



Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganiig Aki-genawendamowaad

Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

Ziigwan
Spring 2023

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Mazina'igan onji Odaakewigima

Letter from Director

Boozhoo!

It's the beginning of May and it finally feels like the spring we've all been waiting for after the relentless snow storms we've all endured. Today is May 3rd and with fishing opener set to begin on May 6th, we still have ice on Upper and Lower Red Lake. With this warm up, a friendly reminder that wildlife are in the migration stage back to breeding grounds and animals are coming out of hibernation; please respect these animals and give them space so they can raise their young ones.

The Fisheries Program netting assessments from 2022 are very encouraging and the walleye population remains very healthy. With late ice-off conditions again, like last year, we could expect similar results with lower catch rates in May. But, as the water warms up, June and July fishing could be very promising. The walleye population has remained fairly stable since 2015 which has benefitted other fish species with yellow perch, goldeye, and black crappie becoming more common to catch.

The Wildlife Program has been busy with spring surveys monitoring our wildlife populations. These surveys have been ongoing for 20 years now which will give us a good long-term dataset to use when monitoring the health of our waterfowl. Current surveys taking place include nest dragging to

determine nesting success, and grouse drumming surveys for population assessments. On May 25th, we would like to hear your input at the Tribal CWD meeting being held at the Red Lake Nation College. This meeting is open to all Red Lake Members who are 18+ years of age.

The Environmental and Air Quality Programs have been working to reduce pollution throughout Red Lake. The Air Quality Program completed a project last fall to help reduce wood smoke emissions. The project funded the construction of wood sheds through a partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Red Lake Nation Employment Rights Office. Community members participated in this four day event which resulted in 15 wood sheds being built and distributed among the districts. One of the main concerns facing Red Lake's Environmental Response Program (RLERP) is the problem of open dumping on Tribal Lands. Open/Illegal dumping and illegal burning of solid wastes and household hazardous wastes poses a serious, long lasting threat to the environment and the health of the community members. The Environmental Response Program has developed a phone app called Submit Environmental Concerns (SEC)

Continued on page 12...

Ezhi-ayaag-gidakiiminaan

Environmental

WOOD SHED PROJECT

Many people burn wood for heat, but not all have access to sheds for dry wood storage. Dry wood burns easier, hotter, and cleaner than wet wood. The Air Program was awarded a grant by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) which allowed us to partner with the Red Lake Nation Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) to build and distribute 15 wood sheds for this purpose.

Wood shed construction was completed between October 10th and October 14th, 2022 by community members taking a basic construction course arranged by TERO. Ten community members received instruction on basic construction techniques and participated in building sheds using a storage shed plan provided by EPA's Burn Wise program

(<https://www.epa.gov/burnwise>). Woodsheds were designed to hold approximately one cord of wood and were distributed among Red Lake Nation's four communities: 4 sheds were given to people in Red Lake, 4 were given to people in Redby, 3 went to people in Little Rock, and 4 went to people in Ponemah.

The goal of this project was to reduce wood smoke emissions by building wood sheds for tribal citizens to store wood dry; burning properly dried wood minimizes the particulate emissions from a fire. It is important to reduce wood smoke whenever possible because emissions from wood smoke can irritate your lungs (causing coughing or wheezing), cause asthma attacks, cause inflamma-



tion, affect your immune system, cause heart attacks, and make you more prone to lung infections. People with lung disease, children, older adults, and people with cardiovascular disease and diabetes are at greater risk. Along with creating harmful air pollution, burning wet or green wood

WOOD SMOKE AND YOUR HEALTH

Wood smoke may smell good, but it's not good for you. Take steps to protect your health and the air we breathe.



Tiny particles in wood smoke can affect your health



Cardiovascular Effects

Can increase the risk of:

- Heart attack
- Irregular heartbeat
- Heart failure
- Stroke
- Early death.



Respiratory Effects

May cause the following:

- Trigger an asthma attack
- Aggravate other lung diseases
- Early death.

You may be at increased risk if you are in any of these groups:

- Have heart or lung disease, or related risk factors, such as diabetes or obesity
- Are an older adult (65 and older)
- Are a child or teenager
- Are pregnant
- Work outdoors

DID YOU KNOW?
One old inefficient wood stove can pollute as much as 15 old diesel dump trucks.

