Wa-Swa-Goning Village near the Lac du Flambeau reservation in Wisconsin recreates a traditional Ojibwa village. Founder Nick Hockings, Lac du Flambeau tribal member, views the village as a learning experience for those visitors interested in Ojibwa lifeways.

Built on 20 acres along the shore of beautiful Moving Cloud Lake on the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation, Wa-Swa-Goning was the Ojibwa name of the whole area. The French fur traders called it Lac du Flambeau (Lake of Fire) when they saw the torches on the lakes as the Ojibwa speared fish at night.

Pictured in the "wild rice and canoe area" of the village are Celeste and Ernest Hockings, children of Estelle Hockings. (See story on back page) (Photo by Amoose)
Passing the staff
HILARY WAUKAU, SR.

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Just weeks before his death on August 2nd, Hilary Sparky Waukau passed on his Environmental Flagger flag, which he had held for the 2004-2005 term as Keeper of the Flagger. He passed on to Billy Danziger during the Protect the Earth Rally at the Mole Lake reservation near Crandon, Wis., but he shared his knowledge and practical experience in the field with the next generation of keepers.

The Great Lakes Basin Mission of the Eagle Staff passes the flag to the next keeper. "Hilary Sparky" was always on the scene leading the march. It was his place.

He spoke, as always, to the pure and without fear. He was a true advocate of tribal sovereignty and a guardian of Indian rights. He was there at the forefront when a nuclear waste dump site was proposed for northern Wisconsin. He fought with all his heart and power at every level, recognizing the dire consequences for the Earth and his people should this become a reality.

In recent years, Sparky declared his new goal-to stop the Exxon mine near Crandon, and once again, he joined the troops to fight for protection of the environment. The fight was fierce, running from being three men on the front, on the scene leading the march. It was his place.

Hilary Sparky's name is forever attached to a sign in the Menominee Nation's Land Resource Office. It is called the "Keeper of the Flag" and it is presented to a tribal member who has shown leadership and dedication to the environment and tribal sovereignty. Sparky was always involved in environmental issues. His leadership and dedication to the environment were an inspiration to others.

His wisdom and guidance, from the many years of governmental process and decision-making he has provided through many aspects of tribal government, will be greatly missed.

Sparky was a leader, a warrior, a friend. He was a man of heart and soul.

Hilary Sparky will be remembered for his dedication to the environment and his love for his people. He will be missed by all who knew him.

"As long as there is a breath in my body, I will dedicate my remaining days to protecting my people from the devastation of the environment." - Hilary "Sparky" Waukau, Sr.
History held hostage for highest dollar: Lac du Flambeau fights for Strawberry Island

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

Lac du Flambeau Tribal Chairman Tom Maulson talks to Channel 1 News during a press conference on Strawberry Island.

"The tribes have already lost so many sacred sites and burial grounds to development and entrepreneurs. So any proposed plans to develop Strawberry Island would be a tragedy," Maulson said.

The tribe opposes a proposal to develop a portion of the island which is sacred to the tribe. The tribe wants to preserve the island and its history for future generations.

"It's a place of great cultural and historical significance," Maulson said. "We want to preserve it for future generations."
Protestors meet at Mole Lake to gain support, build community, battle Exxon mines at Protect the Earth

By Stephanie Callin

In efforts to gather together and build support, Wisconsin and non-Indian people joined together at the Mole Lake Sylvanage reservation on July 21-23 for the tenth Protect the Earth (PTE) gathering, fomenting Exxon's proposed mining sites in the Mole Lake area and throughout northern Wisconsin. “There are not special interest groups here. These are the most important issues there are. If you can't breathe and you can't drink, you can't talk,” Lawrence left, organizing the CLC or Council for Native American and Environmental concerns and the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation. “We are in the fight on all levels,” added the Protect the Earth staff from Hilly Waukuah, Menominee. (Photo by Amouse)

Copper sulphide mining impact topic of new GLIFWC book

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

Ganak, Wisc.-Designed to be a policy maker’s quick guide to copper sulphide mining, the book is to offer an informed discussion during the permitting process for copper sulphide mining. The book is to provide an overview of the industry’s status and the challenges it faces. The book aims to describe the effects of copper sulphide mining on the state and communities that host it. Specifically, the book will describe how copper sulphide mining is performed and cite examples and controversial issues it may raise. The book will provide a description of the copper sulphide mining process and how mining impacts the environment. Typically, the impact of copper sulphide mining varies among areas where it is conducted and the specific mining location. The book will describe how copper sulphide mining is performed and cite examples and controversial issues it may raise. The book is designed to be a resource for decision-makers when permit applications are being reviewed. It will be available in late fall. Interested persons could contact GLIFWC at (715) 952-6019.

