

COMMON GROUND

Wild Rice Week

(FALL)

2026 DAGWAAGIN EDITION



Angelina Godinez, MNRD Deputy Director - NRDeputy@badriver-nsn.gov

For the people of Bad River, manoomin is much more than a natural resource. It is a traditional food, an important symbol of Ojibwe culture, and a connection between our people, our waters, and the ancestors who came before us. The protection and stewardship of manoomin continues to be an important responsibility carried by the Bad River community today. On August 31st, 2026, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa hosted an event at the Bad River Powwow Grounds in



collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Wild Rice Stewardship Council to recognize and celebrate Wisconsin's first-ever Wild Rice Week.



... Continued on page 7...

Special points of interest:

- Wild Rice Week
- Diggers Hotline
- Beetle Farming
- Energy Updates
- Beach Monitoring Updates
- Lake Superior Days Celebration
- Hatchery Production 2026
- MNRD Warden HOTLINE

An Essential Step for Your Next Project:



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

MNRD has recently been asked to review utility projects that have been triggered due to structures being built over a gas service line or main. Most often these are out-buildings (sheds, garages, etc.) being built next to homes or streets without a full understanding about what is under the ground in those locations. In the in-

stances that have come to our office recently for review, Xcel is now having to complete shutoffs and reroutes of existing gas lines so mains and service lines don't continue to operate under buildings. This is a cost to the utility, homeowner, and Tribe as the extra project work draws resources.

Construction over utility lines poses not only a danger to workers and the nearby

...continued on page 4...

Inside this issue:

Return of Extreme Drought After 19 Years	2
Pow Wow Weekend at the Museum	3
Diggers Hotline continued...	4
Beetle Farming	5
Piping Plover Updates	6
What is a Hazwoper?	8
Beach Monitoring 2026	9
NIXLE Alerts Sign-Up	10
Public Notice	11
Forestry Updates	13
Lake Superior Days Celebration	14
Changes in MNRD	15
Warden Hotline	16

Return of Extreme Drought After 19 Years

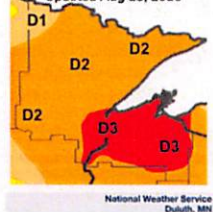
By Nathan Kilger, Air Quality Specialist - airquality@bdriver-nsn.gov

Drought conditions have started to develop each summer in 2021, 2022, and 2023 across the western Lake Superior region, but have recently turned much drier and have expanded across a larger area this August.

Drought Intensity Scale

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Updated Aug 25, 2026



The U.S. Drought Monitor was started in 2000 and tracks drought conditions across the country with weekly updates. The drought progressed from Moderate Drought (D1) into Severe Drought (D2) in July and now has turned into Extreme Drought (D3) for a large portion of northwestern Wisconsin (shown as red on the intensity scale).

The weekly, long-term tracker for the Bad River Reservation highlights a multi-year drought from 2005 to 2010, reaching Extreme Drought (D3) in August and September of 2007. The wild rice harvest was cancelled, the first time in memory, in 2007

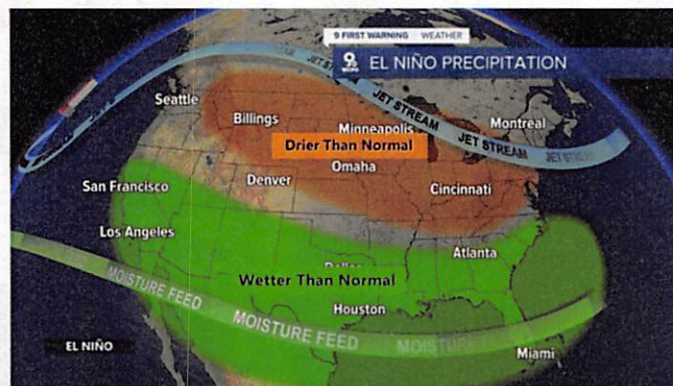
due to extremely low water levels.

The most recent drought period started late in 2021 and is currently on-going.

Each week has a cell in this Excel spreadsheet screenshot, and each year has a column (2000 is on the right, 2026 is the left-most column). I've dropped a blue circle on the 2007 drought and then copied the same blue circle and dropped it on the current drought years. There is not enough data to draw any conclusions, but it does seem like there's a periodic nature to these dry periods on this spreadsheet.

An El Niño weather pattern has set in this summer, is currently strengthening, and is forecast to remain in place throughout the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter months. No two El Niño patterns produce the same results, but historical El Niño events typically bring overall drier winters to the northern portions of the United States. Many of the larger weather systems stay south of our area during El Niño winters, potentially reducing snowfall totals.

