

# COMMON GROUND

2026 NIBIN EDITION  
(SUMMER)



## How is Acid Rain Measured by the Bad River Band?

Nathan Kilger, Air Quality Specialist- [airquality@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:airquality@badriver-nsn.gov)

**A**cid rain is a bridge between air pollution and impacts on the environment. When pollutants mix with moisture in the atmosphere (clouds, rain, or humidity) the water droplets pick up the pollutants and allow the pollution to fall from the sky as rain, snow, hail, or fog. The polluted precipitation can then affect plants, animals, rivers and lakes, and human health. Acid rain can even slowly erode stone blocks used in buildings or grave markers in cemeteries.

Growing concern in the 1960s and 1970s of increasingly acidic precipitation led the National Atmospheric Deposition Program to create the National Trends Network (NTN) in the 1980s. An NTN site was established at the mouth of the Bois Brule River in Douglas County in 2014 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The DNR shut down the site at the mouth of the Bois Brule River in 2022 and Mashkiiziibii (Bad River) Natural Resource Department moved the site to the head of Chequamegon Bay at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. The new location allows acid rain monitoring to continue in the Lake Superior watershed



while being close enough for the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resource staff to be able to maintain and operate the sampler and site.

NTN samples ten analytes from the precipitation collected on a weekly basis. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program describes the data as being used by “policymakers, research scientists, ecologists, and modelers”. There are 238 other NTN sites, besides the one operated by Mashkiiziibii Natural Resource Department, across Canada and the United States.

Many thanks to the U.S. EPA

for providing the funding to operate the NTN site and to the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center for hosting a location for the site.



### Special points of interest:

- Energy Audit Training
- New Staff Introductions
- Forestry Fliers
- Job Opportunities
- Lake Superior Days Flier
- Air Quality Updates

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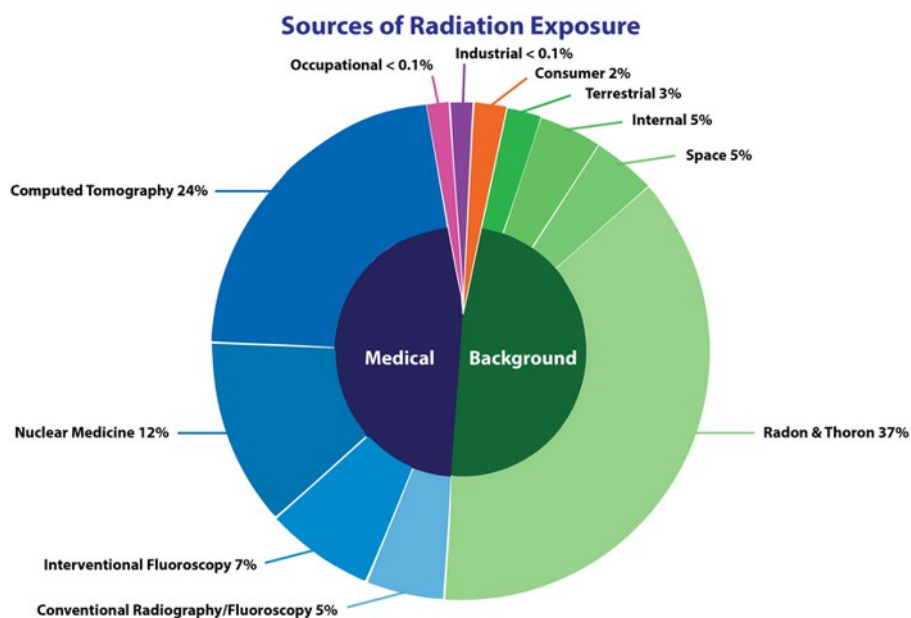
# Close Encounters of a Radioactive Kind

BY Zakk Zander Air Quality Technician/Radon Program Manager - [airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov)

