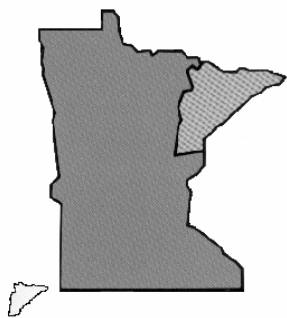




Newsletter of the 1854 Treaty Authority

Newsletter of the 1854 Treaty Authority

June 2010



“And such of them as reside in the territory hereby ceded, shall have the right to hunt and fish therein, until otherwise ordered by the President”

Article 11, 1854 Treaty

2010 Moose Season

The logistics for this fall’s moose season are now approved and applications are available.

Permits: 60 total, of which four (4) will be issued to Nett Lake, Vermilion, Grand Portage, and the 1854 Treaty Authority as subsistence permits for the elderly/disabled distribution program*.

Bag Limit: One (1) moose of any age, either sex, per party of hunters.

Dates: October 2-17, 2010

Full details can be found in the application packet which is now available by stopping by the 1854 Office, download from our website, or give us a call and we can put one in the mail. We will also have applications available at the various public venues we will be at in the coming months (see page 11 For a list of venues). **Applications are due August 6, 2010.**

We would also like to remind all potential applicants of the amendment to the 1854 Code which was approved last fall and is in full affect for this years’ moose season.

1854 Code: Section VI, Subd. 16 (addition to section VI – Big Game Moose)

(G)No Band member shall permit a non-Band member or a Band member who does not possess a permit required by subdivision 5 of this section to assist or participate in taking a moose. See Section II, subd. 69 for the definition of “taking.”

What this means practically is that only those legally licensed to take a moose are allowed to be involved in the hunt in any way at all. Once the hunt has ended (animal is dead), outside assistance to remove the animal is allowed.

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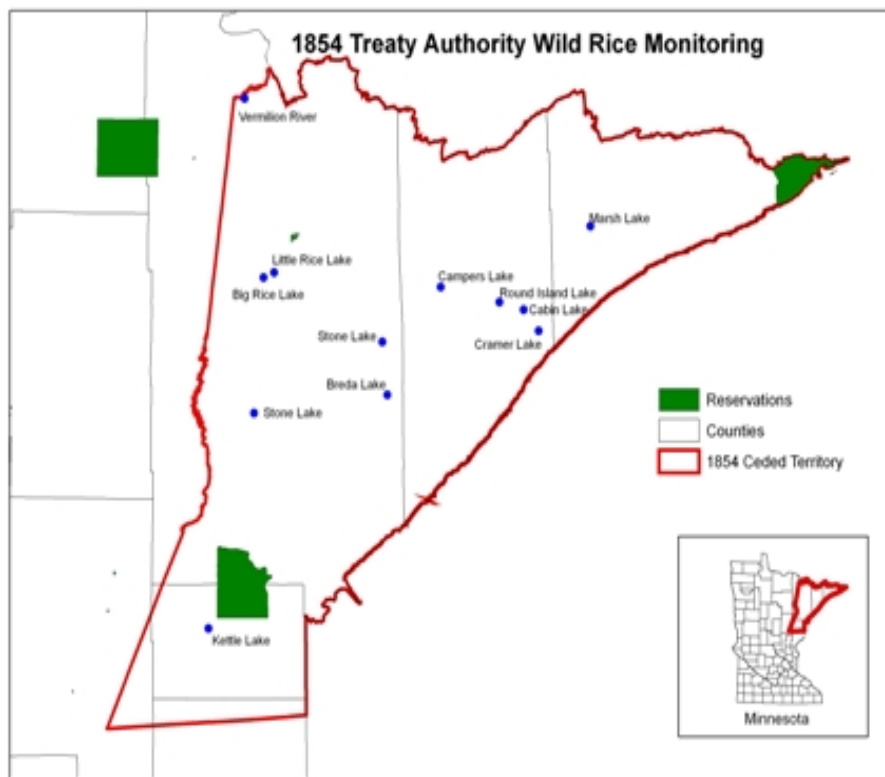
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Wild Rice Monitoring

The 1854 Treaty Authority initiated a wild rice monitoring program in 1998. When compared to the historic record, a decline in wild rice abundance seems apparent. However, no formal record exists and present trends are even less apparent. The wild rice monitoring program attempts to document wild rice abundance, determine trends, and locate suitable sites for restoration efforts. This monitoring program has been conducted on twelve different waters in the 1854 Ceded Territory at some point, with seven lakes included each year from 1998-2010 (see map below).



