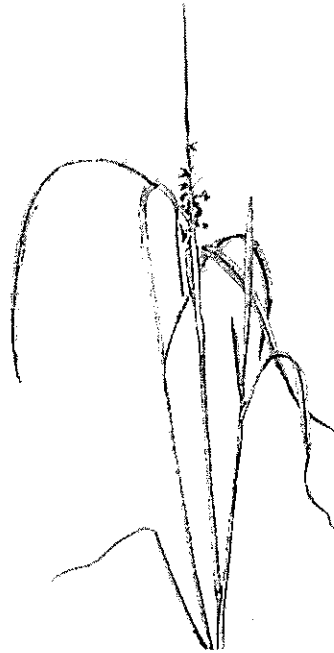
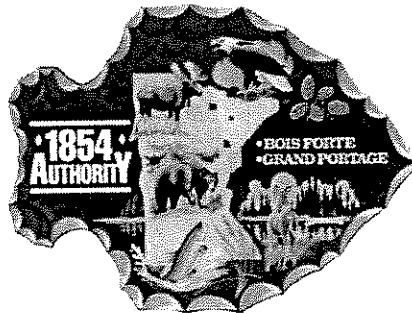


# Wild Rice Resource Guide

1854 Authority  
Version 2 (July 2003)



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# *Wild Rice Resource Guide*

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## Introduction

The 1854 Authority is an inter-tribal natural resource organization governed by the Bois Forte Band and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The organization is charged to preserve, protect, and enhance treaty rights and natural resources within the 1854 Ceded Territory. This area encompasses northeastern Minnesota and includes all of Cook and Lake counties, most of St. Louis and Carlton counties, and portions of Pine and Aitkin counties.

Wild rice, known as manoomin in the Ojibway language, has been a valuable food source and a culturally significant resource for Native Americans for centuries. The 1854 Authority has been involved in the protection and enhancement of this resource. This **Wild Rice Resource Guide** was developed in an effort to outline potential water bodies where wild rice may be harvested within the 1854 Ceded Territory. Additional information about wild rice biology, harvest regulations, and traditional harvesting/finishing is also included.

## Wild Rice Biology

Several varieties of wild rice have been identified. Although some confusion exists with taxonomic classification, the wild rice found in northeastern Minnesota can be classified as *Zizania palustris* (however it is often classified as *Zizania aquatica*).

Wild rice is an annual plant that grows from seed each year. It begins to grow in lakes and streams after ice-out in the spring. The plant typically grows best in shallow water depths (1-3 feet) in areas containing soft, organic bottoms. Wild rice grows to the water surface usually by mid June. During this time, wild rice plants lie flat on the water surface and can form vast leafy mats. In this floating-leaf stage, wild rice is extremely susceptible to water level fluctuations. Plants can be uprooted and washed away due to increased water levels.

During July, wild rice will grow vertically and can eventually stand up to 6-8 feet out of the water. Each rice plant is unisexual, containing male spikelets below the female spikelets found at the end of the stalk. Cross-pollination occurs naturally in rice beds usually in late July. Rice kernels begin to fill with a milky substance in late July to early August. These kernels harden to become the seed (or grain) of the plant.

Wild rice is ripe when the seeds are formed and ready to fall off. It is during this time that harvest can occur. Different lakes/streams, different areas of the same lake/stream, and even different kernels on the same plant ripen at different times. Due to this varied ripening, the same wild rice bed can be harvested several times in the same year. Depending on

conditions, **wild rice is usually not ripe and ready for harvest until late August or early September in northeastern Minnesota.**

Ripe wild rice seed will eventually fall into the water if not harvested. Seeds sink into the sediment at the bottom of the lake or river. With favorable conditions, seeds will grow into wild rice plants beginning the next spring. However, wild rice seed also has the ability to remain dormant until favorable conditions are encountered. This dormancy can last for years if the seed remains in the water.

Wild rice is also susceptible to competing vegetation such as bur reed, water lilies, bulrushes, and pickerel weed. Some floating-leaf species and emergent species begin their growth cycle in the spring before wild rice. These species can impede the growth of wild rice and eventually take over a water body.

