



**Wild Plant and Non-Timber Forest Products Gathering  
on National Forest Lands During 2000-2001**

by

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# Wild Plant and Non-Timber Forest Products Gathering on National Forest Lands During 2000-2001

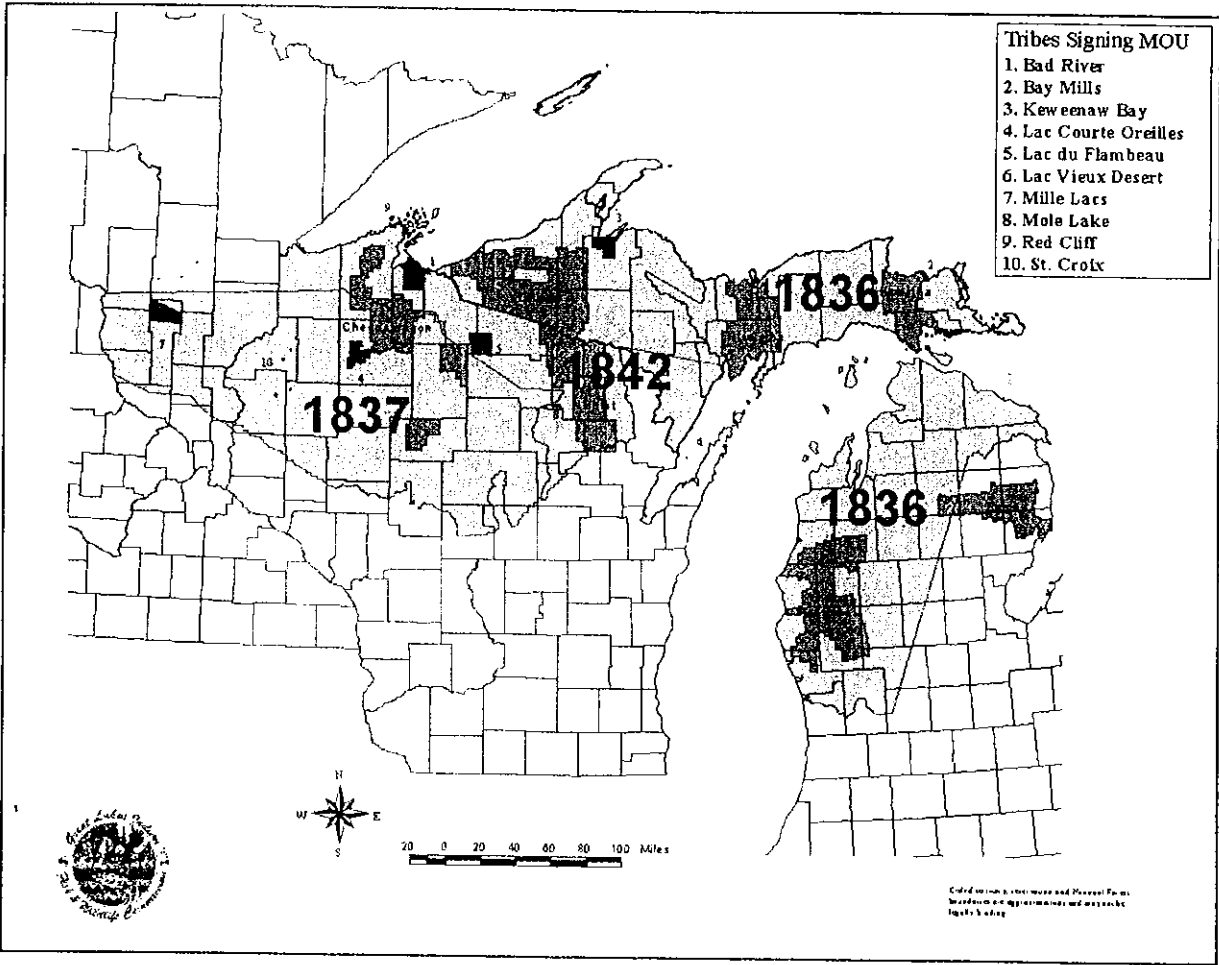
## INTRODUCTION

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) member tribes have reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights in territories ceded to the United States through the Treaties of 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854. In order to provide for the exercise of these treaty rights on lands managed by the USDA Forest Service (USFS) within the 1836, 1837, and 1842 ceded territories, GLIFWC member tribes and the USFS negotiated interim agreements annually beginning in 1995. At the same time the parties continued discussions to develop a more comprehensive and long term agreement.

In 1998, ten of the eleven GLIFWC member tribes and the USFS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled *Tribal - USDA Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands within the Ceded Territory in Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842*. The MOU includes the following national forests: Chequamegon-Nicolet in Wisconsin; and Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee in Michigan (Figure 1).

Wild plant and non-timber forest products are harvested throughout the year. However, for this report, a harvest season is defined as beginning on August 1, when tribal gathering permits may be issued, and ends the following year on July 31, when the permits expire. This report summarizes the results of tribal wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering on the above listed national forests for the 2000-2001 harvest season and compares these results with the five previous harvest seasons 1995-1996 through 1999-2000 (Danielsen 2001).

