

Treaty Natural Resource Division

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



Spring 2012



This is the first newsletter for the Treaty Natural Resource Division. Look forward to a new one every season!! If there is anything in particular you would like us to cover, please feel free to contact

Tony Corbine at 715-779-3650.

Invasive Species of Special Concern

Gypsy Moth: A Quarantine Story

ADULT



EGG



PUPA



LARVA
(Caterpillar)



The gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) native habitat covers Europe to Asia. It was introduced to North America in the late 1860's.

Gypsy moths are a potential threat to the health of the forest. They prefer to feed on oaks but they also feed

on hundreds of other tree and shrub species. Including apple, alder, aspen, basswood, birch, poplar, hemlock, tamarack, pine, spruce and witch hazel just to name a few.

Due to high populations Bayfield County and the

Apostle Islands are considered to be quarantine zones for gypsy moths.

In quarantined zones it will be illegal to move or transport any wood product or outdoor household articles to non-quarantine areas without inspection.

The WI DNR restricts firewood transportation from quarantine locations or from more than 25 miles away from the destination campground unless the wood is purchased at a DATCP certified firewood vendor.

Aerial sprays will also be conducted to assist in fighting the caterpillar life stage.



Let's Devastate the forest!

The Emerald Ash Borer is Among Us!

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is native to Asia. This insect



was first discovered in south eastern Michigan in 2002.

The adult beetle typically feeds on the foliage of trees and are fairly harmless. The immature larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees and destroy

the trees ability to transport water and nutrients.

Wisconsin is considered a quarantine state so take similar caution when transporting firewood to different locations.



RAD

Tribal Indoor Air Program

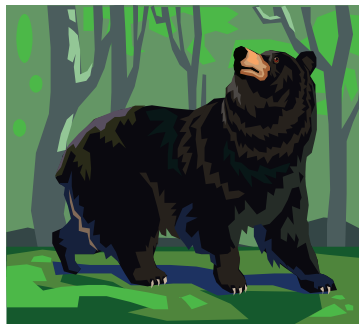
Air quality is something that affects all of us every day and something the Red Cliff Tribe has not yet thoroughly investigated. Atmospheric deposition can affect humans with health problems and the fish in the environment. Indoor air quality is especially important for children and people with asthma. The aim of the air division is to carry out well documented assessments, keep records of prob-

lems encountered in home air quality, and use those results to apply for funding to help fix problems.

If you'd like an assessment done, please contact Mike Balber at 715-779-3650.



Living with Bears on the Red Cliff Reservation



Black bears are commonly found in the northern third of Wisconsin, and numbers are continuing to grow. The expanding population means more bear-human conflicts. In order for bears to coexist with humans, we have to understand normal bear behavior. Black bears tend to be shy, solitary animals, but at some times of the year, particularly in the spring when bears emerge from their winter dens and food is not abundant, bears may be on the lookout for opportunistic food sources. This might be your garbage can, or the bird feeder in your backyard. Nearly all bear-human conflicts are a result of the animals' search for food. There are lots of simple things you can do to avoid conflicts with bears. With your help we can continue to live together with this spiritual animal, enjoying their presence in the woods you call home.



REDUCING BEAR CONFLICTS NEAR YOUR HOME

Black bears are attracted to numerous items around homes including: bird feeders, compost piles, grills, pet food, gardens, and garbage. Here are some simple recommendations to avoid problem bears:

BIRD FEEDERS:

- Make bird feeders inaccessible to bears by hanging them at least 10 feet off the ground, and 5 feet away from tree trunks, or on a limb that will not support a bear (you can refill the feeder by using a pulley system)
- Consider taking bird feeders down at the end of winter (mid-April) when bears emerge
- Bring feeders inside at night during the spring and summer
- If you see a bear at a bird feeder during the day, take the feeder down and discontinue use for at least 2 weeks.

GARBAGE:

- Keep your garbage cans tightly closed, and indoors if possible
- Pick up loose or spilled garbage so that it doesn't attract bears
- Occasionally clean out your garbage cans with ammonia to make them less attractive to bears
- Remove dumpsters from premises if possible, tie down dumpsters with bear proof latches
- Bring your garbage to the transfer station which is open Sunday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, in Red Cliff and Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Town of Russell.

AND A FEW MORE...

- NEVER FEED A BEAR!! Intentional feeding will create a bear that is used to human contact and

may become a possible nuisance to you and other people in the area. The bear will not forget the feeding experience, and will tend to get more demanding with time.