Four ways to reduce wood smoke

1

Use a cleaner heating device like a heat pump, gas stove, or EPA-certified wood pellet stove.



2

Burn dry, seasoned wood for a hotter fire and less smoke.



3

Test your wood with a wood moisture meter, (20% moisture or less burns best).



4

Provide sufficient air to the fire; never let it smolder.



Learn more at www.epa.gov/burnwise



Burn Wise
Program of U.S. EPA



August 2022
EPA-456/H-22-001

can cause a smoldering fire and will make your chimney and stove dirty and possibly result in a dangerous buildup of creosote.

Even if you don't have a wood shed, you can still take measures to ensure your fires are burning cleanly, remembering that dry firewood burns more efficiently and with less smoke.

Firewood should be seasoned (or dried) outdoors, off of the ground, and in the sunniest spot possible.

If covering your wood, make sure that only the top is covered, since covering the sides will trap moisture in. Something as simple as a pallet can be used to keep your wood off of the ground and stacking split wood with the bark upwards can help protect your wood from rain. EPA's Burn Wise program recommends that firewood be dried for a minimum of six months and have a moisture content of less than 20% before being burned; firewood split into smaller pieces will dry more quickly. If you have an old stove, you may also consider changing it out for one that is EPA certified – EPA certified stoves generate less smoke and use less wood to create more heat. If you have questions check out the EPA Burn Wise website or call Jennifer at the RL DNR.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL AREA

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 rlenn.com once they are scheduled.

RED LAKE WALLEYE POPULATION REMAINS STRONG FOR 2023

The 2022 walleye harvest on the reservation was approximately 627,500 pounds (Figure 1). This was higher than the average harvest between 2008 and 2022 of 569,494 pounds. The harvest of ice anglers was average, despite very late ice off, which led to impressive spring harvest of over 163,000 pounds on the reservation. The ice did not go off until the 1st week of May last year and we are likely looking at this for ice off again this year, which is a week to 2 weeks late. Cooler water temps and lots of wind last spring kept angler catches down in May, but as the water warmed up, anglers did very well in June and early July. The net crews were able to supplement the walleye catch during the summer and fall and we had a very good harvest season last year. The walleye catch was split out 50% turned in by the anglers and 50% turned in by the net crews. In summary we harvested about 62% of the million pounds of walleye that we were targeting for the 2022 harvest season.

Fall test netting results were very encouraging this year and the walleye population remains very healthy (Figure 2.). The walleye population has remained relatively stable since 2015. The main reason for this is that the large 2009

and 2011 year classes are gone from natural and fishing mortality. The good news is that the 2019 year class is very strong and we are starting to see these fish recruit into the catch. Many of these fish are 13 to 14 inches in size and anglers were seeing a lot of these this winter. We also have several other strong year classes present and we are seeing many young fish being produced. The 2022 year classes was one of the strongest we have ever seen and we need to see how they survived through the first winter. The walleye population is becoming stable and many other fish species are benefiting from this and include yellow perch, goldeye, and black crappie. We should see an increase in the walleye population in the next few years with the recruitment of these young fish to commercial catch.

Ice fishing was good this year and it was nice to see more people on the lake. We had good fishing in March and early April, which will give our harvest season a jump start. Ice conditions improved during the last week of March and the first week of April, and anglers were able to get out and were able to catch and turn in approximately 2 to 3 thousand pounds of fish a day. Fishing opener will be on Saturday May 6th, 2023. Fishing should be good this spring with lots of smaller fish in the population to be caught.

Cooperation has been an important part of the successful management of this World Class Walleye fishery. Please protect, respect, and enjoy the Red Lake Walleye so future generations can enjoy this fishery as we have. Share your experience and take a kid fishing this year.

Good Luck and stay safe!