Figure 1: Ceded territories and national forests covered in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled "Tribal - USDA Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands within the Ceded Territory in Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842."



## DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Data were collected and summarized from the following sources:

**Off-Reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits** (Appendix A) are required by tribes for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering. These permits provide a means for GLIFWC staff to monitor overall tribal interest in gathering. Obtaining a permit does not indicate whether or not a tribal member actually participated in gathering.

**Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits** (Appendix A) are required by tribes for commercial gathering of specific non-timber forest products. These permits provide a means for GLIFWC staff to monitor tribal interest in commercial gathering. Also, these permits may be used to include any special regulations, approved by tribal councils, that are deemed necessary for the protection of the resource to be gathered. Tribal members choose which commercial products they plan to gather by "checking off" the products on their permits. The products identified on the permit include conifer boughs (branches); the low growing mat-like club moss, princess pine; and the perennial herb, ginseng. Selecting a product does not guarantee it will be gathered. Gatherers are requested to identify the national forests from which they will be gathering. More than one person may be authorized under one permit. These permits are used to determine the number of interested gatherers for each commercial product within each national forest.

**Tribal Gathering Phone Surveys** (Appendix A) allow GLIFWC staff to monitor actual harvest amounts of the non-timber forest products suspected of being sensitive to gathering because of rarity or potential harvest levels. Tribal members targeted for this survey included those issued a Tribal Commercial Gathering Permit and those that checked off a box on the Off-Reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permit indicating that they had gathered non-timber forest products during the previous harvest season.

Initially, tribal members were asked to complete and submit a written survey. Beginning with the 1997-98 harvest season, a phone survey replaced the written survey in an effort to increase response rates and accuracy. In addition, the first version of the survey, issued for the 1995-96 harvest season, limited questions to the harvest of conifer boughs, princess pine, and ginseng. Since 1996-97, a revised survey included additional questions for birch bark and firewood, and asked tribal members to identify the national forest from which they gathered.

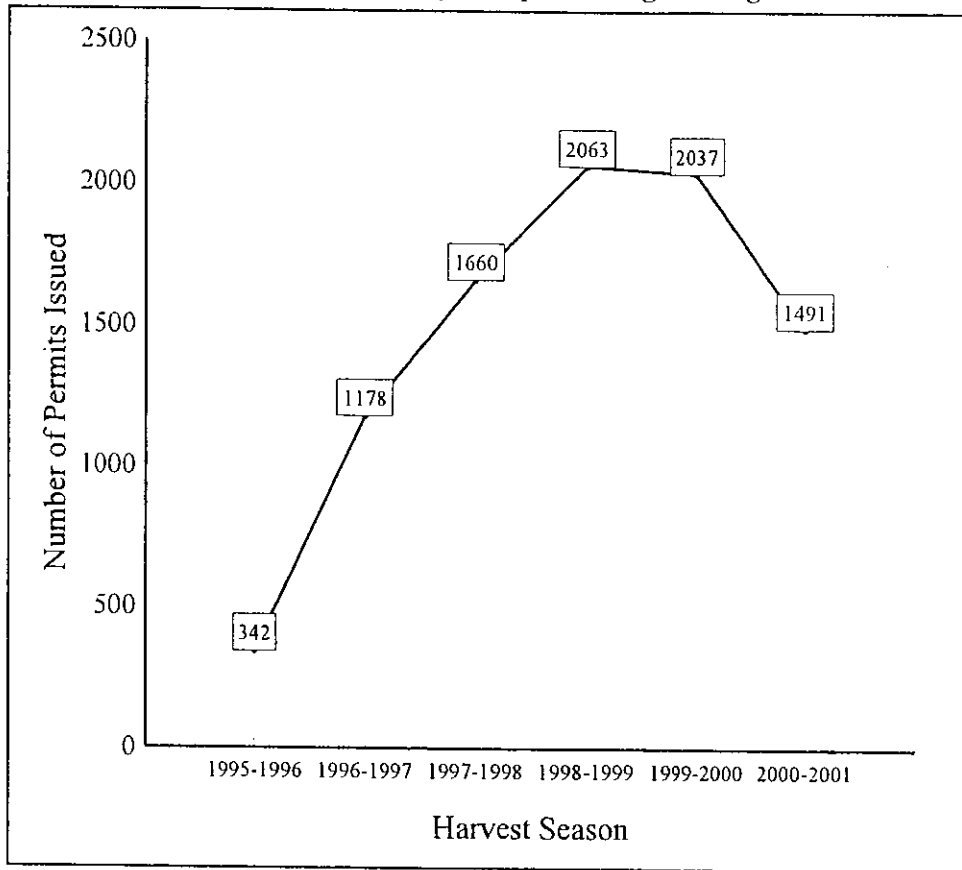
Although the survey questions were limited to the above mentioned five non-timber forest products (in order to reduce the imposition on tribal members and to be sensitive to tribal customs), tribal members have the opportunity to harvest over 300 plants that have been traditionally gathered for a variety of uses (Densmore 1928, Meeker et al. 1993).

## RESULTS

### Off-Reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits

For the 2000-2001 harvest season, the number of Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits issued for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering was 1,491. This was a decrease from the previous harvest season in which 2,037 permits were issued. (Figure 2).