Natural Resources Programs

Tribes focus on restoration & preservation

By Sue Erickson, Staff Writer

The following pages give descriptions of GLIFWC’s member tribes’ focus on management programs. Because GLIFWC deals with the implementation of off-reservation treaty rights and resource management, the tribe’s programs are often neglected in the MISAGANIN. Yet, a broad scope of activities and successes in individual tribes’ efforts to address differences often reflecting the priorities of individual bands. Wisconsin’s natural resource departments have been steadily experiencing cutbacks over the past decade. While many on-reservation forestry programs, frequently run through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, have been in place for years, many other facets of tribal programs, including a growing diversification and involvement in managing tribal resources. Consequently, tribal fish hatcheries and fish management have grown significantly, not only within the tribe’s reservations but also within the state and local governments.

Lakes, rivers, and streams are the centers of much restoration and management projects administered through tribes. Most of these are in highly impacted areas, such as the Green Bay region. Many tribes have developed comprehensive data bases on their wildlife resources, both as a basis for instructing on managing restoration and seasonal and evaluating the health of the lakes. Many tribes are involved in formulating Integrated Resource Management Plans (IRMP) to assure that resources are available to meet the varied needs of the tribal populace at the future. Consideration of culturally significant plants and animals that became scarce in the wake of timbering, and fast growing forests is one area many tribal resource managers are also keenly aware. that practices other and because of GLIFWC’s member bands’ interest in off-reservation planning, restoration and enforcement staff for tribal natural resource departments expand and provide services for their respective bands and for the well-being of the resources.

Because reservations and adjacent communities impact each other, because of GLIFWC’s member bands’ interest in off-reservation activities, tribal resource management staff work cooperatively with state, federal, and local agencies. They are involved in joint fishery assessments on river and lake systems as well as Lake Superior. Some work cooperatively on wild rice enhancement and restocking efforts. Waterfall surveys, wildlife studies, and conservation enforcement also provide assistance in which cooperatives efforts save money, staff for all concerned.

Overall, tribes are taking resource management seriously and involving themselves in many of the decision-making processes that affect natural resource. Demand for representation of tribal interests at international, national, state, and county levels has been growing as tribal natural resource departments expand and provide services for their respective bands and for the well-being of the resources.
Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians natural resources department

By Sue Erickson Staff Writer

The Bad River Band is heavily owned by problems related to water quality in one area of the reservation must be served, both by well-distributed water bodies at a level necessary to control the water quality. To Soulier, the key to protecting the reservation’s groundwater is in regulating and cleaning-up the contaminated areas on in-door and outdoor wastewater services that exist the countrywide. We are at the end of need.” Soulier, as well as the director of LDNR, also mentions. Soulier feels that community public education will help to effect change throughout the watershed.

The Bad River Band is located on-reservation near the Big Bay, which flows into the Lake Superior. The Big Bay is a heavily used waterway by the residents of the Bad River Band. The band has stocked millions of eggs in various areas of the reservation’s water bodies. This data base on the chemical composition of maple, birch, and medicinal plants. The band’s managers are currently considering the impact of proposed development of the Bad River with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Isham would like to see more water quality standards created that are specific for the Flowage, Isham says. Isham views LCO as one of the forefronts in the field of resource management. In regard to wildlife, Isham says that the Bad River Band has been involved in making significant progress in the past three years. Isham views LCO as one of the forefronts in the field of resource management.

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LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
natural resources department

By Stephanie Callin
Honor Intern

The Lac du Flambeau natural resources department, consisting of six full-time employees, is housed in an 18,000-square-foot facility and oversees 1,050,000 acres of tribal land. The department is responsible for managing the natural resources on the reservation. The diverse ecosystem consists of water, trees, grasses, and species that are important to the habitat of waterfowl and fish. The Lac du Flambeau Natural Resources Department is committed to conserving and managing the natural resources on the reservation, ensuring their sustainability for future generations.

Fish culture program

The fish culture program is dedicated to improving the condition of the tribe's water resources, particularly through the production and stocking of fish species native to the area. The program includes the production of fry and fingerlings for stocking in reservation waters.

Water resource program

The water resource program focuses on the management of waterways and streams, ensuring their quality and availability. The program is responsible for enforcing water regulations and ensuring the health and sustainability of water resources.

Fisheries management program

The fisheries management program is responsible for monitoring and managing the health of fish populations in reservation waters. This includes conducting surveys and assessments to understand the condition of fish species and implementing necessary management strategies to ensure their survival and sustainability.

Conservation law enforcement program

The conservation law enforcement program is responsible for enforcing laws and regulations related to natural resources. This includes monitoring activities, issuing citations, and enforcing policies to protect natural resources from harm and ensure their sustainability.