## Harvest Regulations

### **License Requirements**

Bois Forte and Grand Portage members must have an 1854 Authority identification card (or state license) in their possession to harvest wild rice within the 1854 Ceded Territory. A state license is not required for these band members unless harvest occurs outside of the 1854 Ceded Territory. Other harvesters are required to obtain a state license.

### **Season Dates**

Ripe wild rice may be harvested from July 15<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> annually. **(Although the wild rice season opens on July 15<sup>th</sup> each year, please note that no rice is ripe at that time. The harvest of green or unripe rice is illegal and may result in prosecution.)**

### **Ricing Hours**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm daily

### **Closed Waters**

After the season for harvesting wild rice has opened (July 15<sup>th</sup>), conservation officers or other authorized agents may close the harvest on any public water. These closures are posted at known access points. Waters will then be posted open when the wild rice is determined to be ripe and ready for harvest.

### **Restricted Areas**

National Wildlife Refuges and Parks are closed to wild rice harvesting, except when authorized by special permit. State Wildlife Management Areas are open to wild rice harvesting, except where specifically closed by posting or rule.

### **Ricing Equipment**

*Watercraft:* The maximum length of watercraft is 18 feet. The maximum outside width is 36 inches. Extensions that increase normal capacity are prohibited.

*Push Poles:* Push poles must be forked at the end. The forks must be less than 12 inches in length.

*Flail:* The flail must be made of round, smooth wood. It must be hand held and operated. The maximum length is 30 inches, and maximum weight is one pound.

*Mechanical Devices:* The use of mechanical devices for harvest is prohibited on public waters.

### **Reservation Restrictions**

All wild rice within the boundaries of Indian reservations is managed by the respective reservation. In the 1854 Ceded Territory, the Bois Forte, Grand Portage, and Fond du Lac reservations manage the wild rice within their own boundaries. Typically, only Tribal members or those persons receiving proper authorization are allowed to harvest wild rice within reservation boundaries. Wild rice committees establish the opening date, days, and hours of harvest. Please contact the appropriate reservation staff for specific rules or for more information.

**These regulations were summarized from *Minnesota Wild Rice Harvesting Regulations* published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Any other regulations outlined in the 1854 Ceded Territory Conservation Code must be followed by Bois Forte and Grand Portage members.**

### **Traditional Harvesting and Finishing**

Traditional wild rice harvesting and finishing includes knocking, drying, parching, hulling, and winnowing.

Wild rice harvesting usually begins in late August in northeastern Minnesota. Two people in a canoe typically cooperate to harvest wild rice. One person guides the canoe using a push pole, while the other uses knockers (or flails) to harvest the rice. With a knocker in each hand, the ricer reaches to one side and pulls the stalks over the canoe. Care is taken not to break or damage the plants. The other knocker is then used to gently knock or brush the stalks to remove the rice kernels into the canoe. Ripe wild rice will easily fall from the stalks by using a light, brushing stroke.

After harvesting, wild rice is soon dried by spreading it out in a layer on a canvas, blanket, or sheets of birch bark. The rice is frequently stirred to dry it evenly. The rice is also cleaned during this time by removing leaves, weeds, dirt, etc.

Dried wild rice is then parched or roasted by placing it in an iron kettle or washtub over a slow burning wood fire. The rice must be stirred constantly with a paddle to prevent it from burning.

After parching has been completed, the wild rice is hulled to remove the chaff from the kernel. A small pit is dug into the ground and lined with wood. The rice is placed in the

pit and is danced or treaded upon in a circular motion. Dancers use poles for balance to control how much pressure is put on the rice.

Finally, the chaff is removed by winnowing. The rice is placed in a winnowing tray and tossed into the air or allowed to fall to the ground. The chaff is blown away by the wind. Wild rice is ready for storage or cooking once the chaff is removed.