*Figure 2: Off-Reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering.*

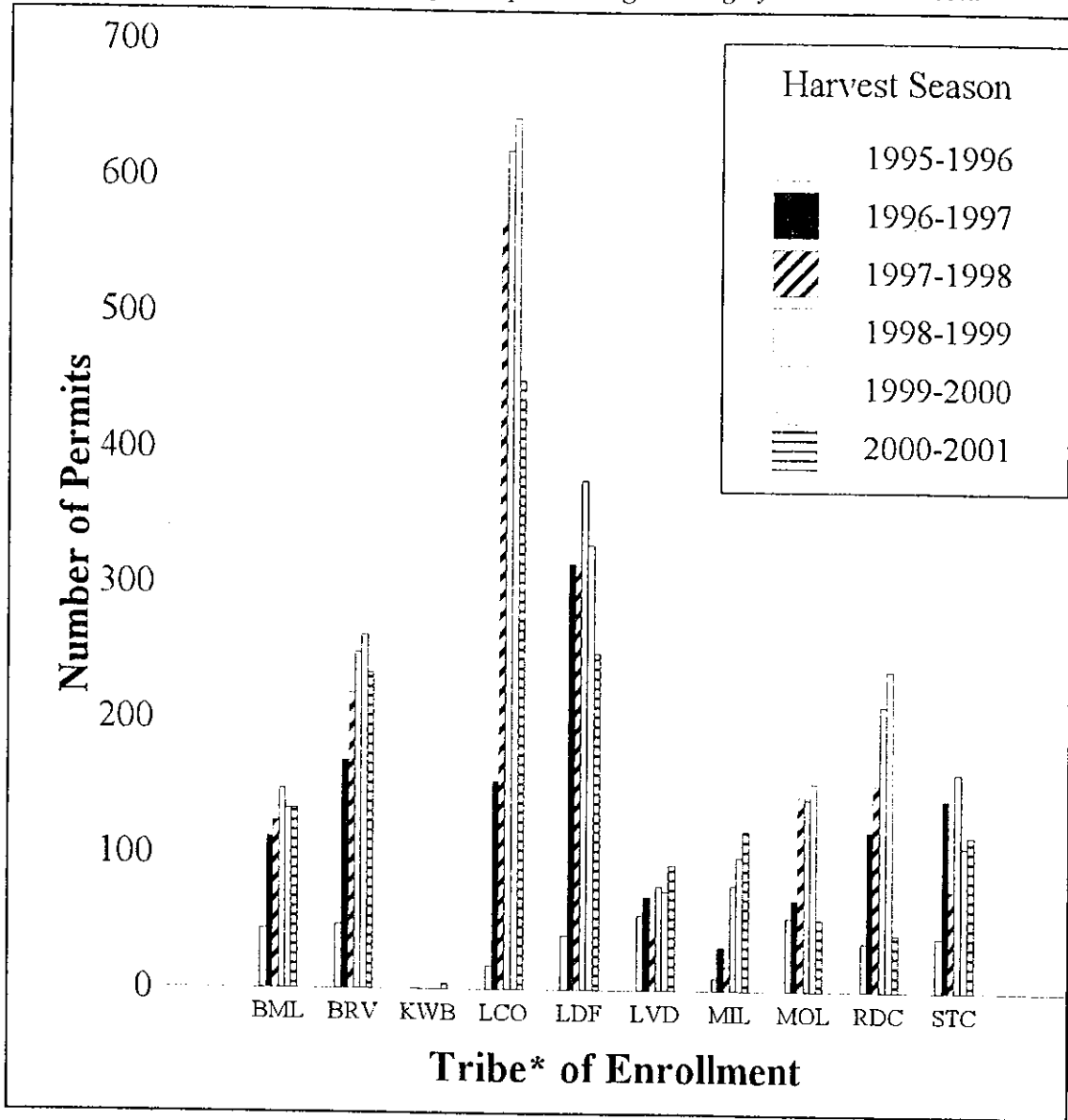


For the 2000-2001 harvest season and similar to the previous three harvest seasons, Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) members obtained the most Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering (Table 1, Figure 3). However, the number of permits obtained by LCO members, was fewer than the 1999-2000 harvest season. Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Mole Lake, and Red Cliff members also obtained fewer permits than the previous harvest season. Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, and St Croix members obtained more permits, while Bay Mill members obtained the same number of permits as the previous harvest season. Keweenaw Bay members obtained permits for the first time during the 2000-2001 harvest season.

*Table 1: Number of Off Reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering.*

Tribe of Enrollment	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Bay Mills	44	112	124	148	133	133
Bad River	47	169	219	249	262	234
Lac Courte Oreilles	17	154	568	619	643	450
Lac du Flambeau	40	315	314	377	329	249
Lac Vieux Desert	55	69	45	77	73	93
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	0	0	0	4
Mille Lacs	9	32	18	78	99	118
Mole Lake	54	67	144	142	154	53
Red Cliff	36	118	153	211	237	42
St. Croix	40	142	75	162	107	115
TOTAL	342	1178	1660	2063	2037	1491

Figure 3: Number of Off-Reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering by tribe and season.



