



Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganiig Aki-genawendamowaad

Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

Dagwaagin
Fall 2019

Mazina'igan onji Odaakewigima
Letter from Director

IN THIS ISSUE

Ezhi-ayaag-gidakiiminaa
Environmental | 2

Giigoonyikewin
Fisheries | 4

**Miskwaagamiwi-
zaaga'iganiig
Miti-gokewin**
Forestry | 6

Ezhi-ganawenjigaadeg-Nibi
Water Resources | 8

Awesiinhya
Wildlife | 10

RED LAKE DNR

15761 High School Drive
Red Lake, MN 56671

Phone: 218-679-3959
Fax: 218-679-2830
rldnr@redlakenation.org

Visit us on the web!
www.redlakednr.org



Like our Facebook Page
Red Lake DNR

Boozhoo! Now that the days are starting to get shorter and cooler weather is approaching, staff at the DNR are wrapping up summer work and getting ready for fall. This newsletter highlights some of the important work the Red Lake DNR accomplished this past summer.

The Environmental Program applied for and received Volkswagen Settlement Funds to replace two tribally owned vehicles with the Sanitation Department and Transfer Station. The replacement vehicles will be new low-emission diesel vehicles that will be much better for air quality. In addition, this funding will be used to install electric vehicle charging stations at three spots on the reservation. What a great addition to our Reservation!

Cops and Bobbers and Red Lake DNR once again hosted a joint fishing event with approximately 175 kids participating in a fun day of fishing. Thank you to all those that brought their children to help make this day a success.

The Water Resources Program provides some important information in this newsletter on monitoring water quality at the Northwest Angle of Minnesota. In addition, the restoration of Mud River is ongoing yet this fall and we are all looking forward to saying that this stream is finally completely reconnected.

Although we are still seeing warm day-time temperatures, the mornings are becoming cool and many are thinking about fall activities, including hunting and trapping. The Wildlife Program has included a very informative article on important safety tips to remember while you are out hunting. We want to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable hunting season.

This summer brought high fire danger in several states to our west and northwest. Red Lake wildland firefighters filled 21 individual assignments in five states. In return, our firefighters receive excellent training and experience as well as temporary job opportunities.

The Forestry Program shearing that was done in areas damaged from the windstorms in the summer of 2018 near the Clearbrook Road and Gonvick Truck Trail are showing great forest regeneration. In just over 3 months, the aspen saplings have already grown 4-6 feet! In addition to natural forest regeneration, over 20,000 white spruce were planted.

Everyone at the DNR thanks you for your continued support and sincerely hopes that you have a wonderful and prosperous fall.

Miigwetch!

Al Pemberton

Ezhi-ayaag-gidakiiminaan

Environmental



1996 International Pump Truck that will be replaced for the Sanitation Department with a 2020 model

VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION TRUST FOR INDIAN TRIBES

Over the last several months, the Red Lake DNR's Environmental Program has applied for and received Beneficiary status for the Tribe in order to be eligible for Volkswagen Settlement funds. With Red Lake's allocation for the 2019 funding cycle and in consideration of the strict funding guidelines, we are able to replace two Red Lake Tribal Government owned eligible vehicles. The vehicles selected for replacement are: a pump truck for the Sanitation Department and a refuse truck for the Transfer Station. The eligible vehicles must be scrapped and replaced with new low-emission diesel vehicles. Additionally the remaining balance of the allotted funds will be used to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at three locations on the Reservation. The EV charging stations will be located at the Red Lake DNR, the Red Lake Nation College, and the Red Lake Nation Government Center.

The community and air quality benefits from the project will include reduced pollution, including reduced emissions of

nitrogen oxides (NOx) and fine particles (PM2.5), reduced fuel consumption, and reduced fuel costs. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emissions Qualifier (DEQ) tool, the Eligible Mitigation Action will result in a 92.4% annual reduction in NOx emissions and annual reductions of PM2.5 of 97.3% (based on average results for the two eligible trucks). The project will result in an annual reduction of 0.229 short tons of NOx. A lifetime reduction of NOx is 88.0%, PM2.5 is 87.6%, HC is 71.6% and CO is 65.5%. These values are based on average results for eligible trucks, taking into account the expected remaining life of the vehicle.

Once the final budget for this project is approved, more information will be available through the Red Lake DNR website (www.redlakednr.org). The Environmental Program plans to apply for funding to replace more diesel vehicles again during the next funding cycle.



