



# Manoomin *(Wild Rice)*

*History in your lake!*

Wisconsin Lakes Convention, 2013





*Photo courtesy of Ron Eckstein*



# What Is It?



# An Annual, Aquatic Grass





# Habitat Preferences

- Water depths in 0.5-3 foot range
- Water not acidic or darkly stained
- Annual water level fluctuations not excessive but year-to-year conditions not too stable
- Organic, mucky substrate (preferred)
- And, rice requires gently....



# Flowing Water





# LIFE CYCLE OF WILD RICE

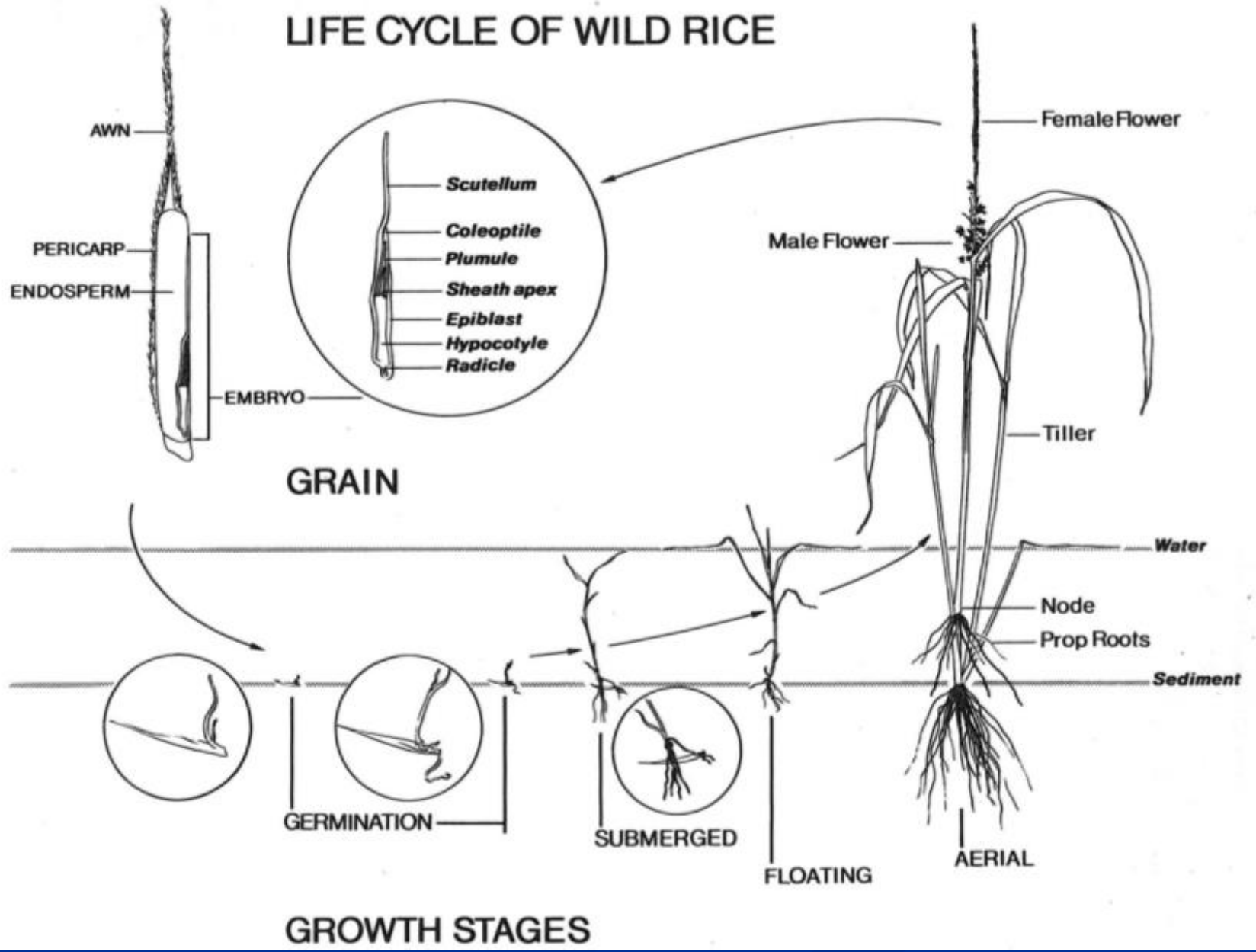


Image from *Wild Rice in Canada*



# Seasonal Variation





# Annual Variation





# A North American Resource

## The range of "northern" Wild Rice







# Nutritive Values

(per 100g)

