



Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganiig Aki-genawendamowaad

Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

Dagwaagin
Fall 2021

Mazina'igan onji Odaakewigima
Letter from Director

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Red Lake DNR

Boozhoo! Fall is coming quick, wild rice is ready for harvest, and waterfowl are starting to head south. This summer has been extremely busy for Red Lake DNR Staff after being limited on what could be done the previous year due to Covid-19. Dry and dangerous fire conditions were present throughout much of the summer. Red Lake Wildland firefighters worked long, hard hours fighting fires that broke out across the reservation, including two major fires totaling almost 6,000 acres.

Red Lake Fisheries once again partnered with the Red Lake Law Enforcement Department for the annual kid fishing event at Fullers Lake. We had a very successful day with over 100 kids that were able to get out fishing, have a free lunch and get a bag of school supplies. Thank you to the parents for bringing their kids out and for all the volunteers and sponsors of this fun-filled day!

The Water Resources Program completed the Mud River culvert replacement/stream restoration at South Boundary that resulted in Mud River being fully restored for fish passage now on the Reservation! Upcoming culvert replacement/stream crossing improvement projects include Pike Creek at Fireline this fall and Bartons Camp Trail next year. Pike Creek will also be fully restored for fish passage upon completion of these projects.

The RL DNR Environmental Response Program, in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), installed a PurpleAir sensor at the Seven Clans Casino in Warroad. This will be part of a network of sensors that monitor air quality condition locally and across the world. Please consider filling out the Air Quality survey to share your thoughts and concerns.

The Wildlife Program is once again collecting deer heads from adult white-tailed deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD) testing until December 31, 2021. In April of 2021, CWD was detected at a captive deer farm in Beltrami County. This surveillance and precautionary testing is being done to find any CWD in our area early, allowing for quick and aggressive action to control it. For each head that you bring in, you will be entered into a raffle and be put on a list to receive a free box of copper bullets when they become available.

Many people are starting to think about fall activities, including fishing, hunting and trapping. Be sure to review the Red Lake Hunting and Fishing 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

AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI): FORECASTING & NOTIFICATIONS FOR RED LAKE

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. The AQI focuses on health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. EPA calculates the AQI for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For each of these pollutants, EPA has established national air quality standards to protect public health. Ground-level ozone and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in this country.

The purpose of the AQI is to help you understand what local air quality means to your health. Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. The AQI is divided into six levels. These health concerns are shown in the chart below.

Air Quality Index for Red Lake

The Beta Attenuation Monitor on top of Red Lake Hospital provides local air quality data for the Reservation. The monitor measures fine particulates (PM2.5), like those found in smoke and haze, which are 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less. The Hourly data from this monitor is available on the Real-time Air Quality Reporting Page: www.smogwatch.com/minn/realtimedata.cfm, MPCA's Current Air Quality webpage: www.pca.state.mn.us/air/current-air-quality and the AirNow website: airnow.gov. This data will soon be used for both forecasting and notifications.

Air Quality Index	Who Needs to be Concerned?	What Should I Do?
Good 0-50	No one. Air quality is good for everyone.	It's a great day to be active outside!
Moderate 51-100	Some people may be unusually sensitive to particle pollution and may need to take precautions.	Unusually sensitive people: Consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. These are signs to take it a little easier. Everyone else: It's a good day to be active outside!
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	Sensitive groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers.	Sensitive groups: Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. It's OK to be active outside, but take more breaks and do less intense activities. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep quick relief medicine handy. If you have heart disease: Symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue may indicate a serious problem. If you have any of these, contact your health care provider.
Unhealthy 151 to 200	Everyone can be affected.	Sensitive groups: Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Consider moving activities indoors or rescheduling. Everyone else: Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. Take more breaks during all outdoor activities.
Very Unhealthy Alert 201-300	Everyone	Sensitive groups: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Move activities indoors or reschedule to a time when air quality is better. Everyone else: Avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Consider moving activities indoors or rescheduling to a time when air quality is better.
Hazardous 301-500	Everyone	Everyone: Avoid all physical activity outdoors. Sensitive groups: Remain indoors and keep activity levels low. Follow tips for keeping particle levels low indoors.

