



Tribal Wild Plant Gathering on National Forest Lands During the 2012-2013 Season

by

Alexandra Wrobel
Forest Ecologist

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**Great Lakes Indian Fish
& Wildlife Commission**
Biological Services Division
P.O. Box 9
Odanah, WI 54861
(715) 682-6619

INTRODUCTION

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) member tribes have reserved harvesting 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, a tenth GLIFWC member tribe (Keweenaw Bay) in 2000 and an eleventh GLIFWC member tribe (Fond du Lac) in 2012. The MOU was signed by the USFS 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).

This report summarizes the results of tribal wild plant gathering on the above listed national forests for the 2012-2013 harvest season (April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013) and compares these results with the six previous harvest seasons, 2006-2007 through 2011-2012 (Wrobel 2013).

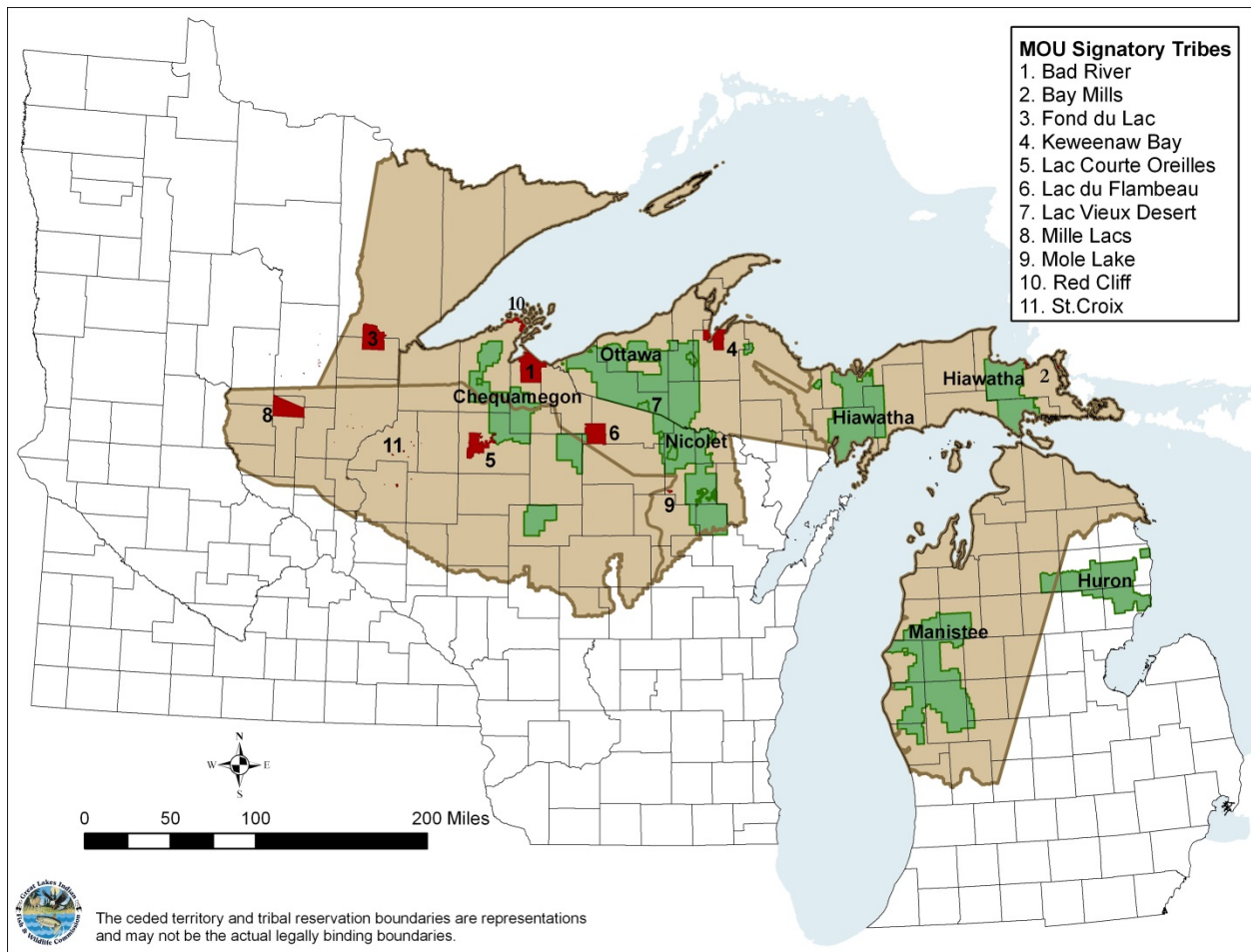


Figure 1: Ceded territories and national forests covered in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled “Tribal - USDA Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands within the Ceded Territory in Treaties of 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854.”