	<b>Wild Rice</b>	<b>White Rice</b>
<b>Protein (g)</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Total Dietary Fiber (g)</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Calcium (mg)</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>Magnesium (mg)</b>	<b>177.0</b>	<b>33.0</b>
<b>Phosphorus (mg)</b>	<b>433.0</b>	<b>116.0</b>
<b>Potassium (mg)</b>	<b>427.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>
<b>Zinc (mg)</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>

# Tremendous Value Ecologically,

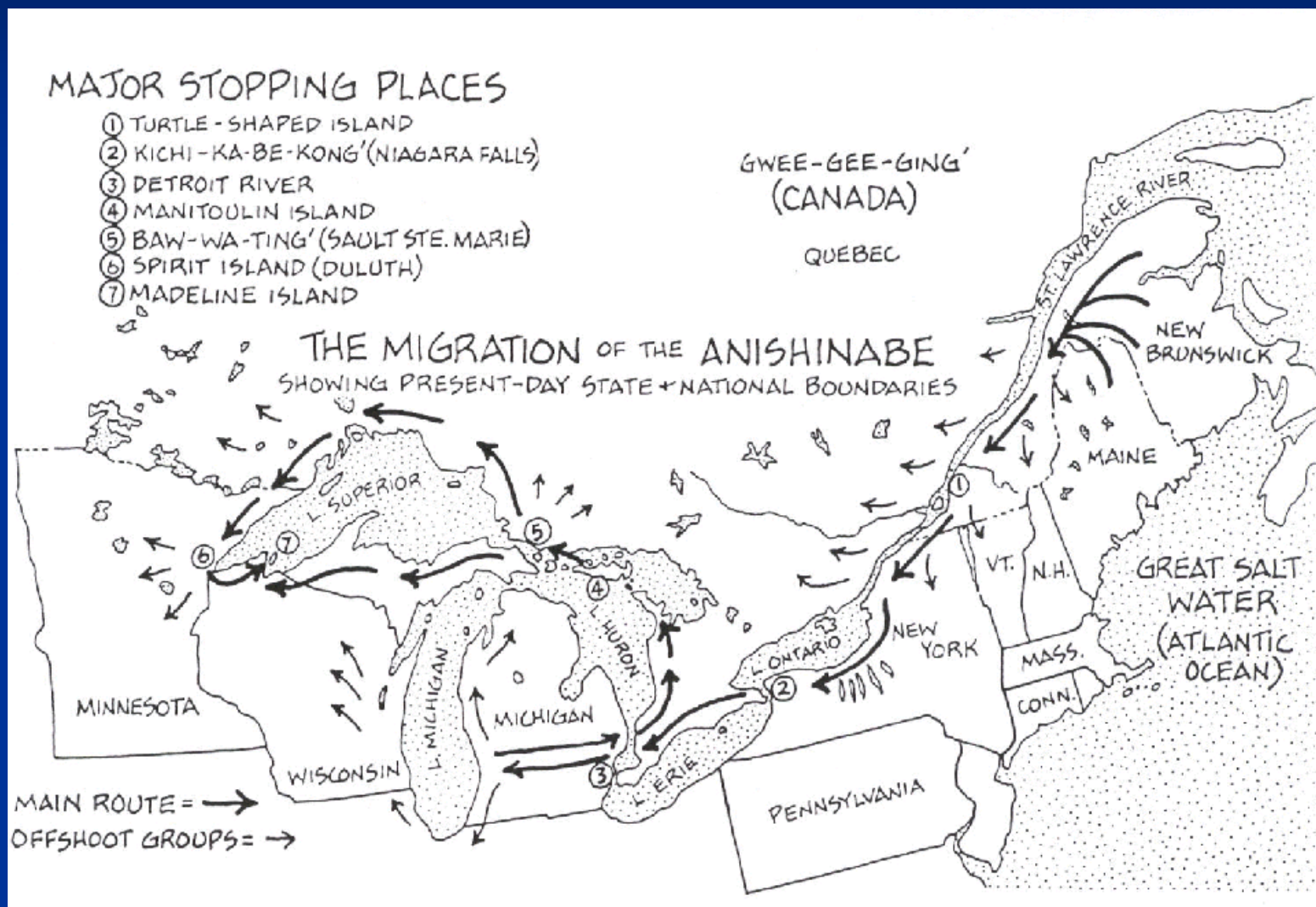




and Culturally.