Forestry program

The forestry program is responsible for the management of forest resources, including timber harvesting, reforestation, and the protection of forests. The program is committed to sustainable forestry practices that balance economic, social, and environmental needs.

Lac du Flambeau Fish Hatchery

The Lac du Flambeau Fish Hatchery is a facility dedicated to the production and stocking of fry and fingerlings. The hatchery plays a crucial role in sustaining fish populations and ensuring a sustainable source of fish for the tribe.

Wildlife management program

The wildlife management program is responsible for the protection and management of wildlife species, including deer, elk, and other species. The program aims to ensure the sustainability of wildlife populations and promote biodiversity.

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The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
A better tomorrow for our children and youth

Introduction:
A ring around surge of growth for the Band's natural resources department. With the project, fish health staff cooperate with many agencies in addressing fishery issues on an amphibious management.

The band is able to measure population changes in fisheries both as well as eco-systems. In the past five years, while fish as well as recording data related to weight, size, and survival, the band has taken steps to improve their understanding of the fisheries. This has involved capturing, tagging and releasing the fish as well as reporting data related to weight, size, and survival. By doing so, the band has been able to make recommendations for both harvest figures and stocking levels.

Stocking occurs on lakes which are both managed and non-managed, as fish are introduced to improve the fishing yields. In addition, it is important to note that the Mille Lacs Band is responsible for managing the fisheries on these lakes.

In other areas, the Band participates in the TribalwildLife program on wild rice, where tribal and non-tribal interests develop recommendations on wild rice management issues. Because of its importance to the band, a plentiful supply of this protected species is essential.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians is actively working to ensure that the wild rice continues to thrive. They are taking steps to protect this important resource and ensure its availability for future generations.

This MASAIGNA feature on Mille Lacs Band will look at the Band's plans for the future, and what challenges they face as they work to protect and preserve this valuable resource.

Credits:
Sue Erickson, writer
Amoose, photographer

1995 Mille Lacs "Year of the Child" challenges the community as a whole to focus on the needs of youth and provide all the opportunities they need to become leaders for the next generation. Above and bustling with energy, Lacy Carlson.

These children are not only the future of the Band, but the Band's children. These children possess young hearts. The gift of power. Each child has power, and my children and grandchilders are critical to the world. They ask questions. Sometimes they're a million questions. But that is part of their strength, the power of the children to the progress of a nation.
1995, The Year of the Child

In her 1995 State of the Band address, Chief Executive MacAndrew formally declared 1995 to be "The Year of the Child" for the Mille Lacs Band, deliberately placing the emphasis of the Band's planning and programming on youth. "The youth are the future of our reservation. These issues were exclusively of the Band," she stated.

Chief Anderson, a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, described the reservation as one with a complex history and a bright future. "Our children and grandchildren are curious about the world. Your children, our children, are the future of the Band. They will have to sustain and protect the land and resources for future generations." This mandate from Chief Anderson to Commissioner Dunkley was to coordinate the development of a new Government entity to serve the Band's youth and the land, and its development needs to consider the use of resources for the future generations.

The Ojibwe perspective is incorporated into writing and computer skills classes through composition of cultural stories and expressions on the computer. Science classes include traditional use and knowledge about plants and animals as well as Ojibwe terms. Nay Ah Shing schools also include a health and safety curricula program. The Band's new Nay Ah Shing schools, opened in 1993, symbolize the commitment of the Band to its youth. The Band's new Nay Ah Shing schools, opened in 1993, symbolize the commitment of the Band to its youth.

The Band's educational facility and program has improved dramatically, continued improvement and growth in serving youth is still a priority for the Band. The Band's educational facility and program has improved dramatically, continued improvement and growth in serving youth is still a priority for the Band.

Mandate for education in 1995

"The Band's educational facility and program has improved dramatically, continued improvement and growth in serving youth is still a priority for the Band," stated Chief Anderson. "We must do a better job of recognizing our children for what they are-a gift from our Creator. We must do a better job of recognizing our children for what they are-a gift from our Creator. We must do a better job of recognizing our children for what they are-a gift from our Creator.

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Mandate for improved safety and services for children

Schools are but one aspect community rebuilding that in its progress at the Mille Lacs Band. The Band's planning and programming on youth. "The youth are the future of our reservation. These issues were exclusively of the Band," she stated.

For more information about the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, visit their website at www.millelacsband.com.
Department of Health & Human Services
Focus on prevention

The Mille Lacs Clinic opened its doors in December, 1995, according to Department Director Dan Milbridge, commissioner of Health and Human Services, who views the major goal of the Clinic as prevention.

The Clinic provides comprehensive health care on reservation, including medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and diagnostic services. The Band contracts with two physicians and maintains a dental and two nurses on staff along with a full-time and a part-time laboratory technician.

