



# Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganiig Aki-genawendamowaad

RED LAKE DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## MAZINA'IGAN ONJI ODAAKEWIGIMA LETTER FROM DIRECTOR

**Boozhoo!** Dagwaagin (Fall) is coming quick, Manoomin (wild rice) is getting ready for harvest, and waterfowl are getting ready to head south. This summer has been extremely busy for Red Lake DNR Staff. Many Red Lake Wildland Firefighters went on assignments out west. Red Lake firefighters serve on hand crews, fire engines, and helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft support. The experience and knowledge they gain on these operations each summer is brought back to Red Lake. This keeps the Red Lake Wildland Firefighting crews sharp and ready for our busy spring and fall fire seasons.

News in the world of water quality is bittersweet. Red Lake DNR staff has worked hard with partners at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to assess water quality throughout the Upper and Lower Red Lake Watershed this summer. We are fortunate to be located in a headwaters area with very little industry so water quality as a whole is looking very good. Groundwater monitoring has been completed around sealed landfills on the Reservation to ensure that our drinking water sources are safe.

We have also worked with Beltrami County and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources personnel to stay abreast of current water quality and invasive species issues. Unfortunately, in spite of a strong prevention effort on the part of

Beltrami County an invasive species has made it into Upper Red Lake. Starry stonewort has been verified in the Waskish area. Every effort will be made to prevent it from spreading further and we continue to be on the lookout for other invasive species.

Several thousand pounds of green wild rice seed will once again be hand planted this fall in area lakes and impoundments on the Reservation to improve current rice stands or establish new rice beds. These stands attract large numbers of migrating and breeding waterfowl. We hope to re-establish these ricing beds so that members can continue to harvest rice at Red Lake. What a great source of nutrition this is for everyone!

We had a super turn-out at the Take a Kid Fishing Event in August with over 190 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.

Many people are starting to think about 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*

## DAGWAAGIN (FALL) 2016

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# FISHERIES

## GIIGOONYIKEWIN



## RECORD TURN OUT FOR 2016 TAKE A KID FISHING DAY AT FULLERS LAKE

The Red Lake DNR would like to thank all of our volunteers and sponsors for making this year's event a huge success. 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 our largest turnout ever in 30 years. We had 190 kids that registered this year and with parents and volunteers, we estimate we had 250 participants this year. The Red Lake DNR staff and conservation officers had nine boats running on the lake, making sure all kids that wanted to fish were able to fish for an hour or longer. The DNR provided Zebco fishing rods and bait to the 190 kids that participated in the event this year. The

Red Lake Trading Post, Old Dutch Chips, and the Red Lake Boys and Girls Club assisted with donations for the lunch, which was prepared and served by DNR staff, and provided 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!

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# WILDLIFE AWESIINHYAG

## 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.*



## WILD RICE (MANOOMIN) RE-ESTABLISHMENT UPDATE



Historically, several areas on the Red Lake Reservation, including the Butcher Knife Chain and Good Lake Impoundment, were good spots to find native wild

rice stands. These stands attracted large numbers of migrating and breeding waterfowl by providing excellent habitat and food for them. For the past 8 years, the Wildlife Department has been working to re-establish stands of wild rice in several area lakes and streams. Each year, between 2,000-5,000 pounds of green wild rice seed (from Leech Lake and White Earth Bands) have been hand-seeded into the Butcher Knife Chain, Good Lake Impoundment, and Kiwosay Wildlife Area to re-establish these wild rice stands and establish new areas of wild rice. These areas now support abundant stands of wild rice which provide a source for hand harvesting by tribal members as well as food and habitat for many wildlife species. The Wildlife Department started hand-seeding wild rice into Sandy Lake about 2 years ago in hopes of establishing a wild rice bed there as well. Funding for these wild rice re-establishment projects has come from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Circle of Flight Program, the USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant Program and Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources grants.