So what do we actually do?

Water depth and water temperature are tracked on each lake soon after ice out until late fall. Water quality measurements such as pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and total dissolved solids are also recorded throughout this period.

Surveys to estimate wild rice density and acreage are conducted on each lake when the rice is standing and reaching maturity. An abundance index is then calculated for each lake to compare wild rice success across years. A complete report entitled "Wild Rice Monitoring and Abundance in the 1854

Ceded Territory (1998-2009)" is available by contacting us or download from our website.

Wild Rice Survey

The 1854 Treaty Authority has conducted wild rice surveys since 1996. The purpose of these ongoing surveys is to determine the presence of wild rice on lakes and rivers in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The 1854 Treaty Authority has compiled a list of wild rice waters within the 1854 Ceded Territory. This list of 296 lakes and river stretches serves as an inventory of rice waters, and as the foundation for the wild rice survey. During the survey, general information about each lake or river is also recorded to determine areas where habitat may be suitable for wild rice.

The survey has been coordinated with numerous partners including the Bois Forte, Grand Portage, and Fond du Lac Tribal staff. A total of 167 different lakes and river stretches within the 1854 Ceded Territory was surveyed between 1996 and 2009. Collected information has been incorporated into the 1854 Treaty Authority's geographic information system. The survey will continue in future years.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) - The President's 2010 Budget provides \$475 million in EPA's budget for a new Environmental Protection Agency-led, interagency Great Lakes restoration initiative, which will target the most significant problems in the region, including invasive aquatic species, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment.

This funding is distributed through grants and cooperative agreements of which we have been actively engaged in soliciting. We applied for a grant to undertake water quality monitoring in the 1854 Treaty Area, but were informed just recently that our project proposal was denied. Although there was a lot of money available, competition was steep as these funds were available to anyone in the Great Lakes basin. As this is a multi-year initiative, we anticipate pursuing additional projects in the future (2011).

However, a small portion (by scale) of the funding (3 million) was directly allocated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and thus is available specifically to Tribes and Inter-Tribals within the Great Lakes basin. We have been able to secure some of these dollars and this will allow us to engage in activities we have always wanted to address, but have been unable to do so due to lack of funds.

Hence, you may notice an increase of activities reported in our future newsletters and this initiative (GLRI) is where the extra dollars are coming from. The initiative is slated for a five (5) year period, but available funding will be on a year by year basis.

SO.....what will we be doing? Some highlights...

Wildlife Habitat – GLRI funds will be used in a variety of projects designed to benefit wildlife and wetland habitat in partnership with USFS, counties, and other agencies. Goals for pending 2010 projects include enhancing areas for moose browse, oak mast and blueberry production for deer, bear, and grouse, and enhancing nesting cover for waterfowl. Other wildlife funding will go to meet some of the gaps in our other funding that has been used to initiate our cooperative moose research and the ceded territory wolf project.

Larval and Adult Sturgeon Monitoring – GLRI funding will be used to purchase gear necessary to implement monitoring for larval and adult lake sturgeon in the St. Louis River in future years. The river is the site of a large-scale DNR led effort to stock and restore a spawning sturgeon population and we hope to assist in documenting the eventual success of this effort. Fish from early years of stocking should be approaching sexual maturity and begin spawning any spring now. We have been looking for larval sturgeon this spring on a preliminary basis, but have not observed any hatched sturgeon as of yet.

Fisheries Habitat – GLRI funds will be used in a variety of projects designed to enhance and restore fisheries habitat (erosion control, fish passage, stream shading, woody debris projects). Pending projects for 2010 include plans to improve native fish passage on Windy and Alger creeks in Lake County. This work will be in cooperation with USFS and Lake County.

