



Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganiig Aki-genawendamowaad

Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

Dagwaagin
Fall 2023

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www.redlakednr.org



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Red Lake DNR

Mazina'igan onji Odaakewigima *Letter from Director*

Boozhoo!

It has been a rather cool summer this year but dagwaagin (fall) is coming and manoomin (wild rice) is abundant and ready for harvest which means the waterfowl are getting ready to fly south. This also means that the days are starting to get noticeably shorter and the leaves are starting to change colors. DNR staff are working hard to wrap up their summer work as we get ready for fall. With a very brief fire season this spring (ziigwan), fire crew have headed out west to help aid other states with their fires. The Forestry program has been busy setting up timber sales and tree planting this summer. They are continuing their efforts to clean up dangerous trees and combustible fuels around residential areas. This helps reduce potential fires from turning into crown fires.

The Red Lake DNR and Red Lake Law Enforcement hosted the annual Cops and Bobbers Take a Kid Fishing event with over 100 kids participating in the fun day of fishing. Thank you to all of those who brought their children and the donations to make that day a huge success. The kids caught a lot of fish and left with smiles. We hope they enjoyed the experience and look forward to seeing them next year.

The Environmental Program has been busy developing reports from surveys that were distributed to Tribal members to determine which air quality issues are of most concern with our Tribal communities. Take a look at the Air Quality report within this newsletter. Thank you for your input for our survey.

The Wildlife Program is gearing up for a busy fall with deer and elk season right around the corner. Big game season starts September 15th this year. Individuals who bring in their adult white-tailed deer heads

to be tested for chronic wasting disease will be entered into a raffle with some great prizes. See the flyer within the Wildlife section of the newsletter for more details.

The Water Resources Program has been busy with routine stream and lake sampling this summer. A new joint effort with Tribal and State stakeholders have come together to produce the One Watershed One Plan to help monitor and restore areas within the Upper/Lower Red Lake watershed. The goal of this Plan is to improve and protect the water quality within the watershed over the next 10 years. Water Resources staff have also been busy working on projects on Lake of the Woods.

The newly formed Outdoor Program (Izhaadaa Agwajiing) has been busy this summer cleaning up the Cut-Off and had a huge turnout for the community event in July. Kids enjoyed water activities and had the opportunity to take boat and tube rides. The night ended with live music and a firework show. Ski trails are staying maintained for the upcoming winter seasons. Stay tuned to the Izhaadaa Agwajiing and DNR Facebook/Website for upcoming events.

With the fall season approaching, hunting and trapping will be starting. Stay safe and remember to take a kid hunting or fishing! The fall hunting regulations are included in this issue. Please check www.redlakednr.org for current fire danger conditions, obtaining a burning permit and other news and announcements.

Everyone at the Red Lake DNR would like to thank you for your support and sincerely hopes that you have a great fall.

Miigwetch!