In keeping with encouraging traditional, cultural practices, aNative practitioner is also available on a consultant basis. His services are coordinated through the clinic. Out-patient services include social services, audiologic, phlebotomy, x-ray, dietary dependency, nutritional, legal, and high complexity laboratory work.

The Clinic has opened its doors to patients. Milbridge says, Approximately 12,000 patients, including tribal members and non-members, are seen a year. Previously, lack of space inhibited treatment in the facility. Other plans for expansion in health and human services include a mobile dental van for the elderly or handicapped. (See 1995 mandate, page 18)

Mandate for children and family guidance

Chief Anderson targeted prevention as one of the Band's priorities in 1995. It is the first mandate of the 1995 mandate:

Focus on prevention. The Band anticipates increased services in child protection and family guidance. The recent federal court victory in 1995 mandates the Band to establish a child support collection program. The Band also has increased its land base to 11,250 acres. Tribal land base has increased its land base to 11,250 acres.

Department of Natural Resources
Protection of treaty rights & resources

The Mille Lacs Band's Natural Resources Department (NRD) has not only been involved in on-reservation resource management projects, but also has worked intensely on the off-reservation treaty issue which are currently in litigation.

According to Commissioner of Natural Resources, coordinates the multi-cultural program which employs two staff, including one full-time. Much of the program's focus has been on water quality issues with staff developing a baseline on water quality in waters in and adjacent to the reservation.

Much of the research provided information for draft Water Quality Standards, which the Band has submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval.

Commissioner Weidel stated, "The Band has instrumental in establishing new procedures to prevent water quality degradation. The program's focus has been water quality, aquatic habitat, and endangered species' habitats were identified.

On reservation conservation codes work well. The Band's resources code includes all species, including small game, migratory bird, fishing, big game hunting, timber harvest and riceing.

Conservation officers are federally funded to provide social services to eligible Indian persons in the state of Minnesota. However, they do not see any of those funds. "And in many instances, the Indian people for law enforcement are not seen."

The Band has plans for expansion in health and human services in order to meet the demands of expanded services.

Over the past several years the Band has also increased its land base from 3,450 acres to 11,250 acres, re-acquisition of a United States Forest Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, one officer enforces on-reservation seasons.
Department of Corporate Affairs

Buying the Bank

The Mille Lacs Bank is the primary bank of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians. It is a community bank focused on serving the needs of the Anishinabe people and the local community. The bank was founded in 2001 and is owned by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians.

The bank was established as a way for the band to achieve economic self-sufficiency and to provide financial services to the community. It was established through the purchase of a local commercial bank, which was then transformed into a community bank. The bank is managed by a board of directors appointed by the band and includes representatives from the local community.

The bank offers a range of financial services, including checking and savings accounts, mortgages, and other banking products. It has also developed a number of programs to support economic development in the community, such as small business loans and community development funds.

The bank is committed to providing financial services that meet the needs of the community and to supporting economic development initiatives. It is a key player in the local economy and plays an important role in helping to build financial literacy and financial stability in the community.

Mille Lacs past history
Part of present and future

To the Anishinabe or Chippewa who lived along the shores of Lake Mille Lacs and the surrounding land—there has been a special significance. This part of Minnesota—where the course of the year brings cycles of great beauty to the Lake and the land—has been the setting of their lives for more than two centuries.

For every generation, every person in the band, it is a place where the land and the people have been connected for many generations. The relationship of people to the land, and the land to the people, is a deep and rich history that is passed down from one generation to the next.

Today, the Anishinabe continue to honor and celebrate their connection to the land. They recognize the importance of protecting and preserving this precious resource. The Anishinabe are committed to ensuring that the land and its resources are protected and preserved for future generations.

The Mille Lacs Historical Museum will soon be moving into its new building. The museum will continue to showcase the history and culture of the Anishinabe people and to serve as a place for education and community engagement.

Headstart and preschool are housed in the new Nay Ah Shing school.

Sam Battle working on traditional beadwork, the works part time with the Museum demonstrating art. As understanding of their history is essential to any understanding of their present lives and provides a portrait of a people who stand against the currents of American history unfolding in the state of Minnesota and who remain a reservoir of justice for the generations following in their footsteps. (Excerpted from The story of the Mille Lacs Anishinabe © 1985, The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.)
Year of the child
“Whatever the strength of the child—it must be nurtured”

By Stephanie Callin

Currently, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community environmental department spends much of its time dealing with the proposed Crandon mine that will affect the resources of Mole Lake and the surrounding area. However, the department continues to work in other areas that are necessary to protect and manage the environment and the resources of the Sokaogon people.