We do not know exactly what this winter will look like, but previous El Niño events



show that we should prepare for the drought conditions to continue for a while yet.

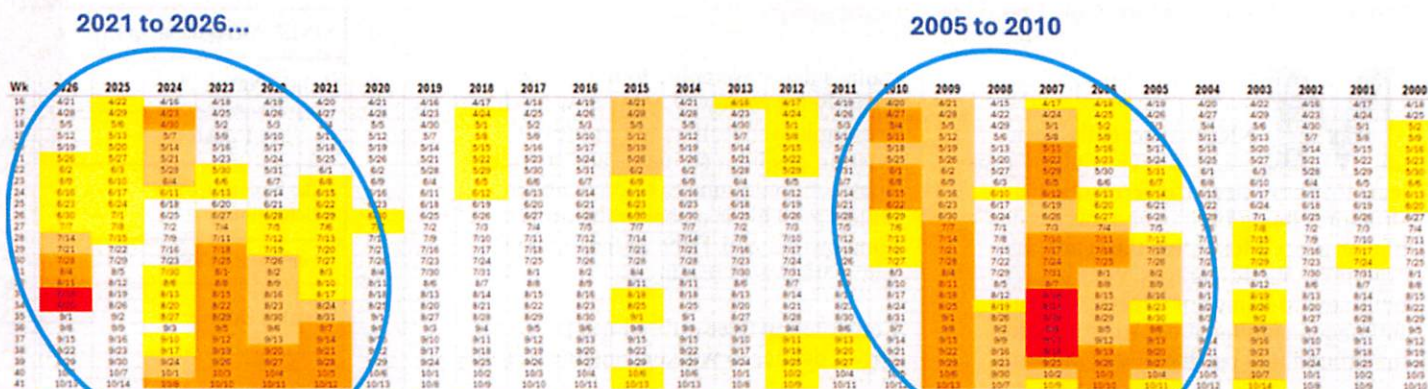
Wildfire danger has been higher this summer, with a burning ban issued on the Reservation on August 21st. Unless normal precipitation resumes, we're expecting a fall wildfire season as vegetation dries out and dies.

Droughts also add to the local fine particulate air pollution. We have seen unprecedented wildfire smoke in the middle of July, giving us a very high air pollution episode already. But drought increases dust in the atmosphere from fields and gravel roads, bringing elevated air pollution to areas downwind. We did see slightly elevated fine particulate pollution in 2007 and 2008, at least partially an outcome of the Extreme Drought during those years.

Lake Superior water levels have been averaging a little below long-term for the last few years but have not yet dropped to the low levels measured in 2007. The forecast is for Lake Superior water levels to hold steady for a few months, but the Lake typically drops slowly throughout the winter months, and that is reflected in the current water level forecast.

U.S. Drought Monitor (updated every Thursday morning: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>)

Great Lakes Water Level Dashboard: <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/data/wlevels/dashboard/>



Powwow Weekend at the Museum

Paula Maday, Museum Manager - p.maday@badriver-nsn.gov

In August, the Moka'aangiizisban Tribal Museum installed a pop-up exhibit dedicated to Bad River Powwow Royalty, past and present. A call for submissions went out and the community responded, sending over photos, beaded crowns, sashes, and names to be added to the record of Bad River Royalty. Over the course of powwow weekend, over 75 visitors stopped by to see the exhibit, hailing from as far away as Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, and Italy! Royalty contestants for the current year also stopped by the exhibit to complete a fun scavenger hunt aimed at helping them connect to the history of this Bad River community tradition.



...Continued on page 12...

Energy Group Update

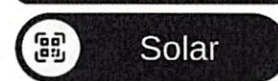
Brandon Semerau, Energy Program Manager - B.Semerau@badriver-nsn.gov

Boozhoo all! This summer has given us some beautiful days and also some challenging ones. Smoke from the boundary waters increased local energy demand as people turned to AC for cooling and air quality. July 17th wind storms caused major power outages through Bad River and across the Chequamegon Bay. It is the prerogative of Bad River's Energy Program to reduce the effects of these issues, improving Bad River's energy resilience and sovereignty. Fortunately, the program has been hard at work moving grants along to make a lasting impact. Construction of the Mashkiizibii Minigrid located at Birch Hill officially began on July 3rd. Three Phase utility line upgrade routes have been brushed and design is nearing completion. Construction of the line will begin later this

year and continue through next summer. Other small-scale projects include solar rooftops and energy audits for Bad River residents. Both solar and audits can lead to reduced energy bills for their recipients. Homeowners are encouraged to sign up using the links below. We appreciate your patience as we work towards accomplishing these goals. Miigwech!