### Location Guide

Due to annual fluctuations of wild rice production across the 1854 Ceded Territory and on individual water bodies, it is difficult to identify lakes and rivers that contain harvestable crops on a yearly basis. This guide attempts to outline waters that **have the potential to contain a harvestable amount of wild rice** in a given year. Lakes and rivers were identified through the 1854 Authority's wild rice survey and through contact with natural resource staff from Tribes, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Forest Service. The location guide will be updated in the future as new or better information is acquired.

The location guide consists of a table and a map containing lake and river locations that have good, fair, or poor potential to produce a harvestable crop of wild rice. Each water body has been assigned a guide identification number, which corresponds with the locations on the accompanying map. The table includes a variety of information:

- *Guide ID#* - corresponds with the number and location on the map
- *Water Body Name* - name (and alternative name if available) of water body
- *Nearest City* - city, usually larger, nearest to lake or river
- *Location Description* - lists road number that provides access to lake or river, township and range is also included
- *Access* - describes access difficulty
  1. **easy** - cement or gravel public landing, or short carry-in access
  2. **moderately easy** - no formal public access, and/or long carry-in access, and/or up to 30 minute paddle required, and/or rough access road
  3. **difficult** - no formal public access, and/or long carry-in access, and/or several portages required, and/or over 30 minute paddle required, and/or impassable access
- *Rice Potential* - describes potential for production of a harvestable wild rice crop
  1. **good** - entire or portion of water body usually produces harvestable wild rice each year
  2. **fair** - entire or portion of water body sometimes produces harvestable wild rice
  3. **poor** - entire or portion of water body seldom or never produces harvestable wild rice

Please note that a detailed map may be needed to accurately locate lakes and rivers outlined in this guide.

Wild Rice Resource Guide

Guide ID#	Water Body Name	County	Nearest City	Location Description (Township, Range)	Access	Rice Potential
1	Alden Lake	St. Louis	Duluth	County Road #44 (53N, 13W)	difficult	poor
2	Anchor Lake	St. Louis	Eveleth	Highway #53 (56N, 17W)	difficult	poor
3	Artichoke Lake	St. Louis	Independence	County Road #220 (52N, 17W)	difficult	poor
4	Bald Eagle Lake	Lake	Ely	BWCA (62N, 10W)	difficult	poor
5	Basswood Lake (Back Bay)	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 10W)	difficult	fair
6	Basswood Lake (Rice Bay)	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 9W)	difficult	fair
7	Basswood Lake (Wind Bay)	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 10W)	difficult	fair
8	Big Rice Lake	St. Louis	Virginia	Forest Road #247 (60N, 17W)	easy	good
9	Big Rice Lake	St. Louis	Ely	BWCA (64N, 13W)	difficult	fair
10	Bigsby Lake	Cook	Lutsen	County Road #4 (61N, 2-3W)	easy	poor
11	Birch Lake	St. Louis	Babbitt	County Road #407 (61N, 13W)	easy	good
12	Black Lake	St. Louis	Cook	County Road #24 (63N, 18W)	difficult	poor
13	Black Mallard (Mud) Lake	St. Louis	Hoyt Lakes	Forest Road #120 (58N, 12W)	difficult	poor
14	Bluebill Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #362 (59N, 7W)	difficult	fair
15	Breda Lake	St. Louis	Two Harbors	County Road #44 (56N, 12W)	moderately easy	good
16	Cabin Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #359 (59N, 7W)	moderately easy	good
17	Campers Lake	Lake	Isabella	Highway #1 (60N, 10W)	moderately easy	fair
18	Caribou Lake	Cook	Lutsen	County Road #4 (61N, 3W)	easy	poor
19	Christine Lake	Cook	Lutsen	Forest Road #164 (61N, 3W)	moderately easy	poor
20	Clark Lake	Lake	Two Harbors	County Road #2 (55N, 10W)	moderately easy	fair
21	Cloquet River	St. Louis	Duluth	County Road #4, Carroll Trail (53N, 13-14W)	difficult	poor
22	Cramer Lake	Lake	Finland	County Road #7 (58N, 6W)	easy	fair
23	Cranberry Lake	St. Louis	Hoyt Lakes	Forest Road #420 (58N, 13W)	difficult	poor
24	Driller Lake	Lake	Two Harbors	Stony River Road (57N, 10W)	difficult	poor
25	Dumbbell Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #172 (60N, 8W)	easy	fair
26	East Stone Lake	St. Louis	Zim	County Road #319 (55N, 17W)	moderately easy	fair
27	Elbow Lake	Cook	Grand Marais	County Road #12 (62N, 1E)	easy	fair
28	Elliott Lake	St. Louis	Eveleth	County Road #398 (56N, 17W)	easy	poor
29	Fourmile Lake	Cook	Tofte	Forest Road #170 (60N, 5W)	easy	fair
30	Gabbro Lake	Lake	Ely	BWCA (62N, 10W)	difficult	poor