- Bring in pet food at night
- Clean up and put away outdoor grills after you are done using them for the day



IF A BEAR IS CAUSING A NUISANCE IN YOUR AREA:

Contact the Red Cliff Game Wardens. Their office number is (715) 779-3732, and they check messages often. They can help you by providing additional information on reducing or eliminating your specific problem. If the situation has no human influence, and is severe and presents a threat to health and human safety, they can also remove the bear from that area.



IF YOU SEE A BLACK BEAR:

- Make noise and wave your arms – let the bear know you are there so you don't surprise it. Bears normally leave an area once they know a human is around
- If you happen to surprise a bear at close range, back away slowly.
- If you are near a vehicle or building, go inside until the bear wanders away
- Do not approach a bear. Respect black bears as wild animals and enjoy them safely – from a distance.

Red Cliff Reservation Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Seasons



Some seasons may be subject to change. Consult the tribal ordinances before going hunting

Small Game Hunting Season: Requires Tribal ID

Species:	Daily Bag:	Season:
Ruffed Grouse	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
Sharptailed Grouse	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
Squirrel	10	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
Raccoon	None	Open All Year
Rabbit and Hare	5	Open All Year
Bob White Quail	5	Open All Year
Pheasant	5	Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
Fox	1	Open All Year
Bob Cat	1 Per Season	Open All Year
Morning Dove	None	Open All Year

Check Tribal Ordinances on regulations regarding "Protected Species," and "Animals and Birds Causing Damage."

Big Game Hunting Season: Requires Tribal Transportation Tag

Species:	Season:
Deer	Antler July 1 - Dec. 31
	Antlerless Sept. 1 - Dec. 31
Bear	Sept. 1 - Nov. 30

Trapping Season: Requires Tribal Trapping Permit

Species:	Reservation Quota or Season Limit:	Season:
Beaver	No Limit	Oct. 15 - Apr. 30
Bobcat	Reservation Quota: 1 bobcat per year	Oct. 15 - Dec. 31
Fisher	Reservation Quota: 20 per year	Oct. 15 - Mar. 31
Fox	No Limit	Oct. 15 - Feb 28
Mink	No Limit	Oct. 15 - Feb 28
Muskrat	No Limit	Oct. 15 - Apr. 30
Otter	1 per trapper per year	Oct. 15 - Apr. 30
Raccoon	No Limit	Oct. 15 - Jan. 31

Fishing Regulations on Lake Superior: Requires Tribal ID

Species: Walleye, northern pike, white bass, rock bass, bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, bullheads, yellow bass, catfish, cisco, whitefish, rough fish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, trout and salmon. *, **

	Season:	Year Round	
	Bag Limit:	None	* No person may fish in a refuge, as described in Tribal Codes.
	Size Limit:	None	
Sturgeon *, **	Season:	Year Round	** No person may use more than 30 attended or unattended lines.
	Bag Limit:	One per person per day	



GET YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED

In cooperation with area veterinary clinics and shelters, the Red Cliff Wardens are promoting getting your pet spayed or neutered!

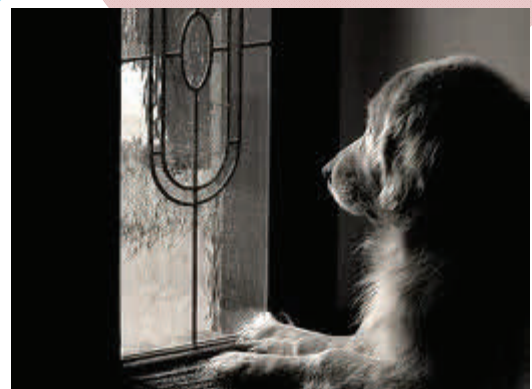
- Special, low rate for low income families living on the Red Cliff Reservation
- Call the Wardens today for a quote!

Red Cliff Game Wardens

88385 Pike Road, Hwy 13
Bayfield, WI 54814
Phone: (715) 779-3732

Or Contact:

Sue DePerry
Phone: (715) 779-9771





Red Cliff Tribal Historic Preservation Office March 2012

Over the past few years, the Red Cliff Tribal Historic Preservation Office has, in addition to its duties to protect and preserve tribal cultural and historical properties, has also expanded its efforts in community participation in heritage preservation. This includes:

- Training tribal members in archaeological field techniques
- Collecting information on the tribal community and recorded histories

Using a variety of methods, these two projects have come together in training sessions over the past months, to map and document the **St. Francis Mission Cemetery**. This activity is funded, in part, through the Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy, which awarded a mini-grant of \$1,000 in support of tribal history.