Rooftop Solar: <https://forms.gle/mp1so38V2GKQQMH79>

Energy Audit: <https://forms.gle/nJDgV7BUePC3wSy26>



Audit

DIGGERS HOTLINE®

The DIGGERS HOTLINE and DIGGERS HOTLINE logo are registered trademarks of Diggers Hotline, Inc.

community during the construction project if the digging were to hit the line, but also long-term risk from the building being placed on the line. Striking a gas utility line or main can cause an explosion or vapor risk to the community, striking an underground electrical service can risk electrocution to the machine operator and an outage for buildings, and striking a communication, sewer, or water line can cause service delays and substantial maintenance costs.

Calling Diggers Hotline at 811 or 1-800-242-8511 and waiting for marking of lines to be completed alleviates much of the risk to you, your neighbors, and your contractors when you plan to dig or are working on siting a new structure. Completing both a Diggers Hotline call and a MNRD Project Review are two essential steps to help reduce risks and stay in compliance with Tribal Codes. For more information on Project Reviews, including contact information for resources outside of MNRD, please visit our webpage: <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/natural-resources/projectreviews/>.

For a nice short summary about the Diggers Hotline process you need to follow, visit this webpage: <https://www.cwecoop.com/call-811-you-dig>.

To file a Diggers Hotline request online or for more information, visit the website directly: <https://www.diggershotline.com/>.



Beetle Farming

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

This summer, the Non-Local Beings Program collaborated with a variety of partners within the Northwoods Weed Cooperative Management Area group to create a beetle farm. These beetles are called Galerucella beetles, and they specifically eat a non-local being called purple loosestrife.



The first step of creating the beetle farm was to ensure that there was enough food for the beetles to eat. Since they mainly eat purple loosestrife, this involved going out during Spring to gather purple loosestrife plants as they began to sprout and replanting them into pots and kiddie pools. These relocated plants were then put inside a large screen tent.



The next step was to gather the beetles. We waited until June, which is typically before the beetles mate and lay their eggs. Gathering the beetles took a lot of patience and a good eye because the beetles typically hid in the dark crevices of the purple loosestrife leaves. We collected the beetles by shaking the leaves and stems of the plants over soda bottles contraptions (photo on the right). A cotton ball was placed over the opening of the bottle to prevent the beetles from crawling out. We gathered as many beetles as we could find and transported them to the large screen tent with the purple loosestrife plants in it.



Once all of the beetles were placed in the screen tent, we waited for the plants to grow and for the beetles to produce eggs that would eventually

turn into larvae. The hot temperatures this summer resulted in some larvae fatalities. The photo on the left shows the larvae that got too hot and did not make it to adulthood.

Despite these struggles, the majority of the larvae survived, and eventually turned into adult beetles. We had to continually add more purple loosestrife to the tent because the beetles started to eat it so quickly. The photo on the right shows the beetle larvae eating a purple loosestrife plant.

Once the beetles had reached adulthood, we gathered them into nets to disperse them into areas with purple loosestrife infestations. One of the areas we chose to distribute the beetles was Chequamegon Point. It was difficult to estimate the number of beetles because of their small size, but there were between 200 and 500 beetles deployed on Chequamegon Point. The photo below shows the beetles collected into the net sack just before they were taken to their new home and released.

The goal of this project was to intentionally disperse these beetles into areas with purple loosestrife infestations. Purple loosestrife is an aggressive plant that out-competes native plants, and it can be very difficult to remove these plants. Hopefully with the help of these beetles we will be able to reduce the purple loosestrife population and encourage the growth of native plants.