With the weather slowly starting to feel like spring and as folks start to head outside it's a good time to think about other sources of radiation that a person would come into contact with. I'll mostly avoid using pico-curries per liter (pCi/L), becquerels (Bq), sievert (Sv) or number of other units to describe radiation exposure because they all become abstract in everyday life. I'll be using Banana equivalent dose, which is the radiation exposure from consuming a banana. The Banana equivalent dose is an informal unit of measurement meant to help visualize the absorbed dose of radiation at a point in time. It is approximately 1% of the average daily exposure to radiation (0.1 μSv), which is 1 banana equivalent dose (BED). Before we get too far into the examples of the different types of radiation, you'll likely encounter it's good to get somewhat of a base line. The lowest acute (one time) dose that has been known to cause cancer is 100 mSv which is the equivalent of eating 1 million bananas in one sitting. There are lots of other caveats I would like to make about this article, but I'll summarize it like this, the levels talked about in this article are generally regarded as safe by many governmental agencies, however there is no safe level of radiation to be exposed to. The second general caveat I will make is time; the less you time you are around anything hazardous the better.

First, we will take a look at the natural radiation sources that people will encounter. The most obvious source of radiation in our daily lives is the sun. If you spend 8 hours on the beach tanning, you will receive about 3 bananas worth of radiation. Another common source folks may not think about is the background radiation that comes from space separate from our sun. The amount of radiation you would receive in a day from cosmic rays would be 100 bananas worth. The average annual dose from natural sources is 34,000 bananas. Natural sources of radiation are the most common source of radiation exposure to people. There's one more major source I'll talk about at the end of this article.

These next few examples come from human activities that will expose you to radiation. The medical field uses radiation in a large number of applications and can account for roughly 15% of your radiation exposures. I will only cover a couple of examples. Chest X-rays will give you about 1,000 banana's worth of radiation. Mammograms will give you 4,000 banana's worth of radiation. The



(Source: National Council on Radiation Protection & Measurements, Report No. 160)

maximum amount a radiologist can be exposed to in a year is 500,000 bananas. Living next to a coal fired power plant, your BED would be 3 while next to a nuclear power plant, your BED would be 0.9. Air travel is one of the other man-made exposure methods. A single flight from New York to LA would give you a BED of 400 bananas. While the flight crews in a year would experience 30,000 banana equivalent doses in year. This last source falls in the cracks between natural and man-made. Radon is everywhere in the environment and is the leading source for natural radiation exposure. If you live in a house for 1 year with a radon level of 1.9pCi/L, a number on the higher side of average for homes on reservation. Your banana equivalent dose would be 18.5 billion bananas. If you lived in the same home for 5 years its dose equivalent would be 92.4 billion bananas. Last example in this house and then I'll add a bit of context for these numbers. If you lived in the house for 60 years that would be 1108.5 billion bananas worth of radiation exposure. For the 1 year of exposure of at 1.9pCi/L, you would have to eat about 2,000 bananas a day to receive the same amount of radiation. Now I hear the question you all are asking, how many bananas would I have

to eat before I would die. A lethal dose of potassium comes from about 400 bananas eaten in one sitting. Hopefully this somewhat silly article has shown that the world we live in and have built around us is bathed in some form of radiation and that most of the time these sources are just something to be aware of and respected like any you would with any force of nature. However, in areas where we spend the most time, like our homes and places of work some extra care should be taken. Would you ignore 2,000 bananas entering your home every day? Test you home for radon, mitigate the house when it is needed and stop the banana deliveries. Radon testing is offered free of charge to Tribal members and Tribal employees. Reach out to me at [airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov) to request a test kit.

# ENERGY AUDIT TRAINING NEWSLETTER

By Jackson Rose

Recently, I completed an Energy Audit Training program through Focus on Energy in Wausau, Wisconsin focused on residential energy efficiency, safety testing, and diagnostic procedures.



## Energy Audit Training

Hands-on experience in home performance testing and building safety diagnostics

### Blower Door Testing

During the training, I learned the fundamentals of blower door testing and how it is used to measure air leakage in residential buildings. We practiced setting up the blower door equipment, interpreting pressure readings, and identifying areas where conditioned air escapes from the home. This testing process helps improve energy efficiency, and overall building performance.

### Safety Monitoring & Gas Leak Detection

Another important section of the training focused on carbon monoxide monitoring and gas leak detection procedures. We learned how to safely use combustion analyzers and gas detection equipment to identify potential hazards in residential systems. The course stressed the importance of safety protocols, proper ventilation, and protecting occupants from dangerous conditions.