Tribal Archaeological Para-professional trainees, Sam LaGrew and Kathy Barri, assisted and instructed by professional archaeologist Cindi Stiles, are producing a digital record and mapping of the old cemetery. In late fall last year, we performed a Ground Penetrating Radar survey, with the assistance of the Ho-Chunk THPO, and located several dozen sites which indicated unmarked graves dating back to the establishment of the mission by Bishop Baraga.

When the digital record is completed in the upcoming months, a community feast and presentation is being planned, inviting friends, relatives and community members to view the map and information gathered on our relatives interred there. Family members will be encouraged to also add any additional information they would like future generations to know. The presentation connects tribal history and technology and is being called a Digital Ghost Feast.

This map, when completed, will be provided to our tribal maintenance staff that is performing the duties of the cemetery sextons, ensuring that unmarked graves are not disturbed by future interments. It will also identify the spaces remaining available for burial sites.

For more information on this project and other RC-THPO activities, contact Larry Balber at 715-779-3650.



Red Cliff Tribal Watershed

What is a Watershed??

A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place. John Wesley Powell, scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is: "that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community."

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross county, state, and national boundaries. In the continental US, there are 2,110 watersheds; including Hawaii Alaska, and Puerto Rico, there are 2,267 watersheds.

What is Watershed Management?

Watershed management is a term used to describe the process of implementing land use practices and water management practices to protect and improve the quality of the water and other natural resources within a watershed by managing the use of those land and water resources in a comprehensive manner.

What is Watershed Management Planning?

Watershed management planning is a process that results in a plan or a blueprint of how to best protect and improve the water quality and other natural resources in a watershed. Very often, watershed boundaries extend over political boundaries into adjacent municipalities and/or states. That is why a comprehensive planning process that involves all affected municipalities located in the watershed is essential to successful watershed management.

Attention!!!!

Look forward to future information covering the development of the Red Cliff Watershed Management Plan and participating in a Watershed Survey.

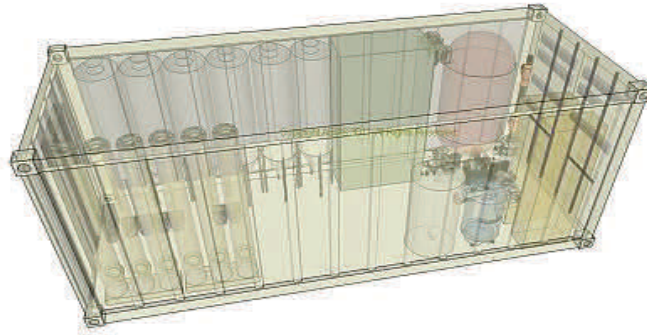
For more information please contact:

Laura Armagost; Water Resources Coordinator or
Tony Corbine; our new Educational Outreach Coordinator / Water Resources Assistant
715-779-3650.



Fat Trout in your Fuel Tank?

The Red Cliff Fisheries Department is studying the possibility of using the siskowet “fat” trout to make biodiesel. Biodiesel is a clean, renewable energy source that is often made from old fryer oil, soybean oil or oil from other plants. Instead of these plant-based oils, we are looking to render the fat from fish caught by Red Cliff fisherman that otherwise have no value, like the fat trout.



A small modular unit no bigger than a shipping container that could be used to make fish biodiesel.

There are many advantages to Red Cliff creating biodiesel from fish waste. First, it would give fisherman a market for fish they currently catch but can't make money on. Once the biodiesel was made, it could be sold back to the fisherman at a price lower than what they pay for conventional diesel. It would create new jobs at Red Cliff. Finally, it could make the Tribe a leader in climate change and pollution control, not only on Lake Superior but in the entire country.



The Siskowet "fat" Trout, an abundant species with no commercial value.

The study will be completed before the end of the year!



Near Shore Assessment

A Survey of the Tribal Shoreline

During the summer months of 2011, the Red Cliff Natural Resources Fisheries team began the Near Shore Assessment. The assessment took place all along the reservation shoreline starting at Sand Point and ending at Roy's Point. This was an assessment of fish populations, habitat observations, zooplankton diversity, benthic invertebrate diversity, and shoreline features. The sampling took place throughout the summer and finished up during mid-August.