The best time to plant wild rice is in the fall around the time of the first frost. The seed requires the cold winter weather to germinate in the spring. Wild rice seed must be kept moist because it will not germinate if it dries out. Wild rice must also be in water for almost all of its growing season (April-August) as well. The ideal water depth is around 2-3 feet and the soil and water pH should be acidic. Wild rice seed is usually hand-seeded along shore or from a boat. The viable seed will immediately sink to the bottom. Wild rice will germinate in the spring once the water temperatures reach 40 degrees. It usually takes about a month for the plant to reach floating leaf stage. After about another month of growth, the stalk will be established above the water. Wild rice is an annual water grass plant that grows to a height of 3 to 8 feet tall. Wild rice plants have the amazing ability to produce seeds that mature at different times; some early to miss the first hard frost, and some late to miss the migrating birds. When the wild rice seed matures, it immediately shatters and falls to the ground. All these unique traits makes it a little easier for wild rice to maintain consistent stands. This all of course depends on the weather each year.

With the re-establishment of these native wild rice stands on the Red Lake Reservation, we hope that future generations will be able to enjoy this wonderful source of nutrition!







Before



After

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

### GOLDEN WING WARBLER – BRUSHLAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

**Project Type:** Brushland/Young Forest Habitat Management

**Project Partners:** Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Red Lake DNR, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Benefitting Species:** Completed project sites will provide important habitat for nesting, brood rearing and/or foraging for a broad array of game and non-game species. Research also indicates that a number of forest interior species benefit from early successional habitat patches located adjacent to or within mature forest stands.

Benefitting species include, but are not limited to: the Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Veery, Black-billed Cuckoo, Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, pollinators, Snowshoe Hare, Bobcat, Deer, Black Bear, and Moose (when present on the landscape).

**Total Acreage of Project Areas:**

Approximately 500 acres in winter 2016-2017.

**Project Timetable:** This project will be open to bid from October 17 – November 18, 2016. Project operations will likely begin in January 2017. The Red Lake DNR will determine the suitability of frost depth for project operations.

**Equipment:** Contractors will be required to use a straight-bladed D6 dozer or larger and pull a roller chopper to fell brush in project areas. The dozer must be provided by the contractor, though the roller chopper will be provided for them.

**For more details about this project, please visit Red Lake DNR.**



*Dozer pulling roller drum to fell brush in project area.*



# FORESTRY

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MITIGOKEWIN



## RED LAKE WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM UPDATES

The fire crew is responsible for protecting the reservation lands from wildfires that threaten the forest resource the Red Lake Reservation. Starting in March 2016, the crew responded to a total of 413 fires in or near the communities of the Red Lake Reservation. This amounted to a total of 998 acres burned. The Red Lake Fire crew was also busy this summer clearing storm damage in the Redby area. Many trees blew over roads and driveway approaches from multiple storms we had this summer.

The Red Lake Fire crew is also available to respond to fires or other emergency's nationwide. During the 2016 season we have supplied firefighters, engine crews, helicopter crew members, dispatchers, fire prevention and aviation managers to other reservations or agencies in eight states. These assignments not only provide necessary resources, but help our program by providing training and experience to help our program grow. This year two helitack firefighters became fully qualified helicopter crew members. We also had two crew members become qualified as managers. The experience gained in working with other types of helicopters and crews will benefit our program in the future.





# RED LAKE DNR MONITORING FOR INVASIVE FOREST PESTS

For over 100 years, foresters have been dealing with the consequences of invasive forest pests. Chestnut blight, Dutch Elm Disease, White Pine Blister Rust and Emerald Ash Borer are just a few of the many invasive pests that have caused, and will continue to cause, tremendous damage to the forest ecosystem in Minnesota.

Chestnut blight, which virtually eliminated chestnut trees across the eastern third of the United States through 1940, was accidentally introduced from Japan in 1904. Chestnut blight is a fungal infection spread by the wind. In Japan, where it is native, Chestnut Blight is considered a moderate pest as Japanese chestnuts have natural resistance to the blight. No such natural resistance exists in North America and chestnut blight was able to gain a foothold and completely decimate mature chestnut stands.



Dutch Elm Disease is also a fungal infection, but it is spread by the elm bark beetle. It was originally native to Asia, but was spread to the United States from the Netherlands in 1928. Elm trees are still common throughout their original range, but very few trees live long enough to attain the size that was once common throughout Minnesota in the 1960's.

White Pine Blister Rust is another fungal infection that was accidentally introduced to North America around 1900. It can be fatal to an individual tree, but generally doesn't impact entire stands. Some genetic resistance exists in nature, and Red Lake has been selecting Blister Rust-resistant white pine seed for growing in the Greenhouse in cooperation with the Minnesota Tree Improvement Cooperative.