Invasive Species – GLRI funding will be used to purchase equipment and implement a cooperative agreement with the USFWS to resume annual monitoring of invasive fish species like ruffe (native to Europe) in the St. Louis River Estuary. This work will also provide another means of looking for naturally produced sturgeon in the system during coming years.

Moose Browsings

1854 Moose Research continues... We are continuing to work with our partners in conducting moose research. The radio collaring study monitoring natural mortality rates (FDL, DNR, USGS) continues, and surviving collared animals will be monitored for about another year. We are also working with Grand Portage in use of GPS collars to collect precise habitat use information, particularly in relation to times of extreme temperatures. This project is in its first year and presently there are 9 gps-collared moose within the Grand Portage reservation boundaries that are being monitored. We are also partnering with a larger group led by the University of Minnesota-Natural Resources Research Institute that has received LCCMR funding to initiate a GPS collaring project similar to the Grand Portage project beginning in 2011. That project will overlap to some extent with the same study area in Lake County where radio collars have been in use examining moose mortality rates since 2002. Again the focus of these new collars is to identify habitats used by moose at a precise level, with hopes that we can provide land managers with information that will allow forest management to be directed at least partially to retaining or creating good moose habitat needed during critical times (calving, high temperatures in summer and winter).

The 2010 North American Moose Conference and Workshop is being hosted by Voyageur's National Park in International Falls from June 23-27, 2010. This annual conference draws researchers and managers specializing in moose from around the US and Canada and even from abroad each year. 1854 will be helping sponsor this event and will have several employees in attendance to discuss moose management issues. The theme for this year is "Moose in a Warming World" and the program includes an open Public Symposium on June 24th from 3:00 to 8:00 at the Backus Community Center in International Falls. More info on the conference and symposium can be found at: www.nrri.umn.edu/

Moose Survey Results

The table to the right shows the results from the last 13 moose surveys. While not statistically significant, the population estimate was down in 2010. Calf numbers (in January) have remained low for several years.

Note: Estimates prior to 2004 were conducted via airplane, not helicopter, and are biased low. The 2004 estimate should be ignored as it is very high due to differences in the way crews recorded one parameter that corrects for missed moose. Estimates from 2005 to 2010 are felt to be reasonably accurate.

Survey	Estimate	Calves per Cow	% Calves	% cows w/twins	Bulls per Cow
1998	3,464 +/- 36%	0.71	25	0	0.98
1999	3,915 +/- 35%	0.57	18	9	1.30
2000	3,733 +/- 25%	0.70	20	7	1.34
2001	3,879 +/- 28%	0.61	19	5	1.05
2002	5,214 +/- 23%	0.93	25	20	1.22
2003	4,161 +/- 37%	0.70	14	11	2.01
2004	13,093 +/- 40%	0.42	15	4	1.24
2005	7,923 +/- 30%	0.52	19	9	1.04
2006	8,501 +/- 28%	0.34	13	5	1.09
2007	6,659 +/- 27%	0.29	13	3	0.89
2008	7,637 +/- 28%	0.36	16	2	0.77
2009	7,593 +/- 23%	0.32	14	2	0.94
2010	5,528 +/- 24%	0.28	13	3	0.83