Al Pemberton

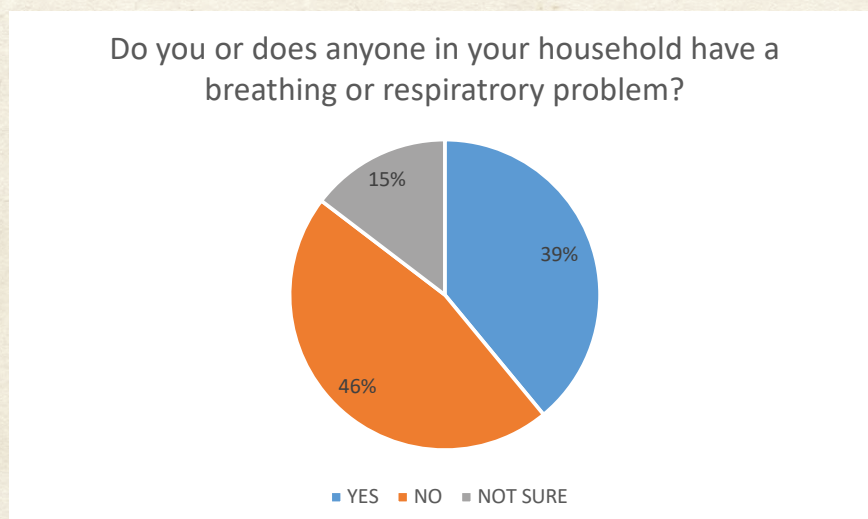
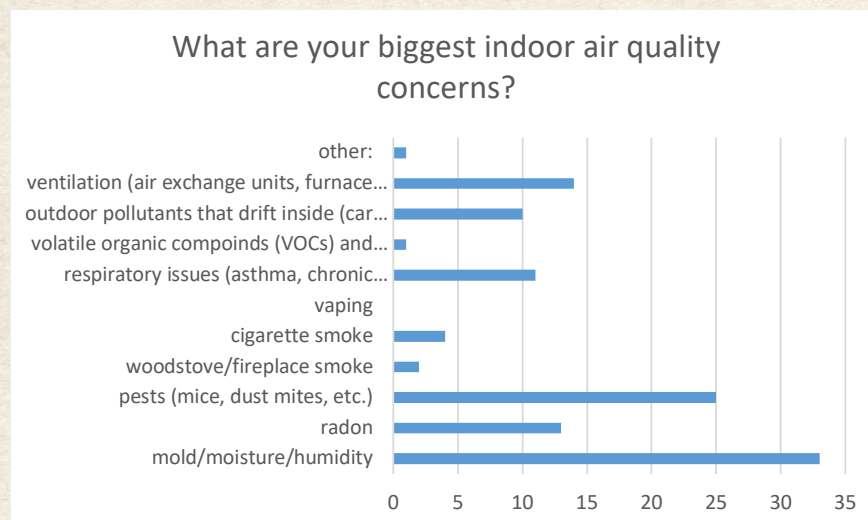
SURVEY ON AIR QUALITY CONCERNS

A survey on air quality concerns was distributed (and was also available to complete online) in the fall of 2021 and was 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 in the future.

The survey was broken down into sections that asked questions about indoor air quality, outdoor air quality,

and asked some questions about where people are getting information on air quality. 42 surveys were returned, with only one being completed online. Of those that returned surveys, 12 reported that they were from the community of Red Lake, 14 from Redby, 7 from Little Rock, and 7 from Ponemah. Participants in the survey were also asked their age; those 65 and older completed 19 of the surveys, those 55-64 completed 13, and those under 55 returned the remainder.

Results of the survey (not everyone that participated answered every question):