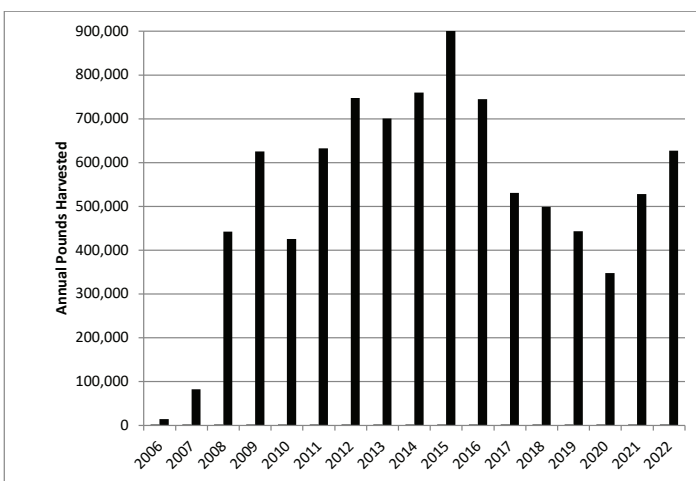


Figure 1. Annual walleye harvest from the Red Lake Reservation 2006-2022.

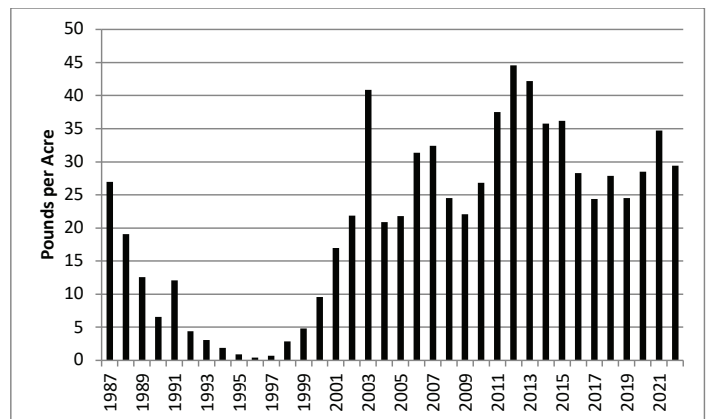


Figure 2. Estimated walleye biomass in the Red Lakes, 1987-2022.



RESERVATION WALLEYE FISHING REGULATIONS FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS

Upper and Lower Red Lake and Tributaries

SEASON:

- The summer fishing season will be Saturday May 6th, 2023 at 12:01 AM
- Ice fishing continues until the last Saturday in March.

BAG LIMIT:

- Personal Use=10 walleyes a day, 30 walleyes in possession.
- Commercial=**150** walleyes a day, must be turned into the Fisheries.

SIZE LIMIT:

- Personal Use=Walleye smaller than 22 inches may be kept, walleyes between 22 and 28 inches must be released, and only one walleye over 28 inches may be kept daily.
- Commercial=Only walleyes between 13 and 22 inches will be accepted at the Fisheries. This may change based on markets by the Fisheries manager.
- There is no size limit on walleyes caught below the Red Lake Dam in the Red Lake River west to the reservation boundary, but bag limits still apply.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS:

- Only Red Lake Band members may fish on the reservation waters of Upper and Lower Red Lake and its tributaries.
- The Red Lake River below the Dam does not close to fishing.
- Hook and Line is the only legal way of fishing.
- Fish must be transported to a residence before they are filleted.
- One proper fitting life vest is required for each person in any type of watercraft, including but not limited to boats, canoes, inflatables, jet skis and kayaks.



Protect, respect and enjoy the Red Lake walleye into the future!

Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganing Mitigokewin | Forestry

LOOKING BACK - 1939 TO 2021

Aerial photography is a very powerful tool that aids in forest management, but they can also show dramatic changes in the landscape and waters over time. Our earliest set are black and white photography from 1939 and the most recent, the 2021 summer photos. The following are sets of aerial photographs for Red Lake, Redby, and Ponemah. The increased residential development is one of the more obvious features that becomes apparent when comparing and contrasting these photo sets. Barton's Camp and the Walking Shield

Development are clearly visible toward the bottom and to the left of the 2021 photo.