\*BML = Bay Mills, BRV = Bad River, KWB = Keweenaw Bay, LCO = Lac Courtes Oreilles, LDF = Lac du Flambeau, LVD = Lac Vieux Desert, MIL = Mille Lacs, MOL = Mole Lake, RDC = Red Cliff, STC = St. Croix.



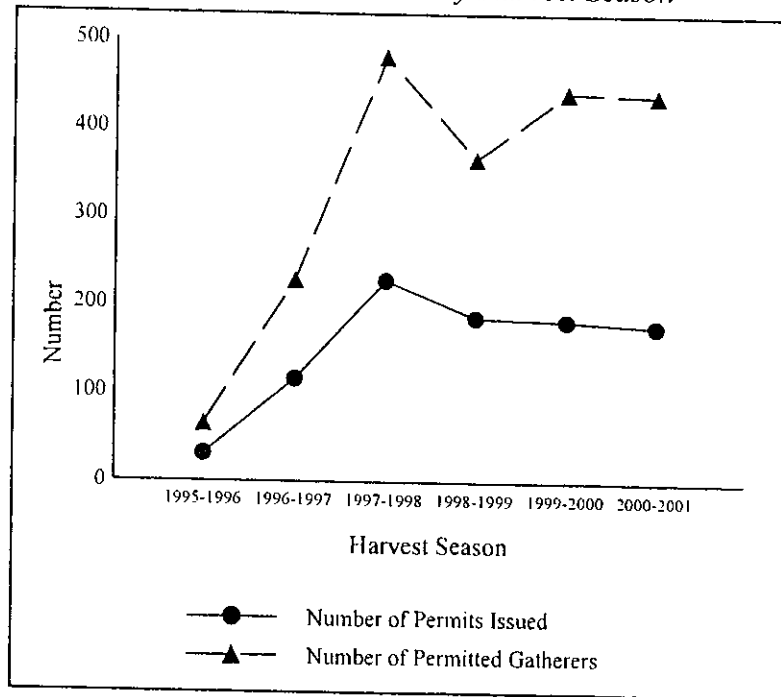
### Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits

For the 2000-2001 harvest season, the number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued (176) decreased slightly for the third consecutive harvest season (Table 2, Figure 4). Taking into account that multiple gatherers can be listed under one permit, the total number of permitted gatherers for the 2000-2001 harvest season (438) also decreased slightly. On average, for all harvest seasons, there were approximately two gatherers per permit.

Table 2: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued and permitted gatherers by harvest season.

	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Number of Permits Issued	31	115	227	185	182	176
Number of Permitted Gatherers	65	227	481	365	441	438

Figure 4: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits Issued and Permitted Gatherers by Harvest Season

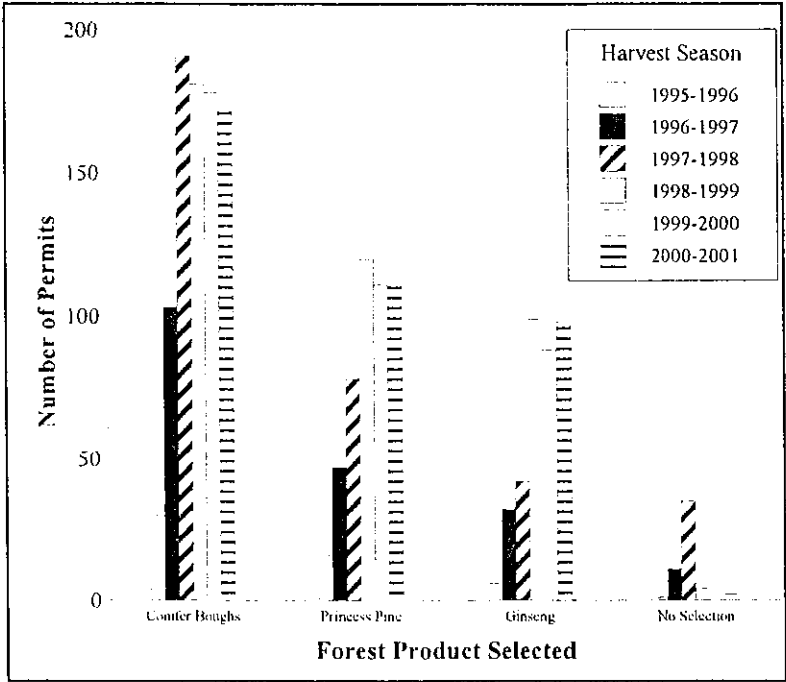


For the 2000-2001 harvest season, similar to all the other harvest seasons except 1995-96, Lac Courte Oreilles members obtained the most Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits (Table 3). Fewer permits were obtained by Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Mille Lacs, Red Cliff, and St. Croix members. No permits were obtained by Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay, or Lac Vieux Desert members.

*Table 3: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued by harvest season and by tribe of enrollment.*

Tribe of Enrollment	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Bad River	7	28	7	19	26	22
Bay Mills	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	4	72	207	143	127	128
Lac du Flambeau	6	0	0	0	5	10
Lac Vieux Desert	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mole Lake	6	1	5	4	10	9
Red Cliff	8	14	8	18	14	3
St. Croix	0	0	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	31	115	227	185	182	176

Figure 5: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued by forest product selected and harvest season.