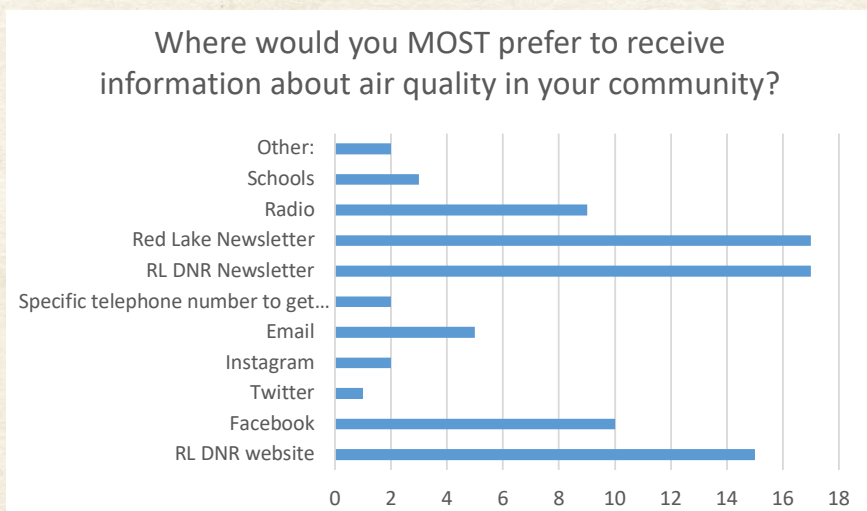
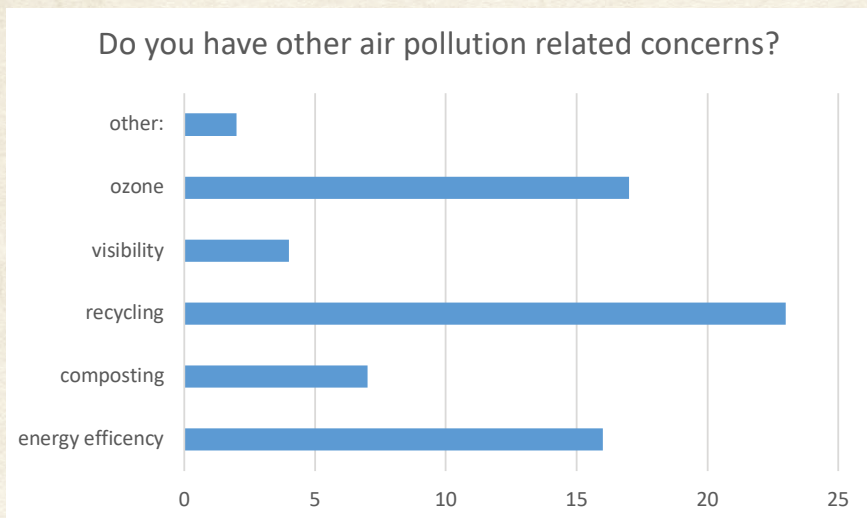
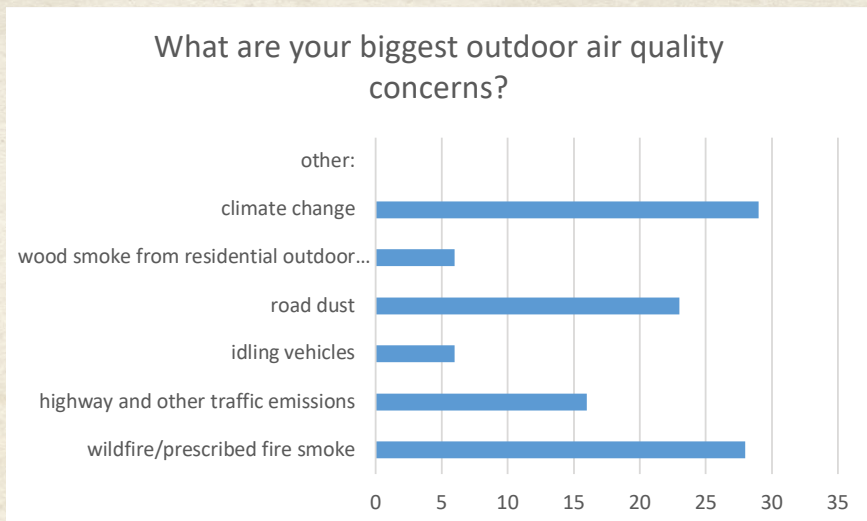


Other concerns listed included cold air coming through windows.

Respiratory problems reported included asthma, COPD, heart disease, allergies, sleep apnea, and having a bad lung from TB as a child.

When asked how concerned they are about the health consequences of poor air quality, 26 participants reported that they were "Very concerned," 11 reported being "Somewhat concerned," 2 were "Not sure", and 1 participant reported that they were "Not concerned."

When asked if they believe that poor air quality is a significant environmental issue for the Red Lake Reservation, 22 participants selected "YES," 5 selected "NO," and 14 selected "NOT SURE."



Beginning next March, the Air Program will begin monitoring for ozone. Once set up, near real time data from this monitor will be available on the AirNow and Smogwatch websites.

“Other” sources listed where people would like to get air quality information were: RL Nation News and meeting at the community centers where questions can be asked and discussed.

Thanks to all who participated in this survey!

FREE RADON TEST KIT

Radon is an odorless, invisible gas that is released from the soil and can enter homes through cracks in the building's foundation – and it is the second leading cause of lung cancer. To protect yourself and your loved ones, test your home with a free radon test kit. The only way to know if it is in your home is to test.