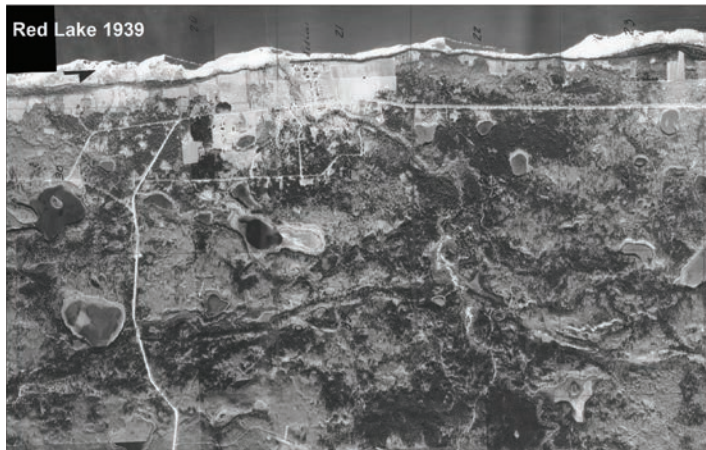
Redby has seen similar changes in infrastructure with a growing population. Additional housing development, roads, powerline right-of-ways and the sewage lagoon are visible improvements since 1939.

The presence and distribution of pine on the reservation is also easily identified in the black and white photography of 1939 as darker patches in the forest canopy.

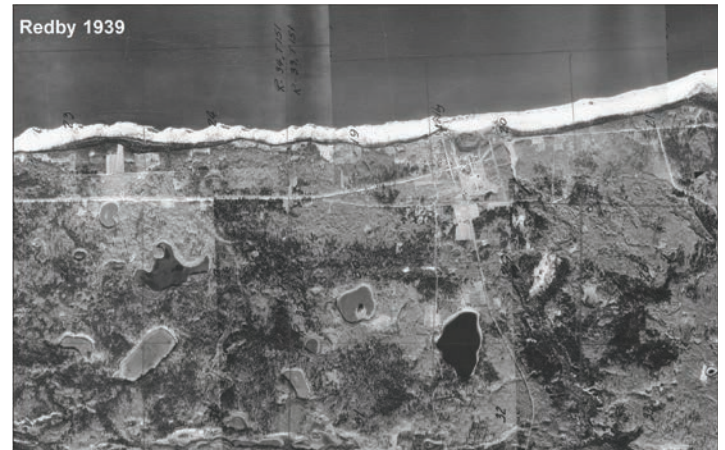
Developments present in Ponemah, again are similar to that of Red Lake and Redby with roads, housing developments and other infrastructure.

Interesting to note in this 1939 photo are the fractures in the ice sheet on the Lower Red Lake at Ponemah. The ice would not have been very thick since this photo was taken November 17.

Red Lake

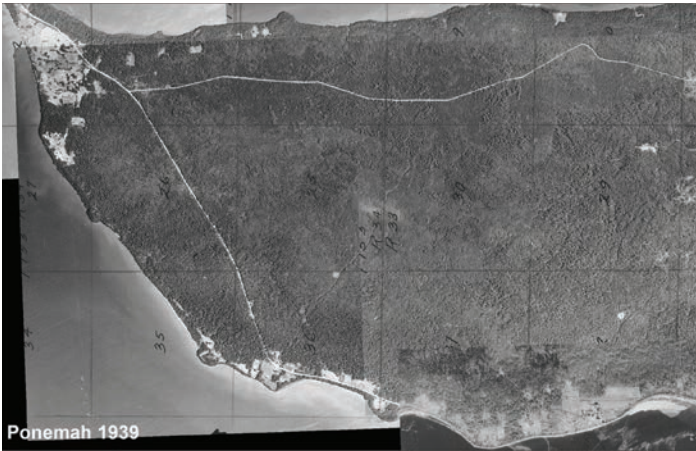


Redby





Ponemah



Ponemah 1939



Ponemah 2021

Red Lake Band Elk Hunt 2023

Application Period : May 1-31, 2023

Applications available at Red Lake DNR
Mon-Fri 7:30am-3:30pm

Applications MUST include:
-Copy of current Tribal ID and
-Ceded Territory License
for ALL hunting members

Return applications to Red Lake DNR
Due NO LATER than May 31 at 3:30pm
NO LATE APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Drawing will take place on June 1, 2023
at 10:00am

