



Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganiig Aki-genawendamowaad

Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

Dagwaagin
Fall 2022

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Red Lake DNR

Mazina'igan onji Odaakewigima *Letter from Director*

Boozhoo! Dagwaagin (Fall) is coming quick, Manoomin (wild rice) is ready for harvest, and waterfowl are starting to head south.

We had a super turnout at the Fishing Event in August with over 150 kids that participated in some fun fishing and received free lunch and school supplies. Thank you to everyone who donated items or came out to help to make this another successful day.

In this issue, the Water Resources Program highlights their internship program. They had local, national and even international students helping on several different projects this summer. This is a wonderful learning opportunity!



The Wildlife Program has an update on their wolf collaring project on page 10. They were able to capture and collar two wolves so far this year to continue

monitoring and updating pack territories and sizes, monitor dispersal and track habitat use.

Many people are starting their fall activities, including hunting and trapping. Be sure to review the Red Lake Hunting Regulations in this issue. Everyone at the Red Lake DNR thanks you for your continued support and sincerely hopes that you have a wonderful and prosperous fall.

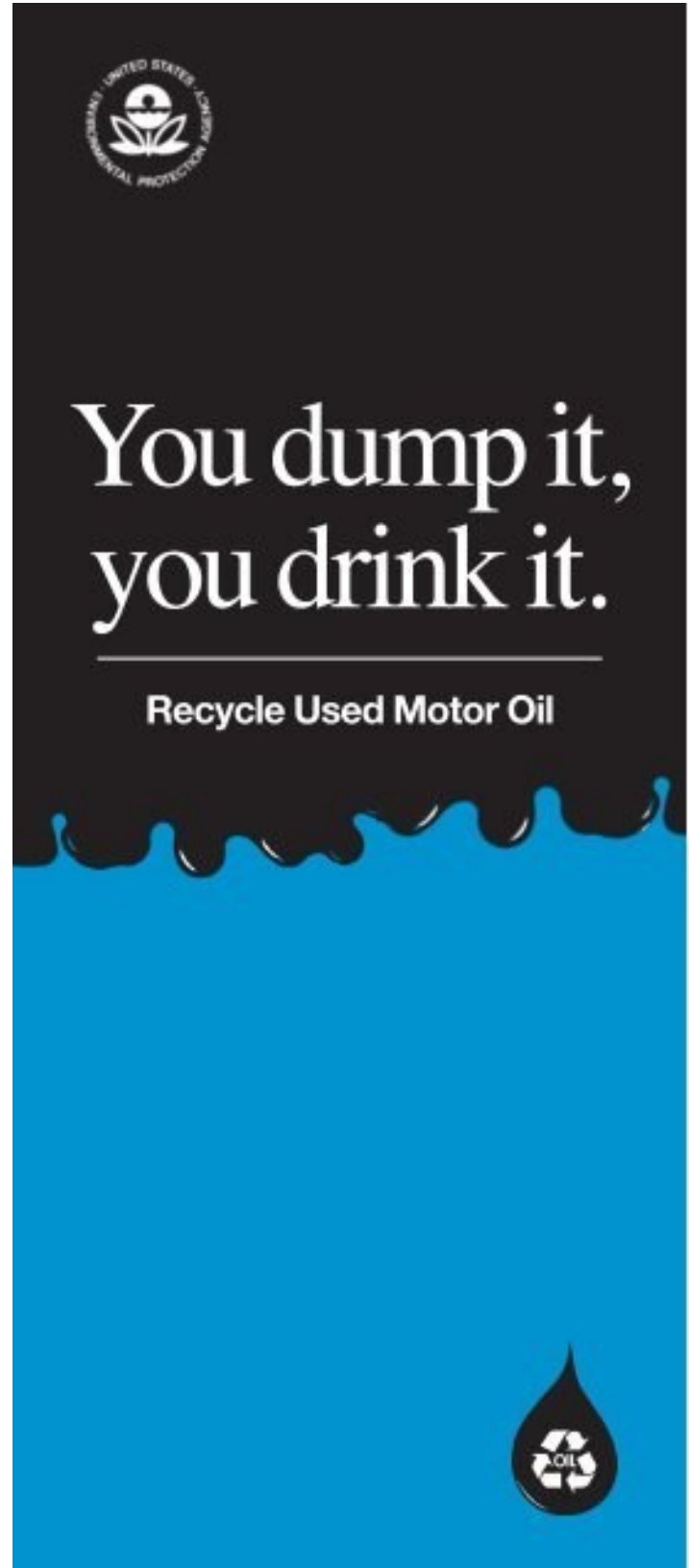
Miigwetch!

