Sloughs, and Snake Island areas to identify the initial presence of the rice disease with basic field materials for symptoms and signs of color and leaf patterns. They are then sampled to undergo a more rigorous lab protocol to verify the disease. We are collaborating with GLIFWC in the lab process as we lack the refrigeration to hold samples.

Manoomin Program

Non-Local Beings Update continued...

purple loosestrife this summer. The photo on page 3 shows one of the largest purple loosestrife plants (left photo) we removed this summer. The area in the red circle in the photo below on the right shows a population of many small purple loosestrife plants that were removed this summer.

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 Fall, and as always, if you have any concerns related non-local beings on your property or around the Reservation please contact non-localbeings@badriver-nsn.gov or call 715-979-1510.

Bad River Forestry Dagwaagin Newsletter

Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources' Forestry Program

By Gena Abramson, Forestry Specialist

Dagwaagin (Fall) is a busy time for Forestry. We have several priorities in the works right now, so here's a partial list. If you have any questions at all, please give us a call or email at 715-685-8929 or Forester@badriver-nsn.gov

- Skidsteer repair and Insurance Payment Processing
- Urban Forestry Management Plan Community meeting prior to tribal council approval (coming soon)
- Contracting of arborists for Urban Forestry Hazard Removal Project
- Birch Study Contract for insight on rules for a potential Birch pole and twig ordinance
- Birch Study public meeting (coming soon)
- Purchase additional Forestry Vehicle
- Development practices – Convert aspen cover type to long lived conifer cover type by brush removal and planting mixed pine in southwest portion of the reservation.
- Hire and guide 2 LTEs for white pine seedling release work along Birch Trail (by removing competing vegetation mostly manual)

Look to the Biboon Common Ground Newsletter for updates on these and other projects that Bad River Forestry is involved in!

New Staff Introductions...

Boozhoo/Hello:

I am the new Lease Specialist in the Land Office, Natural Resource Department. I have been around the Bad River Tribal organization for 25+ years, and I am still interested in tribal issues. Actually, I have been involved in tribal issues since I was in my teens; was fortunate enough to grow up with/in a generation that was very active. I continue to find myself lucky enough to be in a position with great co-workers. I am enthusiastic about contributing to efforts to address land issues for the Bad River Tribe. I look forward to collaborating on land-related projects and assisting tribal members with their lease inquiries. Lastly, my name is known to some, for those who do not know me, my name is Loretta Livingston.

Phone: 715-682-7123 ext. 1591 Email: NRDLease@badriver-nsn.gov

Workplace Safety: Hazard Awareness

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

HAZWOPER is the acronym for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. It is a type of training for individuals who deal in those very lines of work: hazardous substances or waste and responding to emergencies or disasters. While this is a more specific type of training that environmental or industrial workers might take, it also covers many standard lessons in general workplace safety.

Workplace safety is a fundamental aspect of any job, whether it be in construction, manufacturing, healthcare, or an office environment. The two main groups tasked with overseeing protocols for workplace safety are the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA). While they approach the idea of occupational health a bit differently, both groups agree that employees and employers alike must prioritize safety to prevent accidents in the workplace. A safe workplace is not just a legal requirement, it's an obligation to good ethics and a sign of respect for everyone on the job.

One of the most important aspects of workplace safety is being aware of potential hazards. These hazards can come in many forms. For instance, chemical exposure is a significant concern in industries that use toxic substances. Without proper handling, these chemicals can cause burns, res-

piratory issues, or long-term health effects. Fumes and airborne contaminants also pose serious risks. Inhaling toxic fumes from paints, solvents, or manufacturing processes can lead to dizziness, nausea, or chronic lung conditions. Adequate ventilation, proper respiratory protection, and regular air quality monitoring are essential to prevent harm.

A common group of hazards when going to a job site, or even around your own home, are electrical hazards. Faulty wiring, overloaded circuits, or improper use of equipment can result in electric shocks, fires, or worse. Regular inspections and proper training on electrical safety are crucial for preventing these potential accidents. Going back to HAZWOPER from the beginning of the article, hazardous waste is another critical area that demands attention. Improper disposal or storage of dangerous materials can lead to environmental contamination and health hazards. Employees on all job sites must follow protocols for handling and disposing of waste safely, in compliance with Tribal, state, and federal regulations. Even things around the house like a thermometer or button cell batteries can contain a particu-



The "Environment" Hazard Communication Pictogram, OSHA

larly worrisome hazard – mercury. Mercury is a toxic pollutant that can bio-accumulate in fish and wildlife and can cause serious health risks to humans. If anyone has any button cell batteries containing mercury lying around their home, please reach out to MNRD for proper disposal.