The Energy Audit Training in Wausau provided valuable practical knowledge that can be applied directly in the field.

Throughout the course, participants gained experience performing real diagnostic tests while learning industry practices for energy conservation and home safety inspections.



# Non-Local Beings Program Spring Update

Bridget Thornburg, NLB Program Manager - [nonlocalbeings@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:nonlocalbeings@badriver-nsn.gov)

## BUCKTHORN

You may have noticed some strange looking bare stumps with flagging on them around the Reservation. This is because the Non-Local Beings Program is implementing a new method of buckthorn control called "Critical Period Cutting." This method takes 2 years to fully implement and can only be used on buckthorn with stems greater than 2" in diameter, but research has shown an 80% mortality rate.

If you are interested in trying this method on buckthorn on your own property reach out to the Non-Local Beings Program, or follow the steps below:

Year 1 - in late May or early June cut the main stem 3-5 feet above the ground, then cut off any side branches and growth on the remaining stump. You should left with the bare stump of the buckthorn standing 3-5 feet tall.

Year 1 - in mid-September re-strip the stump until its bare, cutting off any branches or new growth emerging from the stump. This process will stress the plant and exhaust its root reserves, which will prevent it from drawing down any additional nutrients gained from new leaves over the summer.

Year 2 - in late May or early June re-strip the stump again, cutting off any new growth that has emerged after Spring leaf-out.

Year 2 - in early to mid-September re-strip the stump again before Fall leaf-off.

Try pushing the stump over to see if it has died, buckthorn have shallow roots so they are easy to knock over once they are dead. If the buckthorn is not dead yet, continue re-stripping until you can easily knock it down and take it to a yard waste center, use it as firewood, or leave it to decay. Make sure not to leave behind any berries though!

Revisit the site the following year to pull up any buckthorn seedlings that may have been left behind and plant native species.

It is important to control buckthorn because it is a very aggressive species that will outcompete other plants for light and nutrients. When it outcompetes native plants, it reduces the biodiversity of an area, causing insects and animals to have less of their natural food sources and nesting areas. The shallow roots of buckthorn don't hold soil in place very well either, so when it outcompetes other more deeply rooted plants it can lead to increased rates of soil erosion.



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Jun 1, 2026 2:28:10 PM



Mobicrac Harvester

## Cattail Harvester

At the end of May, mechanics traveled all the way from the Netherlands to teach the Non-Local Beings Program how to repair the cattail cutter. Now that the machine is up and running, we will continue cutting cattail on Beartrap Creek off Goslin Road this Spring. Cutting the cattail below the water level drowns the plant, which gives other native species, like manoomin, a chance to grow in these areas. This method requires recutting cattail multiple times before any significant changes will be noticed, but we hope that eventually we will be able to restore balance between native species and the non-native cattail.

## Meet the Non-Local Beings Seasonal Crew



Hi, my name is Ben Connors Jr, I am from Bad River and I am the Natural Resources Aide (Watercraft Inspector). This is my first time working for the Tribe and I am excited to work with the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department, meet the team, and learn what it has to offer. I enjoy hunting, fishing, exercising my treaty rights, and being outdoors. I currently just finished out my junior year in college and I am excited to join the team for the summer.

...Meet the Crew continued on page 11...



# MNRD'S NEW ENERGY TECHNICIAN

Boozhoo! My name is Jackson Rose (Niigaani-Giizhig), born and raised here in Bad River, and I serve as the new Energy Technician with MNRD. I work alongside our renewable energy team supporting the **Mashkiiziibii Minigrid Project** - a major step toward community energy resilience.

My goal is to contribute to long-term energy sovereignty rooted in community leadership, and I am proud to represent Bad River in building a future that is community-driven, forward-thinking, and built to last. Outside of work, I enjoy participating in powwows and cultural ceremonies, which strengthens my connection to my culture and community.