Forecasting for Red Lake

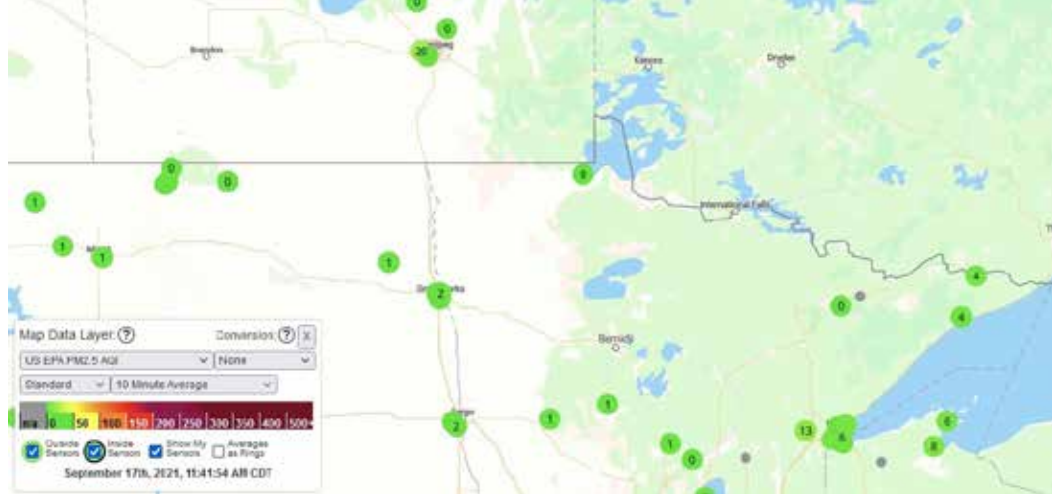
Beginning June 1, 2017, the MPCA's new in-house AQI forecasting program will provide information on air quality to the state in two ways: MPCA meteorologists will provide daily forecasts for the monitors currently in their network and when AQI forecast values exceed 100, MPCA meteorologists will also provide alerts to the impacted geographical areas of the state.

MPCA's air monitoring network consists of eighteen monitors throughout the state and currently includes the Red Lake monitor. A daily forecast for each of the in-network monitors will consist of a three-day forecast color bar that will identify the monitor location (i.e. Red Lake) and the AQI level.

In addition to providing a monitor-specific daily forecast, when AQI forecast values are greater than 100, MPCA meteorologists will issue alerts that identify impacted counties and select cities. MPCA will also include Tribal Nations, including the Red Lake Nation.

Air Quality Forecasts for Red Lake will be publicly available at the following web address: www.pca.state.mn.us/air/current-air-quality.

Air Quality Notifications for the Red Lake Nation may be made available through: radio broadcasts, local television, email: www.redlake.enviroflash.info, or a smartphone app: www.pca.state.mn.us/air-quality-index-smartphone-app.



PurpleAir Sensor

Earlier this summer, in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Air Quality program installed a PurpleAir sensor at the Seven Clans Casino in Warroad. This sensor is part of a larger network of sensors that measures airborne particulate matter (PM2.5) in real-time. Particulate matter describes solid particles suspended in air; this includes dust, smoke, and other organic and inorganic particles. Data collected by this network of sensors is used to create a publicly available map that shows the air quality conditions locally and in other places around the world. The map can be seen by going to www.purpleair.com/map. Every icon on the PurpleAir map represents a public PurpleAir sensor, and the color indicates the real time PM2.5 reading on the US EPA Air Quality Index (AQI) scale. In the future, we plan to install PurpleAir sensors at Thief River Falls and Red Lake locations.