2026 Piping Plover Season Recap

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

Summer 2026 was another wild ride for the piping plovers of Chequamegon Point. This year, six females and seven males took to their breeding grounds on Chequamegon Point, although the season quickly reminded us that life as a piping plover is anything but easy. One of our returning males, Gary, was lost to a predator, leaving his mate to start over with a new partner. She wasn't about to give up, though, and renested with another male. Gary's abandoned nest became part of an important conservation effort when we collected the remaining eggs and gave them a chance to hatch and grow in captivity. Two chicks ultimately hatched, were raised, and were released at another piping plover habitat in the Great Lakes Region, a remarkable comeback for eggs that otherwise would never have made it. Out on the point, the wild birds kept us busy too, and by the end of the season 11 chicks had successfully fledged. Of course, the plovers had plenty of obstacles besides finding the perfect mate. Coyotes made several attempts at turning chicks into snacks, while people and their four-legged companions created a whole different set of challenges. Off-leash dogs occasionally wandered through areas the plovers were using, and monitors sometimes had to deal with difficult encounters with beachgoers while trying to protect the birds. Still, the plovers kept doing what piping plovers do best: laying eggs, defending their territories, chasing each other around the beach, and making the beach their home for the summer. By the time the last chicks took flight, 13 young plovers had made it through the season—11 wild fledglings and two captive-reared chicks. It was a season full of predators, people, long monitoring days, unexpected twists, and more than a few headaches, but also a season that showed just how resilient these tiny birds



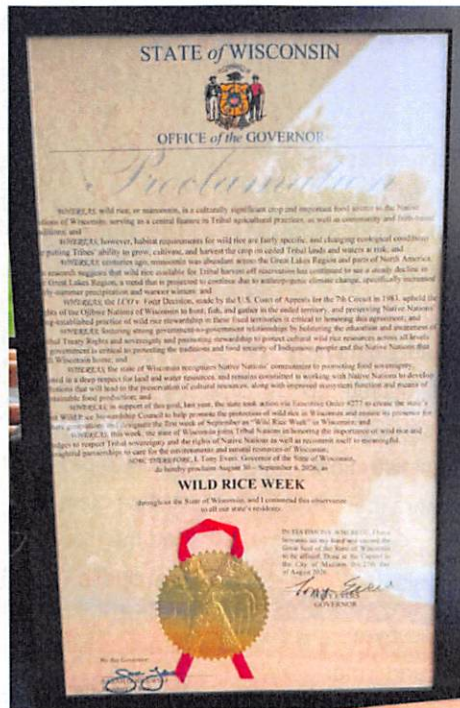
can be. At Chequamegon Point, every fledgling is a victory.

Wild Rice Week continued...

Governor Tony Evers proclaimed August 30th through September 6th, 2026, as Wisconsin Wild Rice Week on August 27th. While the statewide recognition is new, the relationship between Ojibwe people and manoomin goes back countless generations. For Bad River, the event provided an opportunity to welcome visitors to our community and share the cultural and ecological importance of manoomin while highlighting the work being done locally to protect it. Throughout the event, attendees were able to learn about manoomin through cultural demonstrations, educational displays, and conversations with those who work with and care for these resources, while sharing traditional knowledge and helping connect attendees with the cultural significance of manoomin.

The Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Department also provided several displays highlighting Bad River's ongoing stewardship efforts. These included Bad River manoomin and traditional ricing sticks, a map of the Bad River watershed, and information about current projects and activities of the Department's Manoomin Program. A Mobitrac harvester was also on display which is used in efforts to manage invasive cattails within wetland areas.

One of the most memorable parts of the day was the opportunity to bring attendees onto the waters of the Kakagon Sloughs. Boat tours departed from the Raymond "Snooty" Couture Tribal Fish Hatchery, with six boats operated by MNRD staff from the Fish Hatchery, Conservation Warden Department, Wildlife program, and tribal volunteers. Through their combined efforts, about 40 attendees were able to experience the sloughs from the water. Governor Evers and other visiting officials also participated in a boat tour of the Kakagon Sloughs. The tour provided an opportunity for visitors to see firsthand where Bad River's manoomin grows and to better understand the relationship between manoomin, clean water, and healthy wetlands. For Bad River, the Kakagon Sloughs are not simply a place on a map. These waters



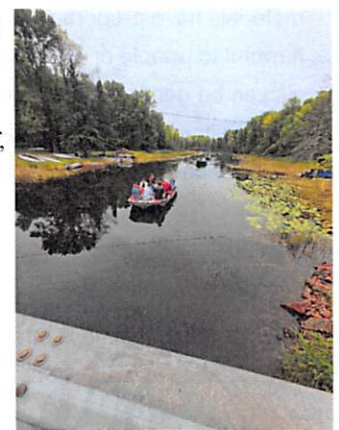
and wetlands are part of a living landscape that has supported our community and our way of life for generations. They provide important habitat for manoomin, fish, wildlife, and many other plant and animal species while continuing to support traditional harvesting and cultural practices.