For the 2000-2001 harvest season, all three non-timber forest products were selected the most by Lac Courte Oreilles members, followed by Bad River members (Table 5).

*Table 5: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2000-2001 harvest season by tribe of enrollment and by forest product selected*

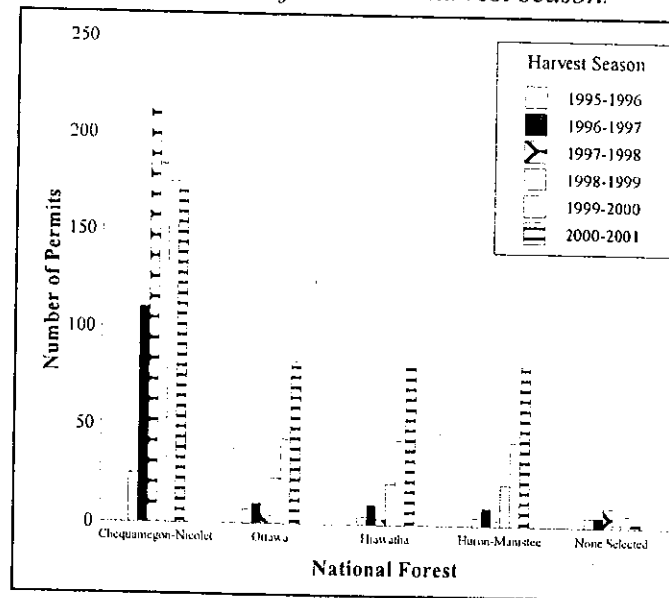
Tribe of Enrollment	Conifer Boughs	Princess Pine	Ginseng	No Selection
Bad River	20	19	19	2
Bay Mills	0	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	128	72	62	0
Lac du Flambeau	9	9	9	0
Lac Vieux Desert	0	0	0	0
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	0	0
Mille Lacs	2	0	0	0
Mole Lake	9	7	5	0
Red Cliff	4	3	2	0
St. Croix	2	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>

Tribal members could select more than one (and occasionally failed to identify any) national forest from which they expected to gather on their Tribal Commercial Gathering Permit. For the 2000-2001 harvest season, similar to all the previous harvest seasons, the majority of gatherers requested permits for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Table 6, Figure 6). Fewer tribal gatherers requested permits for the Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Table 6: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits by national forest and harvest season.

National Forest	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Chequamegon-Nicolet	25	110	216	184	175	171
Ottawa	7	10	4	23	43	83
Hiawatha	4	10	3	21	43	82
Huron-Manistee	4	9	3	21	43	82
None Selected	5	5	10	2	6	2

Figure 6: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits by national forest and harvest season.



### Tribal Gathering Phone Survey

Forty-one tribal members reported gathering during the 2000-2001 harvest season from a total of 198 respondents to the phone survey (attempts were made to contact another 105 tribal members, but without success). Compared to the previous harvest season, this was an increase in the number of respondents, but a slight decrease in the percentage of respondents reporting harvest (Table 8, Figure 7). All reported harvest occurred from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Lac Courte Oreilles had the greatest number of members reporting harvest (Table 9).

*Table 8: Number of Tribal Gathering Phone Survey respondents and respondents reporting harvest by season.*

	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Number of Harvest Survey Respondents	59	218	95	88	77	89
Number of Respondents Reporting Harvest	17	66	21	22	39	41
% of Respondents Reporting Harvest	29	30	21	25	51	46

*Figure 7: Number of Tribal Gathering Phone Survey respondents and percent of respondents reporting harvest by season.*

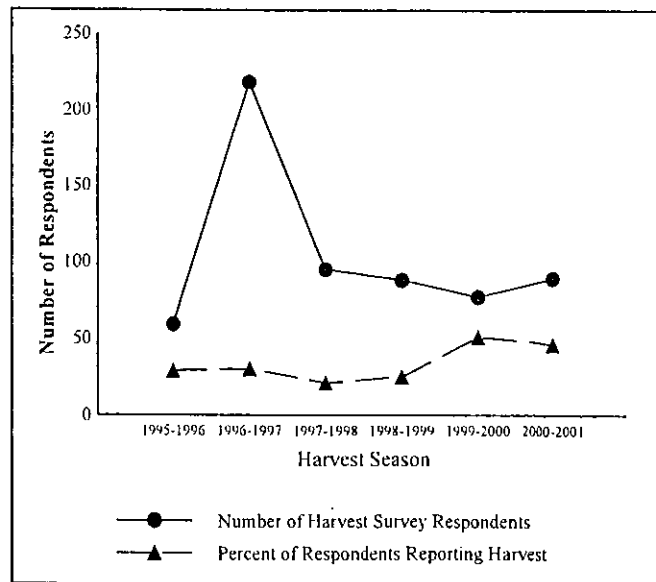
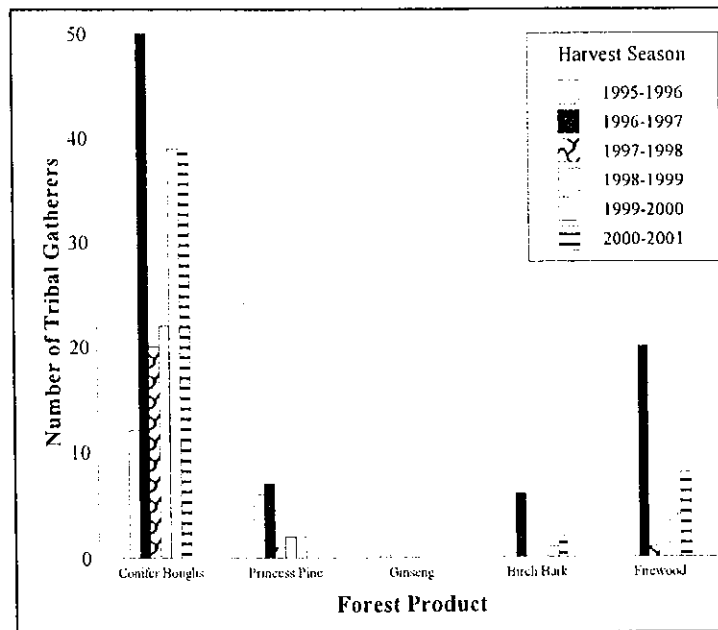