The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Michigan in 2002, and is believed to have come from eastern Asia. The small green beetle only attacks ash trees, but there is no natural resistance in North America. Over 50 million trees have already been killed in the 27 states (including Minnesota) it has been found in, and is considered the most destructive forest pest ever seen in North America. There appears to be zero natural resistance to the insect, and so far, no efforts to stop the spread of the beetle have been effective.

Red Lake has been monitoring for EAB in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for 8 years. In 2016, fifteen emerald ash borer traps were placed in strategic monitoring locations throughout the reservation. So far no ash borers have been found.



## GROUNDWATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

Four solid waste landfills were located on the Red Lake Reservation. Red Lake Department of Natural Resources (RLDNR) has established groundwater monitoring programs at each of the four closed landfills (Red Lake, Shell Lake, Redby and Ponemah). These sites ceased accepting wastes for on-site disposal in response to implementation of the 1992 Subtitle D revisions to 40 CFR 258. Each of the sites except Shell Lake were capped with either a natural clay cover system or a composite cover system consisting of both clay and synthetic materials. Portions of the Red Lake site are still used as a transfer station and demolition/construction debris landfill. Red Lake DNR continues the groundwater monitoring utilizing US EPA funding and technical aid to ensure protection of the groundwater and surface waters of Red Lake Nation.



*John LeBlanc of the Red Lake DNR samples one of the groundwater monitoring wells at the Redby landfill.*



*Illegal Dumping at Red Lake's Demolition Debris Landfill.*

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. Recently, the RLERP was alerted that the unofficial construction demolition landfill area located adjacent to the Red Lake Transfer Station has been used for illegal dumping of solid waste and some household hazardous waste materials. The RLERP conducted a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) in the area of concern. The Phase I ESA indicated the need for further assessment and the RLERP secured USEPA funding for a Phase II ESA to be conducted later this fall or early in the spring of 2017 as weather permits. The Phase II ESA will determine the extent of contamination and the level of threat to the groundwater and surface waters in the area. Once the Phase II ESA results are available, a plan of action will be determined. Community members may contact the RLERP at the RLDNR or complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9CBCH9M> with information regarding open/illegal dumping concerns to be investigated.



# ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

*This project reduces your home's indoor allergens  
to limit your child's asthma symptoms.*

## WOULD MY CHILD QUALIFY?

*To qualify for this program a family needs to:*

- ☒ Have a child or children with poorly controlled asthma diagnosed by a physician
- ☒ Live on the Red Lake Reservation
- ☒ Have an in-home assessment and use the products provided

## WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU:

*If you qualify, allergen reducing products to improve your child's asthma are made available at no cost to you.  
After a one-hour in-home assessment, possible resources available include:*

- ☐ HEPA air cleaner
- ☐ Allergen vacuum
- ☐ Bed and pillow encasements
- ☐ Dehumidifier
- ☐ HEPA air filters (gas-forced air furnace)
- ☐ Fire extinguisher
- ☐ Integrated pest management
- ☐ Carbon monoxide detector
- ☐ Smoke detector

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

To participate in this project, please call Jennifer Malinski at (218) 679-1618.

*Environmental Programs are in place to protect the people and environment of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. We are available to provide guidance to the communities and anyone concerned about the environment in which we live and work. Community participation and feedback are always welcome. Together we can protect our treasured resources for ourselves, our children, and all generations to come.*





## WATER RESOURCES EZHI-GANAWENJIGAADEG-NIBI

### WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

Summer is coming to an end and so is the Red Lake Water Resources Program's busy sampling season. We have collected data from dozens of lakes and streams ranging from near Blackduck Lake all the way to the Northwest Angle this year. Much of that work has been done as part of the cooperative Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) project we've been working on with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). This project will look at the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed as a whole and pinpoint any problem areas that we might be able to target to improve water quality. Public meetings will be held very soon both on and off the Reservation. If you have

an interest in learning about the process or have general questions about water quality, please attend any or all of the meetings. See the schedule below and look for announcements on the Red Lake Band website or the RL DNR website or Facebook page.