Survey: Air Quality Concerns

Please consider taking time to complete the Air Quality Concerns survey! Your input will be used to determine which air quality issues are of most concern within the Red Lake Reservation communities,

and ultimately it will help shape the Red Lake DNR's Air Program. This survey takes approximately five minutes to complete. You can find the survey online at: forms.gle/UPVidcxcDva5vjDVA. This survey will also be mailed to all Reservation PO Boxes if you prefer to complete it by mail. This survey will be closed on November 30, 2021.



Firewood Storage Shed

Do you use wood to heat your home? If you do and you could use a small woodshed for wood storage, let us know! We may be able to provide you with one. Woodsheds will be given on a first-come, first-served basis to qualifying participants, so sign up today! Contact the Red Lake DNR Air Program at 218-679-1618 for more information. This project is sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

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

This year we partnered with the Red Lake Law Enforcement Department to put on our annual kid fishing event at Fullers Lake. The weather was great, the fish cooperated, and the kids all 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 100 kids that registered this year and with parents and volunteers, we estimate 150 people attended the event. The Public Safety and Red Lake DNR staff had seven 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, Old Dutch Chips, and Nei Bottling 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. New sponsors this year included Oshkiimaajitahdah and Northland Tackle. 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!

Miigwetch



2021 Red Lake Nation Fishing Regulations

These regulations are for all waters within the Red Lake Indian Reservation

Hook & Line is the only legal means of harvesting Walleye except below the Red Lake Dam where spearing is allowed but bag limits and possession limits apply

Only Red Lake Band Members make harvest walleyes from Red Lake

The Walleye Season will continue until the last Saturday in March

Band members may fish for Walleye year round in the Red Lake River below the Red Lake Dam

The daily bag limit is **10 Walleye** for personal

Possession limit is 30 Walleye per Red Lake Band Member in a household. Fish are in possession whether in hand, in cold storage, in transport or elsewhere for personal

Walleye over 22" must be released immediately, except for 1 Walleye over 28" daily may be kept

Measurement is from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail pinched together

Walleye caught below the Red Lake Dam may be kept regardless of size, but bag limits still apply

Fish must be transported to a residence before they are filleted



When fishing for the Red Lake Fishery's

The daily bag limit when fishing for the Fishery's is 150 Walleye

The Walleye must be turned into the Fishery's within 24 hours

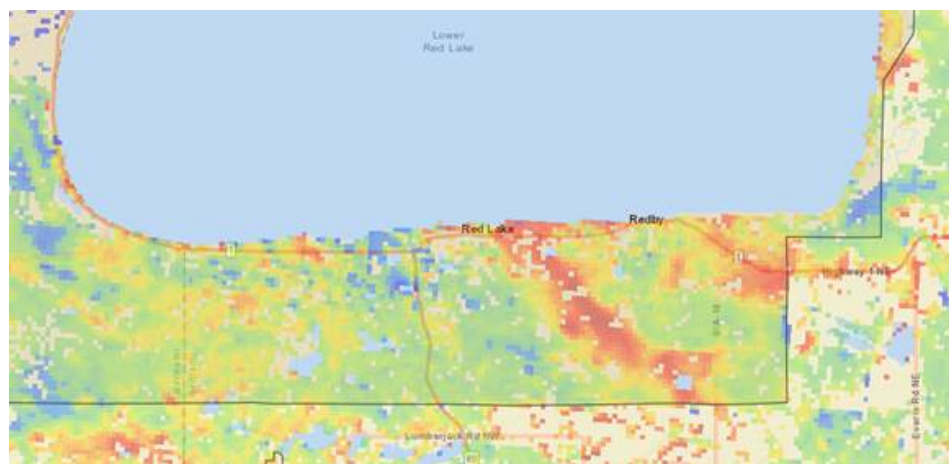
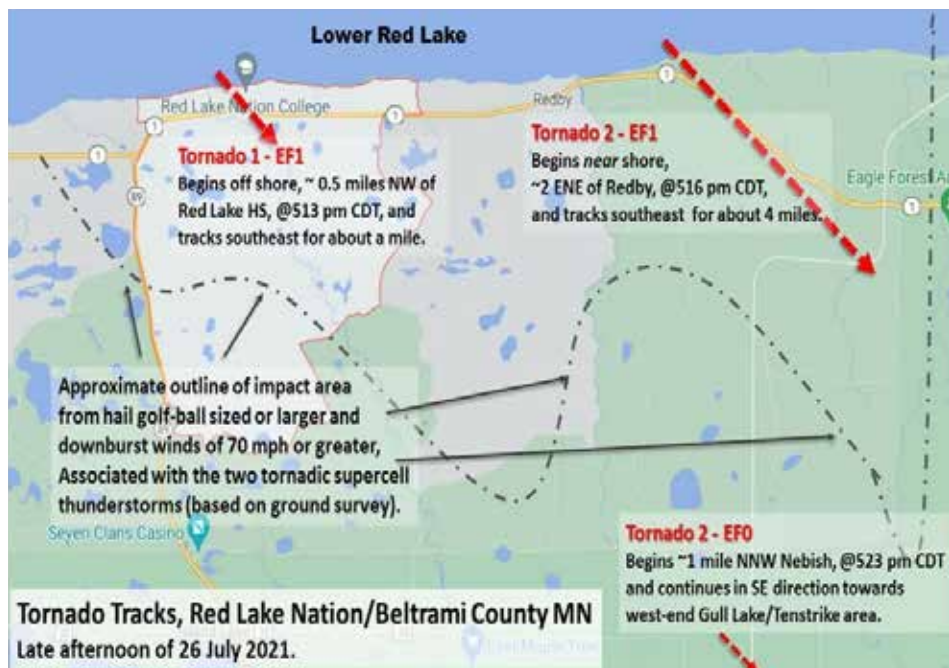
13"-22" Walleye is what the Fishery's is taking