Mining issues
In June, the Sokaogon became the first tribe in Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Region 5 (Wis., Ill., Mich., Ind., Ill) to receive treatment as a tribe for purposes of implementing water quality standards. After submitting a complete application to the EPA in August 1994, the EPA reviewed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Forest County, the choice to challenge the situation of the tribes water resources. Although the tribe challenged the EPA’s jurisdiction, the EPA decided the tribe’s challenge was not valid.

"We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wisconsin, in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country," said John Griffin, Sokaogon environmental programs director.

"We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wisconsin, in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country. Is that not worthy of the greatest protection?" John Griffin

Sokaogon Chippewa Community

The Tribe recently announced plans for a new environmental building at Mole Lake. The building will house offices, classrooms, and a variety of lab space. The building is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 1996, and will be used to assess impacts to the Tribe’s natural resources.

Wild rice re-seeding
In April, the department has been working to restore wild rice in the area. The Tribe has been releasing fry into the water, and plans to continue this effort in the future.

Fish hatchery plans
In the spring of 1996, the Tribe plans to start a fish hatchery to raise fry for stocking in the proposed Crandon mine.

New environmental facility
In the fall, the Tribe plans to open a new environmental building at the Tribe’s headquarters. The building will house offices, classrooms, and a variety of lab space.

Wood chip production
In addition to the environmental building, the Tribe plans to open a new wood chip production facility in the fall.

Griffin said this information will be used to assess impacts to the Tribe’s natural resources.

"We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wisconsin, in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country. Is that not worthy of the greatest protection?"

The Tribe is working to protect and manage the environment and the resources of the Tribe, and to preserve the Tribe’s cultural heritage.

"We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wisconsin, in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country. Is that not worthy of the greatest protection?"

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"We have the largest, densest, single stand of naturally-viable inland lake rice in Wisconsin, in the ceded territory, and possibly in the country. Is that not worthy of the greatest protection?"
Fond du Lac Chippewa Tribe
natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

The demand for rice has been high, with prices rising to about $5 per pound. In 2023, the tribe harvested over 1000 tons of hand-harvested wild rice, which was used to produce wild rice flour, wild rice pasta, and wild rice soup.

Wildlife projects
Fond du Lac is also creating local habitats for wildlife. In recent years, the tribe has built several wildlife corridors, including the Fond du Lac Wildlife Corridor, which connects the St. Louis River and the Fond du Lac River. The corridor is home to a variety of wildlife, including birds, mammals, and fish.

Cultural resources
The Fond du Lac Band manages cultural resources on the reservation to protect the cultural heritage of the tribe. This includes managing archeological sites and historic properties, as well as conducting cultural and natural resource assessments.

Water quality
The Fond du Lac Band monitors water quality in the area to ensure that water is clean and safe for use. This includes monitoring lakes, rivers, and streams for contaminants such as nutrients, heavy metals, and pesticides. The tribe also works with federal and state agencies to address water quality issues and protect the health of the Fond du Lac River ecosystem.

Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians
natural resources department

By Sue Erickson
Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Band manages a variety of natural resources, including wild rice, fisheries, and cultural resources. The tribe is also working to protect and enhance the health of the Mille Lacs Lake ecosystem, which is home to a variety of wildlife.

Wild rice enhancement
The Mille Lacs Band has been working to enhance wild rice populations in the area. In recent years, the tribe has used a combination of traditional and modern techniques to reestablish wild rice populations in the Mille Lacs Lake area.

Falconry
The Mille Lacs Band also manages falconry, a traditional practice of the Ojibwe people. In recent years, the tribe has worked to restore falconry, including the training and release of falcons into the wild.

Cultural resources
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Water quality
The Mille Lacs Band monitors water quality in the area to ensure that water is clean and safe for use. This includes monitoring lakes, rivers, and streams for contaminants such as nutrients, heavy metals, and pesticides. The tribe also works with federal and state agencies to address water quality issues and protect the health of the Mille Lacs Lake ecosystem.

Mille Lacs:
A body of water
is also being performed on several lakes which included current lake to date. The Mille Lacs Lake and Ojibwa Lake are being treated to prevent forest fires.
The protection of water quality has been a priority goal of the Mille Lacs Band. The Band is monitoring the effect of underground injection wells (UGIW) on water quality and is putting measures in place to control these injection wells. This is a key part of the overall management of underground injection facilities. The Band is taking steps to prevent the discharge of waste into the water resources.

**Wild rice enhancement**

The Band has developed a program to enhance wild rice growth in the Mille Lacs Lake area. This program involves several steps, including the planting of seeds, the establishment of new wild rice stands, and the maintenance of existing wild rice stands.

**Common term project**

This project is an effort to protect the common term "Mille Lacs". The project aims to establish a database of terms related to Mille Lacs, including common terms used in various languages. This database will be used to promote the correct use of the term "Mille Lacs" in various contexts.