Al Pemberton



USED AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS, IF YOU DUMP THEM, YOU DRINK THEM!

Do it yourself repairs and maintenance on your vehicles can save you a lot of money but it could be devastating to the environment if the wastes are not disposed of properly. All used automotive fluids and cleaners, not just oil, are hazardous wastes. If hazardous waste is dumped incorrectly there are many harmful effects that could happen to the Earth and to humans health. Dumping hazardous waste in the driveway, woods, yard, or anywhere on the ground will eventually sink down into the ground and pollute ground water. If waste pollutes ground water it can get into ground water wells or public water supply and when you drink that water it can cause illnesses and even death. If it is dumped in a river, creek, stream, pond, or lake, the waste mixes with and contaminates the clean water. When animals or people drink it, the harmful material from that waste enters their body. It will likely cause them to have diseases, illnesses or worse. If you dispose of your hazardous waste correctly, the ground water will not become contaminated by your waste. The Red Lake Transfer Station provides a means for people to properly dispose of hazardous wastes. You can bring the wastes to the Transfer Station for proper disposal. Just be sure to check in with staff to ensure you put the containers in the proper area.





PROPER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

The Solid Waste Program provides an area for community members to properly dispose of Household Hazardous Wastes to prevent these items from entering the waste stream. Community members can bring the items to the Transfer Station in Red Lake during business hours and should check in with staff to drop off these items either at the used oil storage tanks or the hazardous substance collection area next to the transfer station.

Examples of Household Hazardous Wastes:

- Any material labeled with signal words: Danger. Caution. Warning. Poison.
- Paint.
- Solvents.
- Pesticides.
- Oven & drain cleaners.
- Furniture strippers.
- Wood preservatives.
- Used oils and automotive fluids.
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

The Environmental Program has also recently secured USEPA funding to conduct Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events twice per year in each community. Environmental Program Staff will be parked in each community to collect items and will be available to go to homes of Elders to collect items by special request. These events will be announced in the Red Lake Nation Newspaper and on rlnn.com once they are scheduled.



COPS AND BOBBERS AND RED LAKE DNR JOINT FISHING EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

This year the Red Lake DNR partnered with the Red Lake Law Enforcement Department and Oshkiimaajitahdah to put on our annual kid fishing event at Fullers Lake. The weather did not look promising but the rain held off until the event was over and the kids and parents had a wonderful time. We would like to thank all the parents for bringing their kids and making this event a success. We had over 153 kids that registered this year and with parents and volunteers, we estimate over 200 people attended the event. The Public Safety and Red Lake DNR staff had 9 boats running on the lake, making sure that all kids that

wanted to fish were able to fish for an hour or longer. We provided Zebco fishing rods and bait to the kids that participated in the event this year. The Red Lake Trading Post and Old Dutch Chips of Bemidji assisted with donations for the lunch, which was prepared and served to all participants. The Red Lake Tribal Council provided bags of school supplies to all participants at the end of the day to help make sure the kids were ready for school. We hope that all the kids enjoyed themselves and wish them the best during this school year. We look forward to seeing you again next year!



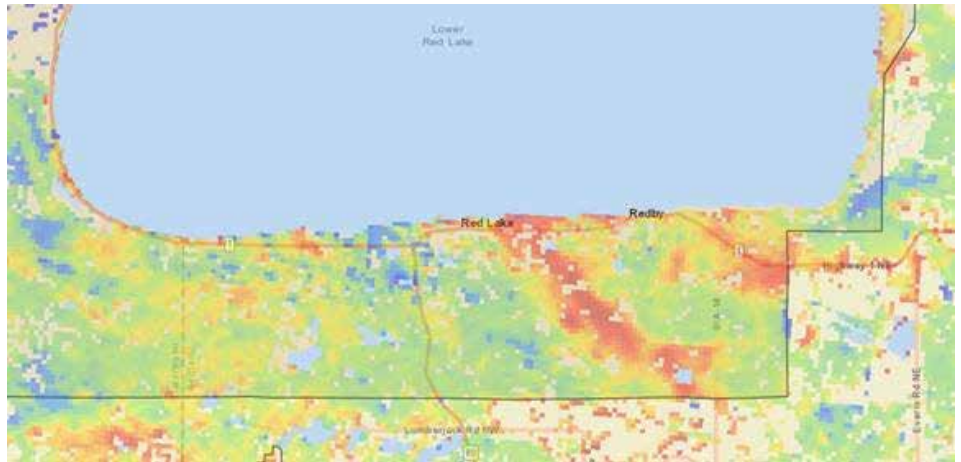


Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganing Mitigokewin | Forestry

CURRENT TIMBER SALVAGE OPERATIONS

On July 26th 2021, a severe hail storm pelted the southeastern portion of the Red Lake Reservation. Large, baseball size hail, along with the stress to trees created by severe drought, resulted in significant mortality to mature red and white pine within the storm's path. Salvage operations are now underway on much of the timber with the most severe damage.

