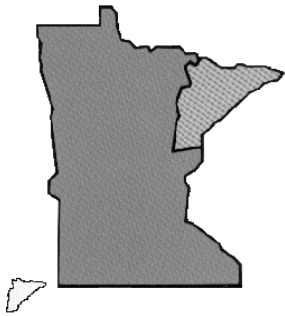




Newsletter of the 1854 Treaty Authority

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June 2011



“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

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1854 Conservation Code Revision

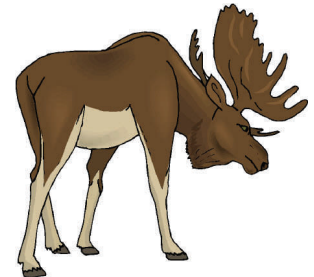
We want to thank everyone who participated in the revision process, either by written comment or one of the public outreaches. Comments have been compiled and a draft of proposed changes has been developed. We now put the proposed changes through a legal review and approval process, and anticipate a September 1st implementation date.

2011 Moose Season

Logistics are all set for the 2011 Moose Season.

Season Dates: October 1-16, 2011

Application Due: August 5, 2011



Details on submitting an application and everything you need to know about the moose season can be found in the “1854 Ceded Territory Moose Hunt Application and Information Booklet.” Application are available at the 1854 Office, download via our website, or give us a call and we can put one in the mail. We’ve also put a summary of results of this year’s moose survey on page two of this newsletter.

2011-2012 Hunting Seasons

We anticipate approving the remainder of this falls hunting/trapping seasons within the next few weeks. Once approved, we will post them on our website, have flyers available, and include them in our next newsletter.

1854 at Bois Forte Urban Office in July

We will be at the Bois Forte Urban Office in Minneapolis on July 21, 2011. If you are in need of an 1854 Identification Card or just want to chat, stop on by. We will be there from 1:00-8:00 p.m.

MN State Fair

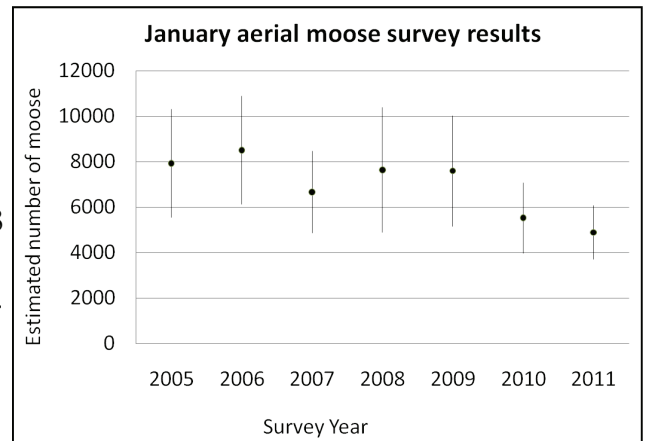
We once again will be involved in the development and implementation of a cooperative tribal booth at the state fair. This years’ theme will be wild rice. If you make it down there, the booth is in the Educational Building. Come check it out!

2011 Aerial Moose Survey

Survey says ... as promised in the January newsletter, here are the results from the 2011 moose survey conducted this winter. The moose population estimate this year came in at 4,889 animals, down 12% from the 2010 estimate of 5,528 and the chart (on right) shows that the population has been trending downward the last several years.

Another piece of information that we look at from the survey is the number of calves observed during the survey (% of total animals observed). In this year's survey, calves made up 13% of observations, similar to the last few years, but down from what we used to see (some years as high as 25%).

A third piece of data that we look at is the bull to cow ratio, as an indicator of whether or not there are enough bulls to ensure that cows are bred each fall. That ratio has been declining to some extent as well, this year coming in at 6.7 bulls for every 10 cows observed. Although there is some concern that this ratio has been declining (one reason that the State has reduced their permit levels this year), it appears that there are still sufficient numbers of bulls for breeding, as we checked cows captured for collaring this winter and found that nearly all of them were pregnant. At this point it appears that while good numbers of calves are being born each spring, only about 30 – 35% are making it through to one year of age.