EV charging stations will be installed at the DNR, Tribal College, and Government Center



Volkswagen Background

In 2015 Volkswagen was cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board for violating emissions standards by selling diesel vehicles equipped with “defeat devices.” These Devices allowed the cars to pass federal emissions tests, but during actual driving conditions they emitted significantly more air pollutants than allowed by the Clean Air Act. The federal government sued the company, and in 2016 Volkswagen settled the cases for \$14.7 billion.

As part of the settlement, \$2.8 billion was set aside for states and Tribes

to fund diesel emission mitigation projects. \$55 million of this money is earmarked for Tribes, in a trust called the “Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries,” or the “Tribal Trust.” Any federally recognized Tribe can apply for funding from the Tribal Trust, which they can use to replace old, polluting diesel vehicles or equipment with new, cleaner models, or even install electric vehicle charging stations.

(Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals)

Numerous studies have shown that people are reluctant to purchase electric vehicles because they worry about the lack of charging stations. Studies also show that consumers are more likely to buy an electric car when charging stations are available around town or near the workplace. Although even the most affordable EVs have plenty of range, the availability of charging stations can be a real concern and it is deterring people from going all-electric. Our goal is build a EV charging station infrastructure on the reservation so that people wanting to “Go Green” can do so without worrying that they’ll have no place to charge their battery when needed.



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



This year we partnered with the Red Lake Law Enforcement Department to put on our annual kid fishing event at Fullers Lake for the second year. 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 175 kids that registered this year and with parents and volunteers, we estimate 225 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. 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





Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganing Mitigokewin | Forestry



December 2018 – Storm damage
(Before shearing)



BEFORE: May 2019 – Sheared area
(Just after snow melt)



AFTER: August 2019 – Sheared Area
(Aspen regeneration, 4-6 feet growth
in only 3 months)

2019-2020 SHEARING PROJECT

What once were severely damaged timber stands, now have a flourishing new generation of saplings taking over. The summer storm of 2018 had a devastating impact on the south-western portion of the Diminished reservation forests. Storm damage assessment efforts concluded that several hundred acres of forest had damage severe enough that restoration efforts would be necessary. Natural regeneration, in addition to preparing sites for plantations, will ultimately convert the stand back into a healthy and productive forested environment.

Aspen regeneration has been very successful throughout the 2019 completed shearing areas, averaging 5000 stems per acre in the first flush. In addition to natural aspen regeneration, over 20,000 white spruce were

planted in locations where soil types are appropriate. Currently, 290 acres of shearing have been completed. With favorable conditions, we are anticipating an additional 336 acres to be treated this coming winter.

Shearing operations during frozen conditions will allow piling and windrowing the woody debris or slash, with minimum disturbance to the soil. Winter shearing provides the best possible regeneration potential for aspen when most of the energy reserves are contained in the root system and soil compaction and disturbance can be minimized.

Early winter also provides an opportunity for slash disposal. Burning this material reduces the fuel load and minimizes the danger of wildfire during fire season. It is important to burn slash piles under planned and



controlled circumstances, and most importantly, while conditions are safe. The Red Lake DNR Forestry Wildland Firefighters will begin to dispose of last years' slash piles through burning this upcoming winter. The slash or woody debris has had the summer to dry, so burning will be more effective and more completely consume the heavier fuels and thereby reduce the overall risk of fire on the landscape. Some slash piles may be left for the natural decaying process.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Program helped Smokey Bear celebrate his 75th Birthday on August 9th!

We celebrated with cake and ice cream, we also gave out a "Cupcake" stress reliever.

Smokey Bear is the longest running public service announcement in history.

9 out of 10 fires are human caused and Red Lake has had 221 fires from April 3rd – June 8th for a total of 437 acres.

Red Lake Fire Prevention has issued a total of 404 burning permits to date. We would like to say "Chii miigwetch for obtaining one."

"Remember ONLY you can prevent wildfires!"



FIRE CREW

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, as part of its government to government relationship with the U. S. Department of Interior / Bureau of Indian Affairs, makes firefighting resources available for wildfire operations across the country each year. This summer, the northwest states (including Alaska) as well as Arizona experienced higher fire activity. The Red Lake wildland firefighters have so far filled twenty-one individual assignments, with Red Lake members dispatched to Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Montana, and New Mexico.

