



Tribal Wild Plant Gathering on National Forest Lands Harvest Season 2007-2008

by

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Administrative Report 09-10
August 2009

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to Tanya Aldred, GLIFWC Plant Technician, for distributing tribal gathering permits to the tribal conservation departments and compiling data. Additional thanks to the tribal registration clerks for ensuring that tribal gathering permits were filled out by tribal gatherers and returned to the GLIFWC offices. Lastly, many thanks to Neil Kmiecik, GLIFWC Biological Services Director, and Jonathan Gilbert, GLIFWC Wildlife Section Leader, for reviewing and commenting on drafts of this document.

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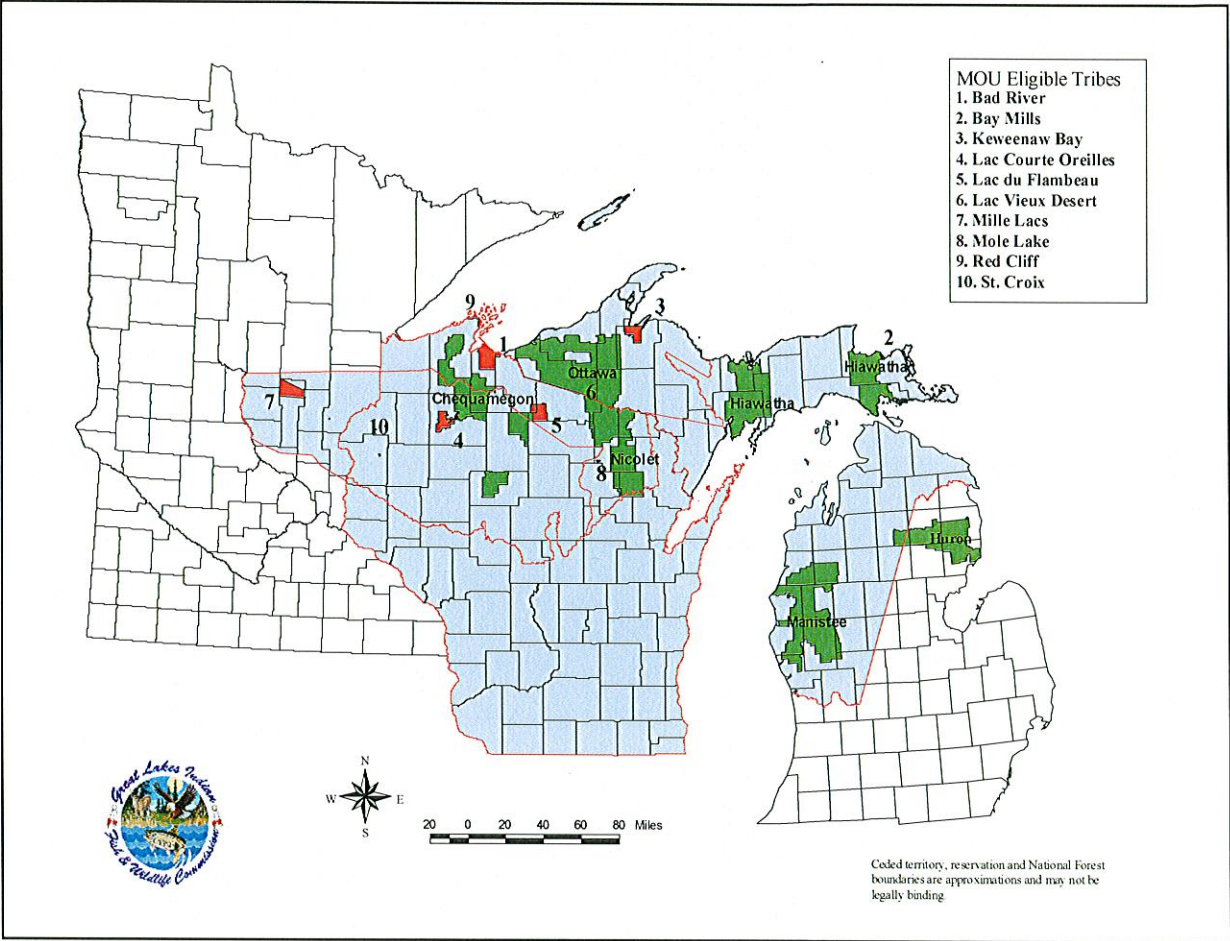
INTRODUCTION

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.

The discussions resulted in 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 was ratified by nine GLIFWC member tribes (Bay Mills, Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, St. Croix and Red Cliff) in 1998 and by the tenth GLIFWC member tribe (Keweenaw Bay) in 2000. The USFS signed the MOU in 1998. The national forests addressed in the MOU include the Chequamegon-Nicolet in Wisconsin; and Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee in Michigan (Figure 1).