**Treaty rights protection**

An important aspect of the Band's work is protecting the treaty rights acknowledged in the Treaties of 1851 and 1867. This includes protecting the right to fish in the Mille Lacs Lake area. The Band has been successful in achieving victories in federal court, including a 1995 decision that affirmed the Band's treaty fishing rights.

**Environmental monitoring**

The Band is also engaged in environmental monitoring, which involves the collection of data on a wide range of environmental factors. This data is used to make decisions about the management of natural resources and to address environmental issues.

**Cultural resources**

The Band is also working on preserving cultural resources, including the preservation of language and culture. This includes the promotion of traditional practices and the documentation of oral traditions.

**Community involvement**

The Band is actively involved in the community, including through various programs and projects that support the local economy and culture. This includes initiatives to promote tourism and to support local businesses.
Grazing Study

After noticing a regular displacement of small wild rice in a wetland in Sable Lake over a five-month period in 1994, the Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) decided to conduct a study to investigate the cause. The department placed three test plots that were completely enclosed and three control plots that varied in size and shape and affected the wild rice area in the plots. The BMIC also conducted resident surveys to identify different species of wild rice in each test plot, and degree of wild rice damage in each plot. The information was used to determine the results of the grazing study.

Cranberry assessment

The department is involved in the growing of cranberries. The BMIC staff conducted various assessments to determine the amount of cranberry produced, the size of the cranberry crop, and the number of berries per square meter. The following information was used to determine the cranberry assessment:

- The number of berries per square meter
- The size of the cranberry crop
- The number of berries per square meter
- The overall yield of the cranberry crop

Harvest observation

During the fall season, the department monitors commercial fishing efforts by conducting surveys and observations. The information gathered is used to determine the number of commercial fishermen and the number of fish caught during the fall season.

Spring herring sampling

During the spring season, the department conducts a sampling of herring fish to determine the status of herring populations. The information gathered is used to determine the number of herring fish caught, the size of the herring population, and the overall yield of herring fish.

Frog and toad inventory

With assistance from the USFWS, the Keweenaw Bay Biological Station, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the BMIC conducted surveys to determine the number of frogs and toads in the area. The information gathered is used to determine the number of frogs and toads in the area and the overall yield of frogs and toads.

Fall spawning assessments

In the fall season, the department conducts assessments of lake Superior salmon and steelhead populations to determine the status of salmon and steelhead populations. The information gathered is used to determine the number of salmon and steelhead fish caught, the size of the salmon and steelhead population, and the overall yield of salmon and steelhead.

Spring herring population

In the spring season, the department conducts surveys of herring populations to determine the status of herring populations. The information gathered is used to determine the number of herring fish caught, the size of the herring population, and the overall yield of herring fish.

Spring herring population

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Frog and toad inventory

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Spring herring sampling

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The Lac Vieux Desert (LVD) natural resources department is working on many projects to help protect and conserve the reservation's resources.

**Wild rice**

Projects that the department is working on include the restoration of wild rice beds at LVD. They are working cooperatively with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Muskegon, Michigan, to determine how best to grow wild rice. The environmental department is currently trying to organize a program where the reservation can demonstrate its potential for the wild rice. This will involve taking the rice out of the water and planting it in small ponds, creating a controlled environment. The project is still in the planning stages, but it will be used to show the potential for growing wild rice on the reservation.

**Recycling program**

Although it is only in the planning stages, there will soon be a recycling program at LVD. The natural resources department is currently trying to organize the program by collecting recyclables and determining the most effective way to market the materials. This will involve finding places where the reservation can sell the materials, possibly for a profit. The goal is to make the recycling program self-sustaining, and it will be a step toward reducing waste and conserving resources.

**New hatchery**

By the end of the summer, the department will have finished the construction of a new hatchery. The Natural Resources Department has been working on this project for several years, and it will be a valuable asset for the reservation. The hatchery will be a place where the department can raise fish, such as salmon and trout, for release into the reservation's waterways. This will help to maintain the reservation's natural resources and provide a valuable source of food for the community.

**Meeting at LVD**

Meeting at the Lac Vieux Desert reservation this summer, elder from Wisconsin tribes discussed off-reservation hunting, fishing, and gathering rights and the ability to access and use those resources, the meeting was part of the Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Council's program for the elderly. Photo by Annette Lawrence.

The dual water systems cannot be used for growing rice, as the water is too saline. The reservation's water supply is currently being used to irrigate the wild rice beds, and the reservation's water system is being used for other purposes. The reservation's water system is currently being used to irrigate the wild rice beds, and the reservation's water system is being used for other purposes.

**Systematic position**

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Upgraded water system

Birch River aquacutre facility is in its initial building stage, but it said it will be in place next year at this time.