Permits, Stamps, and Data Collection

Permits for wild plant gathering on National Forest lands were required by ten of the eleven GLIFWC member tribes that ratified the MOU. Keweenaw Bay members were not required to obtain permits, but could use their tribal identification card instead. Permits (and *stamps*) were issued by tribal registration station and GLIFWC personnel using the Native American Game and Fish Application (NAGFA™), an on-line permitting system (Integrated Technologies and Consulting, Fargo, ND). Data summaries for the 2012-2013 season were generated based on queries of the NAGFA™ system. Obtaining a permit did not mean a tribal member actually gathered any wild plant resource.

National Forest Gathering Permit

A National Forest Gathering Permit (NFGP) was required for members who wished to gather on National Forests. This permit covers the five non-timber forest products: conifer boughs (primarily zhingob, balsam fir), birch bark (wiigwaas), lodgepoles (abanzh), firewood (misan) as well as ginseng (jisens). This permit provided a means to monitor interest in gathering by Tribe and National Forest.

National Forest Gathering Permit - Permit Stamps

A permit *stamp* was required to specify which National Forest (i.e. property) where a member wished to gather one or more of the five non-timber forest products mentioned above. These *stamps* provided a means to monitor tribal interest in gathering on each of the four National Forests within the Ceded Territories.

General Gathering Permit

A General Gathering Permit was not property specific and authorized the gathering of all other non-timber forest products, such as nuts, berries, wild leeks, not covered by the National Forest Gathering permit. In addition to the four National Forests, this permit also authorized gathering on 10 State properties in Wisconsin. These permits provided a means to monitor tribal interest in gathering forest products not covered by a property specific National Forest Gathering permit or State Property Gathering permit. Harvesting sugar maple sap was authorized by a different permit and process, and data for this activity were not included in this report.

RESULTS

Number of Tribal Members Permitted

For the 2012-2013 harvest season, the number of tribal members who received at least one National Forest Gathering or General Gathering permit was 1,726 (Figure 2). Compared to the previous harvest season the number of members permitted increased by 613 persons or 36%.