One season: Sept 15 - Dec 31, 2023



istock photo

MORE INFO or QUESTIONS: 218-679-3313

UPPER/LOWER RED LAKE ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

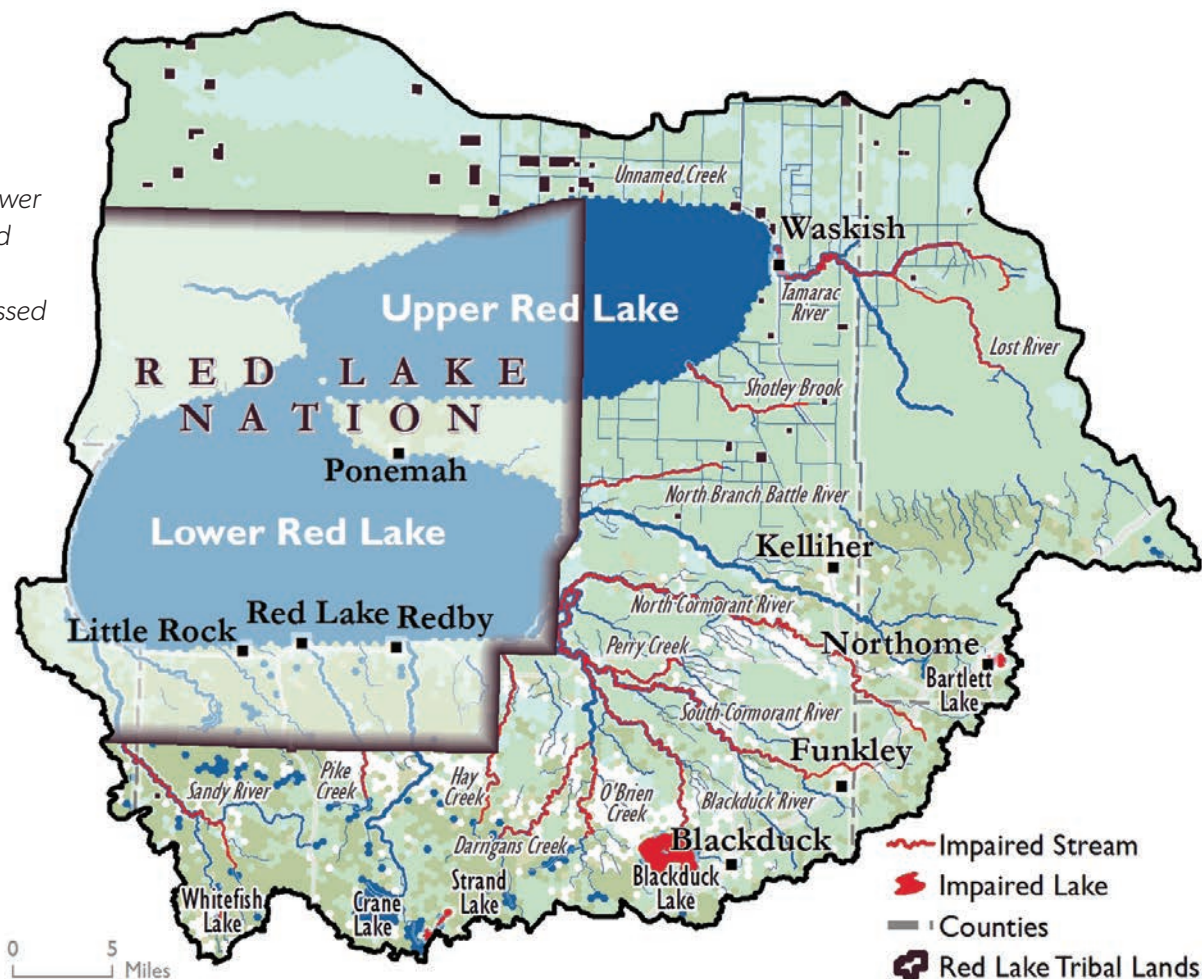
The purpose of the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program is to develop watershed-wide management plans based on watershed areas rather than political boundaries such as counties or watershed districts (See Figure 1). The benefit to this approach is a joint effort among local partners with a shared goal. Goals aren't strictly water quality related and can include forestry, soil health, habitats, and the economy. The Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P is currently underway between the Red Lake Nation (DNR Water Resources Program), Beltrami County SWCD/ESD, and Red Lake Watershed District. Whereas the WRAPS project that occurred several years ago for this watershed identified impaired waters, the 1W1P works to implement projects to improve or restore those identified impairments. The