Harvesting this dead timber will prevent insect and disease problems, which would arise and spread quickly to nearby healthy stands. This action will also reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires by removing and utilizing the excessive fuel that would be created by all of the dying timber.





GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS (GWWA)

Golden-winged warblers (GWWA) are small migratory songbirds that are a specialist species, requiring 'young' or early-successional forests for breeding. With populations that have declined more than 60% over the past 50 years, GWWAs have suffered one of the steepest population declines of any North American songbird species. This decline is due primarily to habitat loss and land use change, particularly the loss of early successional breeding habitat in North America as well as the loss of stopover and wintering habitat in Central and South America. Today, Minnesota is a population stronghold for the species with approximately 50% of the remaining population breeding here during the summer months. GWWAs require a diverse habitat in order to complete the summer breeding portion of their annual life cycle. Like American woodcock, GWWAs nest on the ground in forest openings located adjacent to older deciduous forest stands. Once the chicks have fledged, the parents move the brood into the mature forest where they will teach their young to forage on various insects (especially leaf-rolling caterpillars) until they leave for their wintering grounds at the end of the summer. High quality timber management and winter shearing of over-mature alder, willow, and sumac creates a diverse mix of vegetative structure required by breeding GWWAs,

as well as providing benefits to a diverse array other local wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, snowshoe hare, and others. This past winter, Red Lake DNR staff noticed moose wintering in these areas with heavy browsing on young willow/red osier dogwood. In the past 7 years, Red Lake tribal contractors have completed over 2,500 acres of Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) habitat on Hwy 1, Narrows, Wells Road, Clearbrook/Kiwosay area, Ponemah (Sucker Bay Area) and the Ridge areas of the Red Lake Reservation. This winter, Red Lake DNR and the American Bird Conservancy staff plan on an additional 400 acres of GWW habitat enhancement near the River Road areas (see map below).



Ezhi-Ganawenjigaadeg-Nibi

Water Resources

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

The Water Resources Program has been busy collecting water quality data from Red Lake all the way to Lake of the Woods this summer. In addition, our crews have been working on analyzing mercury samples, bioassessment (fish and bugs), and working with partners to protect clean water over the long term. Our interns have been a great asset to us this summer, and we want to spend a little time thanking them with this issue of our newsletter.

Red Lake DNR Water Resources Internship Programs

We have been working with interns for decades but in the past few years have started a new effort called our "Tiered Mentorship Program." The program tries to put students working on different degrees together so that they might learn from each other,

pick up some of the ins and outs for the next step in their education, and have a familiar face on campus should they choose to attend. Examples of the tiered mentorship program include partnering a tribal college student with a BSU student for a while so that they get a chance to learn about the workings of BSU, or partnering an undergraduate student with a graduate student to learn about grad school. In past years, we have partnered high school students with college students to get an idea of what college might be like. In addition, our interns are given the opportunity to work with different RL DNR programs to see if some area of natural resources is a good fit for them. This program has already resulted in the addition of one Red Lake member to our team. Joshua

Jones, a tribal member and our hydrologist, started here as an intern in this program. We have greatly appreciated the help of our interns this year, and we can't thank them enough. Below is a little bit of information about each of them.



Peter White (Intern) running analyses in the lab.

Peter White

Pete is a Red Lake member from Red Lake. He is currently working on his AA at the Red Lake Nation Tribal College. He has assisted us in lake and stream water quality sampling, fish sampling, forestry, and most recently a special wild rice project.



Summer Bioassessment Crew. Pictured left to right: Tyler Orgon (Biologist), Rick Barrett (Technician), Nathan Nsana (Intern), Kayla Bowe (Biologist), Collin Glass (Graduate Intern), Sonny Johnson (Intern)

For additional questions or assistance call Red Lake Sanitation at **218-679-3377**



Sam Carr (Intern) running some flow monitoring equipment in the field.

Sam Carr

Sam is a BSU student from Spring Lake Park, MN. She is graduating from BSU this year with a BS in Environmental Studies. She plans to continue working in the environmental field and pursue a Master's degree. Sam assisted with a groundwater mapping project as well as a mercury project.