# The Anishinabe (Ojibwe) Migration Story

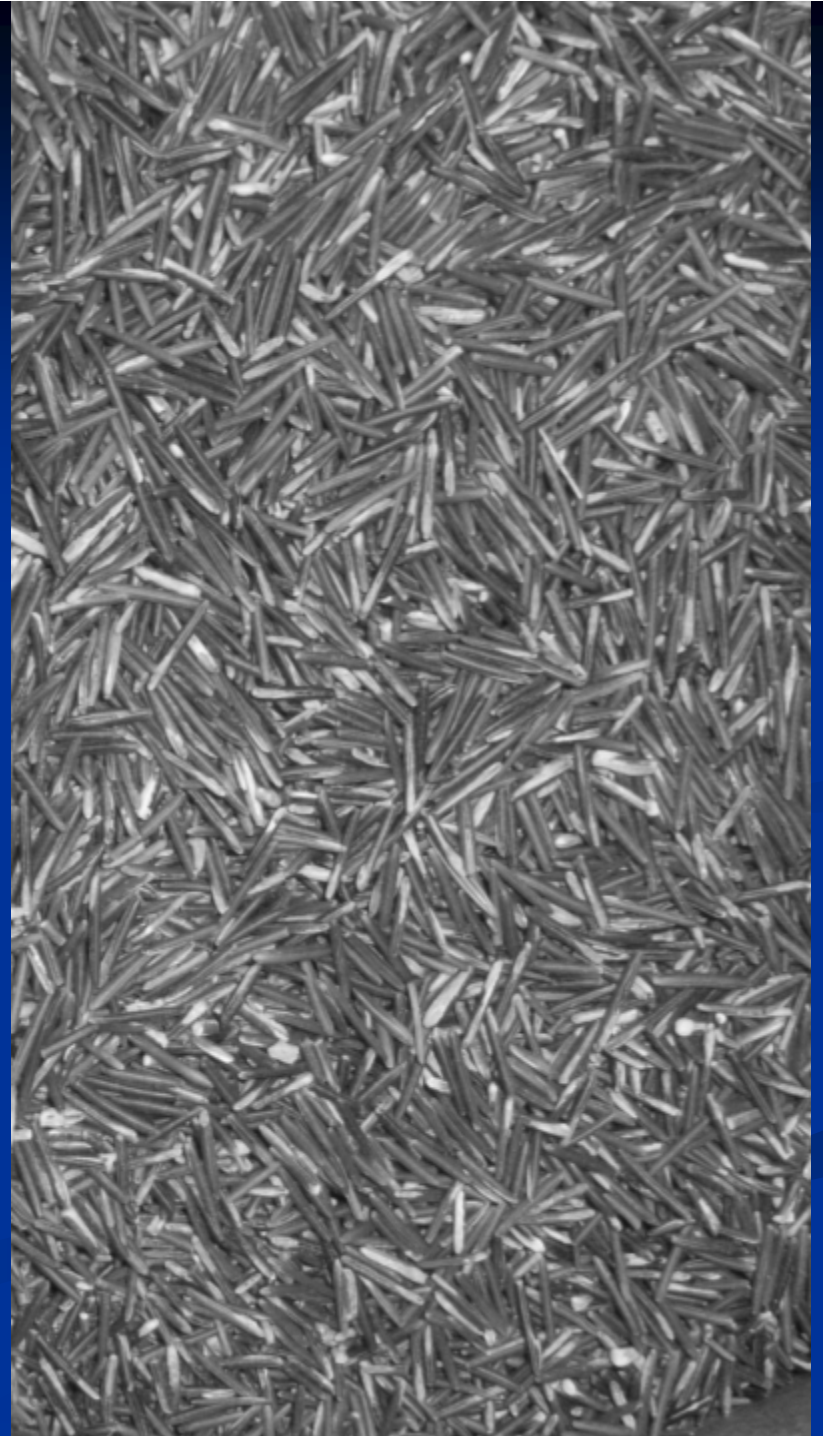


From the Mishomis Book, by Edward Benton-Banai



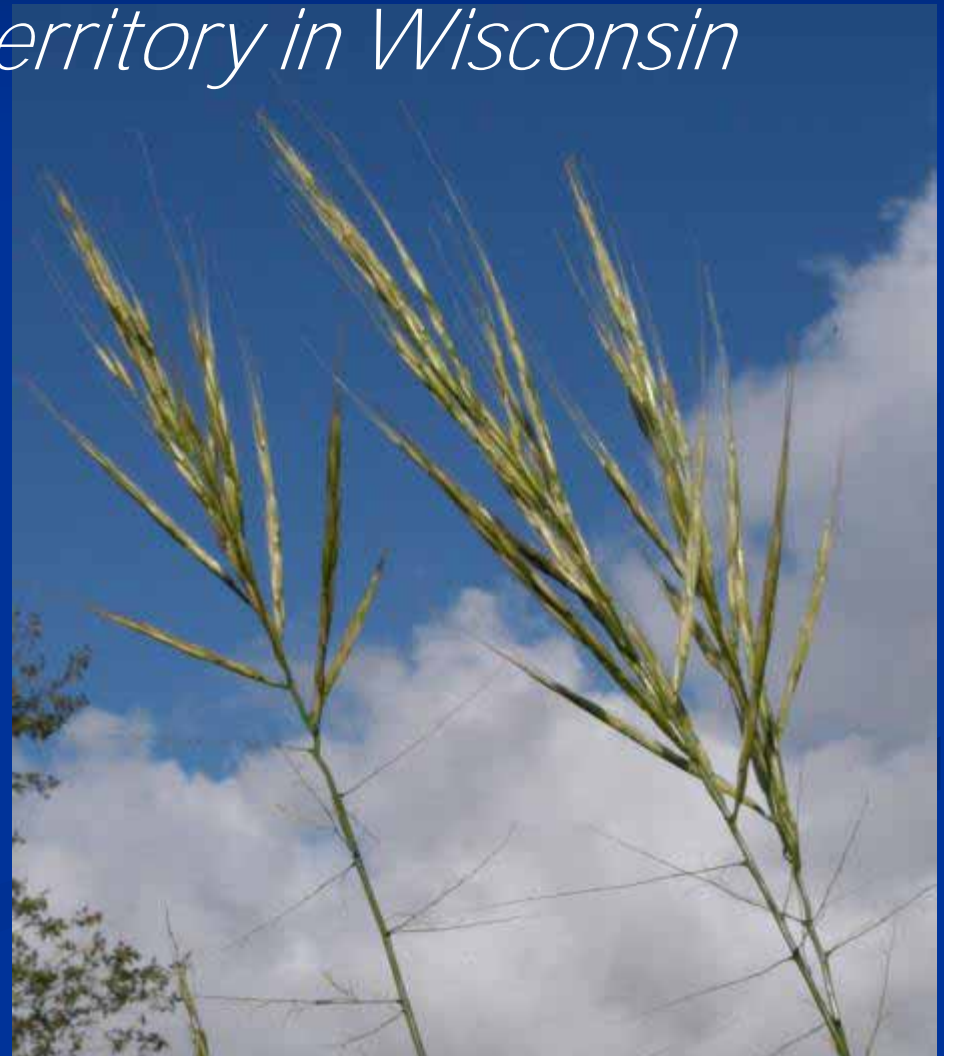
*"Wild rice is the most nutritive single food which the Indians of North America consumed. The Indian diet of this grain, combined with maple sugar and with bison, deer and other meats, was probably richer than that of the average American family of to-day."*

Albert E. Jenks, 1901



*"No other section of the North American continent was so characteristically an Indian paradise so far as spontaneous vegetal food is concerned, as was this territory in Wisconsin and Minnesota"*

Albert E. Jenks, 1901





# Historical Management

- Some Anishinabe elders relate an older term for wild rice: *Manito gitigaan*, or “The Great Spirit’s Garden”



*Photo courtesy of  
Minnesota Historical Society*

# Historical Management

- Accounts exist of:
  - Water level management
  - Pest management
    - Trapping muskrats; creating predator perches in the beds to discourage blackbirds
  - Weeding competitive species
  - Seeding
  - Intensive harvest management
    - Regulating the number of harvesters, timing of the harvest, coordinating the direction of canoe travel, and more...