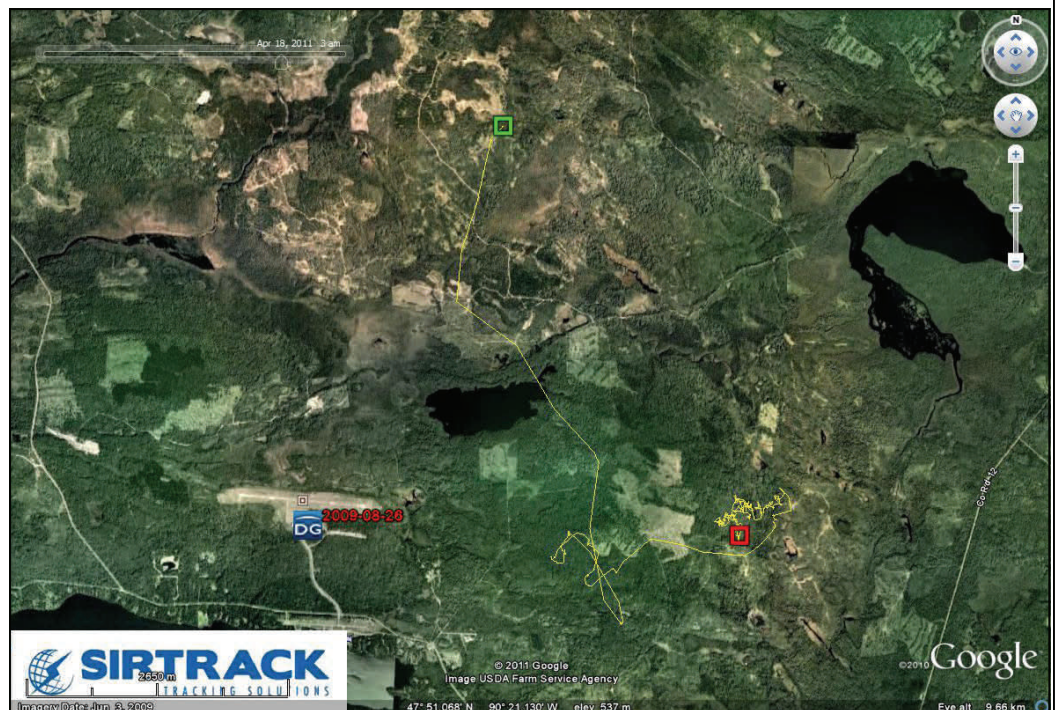


Tracking a Moose

This photo shows movements (yellow line) of a moose that received a GPS collar in January. The photo covers about a 3 week period, with the green box representing the capture location and the red box was the last location when the information was transmitted to our office via satellite.

The collars collect a GPS location every 20 minutes along with information on air temperature and activity level (monitors neck movement).

This type of data will allow us to look closely at the types of habitats used by moose under different environmental conditions and whether they are resting, moving, feeding, etc.

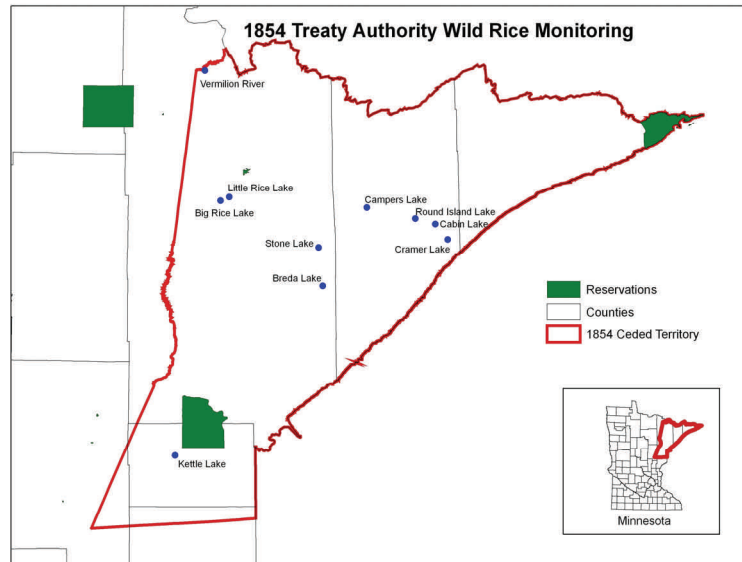


Wild Rice Field Season Underway

It may be a few months until the sound of ripe wild rice hitting the bottom of the canoe can be heard, but spring marks the beginning of field season at a number of rice waters. Each year the 1854 Treaty Authority undertakes three initiatives as part of its wild rice program.

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 and determine trends. This monitoring program is currently conducted on ten different waters in the 1854 Ceded Territory (please see map).



So what do we 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 (1998-2010)" is available on our website or by giving us a call. Aerial photographs were also taken of each lake in 1999 through 2010. These photographs are used to further document wild rice coverage.

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 299 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 reservations. A total of 192 different lakes and river stretches within the 1854 Ceded Territory was surveyed between 1996 and 2010. Collected information has been incorporated into the 1854 Treaty Authority's geographic information system. The survey will continue in future years.

(more wild rice on page 4)

Wild Rice (continued)

Wild Rice Condition Updates

The 1854 Treaty Authority provides wild rice condition updates on waters included in the Wild Rice Monitoring program, and on other lakes and rivers as information becomes available. Updates are posted on our website, provided directly to the Bois Forte and Grand Portage reservations for public posting, and also to other interested reservations, agencies, organizations, and individuals. Phone calls are also accepted. Updates are provided periodically (approximately every two weeks) throughout the growing season and as harvest time approaches. Updates for 2011 will begin in July.

The Great Water Quality Standard Debate

You may have noticed in recent months that wild rice has been getting quite a bit of attention in the media. This attention has centered primarily on impacts from industrial discharges to water. In Minnesota, a water quality standard exists for sulfate (a common component of many discharges) in waters supporting wild rice. Standards are put in place as rules to follow to protect resources and designated uses. However, the wild rice sulfate standard has often not been met by industry or enforced by regulatory agencies. This has been brought to the forefront as existing operations update discharge permits or new operations such as mining are proposed.