If you would like to pick up a free radon test kit, please stop by the Red Lake DNR office. Right now is a great time to test your home!





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

This year the Red Lake DNR partnered with the Red Lake Law Enforcement Department and Oshkiimaajitahdah to put on our annual kid fishing event at Fullers Lake. The weather did not look promising but the rain held off until the event was over and the kids and parents 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 over 150 people attended the event. The Public Safety and Red Lake DNR staff had 9 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 Public safety provided the lunch and The Red Lake DNR provided the

school supplies and fishing supplies. Bags of school supplies were given 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







BOAT LANDING AT PONEMAH POINT RECEIVES MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

Over the past several years we have been working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) out of Bemidji to develop construction ready documents to establish two concrete boat landing at Ponemah Point. This area receive a lot of fishing pressure from February to June each year and the unimproved landing were not serving Band members well. The Red Lake DNR was able to use NRCS's expertise in engineering the landings and parking lot at the point, while ensuring that this cultural site remained undisturbed. Funding for this project came from the NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, and the Red Lake DNR. There is now a concrete boat landing on the East and West side of the Point, which will help anglers access the lake when it is windy. There is also a large parking lot that anglers can use. We hope to add new roll in docks next spring if additional funding can be acquired.

Please be considerate of other anglers, by removing your vehicle and trailer from the boat launch once you have launched your boat. We have had recent reports of

anglers leaving their trucks and trailers parked in the middle of the landing so others cannot use that boat access. If this behavior continues, we will work with the code committee, and draft a resolution for tribal council consideration, making this behavior illegal, and that the vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense. Please be considerate of your fellow Band members and enjoy this resource together.



Miskwaagamiwi-zaaga'iganing Mitigokewin | Forestry



Forestry Staff was busy this spring with a total of 200,000 Red Pine and Jack Pine seedlings planted on 213 acres. Planting efforts were concentrated on areas of the forest damaged from the 2021 summer drought and hail storm, and also the summer 2018 severe wind events. Planting contracts are given out each spring, and planting usually begins in early May and is completed by mid June.

◀ Forestry staff also plants trees with both the Red Lake School and the Ponemah School each spring. (Red Lake Elementary Pictured)

▲ A tree planting day for the Red Lake Fire Center and The Red Lake DNR staff was organized on May 28th with 10 acres being planted on the ridge. (Staff Picture)

Ezhi-Ganawenjigaadeg-Nibi

Water Resources

EXPANDING OUR REACH

The RL DNR Water Resources Program has been broadening our efforts to preserve and protect the water resources that are important to the Red Lake Band. This effort has included expanding the areas in which we do our work but perhaps more importantly, building partnerships and relationships with neighboring governments and agencies. Through these partnerships, we are increasing our ability to affect water quality both on and off the Reservation.

Watershed Wide Efforts

Upper and Lower Red Lake are, of course, of utmost importance to Red Lake Nation. Over the past decade, the Water Resources Program has worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), the Red Lake Watershed District, and the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (Beltrami SWCD) within the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed to build the partnership that is the foundation of the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P).

What does this group of partners and the 1W1P really mean? For starters, the 1W1P process involves working with partners in the watershed to develop a plan including priorities for all parties involved. This means that the plan will include priorities from the Beltrami SWCD, Red Lake Nation, and the Red Lake Watershed District with input from a number of state agencies as well as tribal programs. There are a number of advantages to this planning effort. We will improve collaboration with partners. We will ensure that we are working toward shared goals. And we will have the opportunity to access funding that wouldn't be available without the plan.

Please scan the QR code for a short survey to provide input on your priorities in the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed. Please complete the survey by November 10th.