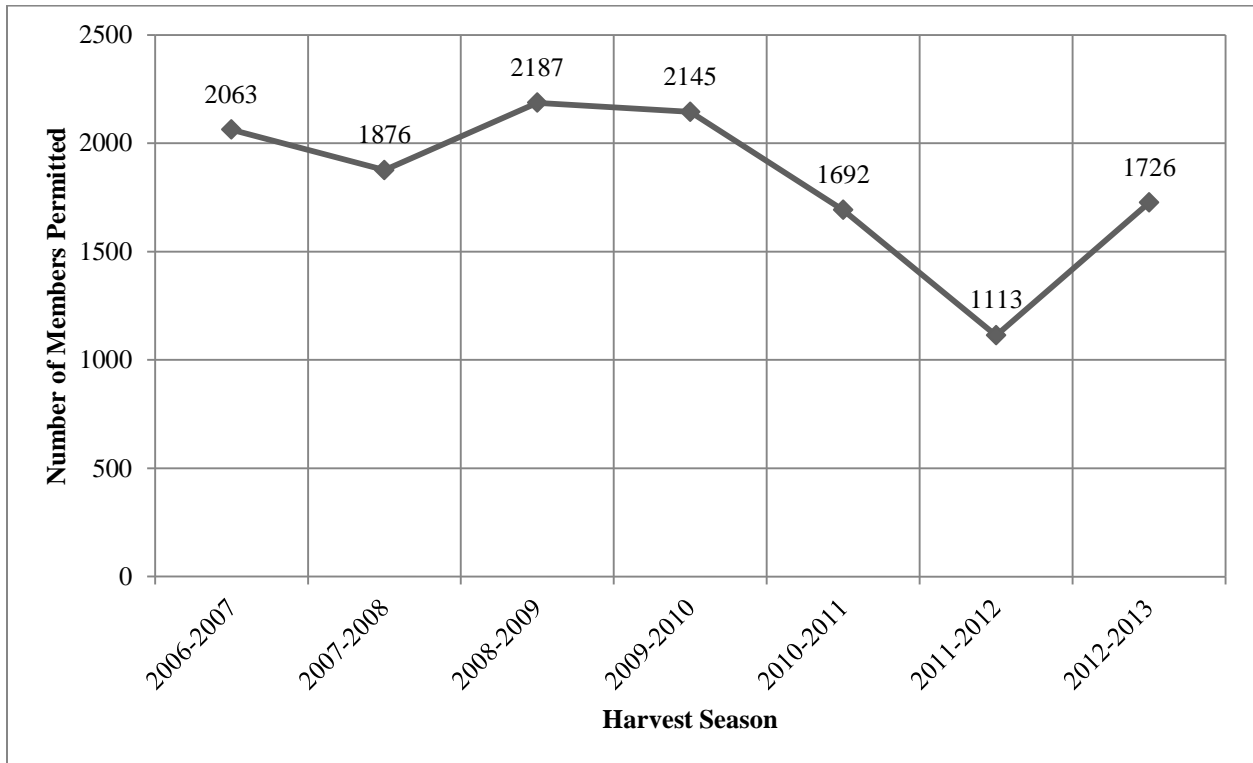


Figure 2: Total number of members who obtained a National Forest Gathering or General Gathering permit or both during the 2006-2007 through 2012-2013 harvest seasons.

Number of Members by Tribe of Enrollment

For the 2012-2013 harvest season, as in previous years, Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) members obtained the most National Forest Gathering and General Gathering permits, followed by Lac du Flambeau members (Table 1). Of the 11 tribes signatory to the MOU, all except LCO issued more permits during the 2012-2013 season than in the previous (2011-2012) season.

Table 1: Number of members who obtained at least one National Forest Gathering or General Gathering permit by harvest season and by tribe of enrollment.

Tribe of Enrollment	Harvest Year						
	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013
Bad River (BRV)	233	145	289	240	226	141	211
Bay Mills (BM)	168	157	78	1	1	2	170
Fond du Lac (FDL)	-	-	-	-	1	0	6
Keweenaw Bay (KB)	7	2	1	5	1	2	4
Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO)	547	675	648	729	624	492	451
Lac du Flambeau (LDF)	403	328	417	380	347	191	373
Lac Vieux Desert (LVD)	145	71	104	71	8	66	93
Mille Lacs (MIL)	39	129	66	114	50	4	6
Mole Lake (MLK)	97	96	109	145	172	50	81
Red Cliff (RC)	301	193	304	358	169	154	294
St. Croix (STC)	123	80	171	102	93	11	37
TOTAL	2,063	1,876	2,187	2,145	1,692	1,113	1,726

Number of Members by Registration Office and Tribe of Enrollment

Of the 1,726 members issued one or more permits, the majority (1,454 members or 84%) received permit(s) from their tribe's registration office (Table 2). Permits were issued at 10 of 11 tribal registration offices plus by GLIFWC. Eight of the tribal registration offices issued permits to members from 3-6 other tribes. GLIFWC issued permits to members from 7 tribes.

Table 2: Number of members who obtained at least one National Forest Gathering or General Gathering permit by registration office and tribe of enrollment.

Registration Office	Tribe of Enrollment*											TOTAL
	BRV	BM	FDL	KB	LCO	LDF	LVD	MIL	MLK	RC	STC	
BRV	108	0	2	0	6	0	0	1	0	18	0	135
BM	0	169	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169
FDL	16	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	19	0	40
GLIFWC	26	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	33
KB	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
LCO	9	0	0	1	408	12	0	2	0	7	6	445
LDF	19	0	1	0	10	349	2	0	0	13	0	394
LVD	1	0	0	1	10	0	88	0	8	1	1	110
MIL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MLK	3	0	0	0	1	5	2	0	73	8	0	92
RC	14	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	224	0	245
STC	15	0	0	0	10	2	0	2	0	2	30	61
TOTAL	211	170	6	4	451	373	93	6	81	294	37	1,726

*Numbers in boldface and larger font are for the number of members that received their permit from their tribe's registration office (N=945).

Number of Members by Permit Type

Of the 1,726 members who obtained at least one permit, 459 selected only National Forest Gathering Permit(s), 220 selected only a General Gathering Permit and 1,047 selected both types of permit (Table 3). Thus, 1,506 members received at least one National Forest Gathering Permit, and 1,267 received a General Gathering Permit.

In order to gather one or more of five specific forest products a NFGP was required. Thus, 87% (1,506 of 1,726) of permitted members indicated an interest in gathering at least one of these five forest products. In addition, since a General Gathering Permit was required to gather other forest products, about three quarters of the permittees (73% or 1,267 of 1,726) indicated an interest in gathering other forest products.