Fighting fire in the often mountainous terrain of these areas requires a high degree of physical fitness, thorough training and dedication to the job. After the spring fire season has ended in Minnesota, these men and women voluntarily leave their homes and families for two week details, sometimes extending to three or even four weeks, as Red Lake does its part in national firefighting efforts all over the United States. We often have people from other reservations and agencies return the favor when things get hectic

here. This year, the highest fire danger and fire activity has been in the northwest, but every year is different. In addition to the above named states, Red Lake has in the last few years sent firefighters to Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan. They have answered the call when fire, flood and hurricane have struck. When the space shuttle Columbia went down over Texas in 2003, our crews helped retrieve the debris for NASA. Off-reservation fire details provide temporary employment opportunities, training and experience for Red Lake crews outside of our operations here, and in return we provide the same for those from all over the country who provide assistance to us when needed. Also, participating in a nationally-based fire program as we do means "national resources", including our Model 52 fire engines and contracted helicopter, are based here with protection of Red Lake life, property and natural resources priority.

Ezhi-Ganawenjigaadeg-Nibi

Water Resources

Mark Edlund (Scientist with the Science Museum of Minnesota) accompanying Red Lake DNR Water Resources on a Lake of the Woods sampling trip



Red Lake DNR Work on Lake of the Woods

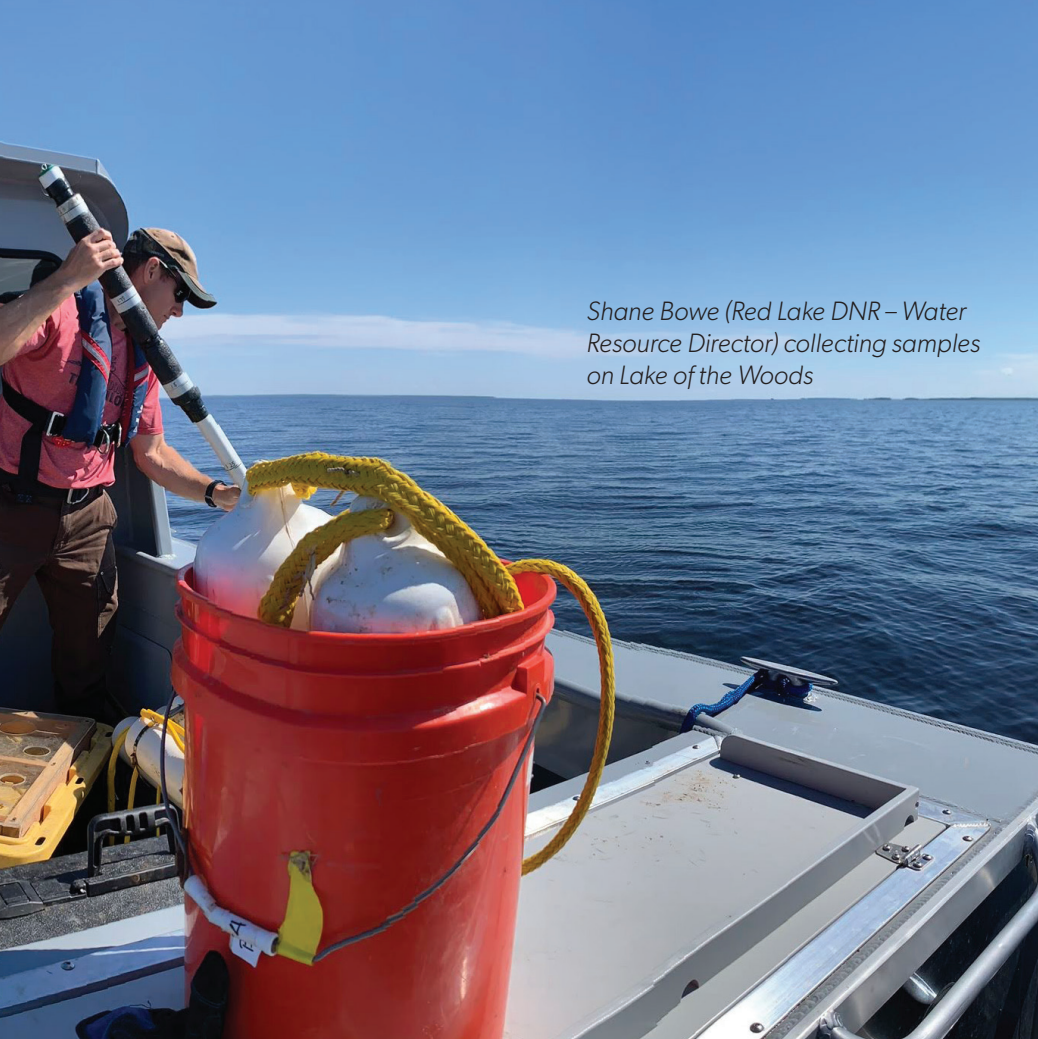
The Red Lake DNR Water Resources Program has been collecting water quality data on Lake of the Woods (specifically at the NW Angle) since 2004. Early work on the lake was simply to establish some baseline water quality data. We wanted to find out what the water quality is like since the Red Lake Band owns more than 80% of the NW Angle. Lake of the Woods is listed as an impaired lake for nutrients and while the streams of the NW Angle were unlikely candidates as contributing sources, it is important that we understand their conditions and know what “normal” is.