Wild plants are harvested by tribal members 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 gathering on the above listed national forests for the 2007-2008 harvest season and compares these results with the six previous harvest seasons 2001-2002 through 2006-2007 (Danielsen 2008).

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:

2007-2008 Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits (Appendix A) are required by nine of the tribes that have ratified the MOU for wild plant gathering on national forest lands. These permits provide a means to monitor overall tribal interest in gathering. Obtaining a permit does not mean a tribal member actually gathered any wild plant resource. Keweenaw Bay members are not required to obtain these permits, but may use their tribal identification card instead. Consequently, the number of Keweenaw Bay gatherers may be underestimated by the number of permits issued.

2007-2008 Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits (Appendix A) are required by all ten tribes that have ratified the MOU for commercial gathering of conifer boughs (primarily zhingob, balsam fir), princess pine (gagige bag) and ginseng (jiisens). GLIFWC staff use these permits to determine tribal interest in the commercial gathering of these particular resources. A commercial permit is not required for the commercial gathering of other plant resources. These permits may also be used to specify any special regulations 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. Gatherers are requested to identify the national forests from which they will be gathering. More than one person may be authorized under one permit.

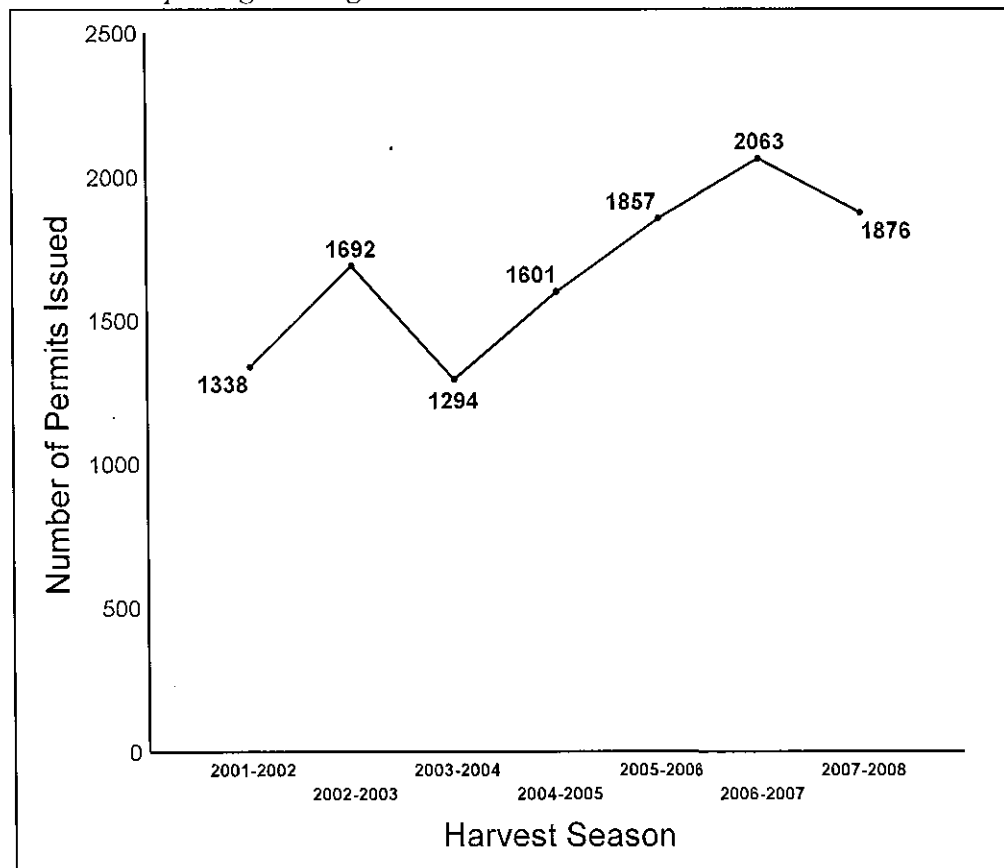
For the past 10 years, GLIFWC annually conducted and reported the results of a telephone survey to estimate the amount of several non-timber forest products (i.e., conifer boughs, princess pine, ginseng, birch bark and firewood). However, because the annual estimated harvest of these products has been low, the survey will be done every 3 years rather than annually. The next telephone survey will be conducted in 2011.

RESULTS

Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits

For the 2007-2008 harvest season, the number of Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits issued for national forest wild plant gathering was 1,876. This was a decrease from the previous harvest season in which 2,063 permits were issued (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant gathering.



For the 2007-2008 harvest season, Lac Courte Oreilles members obtained the most Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits, more than for the previous season (Table 1). Mille Lacs members also obtained more permits for the 2007-2008 season than for the previous season. Members from the other 8 tribes obtained fewer permits for the 2007-2008 harvest season than for the previous season. As mentioned in the data collection methods section, Keweenaw Bay members occasionally obtain these permits, but they may use their tribal identification card instead.