Sonny (Mitchell) Johnson

Sonny is a Red Lake member from Little Rock. He is working on his AAS at the Red Lake Nation Tribal College and is considering getting a biology degree after that so that he can pursue a career in natural resources. Sonny worked with a number of programs this year assisting us with fish sampling, a special wild rice project, water quality sampling, and forestry.

Nathan Nsana

Nathan is BSU graduate student from Zambia (Africa). He is pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Studies. He is assisting us with a groundwater mapping project.

Collin Glass

Collin is a graduate student at BSU from Kimberly, Idaho. He is pursuing a Master's degree in Environmental Studies and

is primarily working on a mercury input project assessing the contribution of peatland ditches to the mercury load in Red Lake. Look for a full description of this project in our next newsletter.

Thanks again to all of our excellent interns this summer. It was a pleasure working with you all, and we at the Water Resources Program wish you the best!

My well smells like rotten eggs!!!

Does your water stink? Does it remind you of rotten eggs? It may be time to shock it! Well shocking (or well disinfection) is a standard maintenance procedure that you can complete on your own. It keeps the water safe to drink and smelling like water instead of sulphur. Over time, any well can accumulate "sulphur bacteria." These bacteria are not harmful but can coat plumbing with slime and produce hydrogen sulfide gas. High concentrations of this gas can be harmful, but production of this quantity would be rare in a plumbing situation. If you have an issue with stinky water, or if it's been a long while since your well has been shocked, this procedure is a good idea. Read on to find out more about available resources for well shocking.

Well shocking involves running a mixture of household bleach and water through your well and most of your plumbing system. This can be done by a homeowner or by a licensed well contractor. Before starting the process, it can be useful to isolate the problem. Sometimes the whole system doesn't need shocking. For example, if only the hot water has an odor, then the problem area is likely a water heater. Often homes have a filtering system installed by a previous owner. You might not even know it exists, but if there is a filter that hasn't been changed recently, it can be a great place to grow those stinky bacteria. Spending a little time checking these things before moving forward with calling a contractor might save you some money. The other way to save money, should you decide that your well needs disinfection, is to just do it yourself. The link below will take you to the Minnesota Department of Health website where you can find step-by-step instructions for shocking your well. Lots of additional information about well water is available there too.



[www.health.state.mn.us/communities/
environment/water/wells/waterquality/
disinfection.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality/disinfection.html)

GRAY WOLF INVENTORY AND MONITORING UPDATE



Since 2012, the Wildlife Program's wolf collaring project has provided valuable data about the wolves using Red Lake lands.

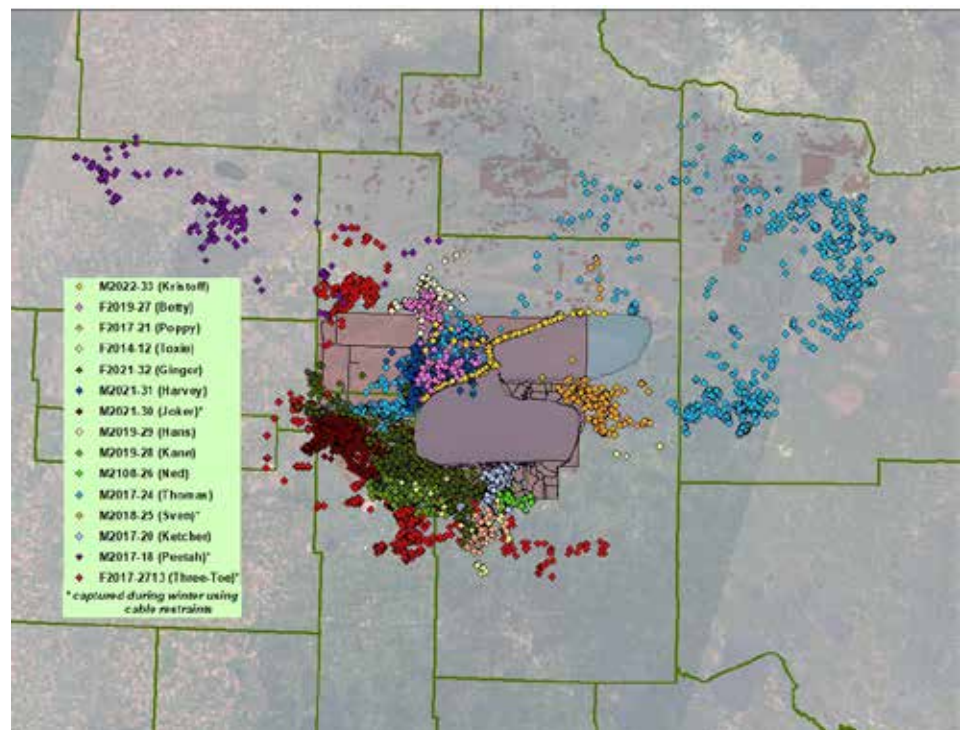
To date, 34 individuals (2 re-collars) in 12 pack areas have been collared on the Diminished Reservation (29), Ceded Lands (5), and the Northwest Angle (1), including 21 males and 13 females. Preliminary territory sizes vary from 25 sq. mi. to over 4,500 sq. mi. with an average of about 936 sq. mi. (which includes 8 wolves that covered over 1500 sq. mi. each). Collars remained on individual wolves from a few weeks (on pups) up to almost three years. The collars are programmed to take a location every four hours. The location points help to map pack territories and sizes, determine travel corridors, note dispersal and seasonal movements, and track habitat use. During the winter months, the collars enable researchers to locate individuals from the air to obtain pack counts.