Contact:  
[EnergyTech@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:EnergyTech@badriver-nsn.gov)

## SPRING CLIMATE SUMMARY

Odanah



WARMEST

**89°F**

May 25

COLDEST

**3°F**

March 1

AVERAGE TEMP

**41.5 F**

3.5°F Below Average

SPRING PRECIP

**7.10"**

0.74" Below Average

TOTAL WINTER SNOW

**81.0"**

4.3" Below Average

MAXIMUM WIND GUST

**41 mph from SW**

April 17

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:



## Advancing Our Understanding of Groundwater in the Lake Superior Basin

Jessica Strand, Environmental Specialist - [Environmental@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:Environmental@badriver-nsn.gov)

The MNRD has been conferring with Red Cliff, GLIFWC, and the WI Geological Natural History Survey (WIGNHS) regarding US Geological Survey (USGS) research being completed in Douglas, Bayfield, and Ashland Counties to better understand geology and groundwater in the region. Additional data collection by USGS this summer will be used by different groups in this collaboration to compliment and build of the foundational efforts to understand groundwater in the region have been ongoing for many years. Previous studies have included work to:

- Understand the relationship between groundwater and surface water in the Bad River Watershed, or in other words, where the groundwater comes out of the ground and where the surface water goes into it and how that relates to the aquifer. This study was a partnership between the USGS and Bad River Band and resulted in a model and a report published in 2015: *Groundwater/Surface-Water Interactions in the Bad River Watershed, Wisconsin: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2015–5162* (<https://dx.doi.org/10.3133/sir20155162>, Leaf, A.T., Fienen, M.N., Hunt, R.J., and Buchwald, C.A., 2015).
- Understand groundwater in Bayfield County by creating a regional-scale hydrogeologic atlas, showing how groundwater moves within the earth in Bayfield County with water-table elevation and groundwater flow directions, depth to the water table, areas where surface waters recharge the aquifer, the susceptibility of groundwater to contamination, and other geologic features. The study was a partnership between Bayfield County, WIGNHS, and others and resulted in a report published in 2019: *Hydrogeologic atlas of Bayfield County, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey Technical Report 005* (<https://data.wgnhs.wisc.edu/pubshare/TR005.pdf>, Graham, G.E., Fehling, A.C., Gotkowitz, M.B., and Bradbury, K.R., 2019).
- Understanding groundwater quantity, quality, distribution, and vulnerability in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is a project that US Forest Service, USGS, and WIGNHS have partnered on. The study resulted in four reports—one for the Washburn/Great Divide area, one for the Park Falls area, one for the Nicolet area, and one for the Medford area. These reports can be found in the WIGNHS catalogue at: [https://wgnhs.wisc.edu/catalog/group/technical-report?series=Technical+Report&tags=Groundwater&tags\\_sort=index](https://wgnhs.wisc.edu/catalog/group/technical-report?series=Technical+Report&tags=Groundwater&tags_sort=index)

More recent work by WIGNHS has focused on better understanding groundwater contributions to coastal wetlands across Lake Superior's southern shoreline in WI, with work near Pokegama, Allouez Bay, Brule River, Bark Bay, Pikes Creek, and Fish Creek. WIGNHS has combined well and surface water quality testing, wetland characterization, well log drilling data, and current geological mapping to determine that some coastal wetlands are more influenced by groundwater than others. This study is ongoing and will be refined and built upon with data that is going to be collected

Airborne electromagnetic system used in northeast Wisconsin in 2021 is similar to the equipment that will be used in the upcoming USGS surveys. (Image from the USGS Upper Midwest Water Science Center. <https://www.usgs.gov/media/videos/northeast-wisconsin-airborne-electromagnetic-survey-2021-helicopter-and-survey> <-- Click the link to watch the full video.)



by airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys funded by the USGS

Earth Mapping Resources Initiative as part of a national-scale effort to acquire modern high-resolution airborne geophysical data in portions of northern Wisconsin. The USGS Mineral Resource Program completing the AEM flights is also setting aside funding for the USGS Water Science Center, WIGNHS, and Tribes to use for utilizing the AEM data to advance groundwater research.

WIGNHS has been in contact with staff at GLIFWC who pulled in staff from the Red Cliff Environmental Department and MNRD to ensure that the Tribal concerns area addressed as USGS's project moved forward and to best see how the groundwater work could align with Tribal interests in the region. Through this collaboration, the flyover area was narrowed to avoid areas of concern and potential research areas of interest were identified to focus the funding on including: refining details related to the bedrock geology in the region, a broader "GFLOW" model for the area that will be used to build a better understanding of the aquifer, inventorying of artesian wells and springs, refining of the coastal wetland groundwater cross-section data, and understanding how land use change may impact groundwater. Increased understanding of groundwater in the region will help protect groundwater quality and quantity, which is important as large portions of the populations in northern Wisconsin rely on private and municipal wells drilled into the groundwater aquifer for drinking water.