# A Long History of Harvest

*Photo courtesy of  
Wisconsin Historical Society*









*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*



Wild rice tied by Indians  
for harvest  
Shanab Lake, Minn.

*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*

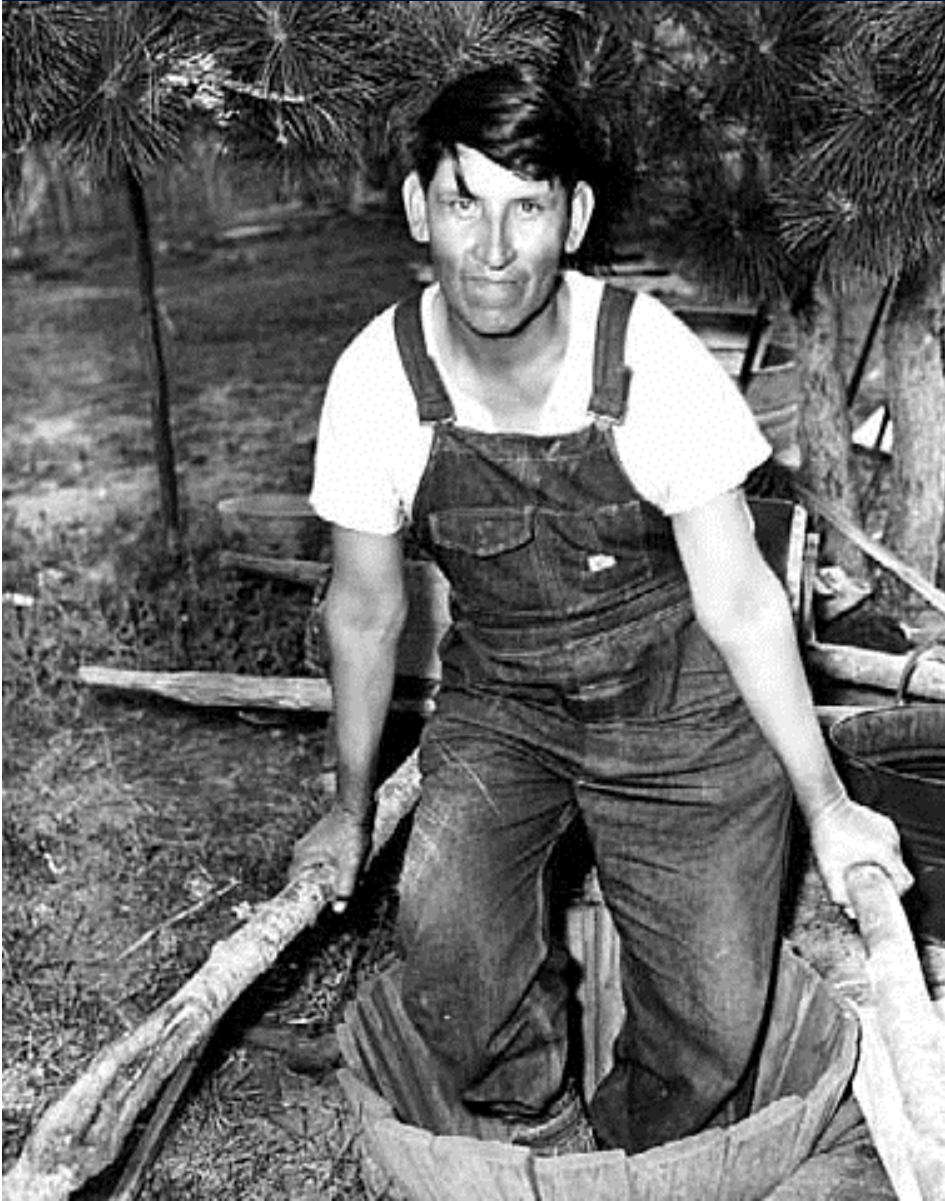






*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*