Table 9: Number of members by tribe of enrollment responding to Tribal Gathering Phone Survey and reporting harvest during 2000-2001.

Tribe of Enrollment	Number of Respondents	Number Reporting Harvest	% of Respondents Reporting Harvest
Bad River	13	6	46
Lac Courte Oreilles	56	27	48
Lac du Flambeau	9	4	44
Mille Lacs	2	0	0
Mole Lake	4	1	25
Red Cliff	5	3	60
TOTAL	89	41	46

The number of tribal members reporting harvest of conifer boughs during the 2000-2001 season was greater than for the four other forest products. (Figure 8). Conifer boughs were also reported gathered by more members during the five previous seasons.

Figure 8: Number of tribal gatherers reporting harvest by forest product and season.



Lac Courte Oreilles had the greatest number of members reporting harvest of conifer boughs and firewood for the 2000-2001 harvest season (Table 10). Bad River and Red Cliff members reported gathering birch bark. No harvesters reported gathering princess pine or ginseng.

*Table 10: Number of tribal members reporting harvest during the 2000-2001 harvest season by tribe of enrollment and non-timber forest product.*

Tribe of Enrollment	Conifer Boughs	Princess Pine	Ginseng	Birch Bark	Firewood
Bad River	5	0	0	1	3
Lac Courte Oreilles	27	0	0	0	7
Lac du Flambeau	4	0	0	0	0
Mole Lake	1	0	0	0	0
Red Cliff	2	0	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>