MNRD is not taking a more active role in the collaboration by completing any field work ourselves, but we continue to stay informed about opportunities related to funding and study results to build our understanding of the region and improve our ability to protect the life, lands, and waters therein for the seventh generation.

For more information about WIGNHS's groundwater study efforts and USGS's Earth Mapping Resources Initiative, please refer to this document: <http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/AEMOutreach.pdf>. Please refer to the document for exact maps of flight areas. The USGS AEM surveys are expected to start in the western part of the Upper Peninsula around June 9, 2026 and move west from there, including collecting data in Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas counties west of the Bad River Reservation and south of the Red Cliff Reservation.

## New Brownfield Specialist: Introducing Grant Whitman

By: Grant Whitman, MNRD Brownfield Program - [Brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:Brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov)

**B**oozhoo! Wóhéih! (wa-hay)  
My name is Grant Whitman, and I am the new Brownfield Specialist at the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department. I was born in Idaho and had the opportunity to grow up in a couple of different cities like Boise, Salt Lake, and San Diego. My mother is a citizen of the Fort Belknap Indian Community and a descendant of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians; both tribes are located in Montana. While Boozhoo is one way to say hello in Ojibwemowin, the way for men to say hello in 'Ó'óónáák'i (the Gros Ventre language), is Wóhéih, while the women's way is Nahááh.

I am a recent college graduate from Cornell University where I studied Biological Sciences and Chemistry with a minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies. My area of study during college was biochemistry, but I often found myself focused on outreach and activism within the Indigenous community. As a student I was part of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and I had the opportunity to work with the Cayuga SHARE Farm and with water protectors of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. After I graduated, I was left wondering how to use my studies to be of service to Indigenous communities and was fortunate enough to learn about the Brownfield program.

The Brownfield program at the MNRD is where chemical hazards that negatively affect the community are addressed. One of the goals of the Brownfield program is to identify and remediate hazardous

chemical sites in order to restore the land to a pre-contaminated state. These hazardous sites often are some of the root causes of negative health outcomes within Indigenous communities, so working to resolve them is a high priority. Stewardship of the land, especially the stewardship of these sites which present a health risk, needs to be centered, especially in the face of growing threats to our environment. Cornell is also where I met my spouse, the current tribal librarian Della Keahna, who is doing very exciting work at the library, which is open from 11am-5pm Monday through Friday. The library has a monthly book club focusing on Indigenous literature, and soon will have craft days, storytime, writing club, and the all-ages summer reading program. We're both very excited to work for the Mashkiiziibii community and would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming.



FORESTRY UPDATES



2026 Mashkiiziibii

# The Bad River Urban Forestry Hazard Tree Removal Project

Funding for this project is provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service, Urban and Community Forest Program in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Questions or if you would like to discuss trees that are scheduled to be cut,

Contact Gena Abramson Forestry Specialist at 715-685-8929 or Forester@badriver-nsn.gov

The tribal council has approved our Urban Forestry Management Plan. Evergreen Tree Service has been hired to implement this project (cut and prune trees) as it was inventoried in spring of 2025.

Trees scheduled to be cut were ribboned at that time. Trees to be pruned were not ribboned.

Trees in your yard that were determined to be potential hazard trees will be managed in the next few months.

Miigwech for your patience and understanding as we carry out this project.



# OAK FIREWOOD AVAILABLE



**~BAD RIVER COMMUNITY MEMBERS ONLY~**



Unprocessed Oak cords available for processing at Minigrud Site on Birch Hill. (See Map) Please arrange pick-up prior to June 8th as other work is starting at site and pick-up will be unavailable.

~Questions, Contact Gena Abramson, Forestry Specialist at 715-685-8929.