Table 1: Number of Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant gathering.

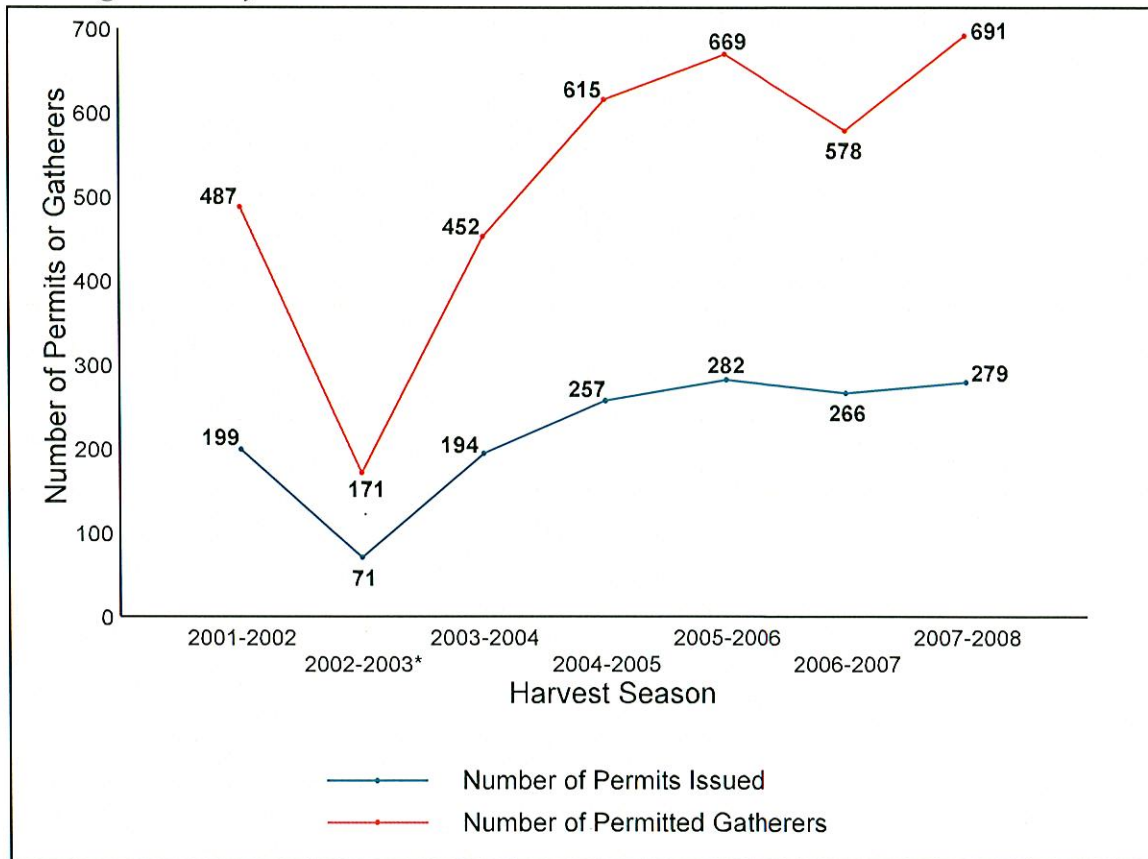
Tribe of Enrollment	2001-2002 Harvest Season	2002-2003 Harvest Season	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season
Bad River	179	168	132	181	113	233	145
Bay Mills	149	214	132	129	135	168	157
Keweenaw Bay	9	5	5	7	4	7	2
Lac Courte Oreilles	329	413	250	446	449	547	675
Lac du Flambeau	65	305	294	334	407	403	328
Lac Vieux Desert	78	83	69	87	84	145	71
Mille Lacs	15	13	26	41	103	39	129
Mole Lake	155	151	104	126	138	97	96
Red Cliff	250	224	154	135	271	301	193
St. Croix	109	116	128	115	153	123	80
TOTAL	1338	1692	1294	1601	1857	2063	1876

Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits

The number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2007-2008 harvest season was 279, similar to the previous three seasons (Figure 3). Taking into account that multiple gatherers can be listed under one permit, the total number of permitted gatherers for the 2007-2008 season was 691. The number of gatherers per permit ranged from 1-7 and averaged 2.4 for the 2007-2008 season.

* Data are incomplete due to the inadvertent misplacement of permits issued to Lac Courte

Figure 3: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued and permitted gatherers by harvest season.



Oreilles members (Danielsen 2006).

For the 2007-2008 harvest season, Lac Courte Oreilles members obtained the most Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits. No permits were obtained by Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay and Mole Lake members (Table 2).

Table 2: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued by harvest season and by tribe of enrollment.