Although Wisconsin Wild Rice Week is a new statewide recognition, the responsibility to care for manoomin is not new to the Ojibwe people. Our families have harvested, processed, shared, protected, and respected manoomin for generations. Today, that responsibility continues

through our harvesters, knowledge holders, community members, youth, and the programs and staff working to protect our lands and waters. Hosting this event at Bad River provided an opportunity to share a small part of that relationship with state leaders, natural resource professionals, partners, and visitors. It also provided an opportunity to remind others that protecting manoomin means protecting much more than a single plant. It means caring for our water, wetlands, fish and wildlife, cultural practices, traditional foods, and the ability of future generations to continue the relationship that our ancestors carried before us. Wisconsin's first Wild Rice Week provided an opportunity for others to recognize something the Bad River community has long known, that manoomin is an important part of who we are, and caring for it is a responsibility we carry forward for the generations yet to come.

The Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Department would like to thank everyone who helped make the celebration possible, including the Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Wild Rice Stewardship Council, Tribal Council, Governor Evers and visiting officials, MNRD staff, and community members who contributed their time and knowledge to the event.

Miigwech.



What is HAZWOPER?

Grant Whitman, MNRD Brownfield Specialist - brownfields@badriver-nsn.gov

Boozhoo! Wóhéih! (wa-hay)

During September 14th through September 18th, there is going to be an initial 40hr. course for HAZWOPER training at the Bad River Community Center. This training is being coordinated by the Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Department and taught by the Alabama Fire College in partnership with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). This course is aligned to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (29 CFR 1910.120) standards for workers involved in hazardous waste cleanup, emergency response, and facilities which may treat hazardous materials.

But what is HAZWOPER? HAZWOPER is an acronym which stands for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. It's a set of standards that OSHA creates and maintains to protect workers who are exposed to hazardous materials. It sets rules for safe handling of hazardous materials, personal protective equipment (PPE), site control, and safety training. HAZWOPER originates from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), these laws are considered the foundation of federal laws that manage hazardous waste and the cleanup of contamination from chemical hazards.

What are Hazardous Materials? Hazardous Materials can take many forms; they can be a gas, liquid, or solid. These materials have properties that are potentially dangerous or harmful to people or the environment. Hazardous materials can be generated by many different sources including mining sites, laboratories, trash disposal sites, agricultural facilities, and from petrochemical infrastructure. The most common types of hazardous materials are flammable liquids, toxic chemicals, corrosives, explosives, and even controlled substances.

HAZWOPER training is often a requirement for any worker which has to work with or around hazardous materials.

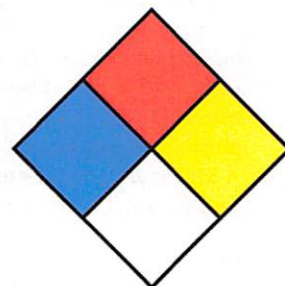
The procedures and guidelines taught in HAZWOPER training are made to protect workers and the general public. Anyone who might work at

Brownfield sites, Superfund sites or abandoned industrial locations with leftover chemicals and other contaminants would absolutely benefit from HAZWOPER training. Another group which needs HAZWOPER training is First Responders engaged in an emergency response operation involving the release or potential release of hazardous substances.

This course has enough capacity to give HAZWOPER certification to 25 people, so the Tribes' ability to respond to hazards will be greatly increased. Parts of the course will be in a classroom setting, but large portions will be hands-on exercises involving specialized gear. This training will provide critically important safety education to tribal employees and will be the foundation of a safe response to hazardous materials.

NIOSH/OSHA/USCG/EPA

Occupational Safety and Health Guidance Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities



2026 Hatchery Production

Jacob Rodmaker, Fisheries Specialist - fisheryspecialist@badriver-nsn.gov

The Bad River Fish Hatchery was able to collect eggs from the Kakagon River during the spring Ogaa (Walleye) run. The hatchery crew consisting of 7 people collected 13.1 million eggs from April 20th-25th. After 18 days of cleaning jars, adjusting water flow, and removing dead eggs, the eggs began to hatch. The hatchery then held the eggs in holding tanks for three days. This allowed the sack fry to finish absorbing their yolk sacks and developing their mouths. The crew then stocked the hatchery ponds and 750,000 fry in the Kakagon at the hatchery on May 11th. On May 12th, 750,000 fry were stocked in the Kakagon at the hatchery, while in the Bad River 225,000 fry were stocked at White River and Government Road boat landings each and 150,000 fry were stocked at Potato River and Elm Hoist bridges each. On May 13th the hatchery stocked 1.5 million fry at the Hatchery in the Kakagon. From June 15th through July 2nd

the hatchery stocked 124,858 summer fingerling Walleye were stocked in the Bad River between White River and Government Road boat landings. During that same timeframe the hatchery stocked 58,115 summer fingerling Ogaa in the Kakagon River between the hatchery and Goslin boat landings.