1854 Treaty Authority Fishing Seasons, 2010-2011

Board approved 2/24/10

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit
Walleye/Sauger	5/9/09 - 4/15/10 5/15/10 - 4/15/11	12 (combined)
Northern Pike <i>*exception: Canada/MN border waters open continuously</i>	5/9/09 - 4/15/10 5/15/10 - 4/15/11*	6
Muskellunge	6/6/09 - 4/15/10 6/5/10 - 4/15/11	2
Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass <i>*exception: Canada/MN border waters open continuously</i>	5/9/09 - 4/15/10 5/15/10 - 4/15/11*	12 (combined)
Crappie	Continuous	30
Sunfish/Bluegill	Continuous	50 (combined)
Rock Bass	Continuous	50
White/Yellow Bass	Continuous	50
Catfish	Continuous	10
Yellow Perch	Continuous	50
Bullheads	Continuous	50
Whitefish/Roughfish	Continuous	No Limit
Smelt	Continuous	No Limit
Lake Sturgeon <i>*exception: Canada/MN border waters</i>	No Open Season* 7/1/09 - 5/7/10 7/1/10 - 5/7/11	2 per season minimum size 45"
Ruffe/White Perch/Round Goby <i>*Please report catches outside of St. Louis River to 1854 Treaty Authority</i>	None may be possessed at any time*	
Lake Trout	12/1/09 - 10/1/10 12/1/10 - 10/1/11	6
All Salmon	Continuous	10 (combined)
Brook/Brown/Rainbow Trout and Splake Lakes (except Lake Superior)	12/1/09 - 4/15/10 5/15/10 - 10/31/10 12/1/10 - 4/15/11	10 (combined)
Streams <i>includes L. Superior Tributaries above posted boundaries and Nemadji River tributaries in Carlton County</i>	4/17/10 - 10/1/10	10 (combined)
Lake Superior and Tributaries <i>below posted boundaries</i>	Continuous	10 (combined)

***CANADA/MINNESOTA BORDER WATERS**

The seasons/bag limits listed for the Canada/MN border apply to the Minnesota (and/or 1854 Ceded Territory) portion of the following:

Cook County—Clove Lake, Devil's Elbow Lake, North Fowl Lake, South Fowl Lake, Gneiss (Round) Lake, Granite Lake, Granite River, Gunflint Lake, Little Gunflint Lake, Lily Lake, Magnetic Lake, Marabeouf Lake, Moose Lake, Mountain Lake, North Lake, Little North Lake, Pigeon River, Pine River, Rat Lake, Rose Lake, Rove Lake, Saganaga Lake, South Lake, and Watap Lake.

Lake County—Basswood Lake (except Jackfish, Pipestone, Hoist, and Back bays), Basswood River, Birch Lake, Carp Lake, Crooked Lake, Cypress Lake, Knife Lake (except South arm), Little Knife Lake, Knife River, Melon Lake, Seed Lake, Sucker Lake, and Swamp Lake.

St. Louis County—Bottle Lake, Crooked Lake, Iron Lake, Lac La Croix, Loon Lake, Loon River to Loon River Falls, Sand Point Lake, and Little Vermilion Lake.

See reverse for special rules and regulations that must be adhered to.

EXPERIMENTAL AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS

According to our Agreement with the State, licensed 1854 Treaty Authority anglers may not fish in lakes or streams which have been posted **closed to fishing** under special or experimental regulations. Each of the following waters has experimental or special regulations, which are posted at access sites.

Canada/Minnesota Border Waters:

--Saganaga Narrows, Seagull River, Gull Lake, and Cross River from Cook Co. Road 12 to Gunflint Lake closed to fishing from April 1, 2010 – May 28, 2010.

--Saganaga Falls (Granite River mouth) and the channel between Little Gunflint and Little North Lake closed to fishing from April 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010.

Kraut Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

North Shady Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Peanut Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Squash Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Thompson Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Thrush Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Tomato Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Turnip Lake (Cook Co.)—Closed to fishing from November 1, 2010 – May 13, 2011.

Devil Track River (Cook Co.)—Fish Sanctuary: Mile 1.1 to Mile 1.6 open to fishing from June 1 to August 31 only.

Gauthier Creek (Cook Co.)—Fish Sanctuary: Entire stream open to fishing from June 1 to August 31 only.

Kadunce River (Cook Co.)—Fish Sanctuary: Mile 0.2 (lower falls) to Mile 0.4 open to fishing from June 1 to August 31 only.

Knife River (St. Louis and Lake Co.)—Fish Sanctuary: River and tributaries upstream from Lake County Road 9 open to fishing from May 15 to September 30 only. The river between the cables upstream of the fish trap is open to fishing from June 1 through August 31. U.S. Highway 61 Bridge downstream to the cable below the fish trap is permanently closed to fishing.

Little Knife River (St. Louis Co.)—Fish Sanctuary: From the weir upstream to the source, fishing is allowed from June 1 through August 31 only.

