

Red Lake Forestry Program

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The mission of the Red Lake DNR Forestry program is to protect and enhance the forest resources of the Red Lake Reservation while providing forest management services and technical assistance to the members of the Tribe. When the self-governance agreement with the federal government became effective on January 1, 1997, the Red Lake Tribe assumed many federal functions, including direction and management of the Forestry department. Although the Tribe is currently managing its own forestry program under self-governance, the federal government is still obligated with the trust responsibility through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to insure that the Tribe's forest resources are being managed in the Tribe's best interest. The BIA also provides sources of funding, technical assistance and training.



Red Lake Environmental Program

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The Environmental Program's main responsibility is to ensure the Red Lake Nation is in compliance with federal environmental regulations. The program maintains a permanent staff of three who work closely with other DNR programs to ensure that tribal members and natural resources are well protected. Some of the Environmental Program's goals and objectives



include household and hazardous waste management improvement, protection of tribal groundwater and surface waters from contamination, underground storage tank compliance, safeguards from accidental chemical releases, and monitoring of ambient/outside air for particulate matter and other pollutants.



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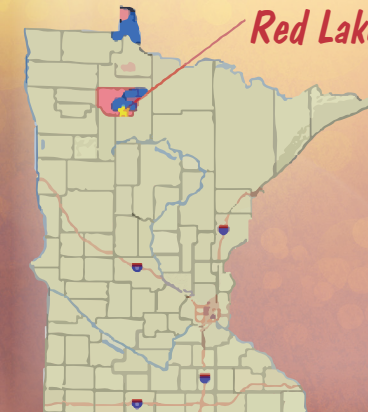


Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

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The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians Reservation contains more than 836,000 acres of land and water across eight northern Minnesota counties. The Reservation comprises nearly 60% of all of the Federal Indian Trust Land in the Midwest Region. A dominant feature is Upper and Lower Red Lake (actually one lake connected by a channel). Red Lake is the 6th largest natural freshwater lake within the United States. The Tribe is one of only a few in the United States which resisted 19th century federal allotment policies. The Tribe holds all land in common for the benefit of its members. The land provides a means to hunt, fish, and gather natural resources and is a touchstone to the longstanding heritage of the Tribe. Through careful management the resources will continue to be available for years to come.



Red Lake Band of Chippewa



Red Lake Wildlife Program

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The Red Lake DNR wildlife program was established in 1997 and is responsible for managing wildlife and their associated habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the members of the Red Lake Nation. This includes activities designed to help maintain the viability of wildlife populations, including threatened and endangered species, found on Red Lake's vast land holdings. Similar to states, the Tribe has been able to apply for a number federal wildlife grants, providing more than \$2.5 million to the Wildlife Program during the past 10 years. These funds have been used to conduct research and habitat enhancement projects, collect biological data on species important to Band members, support staff, and purchase equipment. Recent projects include: research on wolves, monitoring population levels of big game, fur bearers, grouse, and American woodcocks, research on local waterfowl production, establishment of wild rice stands and upland nesting habitat enhancement. Wildlife staff assist in the development of tribal wildlife harvest regulations and administer non-member hunting opportunities on tribal lands.



Red Lake Waters Program

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The Water Resources Program works to monitor and protect the surface and groundwater quality of more than 240,000 acres of lakes, 466,000 acres of wetlands, and 371 miles of rivers and streams. Current monitoring efforts include 91 small lakes, Upper and Lower Red Lake, 5 flowing wells, and 21 streams including those at the Northwest Angle. By monitoring physical data, nutrients, bacteria, and biological data we are able to assess the health of the lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater on the Reservation. Our monitoring program is larger than that of some states and is used for both basic water quality assessments and new research. The program has also developed several nonpoint source pollution prevention efforts including lake access projects and the Mud River restoration. We participate in partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other water quality related organizations. Through monitoring and restoration projects facilitated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the partnerships listed, we work to ensure a healthy aquatic resource across the Red Lake Reservation.



Red Lake Fisheries Program

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The Fisheries program was started in 1987 and is responsible for the management and conservation of reservation fish stocks on 237,000 acres of Upper and Lower Red Lake, 135 smaller lakes, and approximately 371 miles of rivers and streams. The fisheries resource is diverse, ranging from smaller cold water trout lakes and largemouth bass-bluegill lakes, to the large walleye fishery of the Red Lakes. Staff includes a biologist and 3 full time technicians. The program has a fish hatchery for the hatching of walleye fry and a small demonstration re-circulating aquaculture unit which was used for rearing perch. In 2007, the program initiated the reintroduction of lake sturgeon to the Red Lakes and has cooperatively, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, stocked over 75,000 lake sturgeon fingerlings as of October of 2014. We strive to balance sustainable utilization of the resource with adequate protection to preserve this resource for future generations.