Throughout the months of sampling there was some very interesting data collected. Invasive species were found including both the Spiny Water Flea (Zooplankton) and the Eurasian Ruffe (Fish). Both of these species were found, in the sampling process and further research will be conducted on these species to further assess their possible impact and control measures that may be taken. On a much more positive note there were some rare species of fish that were located during the assessment. There were sightings of a few pairs of brook trout and a few sightings of the rare Lake sturgeon. Brook Trout were of both native and hatchery raised origin. This is a positive aspect in regards to local hatchery efforts, showing some return in the trout that are let go.

There are intentions for furthering this study into this coming summer. The same locations will be sampled. However, the sampling process may be slightly altered to focus on specific aspects that are of more concern. By doing this we hope to compare fish sightings and look for possible spreading of the invasive species found last season. If there are any questions concerning this topic please, feel free to contact the Red Cliff Fisheries Department.



Red Cliff Tribal Fish Hatchery

Coaster Brook Trout & Walleye

The spawning season for the hatchery just finished and we are considering it a success. With the high productivity of this year's brood stock we will hopefully be boosting our fish production numbers from the past couple years. The actual spawning of the brood stock finished a few months ago and the last of the eggs are just hatching and being moved over into the raceways. While some eggs were lost due to fungal growths, overall, egg health was good.

With the mild winter and relatively light ice coverage, the spearing season is rapidly approaching. Hatchery workers will be getting ready to go out and collect eggs from the speared walleye. The eggs will be brought back to the hatchery and hatched in jars and raised for the first few days in a new raceway. The fry will then be placed in the rearing ponds until they are ready to be stocked in the inland lakes. Previous weed issues were a significant problem last year, but with the excavation of the ponds this past fall, we are expecting much better weed control.

The hatchery recently received funding to convert from a flow through system over to a recirculating system. With the high demand from the water table this will be a great feat for the hatchery. With the implementation of this system we are hoping that the hatchery will not only be saving on water usage but electrical costs to run the pumps will also be reduced. This funding puts the hatchery on track for a better future as well as a better healthier environment. It will take some time to convert from one system to the other, but we will begin working on it as soon as possible.



Frog Bay Tribal National Park

(FBTNP)

How it became a Tribal National Park?

The BRC became involved with Red Cliff through the recent Frog Bay property acquisition. David and Marjorie Johnson, the landowners at Frog Bay, contacted the Conservancy about selling their land and having it be permanently protected from development. Because the property is located on the Red Cliff reservation, the Conservancy immediately contacted Tribal Chair, Rose Soulier, and Vice Chair, Marvin DeFoe, to see if they could work together to protect this important place.

The Conservancy and Red Cliff then entered into an agreement to work together to protect the lands and habitats at Frog Bay by buying it and also placing a conservation easement on the property. To make the project happen, BRC negotiated the purchase price with the landowner (who sold the property for 1/2 of what it is worth), identified a source of funding and prepared the grant proposal to secure the money needed to buy the land. The Conservancy will continue to partner with the Red Cliff Band to reclaim the remaining properties at Frog Bay and potentially other lands.

What are the intentions for starting the FBTNP?

The tribe's intention is to set up the Frog Bay property as a national park that would be open for tribal and non-tribal members to enjoy, as well as for the tribe to use the area for medicinal plant gathering, educational opportunities, and spiritual ceremonies. We are hopeful in securing additional funding to purchase the adjacent property to expand and reclaim ownership on all lakeshore property at Frog Bay.

Who wrote the grant to fund the purchase of the property?

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy secured the funds to purchase the Johnson property (now FBTNP), from the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, which provided funding for the transaction closing costs; and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which provides funding for local governments to acquire coastal lands. Technical support came from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

How does the conservation easement affect the use of the FBTNP?

To further ensure long-term protection of the property, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy will hold a conservation easement on the land that will permanently restrict uses that are not compatible with protection of its conservation values, including subdivisions, development, excessive logging and more.

Who is the Bayfield Regional Conservancy(BRC) and what do they do?

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy's mission is to protect the natural lands, waters, forests, farms and places of scenic, historic, and spiritual value in the Bayfield Region.