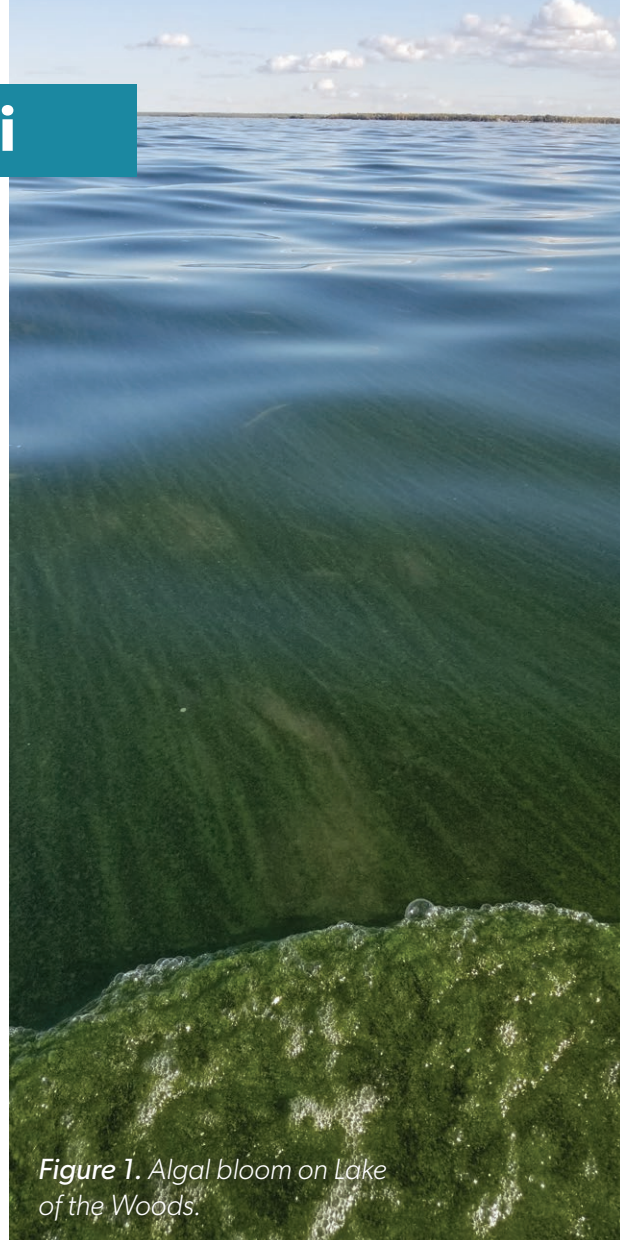


Figure 1. Algal bloom on Lake of the Woods.

Does signing on to this plan threaten tribal sovereignty?

No. Red Lake's legal office was able to assist in the development of language in the agreement to ensure there was no concern in this area. The Tribal Council can choose to opt out of the process at any time.

What kind of projects will be completed under this plan?

The plan is really meant to be all encompassing for the watershed. The funding tied to it will be water related but projects can include forest, wildlife, and any other natural resource related projects. We expect to focus on projects that will benefit the water quality of streams and lakes on and off the Reservation. Examples might include cover crops to prevent erosion, watering systems for cattle to keep them out of streams, and a stormwater assessment in Red Lake to determine what improvements can be made. This is only a small sampling of what might be included.



Figure 2. Sonny Johnson assesses wild rice stands at the NW Angle, Lake of the Woods.

Both public input and partner priorities will be considered as the plan is developed.

Where can you get more information about this process? A public meeting was held in Kelliher on August 15th, and we will be hosting another public meeting in Red Lake this fall. We will provide presentations and information to anyone who is interested. There will be information about paleolimnological research we've conducted on the lake along with mercury in fish tissue and other topics of interest. Dates and locations will be announced on our Facebook page and on the Tribal Council page. In the meantime, feel free to give us a call or reach out on Facebook with any questions.

Lake of the Woods

It's a long drive to Lake of the Woods. However, we've been making the drive regularly this summer to work on a couple of important water related projects. Why Lake of the Woods? The entire US portion of the lake falls within the 1863 Treaty Boundary, and the NW Angle is mostly Red Lake lands. Red Lake Nation is signatory to an international arrangement focused on improving water quality at Lake of the Woods. Our staff have actually been working on and around the lake for years. Our projects are both results of collaborations we've been able to build over the past decade. Partners include MPCA, US EPA, the St. Croix Watershed Research Station, and the Nature Conservancy.