St. Louis River (St. Louis Co.)—Fish Sanctuary: No fishing allowed at any time from the Fond du Lac Dam downstream to the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary cable. No fishing allowed from the boundary cable downstream to the Hwy. 23 bridge from March 4 through May 18.

Lake Superior—From the mouth of Chester Creek to the outer most portion of the north/west arm of the Duluth ship channel is closed to fishing from boats from October 1 through November 30.

INFESTED WATERS – The following bodies of water contain one or more invasive species. Use caution when fishing or boating on these waters to prevent the spread of the invasive species. Bait harvest (minnows and leeches) is not allowed in infested waters (see 1854 Ceded Territory Conservation Code for details).

Carlton County – Chub

Cook County – Saganaga, Flour, Greenwood, McFarland, Pine, Caribou, Devil Track, Gunflint, Little John, Lake Superior

Lake County – Lake Superior

St. Louis County – Crane, Little Vermilion, Gilbert Pit, Horseshoe, Lake Superior, Fish L. Reservoir, Island L. Reservoir, Rainy, Namanan, Cloquet River downstream of Island L. Reservoir, St. Louis River downstream of Cloquet River to Lake Superior

NOTE: Many invasive species are found in Lake Superior and the St. Louis River estuary. VHS (Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia), a virus that can cause widespread losses in many of our native fish, was confirmed in the estuary in February 2010, so please use extra caution in preventing movement of any water or contaminated gear from the estuary or Lake Superior.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

Do I need to have a state license on my watercraft, ATV, or snowmobile while out exercising Treaty Rights in the Ceded Territory.

YES! The exercise of treaty rights does not exempt you from having to license your watercraft, ATV, or snowmobile while out in the Ceded Territory.

Do I need a permit to access the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness?

NO! Band members are not required to obtain a permit to access the BWCAW. Band members are required to have an 1854 ID Card in their possession (and display upon request) to assist Forest Service officials in doing routine permit checks. All members of the party must be Band members (or have a permit) and you are required to abide by all rules prescribed for the wilderness area. Please contact your local USFS office for prescribed rules and regulations.

Do I need a State Park Permit to access State Parks?

NO! Band members are not required to obtain a state park permit to access state parks within the 1854 Treaty Area. Band members are required to present an 1854 ID Card upon entrance and also display an 1854 State Park Window Cling (available at our office) in the lower drivers' side window of the vehicle while in the park. Band members are required to pay for any "services" that park and/or vendors may provide (i.e. camping, firewood) and must abide by all rules prescribed by the park.

Do I need to abide by "Special Fishing Regulations" (i.e. slot limits, minimum lengths, closures, etc) while exercising Treaty Rights on waters within the 1854 Treaty Area?

DEPENDS! Any special regulations that must be adhered to are found in the 1854 Treaty Authority Fishing Seasons flyer which is approved on an annual basis by the 1854 Board. Practically, that means that if there is a state regulation on a particular body of water, we may or may not have to abide by the same regulation. Again, consult the fishing season flyer to see if the particular body of water you are interested in has a special regulation applicable to it. Since our activities are subsistence based (as opposed to trophy pursuit), we tend to only adopt those special regulations that are required by the state agreement. If there are ever issues that are of a biologically based concern we would take that into consideration.

Can I obtain Eagle Parts and Feathers for Religious and Cultural Purposes?

YES! But, this is a federally permitted process (US Fish & Wildlife Service) that is not within the scope of our authority. We can assist in obtaining the required forms (available on our website) that must be filled out and submitted to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, but that is the only assistance we can currently provide.