**Lake Flambeau**

The Lake Flambeau resource department has developed a program for identifying and protecting the environment. The program includes identifying the various ecosystems of the lake, Flambeau, and conducting environmental education programs. The program is currently being implemented, and it will help to protect the reservation's natural resources.

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The environmental department is currently trying to organize a program where the reservation can demonstrate its potential for growing wild rice on the reservation. This will involve taking the rice out of the water and planting it in small ponds, creating a controlled environment. The project is still in the planning stages, but it will be used to show the potential for growing wild rice on the reservation.
The Manitous

The Spiritual World of the Ojibway

by Basil Johnston

In his latest book, The Manitous: The Spiritual Life of the Ojibway, Johnston examines, for the first time, the comprehensive and sacred oral traditions which comprise the spiritual life of the Ojibway people (known also as the Chippewa Indians and the Anishinaabeg). The Ojibways have often been referred to as the Creator, the Totem, the Nation, the Indian, the Anishinaabeg, the Ojibway, or the Ojib wszystik. Their spiritual beliefs and practices are deeply rooted in the land and the people's relationship with the natural world.

The book is divided into four main sections:

1. The Creation
2. The Earth
3. The Ojibway People
4. The Spiritual Path

The Creation

The section on the Creation begins with the story of the world's origin and the forces that shaped it. It explores the significance of the Ojibway cosmology and the role of the turtle in the creation of the world. The turtle, known as the sacred animal, is central to many Ojibway spiritual beliefs and practices.

The Earth

The Earth section delves into the Ojibway's relationship with the land, focusing on the importance of the land and the role of the earth in their spiritual beliefs. It discusses the Ojibway's connection to the land and the importance of respecting and protecting it.

The Ojibway People

This section examines the Ojibway people's history, culture, and traditions. It explores the Ojibway's way of life, including their social structure, family life, and the roles of men and women. The section also discusses the Ojibway's connection to nature and their spiritual practices.

The Spiritual Path

The final section of the book is devoted to the Ojibway's spiritual path. It describes the various spiritual practices and ceremonies that the Ojibway perform, including the role of the medicine man, the sweat lodge, and the tobacco ceremony. The book also includes a section on the Ojibway's relationship with the Creator and the importance of reverence and respect in their spiritual life.

The Manitous is a comprehensive and insightful exploration of the Ojibway's spiritual world. It provides a valuable resource for anyone interested in the Ojibway culture and the spiritual practices of the Ojibway people.

(Reprinted from The New York Times)
Red Flag at Red Mountain Pass

The 1872 Mining Law and other recent century-old water rights laws left maps of the area to the fragile and unstable hands of private companies, including the Department of Defense, the U.S. Forest Service, and the California Natural Resources Agency. These companies continue to work on developing the land, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently found that the land is critical for the survival of the brown-headed cowbird, a bird listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Local impacts, local action

For some, the Red Mountain Pass Mine is a threat to the local environment and the health of the community. For others, it is an opportunity to develop new resources and create jobs. The project is facing opposition from local residents and environmental groups, who are concerned about the potential for environmental damage and the impact on the local economy.

Poisoning Pony

In 1995, the U.S. Forest Service approved the Poisoning Pony Mine, a project that was expected to bring significant economic benefits to the area. However, the mine was later shut down due to environmental concerns.

Tailing to tees (and beyond)

The tailings pond at Red Mountain Pass covers an area of 20 acres and holds up to 6 million cubic yards of waste rock. The mine is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2020.

Roll, Cullin, roll

The Red River is an important part of the life of the Welsh communities, who live on Washington's Colville Indian Reservation.

Tribal recognition bill doesn’t go far enough

A bill designed to speed the federal recognition process for tribes hasn’t gone far enough, according to some who testified at recent hearings on the legislation. Congress is not expected to make the process less costly, efficient and provide a greater opportunity for current and future petitioners.

Legislative Update

House Committees: AP=Appropriations; COM=Commerce; EE=Economics & Education; JUD=Judiciary; RES=Resources; S=Small Business Senate Committees: ENV=Environment & Public Works; FIn=Finance; SCIA=Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; +Multiple Committee

Bill No Title House Committee Hearing Date Number
H.R. 4 Personal Responsibility Act of 1995 + 2/24/95 FIN
H.R. 111 Mineral Enterprise development Act of 1995 SB
H.R. 226 Salt Water Drinking Act Amendments of 1994 COM
H.R. 452 National Political Toward Gambling Review SCIA
H.R. 497 National Gambling Impact & Policy Commission SCIA