Measurement is from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail pinched together

Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganing Mitigokewin | Forestry

SEVERE WEATHER EVENT July 26, 2021

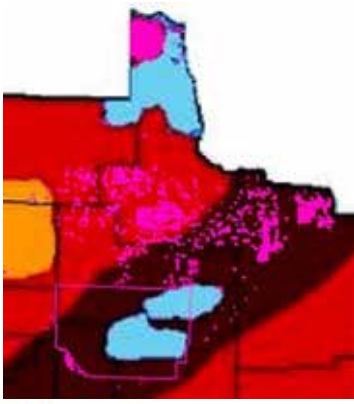
A thunderstorm impacted NW Beltrami county around 4:30pm on July 26, intensifying as it worked its way over Lower Red Lake. The storm split into two supercells as it neared the edge of the lake, forming one or more tornadoes over the lake that tracked onshore through Red Lake and Redby as it continued to track SE across Beltrami county. Downburst winds, tornadoes and very large hail caused significant damage to vehicles, homes and to the forests in the region. Large acreages of forest were defoliated from being pounded with hail. The severely damaged areas have been mapped and will be reassessed in the next growing season to determine the extent of any mortality that may have been caused by the hail.



Potential Forest Disturbance



Hail at Pennington by Autumn Mahaffey



Intensity and Impacts



Exceptional Drought

Record low precipitation levels with above-normal temperatures gave way to severe drought conditions for most of the summer and early fall. These historic dry conditions had the Red Lake DNR Forestry/Fire on high alert through the end of August. Much of Red Lake Tribal lands were in the “exceptional drought” category in July/August 2021. This is the worst level of drought possible and can lead to water shortages, extreme wildfire danger, widespread crop and pasture losses. According to drought.gov, July 2021 was the driest July in Beltrami County in the past 127 years.



Two Major Fires

On May 1, 2021 Red Lake Reservation saw its largest fire of the 2021 fire season, the **Good's Fire**, totaling 5,570 acres. The fire spread across the marsh and grasslands

of the southwestern portion of the Diminished reservation. With the aid of aerial support and wetland tactical equipment, the fire was quickly contained. Smoldering heavier fuels and peat deposits within the fire perimeter were closely monitored with infrared camera technology to detect excessive heat that can lead to possible flare-ups.