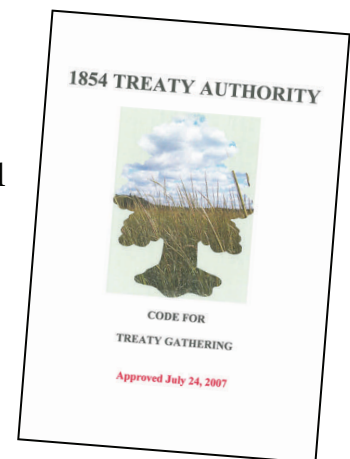
The sulfate standard for wild rice raises questions on both sides of the coin: Why haven't the rules been followed and enforced? How or even should discharges from facilities be permitted? Where (what is a rice water) and when (what time of year) should the standard apply? Is the current standard correct and based on science? Is it technically possible and economically practical to meet the standard?

In an attempt to look at this standard, the state of Minnesota plans to have studies completed on the impacts of sulfate on wild rice over the next three years. After that time, decisions will be made if the current water quality standard should be changed. Bands have been and will continue to be engaged in the process as it moves forward.

1854 Treaty Harvest Regulations

Regulations pertaining to the harvest of wild rice are found in the "1854 Treaty Authority Code for Treaty Gathering". This code is separate from the 1854 Conservation Code. You can either download the code from our website or contact us and we would be glad to send you a copy (or stop by the office!). We will also post them in the next edition of the newsletter.

The Seasons, Dates, and Hours, and any special regulations shall be designated annually by the 1854 Treaty Authority. We anticipate posting in early July, and will also include them in the next newsletter



Aquatic Invasive Species in the Ceded Territory

By Nick Axtell, Environmental Specialist

Pop Quiz: What's the most documented-widespread aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the ceded territory?

Answer: The Spiny Water Flea.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Mn DNR) list of Infested Waters, the spiny water flea is in 33 lakes and rivers in the 1854 ceded territory. Spiny water fleas are crustaceans, a relative of the shrimp, lobster, and crayfish and they compete with young perch and other small fish for food such as "Daphnia" zooplankton (tiny animals).



Now if you don't know what a spiny water flea looks like don't be ashamed because they are very small (1/4" to 5/8" in length). The distinguishing feature of the spiny water flea is its tail spine, which accounts for the majority of the animal's total length.

Because they are so small, most people that have been exposed to them might find clumps of them on their fishing lines (see photo below right), downriggers, anchor ropes, and fishing nets. The clumps look and feel like gelatin or cotton batting with tiny black spots.

Spiny Water Fleas can be rapid reproducers in the summer because adult females can produce young without mating. With the increase in summer water temperatures they can produce 10 young every two weeks.

Another interesting fact of their reproduction cycle is that the sex of offspring isn't determined genetically but rather by environmental factors. When food starts to become limited and/or the lakes cool off in the fall, the adult females respond by producing male rather than female offspring.

These males are able to mate with surviving females, producing eggs. The eggs fall to the lake bottom where they can survive the cold winter and in the spring or early summer and then hatch into juvenile females that begin the reproductive cycle again.

For a list of waters infested with the Spiny Water Flea (and other aquatic invasives), check out our new "Invasive Species" page on our web site (under Environmental tab).



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 that must be filled out and submitted to the US Fish & Wildlife Service, but that is the only assistance we can currently provide.

ENFORCEMENT NEWS

The 1854 Enforcement Division has been busy, starting with the Lake Vermillion netting season. We were pleased to see a successful and safe spring netting season for the band members. To reiterate...please remember to have personal floatation devices (PFD's in good 'life saving' condition) with you while on any body of water.

We also spent some time with a film crew 'mugging it up' to assist with a collaborative effort by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, the Minnesota Humanities Center and the National Museum of the American Indian to launch a traveling exhibit exploring relationships between Dakota and Ojibwe Indian nations and the U.S. government. The topics were on ethics, stewardship, equal rights, law enforcement and other highly relevant cultural and social issues affecting all Americans in the 21st Century.

I would like to publish the scheduled youth certification courses we have planned for the summer months.

Firearms Safety Course (Nett Lake), June 28th, 29th and 30th.

Canoe/Jet Ski Safety Course (Nett Lake), July 14th.

ATV Safety Course (Nett Lake), July 28th.

These classes are restricted to 25 students. Students age 11 and up are welcome to participate in these certifications.

Please contact Lee Ann Hoffman at 218.757.3124 for further information.

OFFICE CLOSURES - Following are dates that the 1854 Treaty Authority will be closed officially.

Monday July 4 Independence Day

Monday September 5 Labor Day

CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS FORM

Previous name: _____

Current name: _____

Previous Address: _____

Current Address : _____

Please help us keep the cost of our newsletter down by contacting us with your change of name or address. Send changes to:

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After hours or weekends, we have a voice messaging service.

We're on the Web!
www.1854treatyauthority.org

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