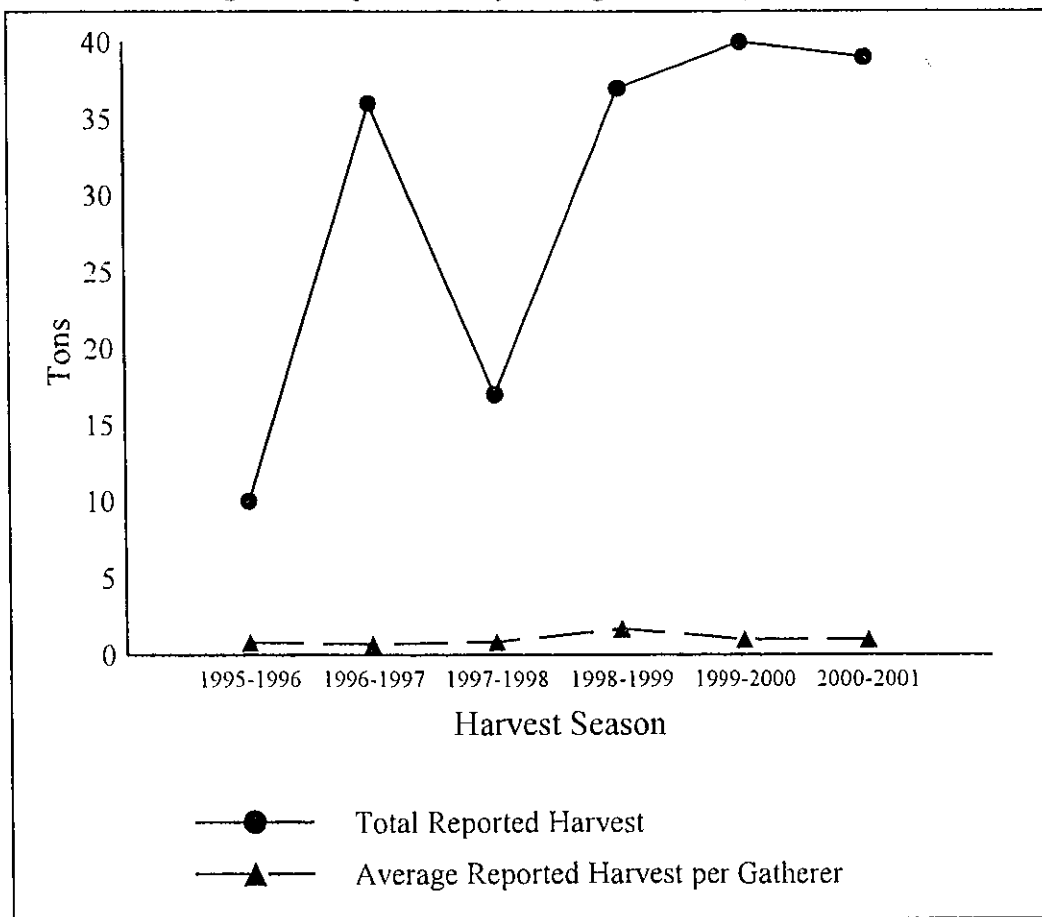


For the 2000-2001 harvest season, similar to the previous harvest season, tribal members reported gathering a total of 39 tons of conifer boughs with an average harvest per gatherer of 1.0 ton (Table 11, Figure 9).

Table 11: Reported conifer bough harvest measured in tons by season.

	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Total Reported Harvest	10	36	17	37	40	39
Average Reported Harvest per Gatherer	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.7	1.0	1.0

Figure 9: Reported conifer bough harvest by season

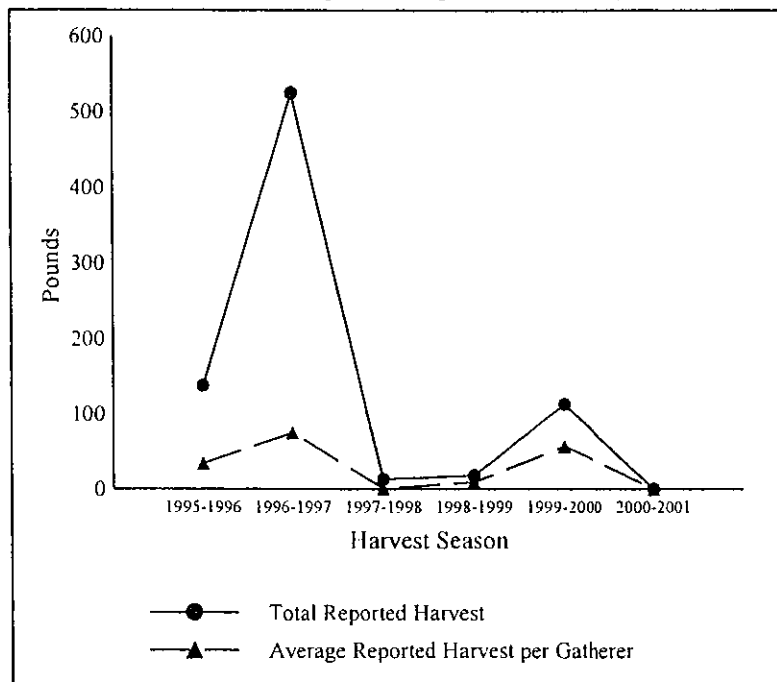


For the 2000-2001 harvest season, no tribal members reported gathering princess pine (Table 12, Figure 10), a decline from the previous harvest season.

Table 12: Reported princess pine harvest measured in pounds by season.

	1995-1996 Harvest Season	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Total Reported Harvest	138	525	13	18	113	0
Average Reported Harvest per Gatherer	34	75	1	9	57	0

Figure 10: Reported princess pine harvest by season.



For the 2000-2001 harvest season, no tribal members reported harvesting ginseng (Figure 8). Harvest of ginseng has been reported only for the 1995-96 harvest season when three gatherers reported a total harvest of 0.75 pounds (an average of 0.25 pounds per gatherer).

During the 2000-2001 harvest season, two tribal members reported gathering an approximate total of 7 square feet of birch bark (Table 13). This was an increase from the previous three harvest seasons.

*Table 13: Reported birch bark harvest measured in square feet by season.*

	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Total Reported Harvest	100	0	0	4	7
Average Reported Harvest per Gatherer	16	0	0	4	4

During 2000-2001, the total quantity of firewood reported to be harvested was 25 cords, an increase over previous harvest seasons (Table 14). The average amount gathered was 3 cords.

*Table 14: Reported firewood harvest measured in cords by season.*

	1996-1997 Harvest Season	1997-1998 Harvest Season	1998-1999 Harvest Season	1999-2000 Harvest Season	2000-2001 Harvest Season
Total Reported Harvest	1	5	0	13	25
Average Reported Harvest per Gatherer	0.25	5	0	3	3

## DISCUSSION

The number of tribal members obtaining Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits validated for national forest wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering for the 2000-2001 harvest season (1491) declined from the previous harvest season (2,037). The number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued in the 2000-2001 harvest season (176) also declined slightly from the previous harvest season (182). Taking into account that multiple gatherers can be listed under one permit, the total number of permitted commercial gatherers (438) declined from the previous harvest season (441).