When the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) listed the lake as impaired, a greater level of cooperation among governments and natural resource agencies was required. This need resulted in an International Multi-agency Arrangement (IMA). Governments and agencies signed on to the IMA in order to improve our ability to work together toward common water quality goals. Signatories include the Red Lake Band, MPCA, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, US Environmental Protection Agency, and their Canadian counterparts among others. These agencies have actively partnered over the last decade to

determine the causes of water quality impairments on the Lake of the Woods and determine appropriate steps to improve water quality.

More recently, in 2013, the International Joint Commission formed the International Rainy River Lake of the Woods Watershed Board. Al Pemberton, DNR Director, holds a seat on this board. The Board’s mandate includes determining what water quality studies are necessary to improve and protect water quality in the watershed.

While Lake of the Woods seems to be a far off place at times, we know that Red Lake members used it historically and are likely to make greater use of the resources there in the future. Current protection efforts include monitoring at 7 streams on the NW Angle and multiple sites in the lake. We are also partnering with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the MPCA to collect some water quality data on waters that the state is interested in. We take part in watershed board activities and are active members of the IMA working group and technical advisory committee. Through these avenues we have an opportunity to bring tribal perspectives to organizations and governments making decisions for the watershed as a whole. Remem-



Shane Bowe (Red Lake DNR – Water Resource Director) collecting samples on Lake of the Woods



Mussel from the survey on the Mud River

bering that we are protecting water resources for future generations is a driver as we guide management decisions and protect water quality on and around the lake.

Watch our Facebook page for some newsletters developed by the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation. These newsletters have been submitted to the Kenora Daily Miner and News throughout the summer and provide some greater detail about the conditions in Lake of the Woods and the work being done.

Mud River

Work has continued this summer to restore and reconnect the Mud River. We are completing the last stream crossing this fall. Mussel and fish surveys were conducted to determine what the “before” conditions are like in the stream. We expect to see improve-

ments in habitat after the project that will result in better water quality, more fish and mussels, and less erosion, not to mention a road that doesn’t wash out every spring. Some additional work will be completed on the banks of the Mud River to reduce erosion that seems to be impacted by groundwater seepage. The groundwater is pushing through the banks and softening the soil so the vegetation can’t hold it in place. This allows erosion into the stream any time we have a hard rain. We’re hopeful that this will be the final project on the Mud River, and we’ll be able to watch steady improvements in habitat and biological communities as time goes on. We’re very excited to be able to say that this stream is finally completely reconnected! We think the fish will be excited too.



Iowa Darter from the Mud River fish survey

Special thanks to our interns!

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the hard working interns we had helping us out this summer. Thanks so much Brenna Pemberton, Ashleigh Johnson, Emily Rapp, Cole Schulz, Ashley Harris, Tamar Dart and Daisey Nelson! We couldn’t have completed our work this summer without your help!



HUNTING SEASON

With the 2019 hunting season right around the corner, it is important that all hunters remain safe and apply practical knowledge while out this fall. With this in mind, the Red Lake Wildlife Program would like to ensure that all hunters:

- 1) Know your firearm – The unsafe handling and use of a firearm is the number one cause of injuries and death during hunting seasons. All modern firearms come with some sort of safety switch (and we recommend keeping your firearm unloaded when not actively hunting) and all hunters should be familiar with their use. While traveling, waiting to make a safe shot, loading/unloading your firearm, or getting in or out of a vehicle, **USE YOUR SAFETY!**