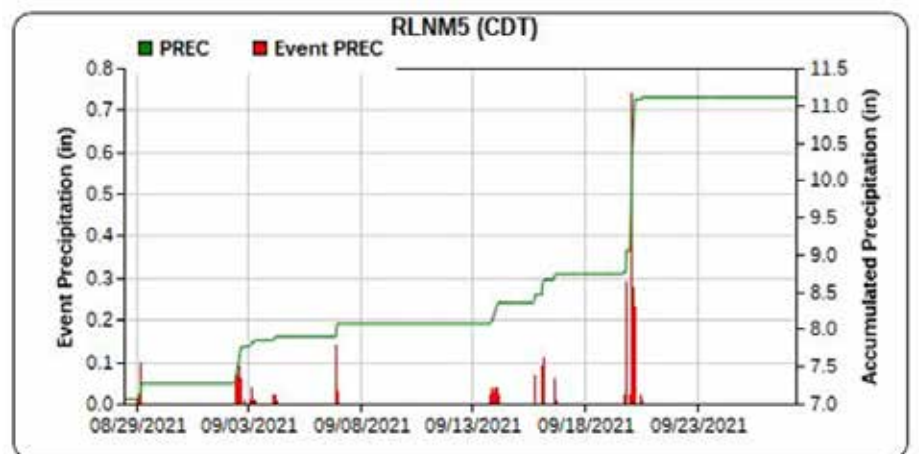


The **Outlet Fire** began on August 16th and was Red Lake's second largest fire, totaling 280 acres. This fire was started on the western edge of Lower Red Lake next to Zeemo's landing in lowland marsh grass. A brisk southerly wind quickly spread the fire to the north along the shoreline. It ignited

peat deposits in the area along the lakeshore and began to spread into the woods. Despite committing a significant amount of resources including aircraft, tactical ground equipment and manpower, the fire continued to spread quickly through dry fuels with the strong winds.

Peat deposits along the lakeshore are important in helping to maintain the high water quality found in Lower Red Lake. A strategy was formulated to extinguish this fire as soon as possible to preserve these deposits. Suppression efforts slowed the rate of spread but were unable to control and contain the fire. About 10,000 feet of hose was laid from Lower Red Lake at Zeemo's landing and water was continuously pumped to the north into the fire perimeter to begin flooding the peat deposits that were on fire. Fortunately, rains came and the combined effort brought the fire under control.


Since August 29, 2021 the official Red Lake RAWS weather station has measured over four inches of rain. That has helped to reduce the risk of wildfire and put Red Lake area into a less severe drought category. Hopefully this wetter trend will continue through the fall and we will get the much need moisture to further relieve the drought situation.



RLNM5 – Official Red Lake RAWS Weather Station – www.redlakednr.org/weather/

Ezhi-Ganawenjigaadeg-Nibi

Water Resources



*Mud River at East Fireline
after restoration*

WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

The Water Resources Program has been fortunate in our ability to continue our work during the Covid-19 shutdown and throughout all the restrictions and challenges associated with it. Our partners with whom we normally meet in person quickly shifted to online meetings and phone calls. Our outside work, including monitoring of water quality, restoration projects, and invasive species assessment was largely unaffected. Obviously there have been some challenges, but our staff were up to them, and we accomplished everything we had planned for 2020 and 2021. Restoring fish passage on the Mud River was a huge win, we are close to having EPA approved Water Quality Standards, and we have started the process with the Army Corps of Engineers to restore fish passage at the Red Lake River and the Zah Gheeng Marsh. Read on for details.

The Mud River has been fully restored for fish passage!

We are excited to share that we have completed the final phase of our Mud River restoration. After seven years and multiple projects including the original dam removal in Redby, streambank stabilization, and road crossing improvements, the river is fully reconnected. Through

partnerships at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, and Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District we were able to fund and complete this series of projects resulting in a fully reconnected watershed for the first time in 95 years.

The improvements to the Mud River are already quite measurable. We have seen an increase in fish species in the river far above and beyond what we could have expected. Before restoration, only six fish species were found in the river. Now we've identified over twenty! We will continue to monitor water quality and biological communities moving forward.