process for the development of the plan typically takes a little over a year to complete. Once approved, funding will be available to complete the projects identified in the 1W1P. Funds are available over a ten-year period. Red Lake is the first tribe to be involved at this level. Al Pemberton, DNR Director and Tribal Council Member, as a member of the policy committee will be able to direct policy while RL DNR staff will help direct efforts and write the actual plan. There will be opportunities for citizens and stakeholder groups to participate and give input on the projects and plan. Be on the lookout for community meetings where you will have an opportunity to provide input and help us set priorities.

Upcoming Projects

The Water Resources Nonpoint Source Pollution Program has been successful in receiving grant funds to complete

Figure 1. Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed showing impaired waters to be addressed during the 1W1P process.



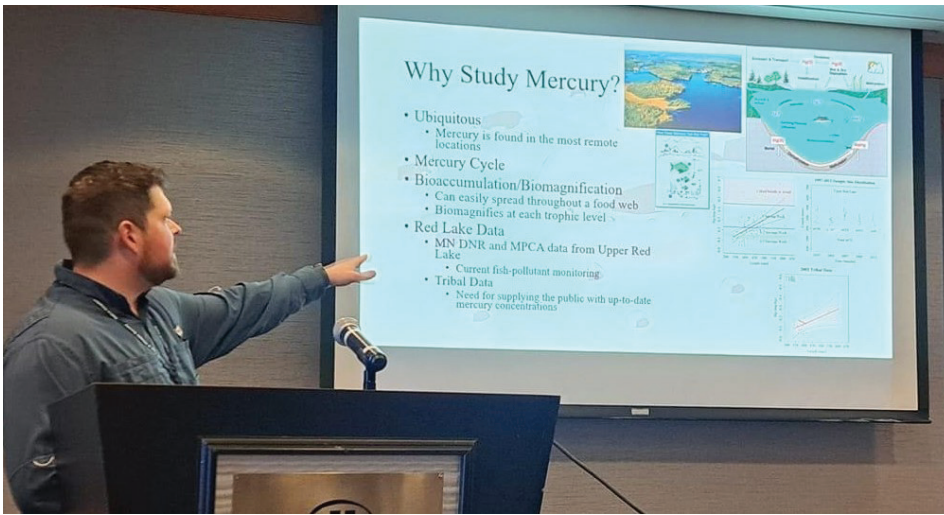


Figure 2. Tyler Orgon (RL DNR Biologist)

more stream crossing/culvert replacement projects. This summer, the stream crossing at Pike Creek on Barton’s Camp Trail will be replaced with an appropriately sized and placed culvert that will allow for fish passage and reduced sedimentation in the stream. The crossing at Pike Creek on East Fire Line Trail was completed last fall. With the completion of these two projects, all of the stream crossings within the Reservation boundaries on Pike Creek will have been restored and allow for proper fish passage. The crossing on Little Rock Creek on East Fire Line Trail will also undergo

construction for replacement of the undersized culvert and stabilizing of the road.

Improvements at a number of lake accesses will take place starting this summer. Accesses at Ponemah, Red Lake Outlet, Kinney Lake, and Green Lake in Redby have all received funding. We hope to provide improved ramps where needed, better parking spaces, and rollout docks for a better boat launching experience.

A mercury in fish tissue project, funded by BIA, will be completed over the next two years. This project

will provide information allowing us to begin tracking changes in mercury over time.

Student Projects

The Water Resources team always tries to find funding to support students within our project designs. In fact, there is usually at least one graduate student working on a project with our program. Last year was no different.