# JOIN US!!

## ~July 17th, 2026~

### Lake Superior Days Celebration

### 11am - 3pm @ Lake Road Park

**Cultural Demonstrators, Hands-On  
Learning Activities, Educational  
Booths, and More...**



**~LUNCH PROVIDED~**



**\*Questions? Contact MNRD Outreach Coordinator @715-682-7123**

# Sign up for Nixle Alerts



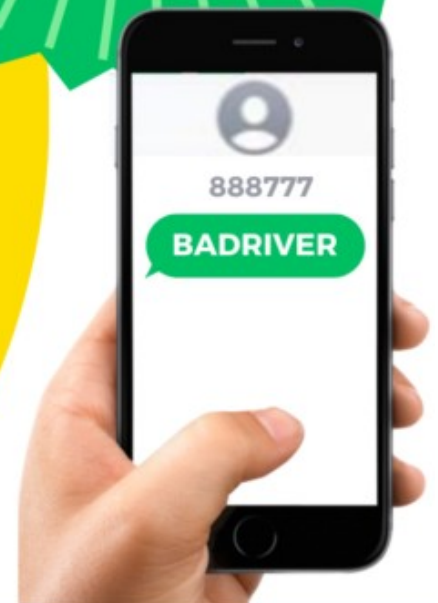
**TEXT 'BADRIVER'  
TO '888777'**

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**

## Taimi Lynne Hoag Award for Environmental Stewardship | US EPA.

Naomi Tillison, MNRD Director - [nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov)

**A**t the end of February, I received a phone call and was surprised to find out that I was selected by the Region 5 Regional Tribal Caucus as the next recipient of the Taimi Lynne Hoag Award! The Taimi Lynne Hoag Award for Environmental Stewardship was established in 2003 in honor of Taimi Lynne Hoag, who served as the Environmental Director for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. The Taimi Lynne Hoag Award is given out annually to tribal professionals and/or elected offi-

cial in the Great Lakes area. I'm honored to receive this award and grateful for everyone who has helped me over the years, including community members and the Natural Resources team. More information about the award can be found at: [Taimi Lynne Hoag Award for Environmental Stewardship | US EPA.](https://www.epa.gov/tribal/taimi-lynne-hoag-award-environmental-stewardship-0) Click Link below: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/taimi-lynne-hoag-award-environmental-stewardship-0>



Photo taken by Jaida Grey Eagle

## Job Opportunities in MNRD

- Lease Specialist - Full-Time, Non-Exempt

**\*For Full Job Descriptions and other Job Openings Click Link:**

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

## Meet the Invasives Crew continued...



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

My name is Emma Parisien, I'm from Bad River and this is my 4th 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.



## **MNRD Warden HOTLINE**

**Call 715-682-7123 Ext. 1560**

The Warden Hotline provides the tribal membership with the opportunity to confidentially report suspected wildlife, recreational and environmental violations.

These violations may include fishing, or hunting out of season, deposit of harmful substances in lakes or rivers or illegal storage or disposal of hazardous waste. All these violations seriously affect the natural resources of our reservation.

Information received on this line will be relayed to a Mashkiiziibii Conservation Warden for investigation. You don't have to leave your name when reporting a violation. However, it is often helpful to an investigation if a Conservation Warden can follow-up on your report to verify essential facts. If you provide, your identity and any information that may identify you, that information will be protected and kept confidential.

If response is needed immediately please feel free to call or email one of the following Wardens:

**Chief Warden, Brad Bigboy**

**715-292-7256**

**[chiefwarden@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:chiefwarden@badriver-nsn.gov)**

**Warden, Augilucho Godinez**

**715-292-3118**

**[BRNRWarden@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:BRNRWarden@badriver-nsn.gov)**

### **\*Helpful info when reporting a violation\***

- Who is the violator? Describe the people, including their physical description and clothing
- What is the violation?
- Where did this violation take place? (be as specific as possible)
- When did this occur?
- If possible, please take pictures, and license plate numbers, anything to help identify the suspects.



### **Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department**

72682 Maple Street  
PO Box 39  
Odanah, WI, 54806

Phone: 715-685-7840 - 715-682-7123  
Fax: 715-682-7118  
Email: [NRDOutreach@badriver-nsn.gov](mailto:NRDOutreach@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.*

***Were on the Web!***  
***Visit [www.badriver-nsn.gov](http://www.badriver-nsn.gov)***