Beach Monitoring 2026

By Chris McNerney, Water Resources Program Manager - wqs@badriver-nsn.gov

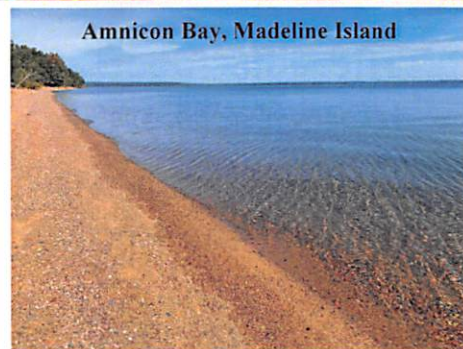
The Reservation contains approximately 38 miles of Lake Superior shoreline. The Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD) initiated a beach monitoring project in 2011 through the Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership using Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding. MNRD expanded this beach monitoring project in 2013 after the Tribe became eligible under the Beach Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act. Monitoring the water quality of beaches helps to inform the Bad River community if/when unsafe conditions are likely to exist. More information about the BEACH Act and the health of coastal waters can be found on EPA's website at: <https://www.epa.gov/beaches>

Infectious microorganisms that are capable of causing human disease are called human pathogens (e.g. bacteria, viruses, protozoa, parasites). Human pathogens in recreational waters can naturally occur, have environmental origin, or can be introduced through contamination with the feces of warm-

blooded animals. To help determine if human pathogens are present, water samples are collected at local beaches and analyzed for *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), an indicator organism. E. coli is the preferred water quality indicator for determining the safety of freshwater recreation.

Beach water quality monitoring on the Reservation is routinely tested at area beaches during the swimming season by MNRD Water Program staff to determine levels of E. coli. Increased levels of E. coli indicate the potential for unsafe levels of other harmful pathogens in the water that may cause illness in humans that come into contact when recreating in the water. If E. coli levels exceed the Tribe's Water Quality Standards an advisory will be issued for that specific beach. The MNRD Beach program posts advisory signs, not limited to, posting boards, beach monitoring hotline, and the beach monitoring website.

During 2026, 2 of the 125 water samples collected from beaches had E. coli concentrations exceeding



the Tribe's water quality criteria for a single sample (i.e. > 235 CFU/100 mL). Exceedances were measured at Bad River Mouth West and Madigan beaches, 6/8/2026 and 7/8/2026, respectively. Follow-up samples were collected and indicated that E. coli levels were no longer elevated and advisory posts were removed. The number of exceedances in 2026 were lower than what was observed in the 2024 (7) and 2025 (4) beach monitoring seasons.

For further information regarding E. coli and safe water at the beach, please visit our website by using the following link;

<https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/natural-%20resources/beach-monitoring/>

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification – Bad River Wastewater Discharge Access Road Improvement Project

The Bad River Water and Sewer Department has proposed improvements to the existing access road serving the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located north of USH 2 and east of the Bad River Reservation. The US Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating this project under their Transportation Regional General Permit.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians is evaluating the submitted materials to determine if there is reasonable assurance—with conditions—that the activities associated with the Army Corps of Engineers' potential authorization will be consistent with relevant water quality considerations.

The Tribe seeks comments on its proposed CWA Section 401 Certification of the Army Corps' proposed authorization for this project. All comments are considered during the project review. The 30-day public comment period ends on **10/21/2026**.

Project Summary

The Bad River Water and Sewer Department has proposed improvements to the existing access road serving the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) located north of USH 2 and east of the Bad River Reservation. The proposed project includes construction of approximately 850 feet of gravel access road extending to the wastewater treatment facility discharge point at the Bad River. Improvements to the existing two-track access path include widening the route to approximately 12 feet, removal of fallen trees and underbrush within the construction corridor, placement of fill material to improve roadway grade and drainage, and installation of a culvert at a low-lying area subject to seasonal ponding and rutting. The project is expected to utilize the existing disturbed corridor to the greatest extent practicable and is anticipated to require minimal vegetation clearing, with no major tree removal expected. Construction activities are anticipated to begin late Fall of 2026.