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31	Gegoka, Lake	Lake	Isabella	Highway #1 (60N, 9W)	easy	fair
32	Harris Lake	Lake	Ely	Highway #1 (61N, 11W)	difficult	poor
33	Hay Lake	Carlton	Wrenshall	County Road #4 (48N, 17W)	easy	poor
34	Hay Lake	St. Louis	Biwabik	County Road #715 (59N, 16W)	difficult	fair
35	Hjalmer Lake	Lake	Hoyt Lakes	Forest Road #419 (57N, 11W)	difficult	poor
36	Hoist Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #358 (59N, 7W)	moderately easy	fair
37	Hula Lake	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 10W)	difficult	fair
38	Indian Lake	St. Louis	Two Harbors	County Road #44 (55N, 12W)	easy	poor
39	Isabella Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #377, BWCA (62N, 8W)	moderately easy	poor
40	Isabella River	Lake	Isabella	BWCA (61-62N, 8-9W)	difficult	poor
41	Island Lake	Carlton	Cromwell	Highway #210 (48-49N, 20W)	easy	fair
42	Island River	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #377, #379 (61N, 8W)	easy	good
43	Kelly Lake	Cook	Tofte	Forest Road #170, BWCA (62N, 4W)	difficult	poor
44	Kettle Lake	Carlton	Cromwell	Kettle Lake Road (48N, 19W)	easy	good
45	Lapond Lake	St. Louis	Ely	BWCA (64N, 13W)	difficult	fair
46	Lieung Lake	St. Louis	Duluth	County Road #44 (53N, 13W)	difficult	fair
47	Little Cloquet River	St. Louis	Duluth	County Road #44 (53N, 13W)	difficult	poor
48	Little Gabbro Lake	Lake	Ely	Forest Road #181, BWCA (62N, 10W)	difficult	poor
49	Little Indian Sioux River	St. Louis	Buyck	County Road #116 (65N, 15W)	easy	fair
50	Little Rice Lake	St. Louis	Virginia	County Road #304 (60N, 17W)	easy	fair
51	Long (Butterball) Lake	St. Louis	Hoyt Lakes	Forest Road #418 (58N, 12W)	difficult	good
52	Low Lake	St. Louis	Ely	Forest Road #1036 (63-64N, 12W)	easy	poor
53	Manomin Lake	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 9W)	difficult	poor
54	Mark Lake	Cook	Grand Marais	Forest Road #161 (61N, 2W)	moderately easy	fair
55	Marsh Lake	Cook	Tofte	Forest Road #170 (62N, 4W)	easy	fair
56	Middle McDougal Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #106 (59N, 10W)	moderately easy	fair
57	Moore Lake	Cook	Lutsen	Forest Road #170 (62N, 4W)	easy	poor
58	Moose Horn River	Carlton	Moose Lake	County Road #61 (46N, 19W)	easy	good
59	Moose Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #361 (59N, 6W)	difficult	fair
60	Moose Lake	St. Louis	Virginia	County Road #461 (60N, 19W)	moderately easy	fair
61	Moose River	St. Louis	Ely	County Road #116 (65N, 14W)	easy	fair