Results from the Tribal Gathering Phone Survey showed that the number of respondents reporting harvest for the 2000-2001 season increased from the previous season. The Tribal Gathering Survey also showed that tribal members gathered conifer boughs in the greatest amounts; princess pine, birch bark, and firewood to a lesser extent, and no ginseng. Easy access to large quantities and local markets probably make conifer boughs more suitable and profitable for commercial gathering. Furthermore, for commercial purposes, tribal members seem to condone the gathering of conifer boughs more than any other forest product (Gilbert et al. 1996). Ginseng, on the other hand, occurs in such relatively low numbers that locating and gathering adequate amounts may not be economical. All gathering reported by tribal members during 2000-2001 occurred in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

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## APPENDIX A

1837 & 1842  
Treaty Ceded Territories  
of the Great Lakes Ojibwa Chippewa

**OFF-RESERVATION NATURAL  
RESOURCES HARVESTING  
PERMIT  
2002-2003**

Joint Intertribal Task Force  
Great Lakes Indian Fish &  
Wildlife Commission

*Sample*

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Tribe of Enrollment

Street/Route or Box

Issuing Office/Person

City

State

Zip Code

Date

( )  
Phone

Tribal ID Number

Signature

**APPLICANT COPY**

Wild Ricing

Migratory Bird Hunting

Small Game Hunting

Deer Hunting

Bear Hunting

Trapping

National Forest  
Gathering

Did you hunt  
bucks last  
year?  Yes  No

Did you  
harvest wild  
rice last year?  Yes  No

Did you  
harvest wild  
plants or  
non-timber  
forest  
products last  
year?  Yes  No

This permit is  
authorized by the  
member's tribe of  
enrollment.

EXPIRATION DATE: July 31, 2003

00570

**TRIBAL PERMIT**  
**2001-2002 CEDED TERRITORY-NATIONAL FOREST**  
**COMMERCIAL GATHERING OF**  
**CONIFER BOUGHS, PRINCESS PINE, AND GINSENG**



Name of permittee \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street or Route \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal ID Card Number and Tribal Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other members gathering under this permit. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The above Tribal Member Permittee(s) is(are) hereby authorized and permitted to gather the following forest product(s):

conifer boughs                       princess pine                       ginseng

Unless otherwise indicated on page 2 of this permit, you may gather in any of the National Forests listed below. However, please indicate the National Forest(s) where you plan to gather:

Chequamegon-Nicolet     Ottawa     Hiawatha     Huron-Manistee

Last year did you gather conifer boughs, princess pine, or ginseng for commercial purposes on any of the National Forests listed above?     Yes     No

Standard Provisions:

1. Under this permit gathering is permitted only on National Forest lands within the boundaries of the Chequamegon-Nicolet, Ottawa, Hiawatha and Huron-Manistee National Forests.
2. Anyone gathering under this permit must possess this permit or copy of this permit while gathering on National Forests.
3. The permittee must comply with the rules listed on the back of this permit for conifer boughs, princess pine and ginseng as well as the conditions of her/his Tribe's Off-Reservation National Forest Gathering Ordinance.
4. If requested by the Tribe or the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commissions, the permittee must share information regarding the specific location, date and amount of material harvested pursuant to this permit.
5. Additional provisions or requirements may be listed on page 2 of this permit.
6. There are no restrictions on amounts or locations of harvest unless specified on page 2 of this permit.
7. For ginseng gathering, this permit expires on October 31, 2001; for conifer boughs and princess pine, this permit expires on July 31, 2002.

Issuing Agent/Issuing Agency/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee signature \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_



## Tribal Plant Harvest Survey For National Forest Lands 2000-2001 Season

This survey is intended for those who had a 2000-2001 Commercial National Forest Plant Gathering Permit or checked National Forest Gathering. They will help the Bands assess the demand for conifer boughs, princess pine, ginseng, birch bark, and fire wood.

Permittee Name: Example Tribal ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Tribe of Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you gather any forest products off reservation on national forest land during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Yes     No
  
2. On which national forest(s) did you gather during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Chequamegon-Nicolet     Ottawa     Hiawatha     Huron-Manistee
  
3. Did you gather balsam boughs off-reservation on national forest land during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Did not gather off-reservation.  
 Did gather. Please fill in amount here: \_\_\_\_\_ OR check one below:  
 less than ½ a ton     ½-1 ton     1-2 tons     more than 2 tons
  
4. Did you gather princess pine (greens) off-reservation on national forest land during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Did not gather off-reservation.  
 Did gather. Please fill in amount here: \_\_\_\_\_ OR check one below:  
 less than 25 pounds     25-50 pounds     50-100 pounds  
 more than 100 pounds
  
5. Did you gather ginseng off-reservation on national forest land during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Did not gather off-reservation.  
 Did gather. Please fill in amount here: \_\_\_\_\_ OR check one below:  
 less than ½ pound     ½-1 pound     1-2 pounds     more than 2 pounds
  
6. Did you gather birch bark off-reservation on national forest land during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Did not gather off-reservation.  
 Did gather. \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many trees did you gather birch bark from: \_\_\_\_\_ OR check one below:  
 less than 5     5-10     10-25     25-50     more than 50
  
7. Did you gather firewood off-reservation on national forest land during the period August 1, 2000-July 31, 2001?  
 Did not gather off-reservation.  
 Did gather. Please estimate amount in cords  
 here: \_\_\_\_\_