Being aware of these and other hazards, such as slips, trips, and falls, is key to maintaining a safe work environment. Safety is not a one-time effort but an ongoing practice that includes training, communication, and a culture of awareness. Safety is an “everyone” topic, whether one is at home, on the road, or at work. If something looks dangerous or like it may cause a future issue, it likely is, and it should be addressed for the safety of everyone around.

Wetland Delineation continued...

managers and permitting agencies to use when designing a project. Delineators often use pink flags or ribbon to mark the wetland boundary in the field, as shown in the picture on page 1.

The MNRD Water Resources Program uses information from a wetland delineation to identify the impacts a project will have on wetlands. By knowing where the wetlands are, the Water Resources Program can help project managers avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands from their projects by suggesting alternative locations or project designs.

How does a project manager know if they need to get a wetland delineation? Project managers should get a wetland delineation before creating a project site plan and submitting them to permitting agencies. However, in most cases, the Water Resources Program will determine if a wetland delineation is needed during the Project Review Process. <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/natural-resources/projectreviews/>

A wetland delineation must take place during the growing season (usually May to October) because delineators use vegetation as one of three indicators to identify if an area is a wetland or not. Therefore, completing a wetland

delineation and working through the Project Review and permitting process takes time, so it is important for project managers to work with permitting agencies and to plan their project so that permitting agencies have enough time to review each project. Please reach out to MNRD and the Water Resources Program with any questions or concerns about wetland delineations or permitting. By understanding the Project Review and permitting process, projects can continue to forge ahead and help Bad River

IAS Summer Youth Program Recap

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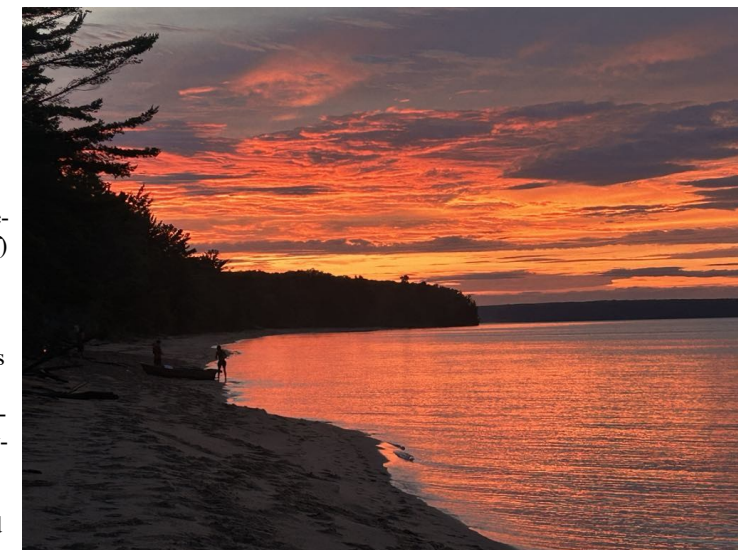
The Mashkiziibii Indigenous Arts and Sciences IAS Tribal Summer Youth Program ran for 5 weeks again this past July. Over the course of these weeks, 20 high school students explored the lands and water of the reservation and ceded territories, learned about Ojibwe arts, culture, and language, and shadowed tribal natural resources professionals.

The IAS Summer Youth Program started the year with learning the Grandfather teachings and making medicine pouches with elder Bill Roundwind. Also in the first week, the group traveled to Webber Lake in Iron County to learn canoe and kayak safety under the tutelage of water safety instructor and kayak guide Maddy Boler.

For the 3rd year in a row, the youth participated in an overnight trip to Moon-ingwaanekaaning Minis (Madeline Island). During this trip, the youth visited the Madeline Island Museum's exhibit featuring Bad River tribal craftswoman Ogemaakwe April Stone's Black Ash basketry exhibit. They also contributed to building a lodge on the island to house a wiigwaasi jiimaan (birch bark canoe) building workshop. The youth helped set and pull gillnets off the north end of the island as well as process fish under

Mashkiziibii's Genawendang Aki David Nevala's mentorship. Miskwaabekaang (Red Cliff) elder and flute player Anakwad Frank Montano came to share his flute and stories around the campfire, and Skabew-is Paul Demain led a historical tour of the island which spanned thousands of years and gave the group new perspective on their surroundings. This trip was as full as it was fun and promises to be a feature of this program for years to come!

During one outing, Ogemaakwe April Stone lead a contingent of youth to harvest, process, and make cordage with wiigoob, or the inner bark of the basswood tree. The youth learned about proper harvesting techniques and timing, how to separate the inner and outer bark, how



to process the fiber in a stream, and then got the satisfaction of making their own twine from this fiber. Additionally, the whole group participated in the annual Healing Run/Walk that the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission coordinates between the GLIFWC member communities. The youth learned the historical importance of the Sandy Lake Tragedy as well as how the Lake Superior Ojibwe negotiated the treaties to maintain their homelands and lifeways.

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