The project area contains wetlands designated as Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters) and Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 waters) under the Tribe's Antidegradation Policy and are protected for cultural, wetland, wildlife, aquatic life and fish, and recreational uses among other uses.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the MNRD Water Regulatory Specialist at waterreg@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

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

Comment deadline is October 21, 2026

Posted: September 21, 2026



Visit the Museum Online!

For hours, directions, and more, visit our webpage at: www.badriver-nsn.gov/museum.

The Moka'aangizisiban Tribal Museum is also now on YouTube! View videos and subscribe to our channel at: [@BRTribalMuseum](https://www.youtube.com/@BRTribalMuseum).

SUMMER CLIMATE SUMMARY

WARMEST

99°F

July 14

COLDEST

38°F

June 1

AVERAGE
TEMP

67.0 F

2.5°F Above Average

MAXIMUM
WIND GUST

31 MPH

June 15

Odanah

SUMMER
PRECIP

4.30"

6.36" Below Average

SUMMER
SNOWS

0"

35

RAIN

14

THUNDER

66

SUN

79

DAYS

8

DAYS

ABOVE 70°F ABOVE 90°F

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH



Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Jun, Jul, Aug 2026

Dagwaagin CommonGround Forestry

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

As part of the Bad River's Mashkiziibii Natural Resource Department Forestry Program Greenspace Improvement Project, a holding site for Hazard Tree Removal Biomass has been identified near the old ballfield and the Food Sovereignty Program Facilities.

Portions of this area have had vegetation removed to make room for the wood chips and firewood from the Hazard Tree Removal Project. A large area has young cedars growing on it, and we wanted to make sure that those seedlings survive.

For this reason, we created gravel beds from the light poles that had been standing (and falling down) for around 60 years. Seedlings that aren't quickly adopted will be planted in the new gravel beds until their permanent home is found.

Old ballfield light poles that were still standing were cut down and used for edging gravel beds to hold cedar seedlings at the Urban Forestry Hazard Tree Removal Biomass holding site.

Miigwech to Facilities staff Brian and Nate Barbano for all your help!



Giizhik seedlings have been flagged in the old ballfield area in New Odanah.



WOOD CHIPS & FIREWOOD AVAILABLE



Available Now until the end of the project (December 31, 2026)

- Chips can be used for landscaping materials, Compost Ingredients, Pet bedding, Garden amendments, Weed control
- Firewood needs processing and can be used for Campfires, Home heating, Yard décor, Sugarbush fuel, Ceremonial fires

~ BAD RIVER RESIDENTS ONLY ~

...IF INTERESTED...

Contact Gena Abramson, Forestry Specialist @ 715-682-7123 ext. 1563
Email: Forester@badriver-nsn.gov
Cell: 715-685-8929

Updated: 8-19-26



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.



Tribal Member Diane Baker adopted cedar, spruce, and white pine seedlings from the Hazard Tree Removal biomass holding site.



Tribal Member Carol Saari adopted 3 giizhik (cedar) trees from the biomass holding site.



Tribal Member Debra Bablick adopted several giizhik (cedar) trees from the biomass holding site.

BAD RIVER MERCURY VARIANCE PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Band) is a federally recognized Indian tribe with water quality standards (WQS) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 303 of the federal Clean Water Act. In accordance with Band's WQS, the Clean Water Act, and 40 CFR parts 131.14 and 132, the Band is requesting approval of WQS variances from mercury criteria derived to protect wildlife and cultural designated uses for the three community wastewater discharges including: (1) Diaperville Wastewater Sewage Lagoon (DWWSL), (2) Birch Hill Wastewater Sewage Lagoon (BHWWSL), and (3) Bad River Wastewater Treatment Plant (BRWWTP).

Oral and written comments will be accepted and recorded at the public hearing. Written comments can also be sent via email with a subject line of "Mercury Variance" to nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov, or via post office to:

Naomi Tillison, Natural Resources Director
Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Department
Attn: Mercury Variance
PO Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

Written comments must be postmarked or emailed by 11:59 pm on October 19, 2026. A copy of the variance application may be reviewed online at: <http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/news/>. A hard copy is available for review at the Mashkiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD) during business hours; MNRD office is located at 72682 Maple Street, Odanah, WI 54861. If you have any questions, please call MNRD at (715) 682-7123.

Upon consideration of all public comments, final decisions on the variance, including whether any changes should be adopted, will be made by the Tribal Council. If the final mercury variances for the Band's wildlife and human health WQS are granted by the Tribal Council, they must still be approved by EPA before being implemented.