Tribe of Enrollment	2001-2002 Harvest Season	2002-2003 Harvest Season	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season
Bad River	24	23	34	29	34	25	32
Bay Mills	0	0	0	1	3	5	0
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	133	1*	114	177	188	189	182
Lac du Flambeau	12	15	7	3	2	4	21
Lac Vieux Desert	0	3	1	2	9	13	9
Mille Lacs	2	0	7	1	2	1	1
Mole Lake	5	8	7	18	6	0	0
Red Cliff	19	20	23	24	36	24	29
St. Croix	4	1	0	2	2	3	5
TOTAL	199	71	194	257	282	266	279

** Data for Lac Courte Oreilles are incomplete due to an inadvertent misplacement of issued permits.*

Tribal members may select more than one of the three non-timber forest products listed on their Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits. Occasionally, tribal members neglect to make any selection (e.g., 24 permits for the 2005-2006 season). For the 2007-2008 harvest season, the number of permits issued for conifer boughs (279), princess pine (247) and ginseng (237) was higher than for the previous six seasons (Table 3). For each of the seven seasons, conifer boughs have been selected most often, followed by princess pine and then ginseng.

Table 3: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued by forest product selected and harvest season.

Forest Product Selected	2001-2002 Harvest Season	2002-2003 Harvest Season*	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season
Conifer Boughs	199	70	191	253	258	266	279
Princess Pine	112	40	150	178	196	218	247
Ginseng	95	34	137	175	186	206	237
No Selection	0	0	2	3	24	0	0

** Data are incomplete due to an inadvertent misplacement of permits issued to Lac Courte Oreilles members (Danielsen 2006).*

For the 2007-2008 harvest season, Lac Courte Oreilles had more permits issued for all three non-timber forest products than the other tribes (Table 4).

Table 4: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2007-2008 harvest season by tribe of enrollment and by forest product selected.

Tribe of Enrollment	Conifer Boughs	Princess Pine	Ginseng	No Selection
Bad River	32	20	19	0
Bay Mills	0	0	0	0
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	182	181	180	0
Lac du Flambeau	21	20	20	0
Lac Vieux Desert	9	8	4	0
Mille Lacs	1	1	1	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0	0
Red Cliff	29	12	8	0
St. Croix	5	5	5	0
TOTAL	279	247	237	0

On their Tribal Commercial Gathering Permit, tribal members may select more than one (and occasionally fail to select any) national forest from which they expect to gather. For the 2007-2008 harvest season, similar to the previous six seasons, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was selected on a permit most often followed by the Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee National Forests (Table 5).

Table 5: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits by national forest and harvest season.

National Forest	2001-2002 Harvest Season	2002-2003 Harvest Season*	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season
Chequamegon-Nicolet	199	69	178	256	270	251	276
Ottawa	46	39	83	84	93	46	64
Hiawatha	46	35	77	82	88	45	61
Huron-Manistee	43	35	77	80	86	33	61
None Selected	0	2	15	0	4	5	3

** Data are incomplete due to an inadvertent misplacement of permits issued to Lac Courte Oreilles members.*

For the 2007-2008 harvest season, the Chequamegon-National Forest was the only selection on permits issued to Mille Lacs and St. Croix members and the most frequent selection on permits issued to Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau and Red Cliff members. (Table 6). All four national forests were selected equally on permits issued to Lac Vieux Desert members. No permits were issued to Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay and Mole Lake members.

Table 6: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits by tribe of enrollment and by national forest for the 2007-2008 harvest season.

Tribe of Enrollment	Chequamegon-Nicolet	Ottawa	Hiawatha	Huron-Manistee	No Selection
Bad River	32	27	26	26	0
Bay Mills	0	0	0	0	0
Keweenaw Bay	0	0	0	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	180	5	4	4	2
Lac du Flambeau	21	17	16	16	0
Lac Vieux Desert	9	9	9	9	0
Mille Lacs	1	0	0	0	0
Mole Lake	0	0	0	0	0
Red Cliff	28	6	6	6	1
St. Croix	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	276	64	61	61	3

SUMMARY

The number of tribal members obtaining Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits validated for national forest wild plant gathering for the 2007-2008 harvest season (1,976) decreased from the previous season (2,063). The number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2007-2008 harvest season was 279, slightly more than the 266 permits issued for the 2006-2007 season. Taking into account that multiple gatherers can be listed under one permit, the total number of permitted gatherers for the 2007-2008 harvest season (691) was also more than the 2006-2007 season (578).

CITATIONS

- Danielsen, K.C. 2008. Tribal wild plant gathering on national forest lands; harvest season 2006-2007. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah, WI. Administrative Report 08-10, June 2008.
- Danielsen, K.C. 2006. Wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering on national forest lands during 2002-2003. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah, WI. Administrative Report 04-06, Version 2, November 2006