Working in Ashland, Douglas, Sawyer, and Bayfield Counties their service area includes Wisconsin's entire Lake Superior drainage basin as well as the incredibly rich and diverse lakes region in Sawyer County. A membership-based non-profit, regional land trust, BRC was founded in 1996 for the following purposes:

To protect and enhance the ecological integrity of the air, land and water of the Bayfield Region,

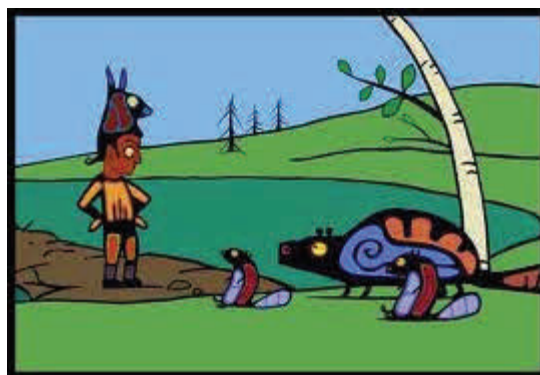
To protect and enhance Lake Superior, inland lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands; agricultural, forest, urban and undeveloped lands; plant and wildlife habitat and communities; and sites with significant human aesthetic, spiritual, cultural and historic features, principles and traditions,

To acquire by gift, purchase or otherwise, real estate or personal property of any kind whatsoever, including partial real property interests and conservation easements

To conduct studies and to educate public officials and members of the general public about conservation tools and strategies which support appropriate and sustainable patterns of land and water use in the Bayfield Region.

Why it is open to the general public?

Because of the grant agreement, conservation easement and the funding source that was used, the legal rights to the property that was purchased (now FBTNP) is held in fee simple ownership by the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, who will and must provide public access to the property.





Satellite Imagery of the Minntac Taconite Mine, Mt. Iron, MN

Iron Mining

Iron mining legislation has become a contentious topic in our region over the last several months. Red Cliff tribal members and employees traveled to public hearings around the state to give testimony in opposition to a proposed mining bill that would exempt mining companies from certain environmental regulations and eliminate the ability of the public to take legal action contesting decisions made by the state of Wisconsin during the mining permitting process.

The proposed Gogebic Taconite mine site is in the Penokee Hills within the Bad River and Lake Superior watersheds. A mine in this location would create runoff, emissions, and changes in water flow that could negatively impact wild rice beds in the Kakagon Sloughs and contaminate nearby waters of Lake Superior that are utilized by commercial and subsistence fisheries. This culturally important area also contains designated important habitat for Whitefish and Lake Trout, and two of only eleven tributaries in Lake Superior that are suitable spawning locations for Lake Sturgeon.

Surface mining alters the way water moves over the landscape. Draining of mine sites, waste water from mineral extraction processes, and excavation all contribute to changes in watershed dynamics. Removal of the surface vegetation allows snow-melt and precipitation to enter streams and other water bodies more rapidly. This can lead to increased sediment and more drastic fluctuations in water levels downstream.

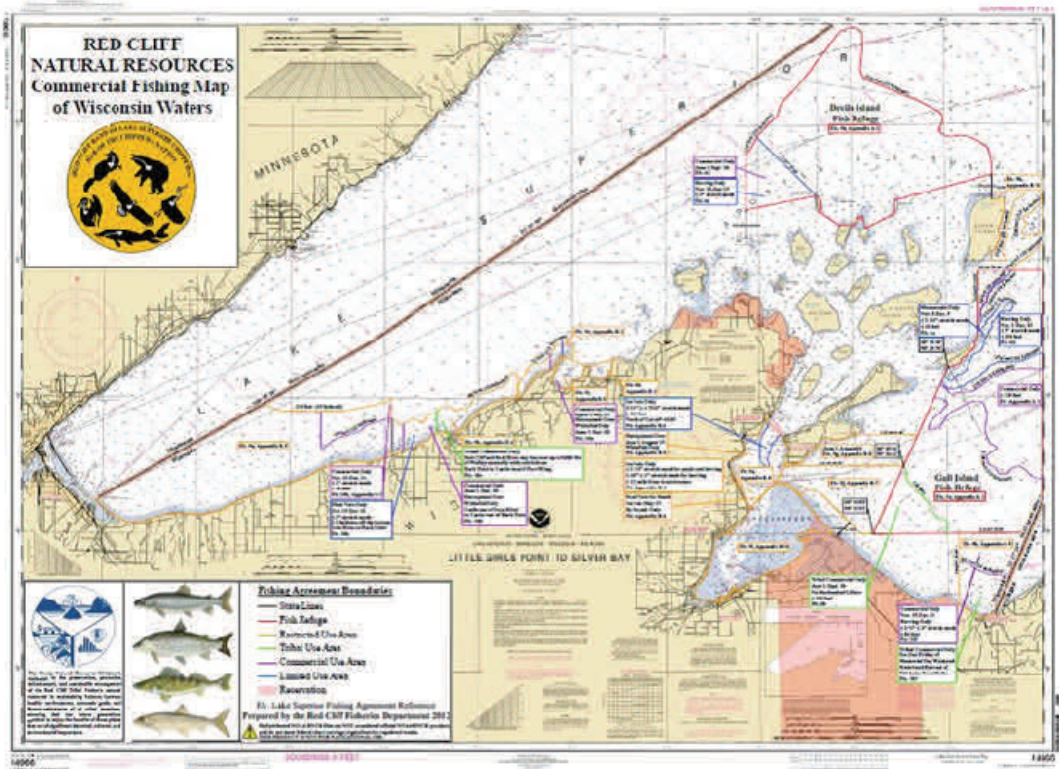
Sulfates occur naturally in soil and bedrock. Removal of vegetation and excavation related to mining exposes sulfates to weathering processes which allow them to accumulate in downstream water bodies. Wild rice is typically not found in waters with sulfate concentrations higher than 50 mg/L. The Minnesota sulfate standard for wild rice waters is 10 mg/L. Wisconsin currently has no defined sulfate standard for wild rice waters, and the Wisconsin groundwater standard of 250 mg/L is five times the acceptable concentration.