A 55-day public comment period will begin on August 25, 2026, closing on October 19, 2026. A public hearing has been scheduled for 5 p.m. on October 13, 2026, at the Bad River Lodge and Casino Convention Center. Virtual participation in the public hearing is available via Zoom at the link provided below.

**Join the Public Hearing on October 13, 2026, at 5 pm via Zoom or at the
Bad River Lodge & Casino Convention Center, 73370 U.S. Highway 2, Odanah:**
<https://zoom.us/j/9860382272?pwd=DgT534f28GEgPdmYXK9NzljDXw6ZjZl.1>
Meeting ID: 986 0382 2727
Passcode: 7121

For more information, please visit: <https://www.badriver-nsn.gov/news/>

2026 Lake Superior Days Celebration

On Friday, September 4th MNRD held their Annual Lake Superior Days Celebration. Due to the Smoke and Air Quality MNRD had to reschedule event from original July date. We had 44 registered participants for this years event. Lake Superior Day was started in the early 1990s to highlight the importance of this great water body to the basin's environment and economy. The Bad River Tribal Council passed a resolution in 2004 approving the declaration and celebration of Lake Superior Day "to honor and celebrate our Great Lake Superior, the giver of life for our people."



Changes in MNRD

I began my new role as Deputy Director of the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department at the end of May 2026. As a Bad River Tribal Member, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my community and contribute to the protection and stewardship of our natural resources.

I grew up in California until I moved back to Bad River in 2015 with mom and brothers, Bad River has since become my home. I graduated from Northland College in May 2025 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. I have always had a strong interest in science, and I am excited to bring that background into the natural resources field while continuing to learn and grow in my new position.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, being out on the lake, sewing, reading, and going to the movies. I look forward to working alongside the Natural Resources team and serving the Bad River community in this new role.



Boozhoo, My name is Ron Parisien Jr. I just started as the Manoomin Oshkaabewis on June 22nd. I'm a proud member of Mashkiiziibii, born and raised on the reservation on good ole Birch Hill. I'm a family man with 3 kids and my significant other. I love to hunt, fish, gather, and exercise my treaty rights in any way that I can. I've really enjoyed my 1st 2 months working for the MNRD. The annual harvest on Kakagon was pretty good this year considering the drought, wildfires, and few other things that can harm rice. All the ricers that came off the water seemed to be happy with what they were able to harvest when they were able to make it out on the water. The days when new areas were open were very exceptional harvesting days, seen many bags full of rice while trying to buy back. We hosted a great 2026 Bad River rice camp this year that was very successful I though, organized by our great Rice Camp team we have. We also bought back 364 lbs of green rice this summer and reseeded it in Northeast, Wood Creek, Snake Island, and the Bad River Slough. All this great work as me really excited to see what more is to come and do while being in my new position as their Manoomin Oshkaabewis. Im very thankful for this opportunity. Miigwech



We've had some promotions within the Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department this season. Brandon Semerau was promoted to Energy Program Manager in August. Brandon previously served as the Mini Grid Project Manager, where he worked on projects and initiatives related to energy development within the department. In his new role, he will take on broader responsibilities overseeing and coordinating MNRD's energy programs and projects.

Jakob Wohlford was promoted to Non-Local Beings Program Manager this month. Jakob was previously the department's Ornithology Specialist, focusing on the study, monitoring, and stewardship of bird species. His experience and knowledge of local ecosystems will carry forward into his new leadership role with the Non-Local Beings Program.

The Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources department congratulate Brandon and Jakob on their promotions and thank them for their continued dedication to MNRD.



Brandon Semerau



Jakob Wohlford

Boozhoo, My name is Todd Stone, I'm a local Bad River tribal member and I've resided on the reservation now for 55 years. I used to work for the Maintenance dept where I used my skills in construction, it was there I knew I enjoyed being outdoors more. I have a deep understanding of the reservation and the

woods surrounding us. I participate in the Manoomin harvest, I hunt deer, trap and fish. It's the joy from these activities that helped me decide to apply for the Forestry Tech position. I want to grow my knowledge while offering my own. Thank you.



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:

Brad Bigboy

715-292-7256

chiefwarden@badriver-nsn.gov

Augilucho (Auggie) Godinez

715-292-3118

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.

~JOB OPENINGS~

***Conservation Warden**

***Water Resource Tech**

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

Click Link to view Full Job Descriptions



Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department

72682 Maple Street
PO Box 39
Odanah, WI, 54806

Phone: 715-682-7123

Fax: 715-682-7118

Email: 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.

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

 **Find us on Facebook**