This fall we'll be moving on to improving road crossings on Pike Creek. Below you can see an example of a problem crossing. Road crossing improvements will reduce sediment input/erosion, reconnect fish passage, and improve habitat. Once completed, it will look more like the next image, which is the same crossing after restoration on Pike Creek. Both the Mud River watershed and the Pike Creek watershed are identified as priority watersheds by the Red Lake Band in the EPA approved Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Plan.



Figure 1. Pike Creek at South Boundary before restoration



Figure 2. Pike Creek at South Boundary after restoration

WQS, WRAPS, TMDL and Whaaaaat???

Acronyms and working with the government seem to go hand-in-hand. Sometimes it's easy to get lost in the lingo and forget what we're really doing. Here's a quick rundown of what these things are and why they matter.

WQS – Water Quality Standards

Water quality standards (WQS) are basically guidelines for how clean the water should be in a particular lake or stream. Under the Clean Water Act, tribes have the ability to set their own WQS and have them approved by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While EPA approval is not required, it does come with some benefits. Once EPA approved, tribal WQS become enforceable, and water flowing into the reservation would be protected with the backing of EPA. This would mean any state waters flowing onto tribal lands would have to meet those standards. This can be a valuable tool in the protection of water quality. We have been working with the EPA and Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency (MPCA) for about twenty years to develop standards, and we are on the verge of having them complete. We expect to have them in place sometime in the next year.

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy – WRAPS

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) is a process used by the State of Minnesota to determine the water quality around the state, watershed by watershed, and then determine how to best protect or improve that water quality as needed. The reason it's important to the Red Lake Water Resources Program and the Red Lake Band is that our program actually wrote the WRAPS for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed in partnership with the MPCA. A significant amount of work went into its development, and we are happy to report that it is complete. More information and the WRAPS documents in their entirety can be viewed here: www.redlakednr.org/water-resources/wraps.

Total Maximum Daily Load – TMDL

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) calculates the maximum amount of pollution allowed to enter a waterbody so that it still meets water quality standards (a pollution limit). A TMDL also describes a plan for restoring waters that have too much pollution (such as sediment). The TMDL for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed was approved by EPA in June 2021. Now, in places where there are problems such as high amounts of sediment, projects can be completed to help improve the water quality in these streams (such as bank stabilization and/or culvert replacement/stream crossing improvement projects). With an approved TMDL, it is easier to get grant funding from agencies like the EPA, NRCS, or USFWS. The Red Lake DNR Water Resources program also played a large role in the development of the TMDL as the primary authors. More information and the TMDL report can be found here: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watersheds/upper-lower-red-lake.



WHAT IS CWD?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious, fatal disease that affects the brain, spinal cord and other tissues of wild and captive cervids such as deer, moose, elk, caribou and reindeer. CWD is caused by abnormal prions (protein material within the deer) that become infectious and damage other proteins, which leads to brain damage in cervids. CWD is a prion disease that is similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease), scrapie (sheep) and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (humans). CWD is spread in the environment by an infected animal's body fluid and tissues, or by direct contact with an infected deer. Prions have been found to survive for long periods of time in the environment and are highly resistant to disinfectants, heat and freezing. There are no vaccines for CWD and it is always fatal. CWD is a slow progressing disease in cervids and it can take one to three years for symptoms to appear. A healthy deer can be positive for CWD, but not show any outward signs. Signs of infection include: weight loss, loss of muscle, drooling, loss of body control, tremors, staggering, drooping head or ears, confusion and loss of fear of humans.