Taconite processing is the largest contributor of atmospheric mercury emissions in the Lake Superior basin. High sulfate levels in aquatic systems increase the conversion rate of mercury to methylmercury, the form that can be absorbed by insects, fish, and eventually people. Considering the fact that current mercury advisories already limit the amount of fish that people can safely eat, any further increase in mercury levels could be devastating to tribal fisheries.

The proposed mining bill was recently tabled due to lack of support, and was killed when the Senate adjourned for the session. Gogebic Taconite, has since requested a withdrawal of their mineral exploration license from the Wisconsin DNR. However, company offices in Hurley remain open. It is uncertain whether further attempts to open an iron mine in the Penokee Hills will be made by Gogebic Taconite or other companies, or whether state lawmakers will propose alternative mining legislation for Wisconsin. The Red Cliff Tribal Council is opposed to mining in the state of Wisconsin, and has made a commitment to join Bad River in resisting mining operations near tribal and ceded lands and waters. Any questions regarding mining impacts can be directed to the Treaty Natural Resources Division.

Commercial Fishing Map

A commercial fishing map of Wisconsin waters has been produced by the Red Cliff Fisheries Department. The map was prepared using computer mapping software, and shows the boundaries of all fish refuges and restricted use areas designated in the Lake Superior Fishing Agreement between Red Cliff, Bad River, and the Wisconsin DNR. The map was printed on waterproof Tyvek, and distributed to all Red Cliff Wisconsin big boat fishermen. Additional copies can be obtained at cost from the Red Cliff Fisheries Department.



Commercial Fishing Map of Wisconsin Waters prepared by the Red Cliff Fisheries Department



Stream Restoration Project

The Red Cliff Fisheries Department is going to be doing a stream restorations project this upcoming summer. Our goal for this is to create better fish passage and spawning grounds for Native and Hatchery raised Brook Trout. The plan for this restoration project is to remove any obstruction in the stream whether it is log jams or beaver dams. In doing so, we hope to wipe out most of the sediments to expose the spawning gravel that has been covered years ago.



Brook Trout
A native species of Lake Superior



Prime Brook Trout spawning gravel

As of right now we are trapping beaver out of a few reservation streams so we could begin dam removal as soon as possible. Beaver dam removal will allow water to flow freely down the whole stream and taking with it the years of sediments covering the gravel. During the summer months myself and a couple hired hands will not only be removing dams and log jams, but will also be adding habitat to the streams to help sustain a nice population of brook trout using the stream for spawning. This will not only benefit the brook trout but can also benefit other fish trying to use Red Cliffs Streams as a home or any other animals relying on the streams to survive.



Spearing and Mille Lacs Netting Seasons 2012

Due to weather, spearing season has begun early. Mille Lacs netting will also soon be open. Contact below for open lakes.

For more information and current regulations please visit <http://www.glifwc.org> or call the Red Cliff Wardens at (715) 779-3732



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715-779-3700