#### SCHEDULE:

- **North Beltrami Community Center in Kelliher**  
*Tuesday, October 11th from 5-7 pm*
- **Ponemah Boys & Girls Club/Community Center**  
*Wednesday, October 12th from 5-7 pm*
- **Red Lake Community Center**  
*Thursday, October 13th from 5-7 pm*

### ABANDONED WELL SEALING

The RL DNR is sealing abandoned wells at no cost while funding is available. If you have an abandoned well or know of one please contact the RL DNR Water Resources Program. We currently have funding to seal about 20 drilled wells and some additional funding to fill dug wells.

An abandoned well is any well that is no longer used as a water supply. Old, unused, and uncapped wells can pollute your drinking water. They connect to the same

aquifer (underground water source) as other wells nearby and provide a pathway for harmful substances to enter including animals, bacteria, and harmful chemicals.

If you think you may have an abandoned well Rick Barrett at 679-1603 for a free inspection.







Figure 1. Starry stonewort bulbils.



Figure 2. Starry stonewort treated with herbicide (top) and untreated (bottom).



Figure 3. Starry stonewort mat showing color change from bottom to top.

## INVASIVE SPECIES IN RED LAKE

Invasive species are species that are not native to a particular water body. Their presence can threaten native species through direct or indirect competition, damage the environment, disrupt local economies, and in some cases harm human health. They can come from somewhere nearby or as far away as the other side of the globe. Impacts of invasive species can vary greatly in different areas depending upon local conditions and human perception. Black crappies for example, are generally not considered a harmful species even though their native range didn't include most Minnesota lakes. Other species, especially those that are known to disrupt recreation such as fishing and boating, are often cause for concern.

The RL DNR works cooperatively with Beltrami County, MN DNR, and other agencies and units of government to prevent the spread of invasive species in the area. There are a number of examples of cooperative work being done in the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed. Inspectors are on duty at public landings on a number of lakes including the public landings on Upper Red Lake at Waskish. RL DNR staff collect samples to monitor for spiny water flea and zebra mussels, two invasive species of great concern to us and present in nearby waters. Public outreach efforts have targeted schools, resort owners, and recreational boaters who are most likely to carry invasive species into the area. Additional effort has been put into early detection of invasive species.

Recently, the Minnesota DNR confirmed starry stonewort in Upper Red Lake at West Wind Resort. This happened just shortly after it was discovered in Big Turtle Lake (another lake in Beltrami County). Until these two incidents, starry stonewort had only been known to have infested one Minnesota water body, Lake Koronis in Paynesville.

### WHAT IS STARRY STONEWORT & WHAT WILL IT DO?

Starry stonewort is a macro-algae. This means it doesn't have a root system like common plants, and this can make it tricky to eradicate with chemical treatments.

It is often described as a "grass-like algae" but upon close examination appears similar to thick fishing line (especially near the base as the cells contain no chlorophyll and look transparent). It's called "starry" because of tiny white parts on the plant called bulbils that are star shaped. It can grow in thick mats that float near the surface and interfere with boat traffic. It seems to do especially well in shallow, calm bays with clear water.

According to invasive species representatives from MN DNR, most research indicates that starry stonewort does not like moving water which may help to confine it to the harbor at West Wind for now. The wave action on the rest of the lake might work to keep it in one place.

### WHAT IS BEING DONE?

It is early in the process, and this species isn't well known in Minnesota so it's not clear what the best course of action is. However, the MN DNR and partners are trying to act quickly and decisively. Options discussed at the public meeting in Waskish included the possibility of dewatering the harbor at West Wind and hoping that freezing the bulbils might eradicate the plant. Multiple treatments with herbicides could be used to remove the majority of the vegetation and following up with a large vacuum-like suction device could remove the majority of the remaining vegetation. The MN DNR made clear that while they are willing to support actions to eradicate the infestation in Upper Red Lake, they could not promise that any attempts would be successful.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As always, follow good invasive species prevention practices. Clean all vegetation from your boat and trailer. Drain all water related equipment (boat, livewell, motor, etc.). Remove your drain plug. Never release unused bait. If you want to keep it for later, it should be transferred to clean tap water. Be on the lookout for any vegetation that looks suspicious. If you think you see something that doesn't belong, call the RL DNR (218)-679-3959.





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## RED LAKE DNR

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