Table 3: Number of tribal members who obtained only National Forest Gathering Permit(s), only a General Gathering Permit or both types of permit.

Tribe of Enrollment	Number of Members Obtaining a NFGP or a General Gathering Permit			Total Members Permitted
	NFGP Only	General Gathering Permit Only	Both	
BRV	33	20	158	211
BM	139	-	31	170
FDL	-	2	4	6
KB	3	1	-	4
LCO	135	50	266	451
LDF	18	8	347	373
LVD	3	88	2	93
MIL	1	1	4	6
MLK	67	8	6	81
RC	58	33	203	294
STC	2	9	26	37
TOTAL	459	220	1,047	1,726

Number of Members per Permit Type and National Forest by Tribe of Enrollment

For the 2012-2013 harvest season, of the 1,506 tribal members who received a National Forest Gathering Permit, 240 members received a NFGP for more than one National Forest (Table 4). A total of 2,145 permits were issued for the four National Forests combined (about 1.4 forests per gatherer). The majority of National Forest permits were issued for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (1,335), followed by the Hiawatha (377), Ottawa (230), and Huron-Manistee (203) National Forests.

The number of permits issued for gathering on National Forests was greatest for Lac Courte Oreilles (915), followed by Lac du Flambeau (390), Red Cliff (289) and Bad River (236) (Table 5). The number of members receiving a General Gathering permit was greatest for Lac du Flambeau (355) followed by Lac Courte Oreilles (316), Red Cliff (236) and Bad River (178).

Table 4. Number of members by tribe of enrollment that obtained a National Forest Gathering Permit (NFGP) for from 1-4 National Forests.

Tribe of Enrollment	Number of Members Obtaining a NFGP permit for:				
	1 National Forest	2 National Forests	3 National Forests	4 National Forests	Total
BRV	159	25	1	6	191
BM	170	-	-	-	170
FDL	3	-	-	1	4
KB	-	-	1	2	3
LCO	227	2	4	168	401
LDF	356	-	2	7	365
LVD	5	-	-	-	5
MIL	4	-	1	-	5
MLK	69	3	1	-	73
RC	248	5	1	7	261
STC	25	-	-	3	28
TOTAL	1,266	35	11	194	1,506

Table 5. Number of National Forest Gathering Permits issued by property and by tribe of enrollment. Also, the number of tribal members who obtained at least one National Forest Gathering Permit and/or a General Gathering Permit.

Tribe of Enrollment	Total Members Permitted	National Forest Gathering Permit						General Gathering Permit
		Number of Members	National Forest				Total Permits	Number of Members
			CNNF	Ottawa	Hiawatha	Huron-Manistee		
BRV	211	191	191	31	7	7	236	178
BM	170	170	-	-	169	1	170	31
FDL	6	4	4	1	1	1	7	6
KB	4	3	3	3	3	2	11	1
LCO	451	401	401	170	172	172	915	316
LDF	373	365	365	9	9	7	390	355
LVD	93	5	4	1	-	-	5	90
MIL	6	5	5	-	1	1	7	5
MLK	81	73	73	2	3	-	78	14
RC	294	261	261	10	9	9	289	236
STC	37	28	28	3	3	3	37	35
TOTAL	1,726	1,506	1,335	230	377	203	2,145	1,267

SUMMARY

For the 2012-2013 harvest season (April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013), the number of tribal members who received at least one National Forest Gathering or General Gathering permit was 1,726, an increase of 613 persons (36%) compared to the 2011-2012 season. Lac Courte Oreilles members obtained the most National Forest Gathering Permits (915), while Lac du Flambeau members received the most General Gathering permits (355). Of the 11 tribes signatory to the MOU, ten issued more permits during the 2012-2013 season than in the previous season.

Of the 1,726 members who obtained at least one permit, 459 selected only National Forest Gathering Permit(s), 220 selected only a General Gathering Permit, and 1,047 selected both types of permit. The 1,506 members who obtained at least one National Forest Gathering permit selected a total of 2,145 property specific National Forest Gathering Permits, about 1.4 forests per gatherer. Of the 2,145 National Forest Gathering Permits issued, the majority 1,335 (62%) were for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, followed by the Hiawatha 377 (18%), the Ottawa 230 (11%) and the Huron-Manistee 203 (9%).

LITERATURE CITED

Wrobel, J. 2012. Tribal Wild Plant Gathering on National Forest Lands; Harvest Season 2011-2012. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah, WI. Administrative Report 13-03, February 2013.