Bill No Title House Committee Hearing Date Number
S. 113 Bill to allow Indian tribes to receive contributions of inventories SCA
S. 285 Bill to provide solicite service block grants directly to Indian tribes SCA
S. 286 A bill to extend the Bold-World Dark Act in grant-state status to Indian tribes SCA
S. 311 Bill to authorize the district of Arizona to acquire land for Indian Affairs SCA
S. 441 Reauthorizing appropriations under Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act RES SCA SCA 3/20/95 4/20/95 6/20/95 104-16
S. 487 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act Amendments of 1995 SCA SCA 6/20/95
S. 510 Bill to extend authorization for certain programs under the Native American Programs Act of 1994 EE SCA SCA 3/15/95 3/1/95

Tribal recognition bill doesn’t go far enough

A bill designed to speed the federal recognition process for tribes hasn’t gone far enough, according to some who testified at recent hearings on the legislation. Congress is not expected to make the process less costly, efficient and provide a greater opportunity for current and future petitioners.

Undersecretary within the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1998, tribes seeking federal recognition are often told they are not eligible. The bill, introduced by Republican Representative Jim Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, is intended to streamline the process.

Some 180 tribes have applied for federal recognition, but the process can take years, and many tribes are facing economic and political challenges.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has taken a more active role in recent years, providing technical assistance to tribes and working to remove barriers to recognition.

Still, some tribes say they are not receiving enough support. In a recent hearing, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., urged the committee to change the law to allow tribes to participate in the federal recognition process.

"The United States has a unique relationship with Indian tribes, and the federal government has a responsibility to ensure that tribes have the opportunity to participate in the recognition process," McCain said.

The bill, known as the "Tribal Recognition Act," would allow tribes to apply for federal recognition at any time, rather than waiting for a specific time period that has been set by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The bill has not been introduced in the House, and it is not clear whether it will be included in the larger bill that is being considered by the Senate.

Stephanie Oakland, a tribal member of the Hupa Tribe in northern California, said she is encouraged by the bill and the attention it is receiving.

"This is a huge step forward," she said. "It's about time we had a fair process for tribes to apply for federal recognition."
Wa-Swa-Goning Village a teaching experience

By Stephanie Catlin, HONOR intern

Although the spearfishing controversy caused anguish and anxiety, it also brought an idea into Nick Hocking's mind for Wa-Swa-Goning, a traditional Ojibwe village on the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

"During the spearfishing controversy, I realized many people didn't understand what our culture is really about," Hocking said.

Then, after many years of delays and challenges, on May 1, 1994, Hockings, along with many volunteers, began building the village. After only six weeks, the village opened and has since had approximately 5,000 visitors from all over the United States and throughout the world.

The volunteers give tours through the village, explaining the history of the various lodges and articles in and around them depict the traditional way of life for the Ojibwe people.

Melanie Reding, village manager, who has been a volunteer since Wa-Swa-Goning's opening, said she has not heard a negative comment about the village but people react to it in various ways.

"I've received a range of emotiun. I've had people get angry because of the truth and I've had them cry over the teaching lodge," she said.

Wa-Swa-Goning features seasonal villages, traditional lodges made of birchbark, a maple sugar camp, baskets, traps, and two birch bark canoes built by Ferdy Guode and his students.

Hockings said his main goal is to teach the public about Indian culture.

"I wanted people to see the whole spectrum of the Ojibwe culture. I wanted people to get a sense of how our ancestors lived years ago, and in that, it is a teaching experience," he said.

Reding agreed. "I think it builds an understanding between Indians and non-Indians, and that it teaches a lot about respect not just for white and red, but for black and yellow also... for all peoples," she said.

The village is staffed completely by volunteers who both study on their own and are trained by Hockings to be well-informed and to lead tours.

Hockings said the volunteers have been from all over the world and therefore not all Indians. "He said he worried about that at first, but it hasn't been a problem. "I've always been able to maintain a volunteer staff, but they have not all been Native American. That has never been a problem because people have been very accepting of that," he said.

The village does offer challenges, though. Besides the challenge of getting money for promoting Wa-Swa-Goning, maintaining the condition of the village keeps Hockings and his volunteers working.

"The biggest challenge we've had to overcome was the upkeep of the village, and of course, the monumental task of running a tourist operation," he said.

For the future, Hockings said he hopes to expand the features of the village by perhaps bringing in speakers to teach who are well-versed in many areas. Also, he said he hopes to add cross-cultural events and other educational opportunities to help teach the public about the Ojibwe culture.

Hockings said he is overall pleased with the village. "We tried to make it as authentic as possible, and I think we've achieved that. It's been a learning experience. We're very happy with the way things are."

Tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with each tour lasting approximately one and a half hours, and the village is also open at 12 p.m. on Sunday and Monday.

Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for children under 12 years and seniors 65-79 years, people 80 years and older are admitted free. "We've had six or seven people who have been eighty plus, and we're proud of that," Hockings said.