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62	Mud (Watercress) Lake	St. Louis	Virginia	County Road #65 (60N, 19W)	difficult	poor
63	Mud Hen Lake	St. Louis	Eveleth	County Road #16 (56N, 16W)	easy	poor
64	Muskeg Lake	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 11W)	difficult	poor
65	Nichols Lake	St. Louis	Canyon	County Road #232 (53N, 17W)	easy	poor
66	North McDougal Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #106 (60N, 10W)	easy	poor
67	Northern Light Lake	Cook	Grand Marais	County Road #12 (63N, 2E)	easy	fair
68	One Pine Lake	St. Louis	Ely	County Road #21 (62N, 12W)	easy	poor
69	Papoose Lake	St. Louis	Two Harbors	County Road #44 (55N, 12W)	difficult	fair
70	Phantom Lake	Lake	Two Harbors	Stony River Road (57-58N, 10W)	difficult	fair
71	Pike River	St. Louis	Tower	County Road #26 (61N, 16W)	easy	fair
72	Rib Lake	Cook	Tofte	BWCA (64N, 4W)	difficult	poor
73	Rice Lake	Cook	Lutsen	Forest Road #1856 (61N, 4W)	moderately easy	fair
74	Rice Lake	St. Louis	Biwabik	County Road #715 (59N, 16W)	easy	fair
75	Rice Lake	St. Louis	Ely	BWCA (64N, 13W)	difficult	fair
76	Rice Lake	Lake	Isabella	BWCA (62N, 8W)	difficult	fair
77	Round Island Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #172 (59N, 8W)	moderately easy	good
78	Sand Lake	Lake	Isabella	County Road #2 (59N, 11W)	moderately easy	poor
79	Scott Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #172 (60N, 7W)	moderately easy	poor
80	Seven Beaver Lake	St. Louis	Hoyt Lakes	Forest Road #418 (58N, 12W)	difficult	good
81	Slate Lake	Lake	Isabella	Highway #1 (60N, 10W)	easy	poor
82	South McDougal Lake	Lake	Isabella	Forest Road #106 (59N, 10W)	moderately easy	poor
83	St. Louis River	St. Louis	Hoyt Lakes	FR #795, FR #1060 (58N, 13-14W)	easy	fair
84	Stone Lake	St. Louis	Hoyt Lakes	Forest Road #120 (58N, 12W)	moderately easy	good
85	Stone Lake	St. Louis	Zim	County Road #319 (56N, 18W)	easy	fair
86	Stone (Tommila) Lake	St. Louis	Two Harbors	Forest Road #411 (56N, 12W)	moderately easy	good
87	Stony Lake	Lake	Isabella	County Road #2 (59N, 10W)	difficult	fair
88	Stony River	Lake	Isabella	Highway #1 (60N, 10W)	moderately easy	poor
89	Susan Lake	St. Louis	Cook	County Road #24 (64N, 18W)	moderately easy	poor
90	Swamp River	Cook	Hovland	County Road #16 (63N, 4E)	difficult	good
91	Tamarack River	Carlton	Wright	Highway #210 (48N, 21W)	easy	fair

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92	Turpela Lake	St. Louis	Aurora	County Road #100 (58N, 15W)	difficult	poor
93	Vermilion, Lake (Rice Bay)	St. Louis	Soudan	County Road #408 (63N, 15W)	easy	poor
94	Vermilion River	St. Louis	Buyck	County Road #24 (65N, 17W)	easy	good
95	Vermilion River	St. Louis	Crane Lake	Forest Road 4538 (67N, 17-18W)	easy	good
96	Wabuse Lake	St. Louis	Eveleth	County Road #351 (55N, 15W)	difficult	fair
97	Wampus Lake	Lake	Isabella	County Road #2 (60N, 10W)	moderately easy	poor
98	Washusk Lake #1	St. Louis	Eveleth	County Road #351 (55N, 15W)	difficult	fair
99	White Pine Lake	Cook	Lutsen	Forest Road #164 (61N, 3W)	easy	poor
100	Wolf Lake	St. Louis	Two Harbors	County Road #547 (55N, 13W)	easy	fair
101	Wood Lake	Lake	Ely	BWCA (64N, 10W)	difficult	fair

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