Collin Glass, a Bemidji State University graduate student was hired to help with wetland research to try to determine if wetlands are a mercury source for Upper and Lower Red Lake. He collected water samples from seven sites surrounding Upper and Lower Red Lake where we are looking at general chemistry and both total (elemental) and methylmercury (mercury that is available for uptake) in water. Sampling is set to continue throughout the summer months at Sandy River, Pike Creek, Mud River, Lost River, a ditch site north of Waskish, and two other sites along the Blanchard Road north of Upper Red Lake. The results of this study will help us determine appropriate steps to take in mitigating mercury loads to the Red Lakes. Tyler Orgon (RL DNR Biologist) and Collin recently presented their work on mercury at the NAFWS National Conference in Anchorage where Collin won first place for his poster presentation (Figures 2 and 3). The turnout was great, and attendees provided great questions and suggestions for the project. This project and a currently funded mercury project mentioned in the previous section will result in a new fish tissue consumption advisory for tribal members.



Figure 3. Collin Glass, a Bemidji State University graduate student

LEAVE WILDLIFE WILD

With spring weather here and wildlife getting more active, the Red Lake DNR – Wildlife Department is urging people to leave fawns, ducklings and other young wildlife alone. Also, try to stay away from known den or nesting sites as the parents may be nearby and will get stressed if humans get too close.

A doe raises its fawn by leaving it in a secluded spot after nursing. Almost always, the doe is close by feeding or resting. At least twice a day, the doe will return to feed her young and move them to a new hiding place. This will continue for two to three weeks, until the fawn is strong enough to outrun predators. Fawns have many special adaptations to keep them safe. They have white-spotted coats which provide excellent camouflage. When they are scared, they will instinctively freeze, making full use of their distinctive coloration. Also, fawns have almost no odor, so predators cannot detect them.


Fledgling birds (those just learning to fly) are extremely uncoordinated and may fall out of the nest. The parents are rarely very far away and before long, the fledgling will be able to make it back into the nest or in some cases, the parents will feed the young on the ground until they are able to fly. But if you find a baby bird and see the nest, you can put the bird back in the nest to help it out. If you don't see the nest, leave the bird where it was found.

Ducklings and goslings are ready to venture out within hours of hatching. They feed themselves right from birth and are never fed by their mother. A lone duckling has probably just been separated from their family and the hen will return to retrieve her young when she deems it safe. Other times, a lone chick or gosling is often "adopted" by another hen or goose. Never remove young waterfowl from the place where you found them.

Leave wildlife alone for your own protection as well. Animals can and do carry many different diseases that can harm humans, including rabies and West Nile virus. They may be carrying deer ticks which transmit Lyme's Disease. Scared wildlife may also bite or scratch defensively if they

Red Lake DNR Wildlife Department
Invites you to attend

Tribal CWD MEETING




This event is an opportunity for community members to learn about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wild deer herds and voice your opinion. Your input will be important as we evaluate management options at Red Lake in the event that CWD is detected in the deer population.

All adults are welcome, whether they are hunters or not. Participants will be expected to actively share their ideas and thoughts with one another in small group discussions. We have room for 25 community members.

OPEN to Red Lake Members, 18+

Red Lake Nation College
Thursday, May 25, 2023
11:00am-2:00pm
Lunch Provided

Questions? 218-679-1636



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are picked up or cornered. Teeth and claws are very sharp and even superficial scratches and minor bites can become infected. Capturing young animals may severely injure them since their bones are fragile and still growing. In addition, many young animals die of stress and shock from being grabbed and handled. Remember that wild animals do not make good pets! Young animals may be cute and cuddly and seem tame, but captivity causes them extreme stress and they can become much more aggressive and unpredictable as they age.

Don't believe the tale that babies touched by humans will be rejected by their parents. In almost all cases, the parents will continue to care for their young. However, leaving fawns, ducklings and other young wildlife alone still gives them their best chance of survival.

If you do find a wild animal that has obvious signs of illness or injury, such as: not being afraid or odd behavior, bleeding, panting, shivering or broken limbs, it may be in need of care. If you find an animal that is in obvious distress and need of help, please leave the animal where it is and contact the Wildlife Department at 218-679-3959.

2023 ELK HUNT IN THE 1863 TREATY TERRITORY (OLD CROSSING TERRITORY)

Red Lake Band Members:

On June 9, 2020 under Resolution 139-2020, Red Lake Tribal Council enacted the use and protection of the treaty rights of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians under the Old Crossing Treaty signed on October 2, 1863. Under this Resolution, there will be a 2023 Elk Hunt by lottery permitted off Reservation in the Old Crossing Treaty area. The lottery system will select thirty (30) individuals or parties of 1-5 to harvest either an antler or antlerless elk. All hunters in a party must be Red Lake Tribal Members.