Where is CWD?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was first discovered in captive deer in Colorado in 1967 and in wild deer in 1981. Since then, it has been found in twenty-five states as well as two provinces in Canada. CWD is spreading throughout the upper Midwest and has been found in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. CWD was first detected in

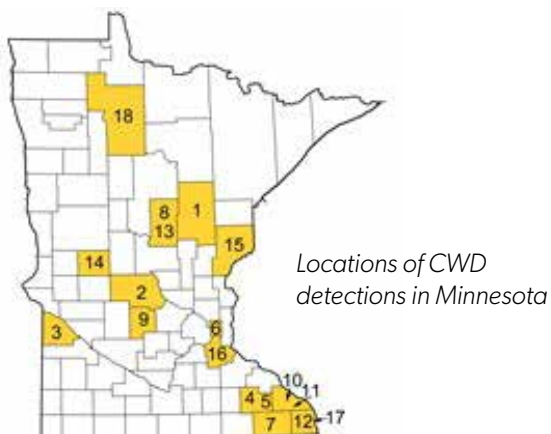
Minnesota in 2002 at a captive elk farm, and in wild white-tailed deer in 2010. Since then, it has been detected on twelve captive game farms and in wild herds in six counties. In April of 2021, it was detected at a captive deer farm in Beltrami County.

What is being done to stop the spread?

To stop the spread of CWD in wild cervids, several agencies are working on developing faster diagnostic tests, researching the way CWD is spread and working on limiting the spread in wild and farmed cervids. There is currently no live animal test; the lymph nodes or brain tissue must be removed to be tested. The Red Lake DNR is accepting heads for testing from adult white-tailed deer harvested on Red Lake lands until December 31, 2021. This surveillance and precautionary testing is being done to find any CWD in our area early, allowing for quick and aggressive action to control it. Test results can take anywhere from four to eight weeks depending on how busy the lab is. For each head that you bring in, you will be entered into a raffle and be put on a list to receive a free box of copper bullets when they become available.

Can CWD be transmitted to humans?

Currently, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to humans. However, it is recommended that you do not eat venison from deer exhibiting symptoms or from deer confirmed to be CWD positive. Cooking or freezing the meat will not remove the prions if the meat is infected. It is up to individual hunters if they want to wait to consume the venison before receiving test results.



Please participate in a tribal CWD survey using this link, or by scanning the QR code.

umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0D4VWlviPVDGpjT

ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS

GET YOUR DEER TESTED FOR CWD AND BE ENTERED IN A GUN RAFFLE!



Deer hunters: please bring us your ADULT White-tailed Deer heads to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and be entered into a end-of-season raffle for valuable prizes AND you will receive a FREE box of lead-free copper bullets (subject to availability).

ONE RAFFLE ENTRY PER HEAD

Heads can be dropped off at the Red Lake DNR between 8:00am -4:00pm Monday - Friday. You will fill out a form stating your contact information and the caliber desired for the copper ammunition. Participation helps to protect your family and monitor the health of our deer.

BIG GAME SEASON:
September 15 - December 31, 2021



Top prize is the ultimate deer hunting rifle combo, from R and R Arms in Bemidji:

Benelli R-1 semi-automatic 30-06, equipped with a Leupold VX-3 scope. Other prizes include: Nikon 10x42 binoculars, folding hunting knife, Moultrie game camera bundle and \$250 L&M Fleet gift card.

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



MAKING THE SWITCH TO COPPER BULLETS:



*Protecting your family
and our environment
from lead poisoning*

What happens when you hunt using lead or copper bullets?

- Lead bullets shatter on impact, spreading tiny fragments through most of the animal's body, including the meat and guts.
- Copper bullets stay together and mushroom out on impact, and will more easily go through bones.



X-ray of an animal shot with lead, notice how far the bright white spots of metal spread in the body. (Photo: The Scavenger Hunt)

How are eagles hurt by lead?

Eagles will scavenge gut piles left behind by hunters, and are very sensitive to lead.

What happens if your family eats lead fragments in meat?

- At certain levels in the blood, lead can be very toxic to people.



A copper bullet on the left and a lead bullet on the right after a shooting demonstration. (Photo: Paul A. Smith / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

- During pregnancy it can cause low birth-weight babies, premature births, miscarriages, and stillbirths.
- In babies and children under six, even small amounts can cause lifelong learning disabilities and stunted growth. ***There's no safe amount of lead during pregnancy or for children under six.***



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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.