If you need any clarifying information on any of these frequently asked questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

1854 TREATY AREA MOOSE HARVEST 1998 - 2009

Year	# of Permits	Harvest			Success Rate %
		Bulls	Cows	Total	
1998	49	29	6	35	71
1999	44	22	8	30	68
2000	44	21	5	26	59
2001	44	19	5	24	55
2002	49	18	11	29	59
2003	49	19	5	24	49
2004	51	22	6	28	55
2005	54	22	6	28	52
2006	55	13	6	19	35
2007	55	18	8	26	47
2008	55	13	3	16	29
2009	55	13	2	15	27

1854 TREATY AREA DEER HARVEST 1998 - 2009

Year	License's Issued	No. of Hunters Registering Deer	Hunter Success (%)	Harvest		
				Buck	Doe	Total
1998	266	58	22	42	61	103
1999	242	54	22	38	52	90
2000	216	68	31	61	78	139
2001	224	55	25	38	65	103
2002	203	47	23	39	46	85
2003	211	66	31	69	53	122
2004	198	45	23	51	35	86
2005	166	45	27	36	46	82
2006	172	47	27	44	37	81
2007	194	44	23	41	37	78
2008	181	39	22	40	23	63
2009	194	55	28	47	33	80

1854 TREATY AREA BEAR HARVEST 1998 - 2009

Year	Permits Issued	Harvest		
		Males	Females	Total
1998	21	1	0	1
1999	15	0	0	0
2000	10	0	0	0
2001	11	0	0	0
2002	9	0	0	0
2003	6	0	0	0
2004	9	0	0	0
2005	9	0	0	0
2006	24	2	2	4
2007	10	0	0	0
2008	9	1	0	1
2009	14	0	1	1

Miscellaneous Hunting/Trapping Information for 2009**Deer Hunting**

- * 1854 Archers harvested four (4) bucks and six (6) doe.
- * 1854 Hunters harvested one (1) buck and two (2) does in the Special State Park Deer Hunts.

Trapping

- * 1854 Trappers harvested ten (10) River Otter.
- * 1854 Trappers harvested 173 Pine Marten.
- * 1854 Trappers harvested eight (8) Fisher.



Staff Stuff

Iron Range Earth Fest - This public event was held in Mt. Iron on April 17. It focused on local traditions and practical resources for sustainable living. A number of speakers, exhibitors, and vendors were available for information on a variety of topics. Darren from the 1854 Treaty Authority provided a presentation on wild rice.

Federal Fishing Days - 1854 CO Ralph LaPlante participated in an event called Federal Fishing Days again this year (in May). This is a cooperative federally sponsored event (USFWS, BIA, etc) and the goal is to reach out to kids in the metro area to introduce them to outdoor activities and hopefully spur a life-long interest. Kids from around the area are bussed in and can engage in many fishing related activities.

NEED A SPEAKER?

Would you like someone from the 1854 Treaty Authority to come and speak to your school class, civic group, public event, about any activities and programs we are engaged in?

Please contact us and we would be happy to try and work out an appointment!

Summer Field Technicians - thanks to funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), we were able to hire three (3) summer technicians to assist in the myriad of field work that we endeavor to undertake each busy field season.

Matthew Weberg - is proud to be back for a second season of natural resources work for the 1854 Treaty Authority after a busy 2009. Prior to beginning work for the Authority, Matt worked for the Wisconsin DNR in fisheries and attended UW-Superior where he completed a degree in biology. Matt's future aspirations include attending graduate school for aquatic biology, and beginning a career as a fisheries biologist in the northland. He is excited for the 2010 field season where he will be working on wolf research, wild rice monitoring, walleye assessments, and assisting with other research currently being conducted.

Sara Wroblewski - grew up in Washburn, WI on Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay and is a 2009 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Superior. Sara has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology with an Aquatic Biology/Fisheries Science concentration and a minor in GIS. She is particularly interested in freshwater ecosystem ecology and aquatic invertebrates. Sara was involved in undergraduate research with UWS examining coral reef recovery from hurricane damage on the Belizean barrier reef and looks forward to this opportunity to diversify her field research experience within our local ecological parameters.

Thomas Enright - is currently a junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in their Fisheries and Wildlife program. His past experience has been tied to the Wildlife Science Center where he worked with the raptors in care and education. Thomas also assisted with the handling and various research projects conducted on the resident wolves and bears and is very excited to be apart of the 1854 Treaty Authority and looks forward to learning about wild rice management and gain valuable field experience through the Ceded Lands Wolf Project.

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