It was decided that Red Lake Band members shall utilized said treaty rights, this year we are issuing 30 permits, following years this number may increase or decrease depending on the population.

- Each Red Lake Tribal Enrolled Member may only take part in a single hunting party.
- If any enrolled members attempts to join multiple hunting parties, all applicants from all parties will be void for 2023 season.
- The lead (main) hunter must be present at all times, but the assisting hunters need not be present for every hunt. Only those on application may take part in the hunt.

Each member applying for the hunt will need to present a current valid tribal ID and Ceded Territory License (available through Conservation) when filing application for 2023 Elk Hunt with Red Lake DNR.

- All applicants must be 18 years or older.
- All hunting parties must follow the Red Lake Ceded Territory Code in the off reservation Old Crossing Treaty Territory.
- Any tribal member may assist a hunter or hunting party in field dressing, skinning and quartering once that animal is harvested, but must have a valid tribal ID on their person and no firearm.
- Any Elk Harvested is required to get Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing
- All party's will receive a permit for the following counties: Beltrami, Marshall, Pennington, Roseau, Kittson

Lottery application submission dates: May 1st, 2023 to May 31st, 2023 at the Red Lake DNR building (Brown Building by the lake)

On the morning of June 1st, 2023 at 10 AM the lottery drawing will be held.

The season will be held during day light hours of September 15, 2023 – December 31, 2023; One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

More information regarding the 2023 Elk Hunt will be given to the winning parties of the 30 permits.

If any Red Lake Band Member has any questions they may call 218-679-3313 or Message our Facebook page at [Red Lake Conservation Law Enforcement | Facebook](#)



PREPARE FOR INCREASED BEAR ACTIVITY

Bears are coming out of their dens and will be hungry. The compactors at the transfer stations have removed a source of food for some bears. Bears may be more active around homes and communities until natural foods are available. Bears become habituated to areas and homes that are constant food sources for them. They may become aggressive and have to be relocated or in some circumstances they may need to be put down.

Some precautions you can take:

- Clean up any garbage around your home and vehicles.
- Do not leave dog food outside.
- Put your bird feeders away until natural crops become available.
- Do not leave garbage on the ground by the compactors.

Please Contact Red Lake Conservation at 679-3313 with any questions or concerns.



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NEW HIRE- FIRE PREVENTION TECHNICIAN



James "Jimmy" Jourdain

In December, the Tribal Council authorized the hire of a new Fire Prevention Technician for the Wildland Fire Program. The program is happy to introduce Jimmy Jourdain. He has been a wildland firefighter working with forestry since 2015. He is currently working on his A.A. degree at the Red Lake Nation College and will graduate this fall. He has shown to be a very dedicated, knowledgeable and reliable asset to the prevention program and we are very pleased to have him.

Letter from the Director -continued from page one...

that all tribal members can use to report areas of environmental contamination on our lands. This will be a very quick and easy way for all members to report their environmental concerns and get them assessed by our staff to improve the health and environment of the Red Lake Nation!

Our Water Resources Program will be very busy this spring. Field work began in mid-April when the Water Resources staff worked to capture the snowmelt conditions and how the resulting runoff impacts water quality. There are a number of projects occurring within the Program, notably two culvert replacements are set to begin this year, one on Pike Creek on Barton's Camp Trail and the other on Little Rock Creek on the East Fire Line. The crew will be busy with sampling so please slow down and move over if you see them parked on the side of the road.

Miigwetch! *Al Pemberton*

BURN PERMITS

Attention Red Lake Tribal Members: If you plan to do any open burning this spring, please make sure to obtain a Red Lake Burning Permit. Please follow the recommendations that accompany the permit, and make sure that the fire is all the way extinguished before leaving it unattended.

BURNING CAN BE DONE EACH DAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00pm to 10:00am. Burning permits can be obtained at the Red Lake Fire Center or online: www.redlakednr.org/fire/burning-permit. If you have any questions, stop by the Red Lake Fire Center or call us at 679-3381.