Make sure your firearm is functioning properly before taking it out in the field. Every hunter should be familiar with their firearms – how much kick it has, where the trigger will fire, do they have enough distance from eye to scope edge, and most importantly, having practiced with the

firearm, confidently know where their bullet will hit at various distances. **NO ONE** should trust a firearm they have never comfortably fired themselves (and no one should trust someone with a firearm they have limited time on). Use the ammunition your firearm is made to handle (.300 WSM IS NOT the same as .300 WBY Mag.) **IF YOU HAVEN'T PRACTICED AND BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR FIREARM, DON'T SHOOT!**

- 2) Identify your target – Please identify not only that what you are aiming at is an animal you want to (and is legal to) harvest, but is of an age and gender that will not affect the population in the years to come. Passing on does and fawns (purely voluntarily) when they are not necessary to feed families will ensure that they can contribute to future generations. We all get



“buck fever” when we are hunting deer, but shooting at movement in the brush, or a flash of fur when we have seen a deer we want to harvest, is dangerous and unethical and may lead to unnecessary injuries or deaths. “Accidentally” shooting species that are not legal game (e.g. moose) and are protected to allow their numbers to increase to harvestable levels for the generations to come, is forbidden by tribal regulation and is unethical as a hunter. Bird hunters (grouse, pheasant, waterfowl, and woodcock) need to be especially careful when “swinging” their guns as they follow a bird they have targeted – you may end up shooting in an unsafe direction, hitting your hunting partner(s) and/or dogs hunting with you, which **WILL** ruin your day. Waterfowl hunters, knowing what you are shooting at is extremely important for any bag limits that may apply (especially guided non-members hunting on tribal waters) Too many of a species (or shooting a protected species) or too many of the wrong sex leads to fines and impacts the population of waterfowl for generations to come. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IS IN FRONT OF YOUR GUN, DON'T SHOOT!**

- 3) Know what is beyond your target – It is very easy to get excited about a big buck in your sights/scope, but if your bullet may travel to a residence or towards another hunter, you should wait for a safer shot (or pass entirely if a safe shot cannot be made). Also, you may end up shooting, and or killing, a second animal behind your target that you don't want to harvest.



IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IS IN FRONT OF YOUR GUN AND BEHIND YOUR TARGET, DON'T SHOOT!

- 4) Hunting under the influence is illegal and more important DANGEROUS – Alcohol should never be anywhere near a person engaged in the use of a firearm (on a range, shooting targets, or in the field). It affects your reaction time (feeling “rushed” to shoot or shooting late at a fleeing target), your judgement (target ID, background ID, what may wander into your shooting lane, what is a safe direction, safety on/off, etc.), and motor skills (dropping or clumsily handling a loaded firearm WILL lead to accidents). Illegal and controlled substances should never be used (except responsibly under physicians directions) under any circumstances, much less while engaged in the use of a firearm – **IF YOU WANT TO DRINK OR USE DRUGS, STAY HOME AND LET OTHERS SAFELY ENJOY THE HUNT!**
- 5) To better protect eagles and other wildlife that may feed on gut piles, **PLEASE**, try to get any internal organs and carcass parts as far from the road as possible. Eagles **WILL** feed to the point

of being unable to quickly get off the ground and away from approaching vehicles, often leading to the death of the bird by vehicle impact. Also, remove any lead fragments you can locate from whatever is left behind. Lead particles are digested by wildlife, and remain in the digestive tract for an extremely long period of time. This allows the slow uptake of lead into their systems, and over the course of 3-6 months slowly affects their nervous, circulatory, and muscular systems, leading to a very slow death. So, if possible switch to non-lead ammunition, and make efforts to protect the wildlife that might feed on the leftovers of your successful harvests.

HAVE A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL HUNTING SEASON!





PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM 56601
PERMIT NO. 30

RED LAKE DNR
15761 High School Drive
Red Lake, MN 56671
www.redlakednr.org

POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS EDDM

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



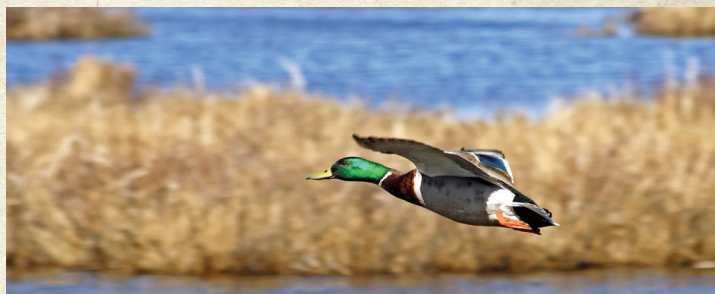
NON-MEMBERS

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.