Algal Toxins

The first project we've been working on is collecting samples to help us learn more about algal toxins on Lake of the Woods. We're interested in these toxins because, while the species producing them are natural, in large quantities they can result in unsafe swimming conditions. Lake of

the Woods in particular has a history of algal blooms that turn the lake green (Figure 1). Some species of algae can produce toxic algal blooms that have resulted in pet deaths and have the potential to cause even more problems. We want to know about Lake of the Woods water quality because the tribe has historical and likely future connections to the lake but also because Upper/Lower Red Lake are similar in many ways to Lake of the Woods. Problems occurring there could become problems here. The more we can understand before those problems arise, the more likely we are to be able to deal with them. As part of that project, we are also collecting samples to find out if any algal toxins are appearing in Red Lake throughout the summer.

Wild Rice at the Northwest Angle

The second major project we are working on at Lake of the Woods is wild rice monitoring. The streams flowing from the NW Angle provide excellent wild rice habitat. Our RL DNR Apprentice, Mitchell (Sonny) Johnson, is collecting wild rice data to measure the health of those rice beds. While Sonny collects data from a kayak (Figure 2) in the actual rice bed, our drone flies overhead collecting imagery of the beds. We hope to combine these pieces of information to develop a tool that will allow us to determine the health of and extent of wild rice beds from aerial photos in the future. This may help us determine how water depth and other factors affect the rice and give us important information that we can share with our partners who manage lake level. In addition, we hope to be able to provide maps to tribal members showing the areas of rice for harvest.

WHAT IS CWD?

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 1-3 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 25 states as well as 2 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 12 captive game farms and in wild herds in 6 counties. In April of 2021, it was detected at a captive deer farm in Beltrami County. In fall of 2022, it was detected in 2 wild deer in Hubbard 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, 2023. 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 4-8 weeks depending on how busy the lab is. For each head that you bring in, you will be entered into a raffle.

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.

From September 15 to December 31, 2022, 70 white-tailed deer heads from the Red Lake Reservation and Ceded Lands were submitted for CWD testing. This was accomplished through a Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Project Grant that Red Lake was awarded in 2022 and a partnership with the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Grand Portage was awarded a Tribal Wildlife Grant that included all Midwest tribes that wanted to participate in testing for CWD.

Each head that was submitted was tested for CWD and qualified for one entry into a raffle that included a rifle with scope, lead sled, spotlight, shooting sticks and L&M Fleet gift card. All heads submitted were negative for CWD.

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

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.

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.

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.



ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS **GUN RAFFLE** GET YOUR DEER TESTED FOR CWD



Please bring your ADULT White-Tailed Deer heads to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and be entered into a raffle AND receive a \$40 Cabela's gift card (while supplies last)

ONE RAFFLE ENTRY PER HEAD

Heads can be dropped off at the Red Lake DNR between 8:00am -3:30pm Monday - Friday.

BIG GAME SEASON: SEPTEMBER 15-DECEMBER 31

Raffle includes: Rossi R95 lever action, 30-30 Win. with Leupold VX-Freedom 3-9x40mm scope, Muddy Mitigator Cell Camera, Vortex Crossfire 8x42 Binoculars, Outdoor Edge 11 piece GamePro Kit and \$200 L&M Fleet gift card

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





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Izhaadaa Agwajiing

Let's Go Outside

In a partnership between Obimindwaa and the DNR a new program has been created. Izhaadaa Agwajiing (Let's Go Outside) is aimed at creating new outdoor recreational opportunities for the Red Lake community. These opportunities will be available for all seasons and will be inclusive to all age groups and ability levels. This fall we will be opening up hiking and mountain bike trails for the community which will then be used for cross country skiing and fat tire biking in the winter. Equipment can be provided to families looking to enjoy the trails. Please follow our Facebook group page, Izhaadaa Agwajiing, for future updates from our program.