Starting in 2014, the Wildlife Program has utilized techniques, developed by the MNDNR and USDA APHIS trappers on public lands north of the Reservation, to deploy Red Lake collars using non-lethal winter snaring near established bait stations. Since 2016, Wildlife personnel have begun

utilizing cable restraints (modified snares) on Red Lake tribal lands. It has been a valuable tool to enable Wildlife personnel to get additional collars out in areas that can't be trapped during the warmer trapping season. As a result, 6 wolves (4 male and 2 females) have been collared using cable restraints to date.



Pack sizes on Red Lake lands average about five individuals, but are higher in the spring with the addition of pups (only about one in eight make it to adulthood). Many of our collared wolves are killed when they venture off the Reservation (which accounts for about one third of our collars).





ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS

****GUN RAFFLE****

GET YOUR DEER TESTED FOR CWD

Please bring us your ADULT White-tailed Deer heads to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and be entered into an end-of-season raffle for valuable prizes.

ONE RAFFLE ENTRY PER HEAD

Heads can be dropped off at the Red Lake DNR between 8:00am-3:30pm Monday-Friday. Heads should be frozen or dropped off within 3 days of harvest. Participation helps to protect your family and monitor the health of our deer.

****We are unable to take heads 9/19-9/23 – please freeze them and bring them in on 9/26****

BIG GAME SEASON: SEPTEMBER 15-DECEMBER 31



Top prize is the ultimate deer hunting rifle combo, from R and R Arms in Bemidji: Weatherby Vanguard 6.5 Creedmoor, equipped with a Leupold 3x9 scope. Other prizes include: Caldwell Solo Lead Sled, Cyclops RS 4000 Spotlight, BOG-POD 72" Dead-Silent Shooting Sticks & \$200 L&M Fleet gift card

**If you have any further questions, please contact
DNR –Wildlife at: 218-679-3959**



Please participate in a tribal CWD survey using this link, or by scanning the QR code
https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0D4VWlviPVDGpjT



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RED LAKE HUNTING REGULATIONS

RED LAKE TRIBAL MEMBERS

Waterfowl: No closed season, no bag limits, except in designated waterfowl production areas (Kiwosay, Zah Gheeng). Limited or no harvest of waterfowl is recommended during spring and summer.

Small Game: No closed season, no bag limits. Limited or no harvest of small game is recommended during spring and summer.

Big Game: Season is from September 15 through December 31, with no harvest limit.

Moose: SEASON IS CLOSED per Tribal Resolution

NON-MEMBERS

All Permits may be purchased at the Red Lake Department of Public Safety. Deer and small game permits are seasonally available at the Northwest Angle.

Waterfowl: Seasons and bag limits are the same as in state and federal regulations. Allowed only on designated portions of the Diminished Reservation. Tribal Guide required.

Small Game: Ceded lands and Northwest Angle only. Seasons and bag limits are the same as MN state regulations.

Big Game: Deer hunting allowed at Northwest Angle only, with season concurrent with Minnesota's Zone-1 deer season. Tribal officials may issue special "non-member relative" permits for hunting on the Diminished Reservation.



Seasons, limits and other regulations are subject to revision at any time by the Red Lake Tribal Council. Questions pertaining to hunting opportunities on Red Lake lands should be directed to the RL Department of Public Safety 218-679-3315, or RL Department of Natural Resources 218-679-3959.

Please help protect our natural resources. Respect tribal regulations and report any violations of fish and game laws to the Red Lake Department of Public Safety.