*Photos courtesy of Minn. Historical Society*



*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*

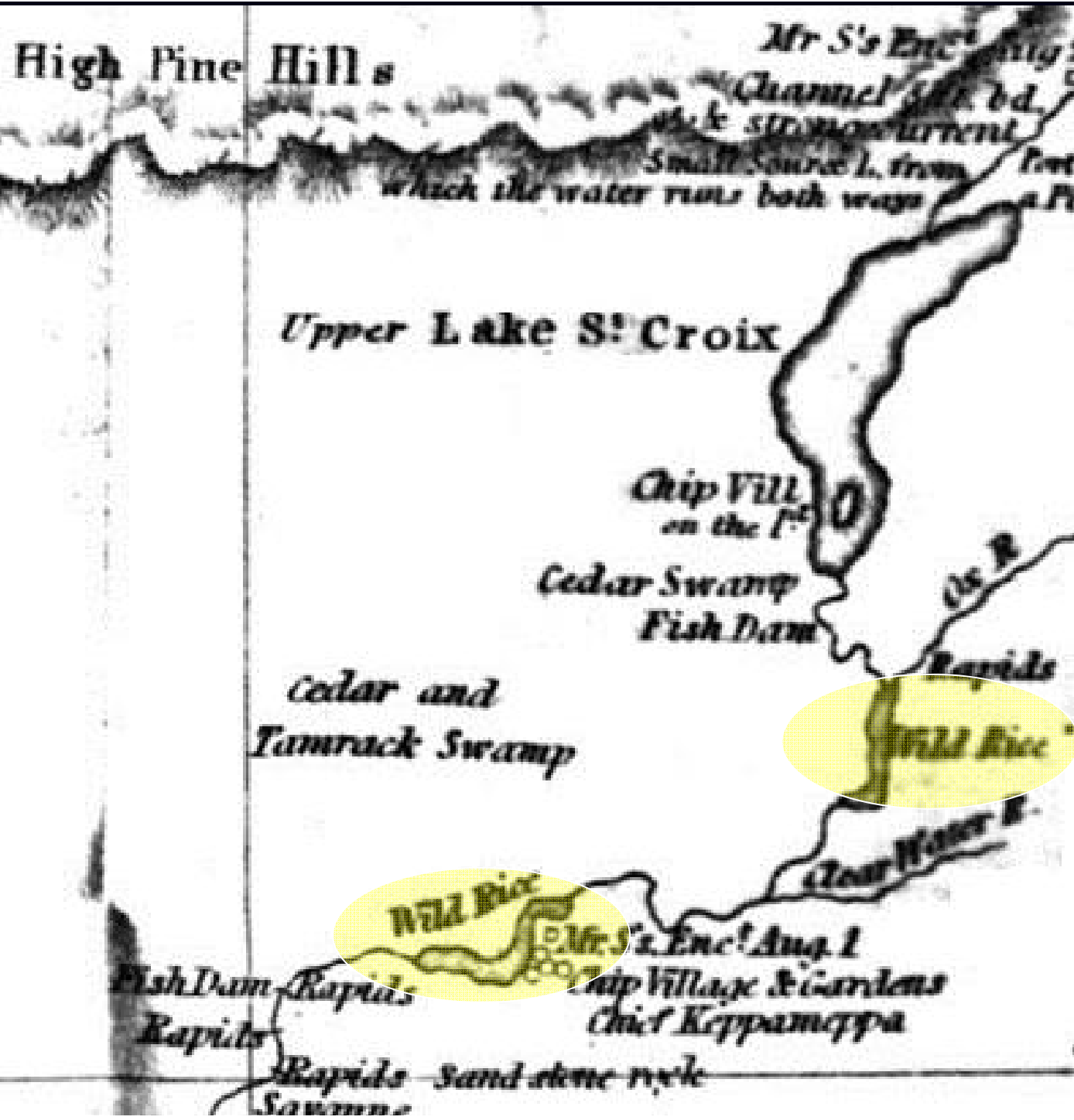




# The Fur Trade Era







Mentioned in the Explorers  
Journals Under a Wide Variety of  
Names

Wild Rice

*Fools Oats*

*Marsh Oats*

*Manoomin*

*Folle Avoine*

*Blackbird Oats*

*Indian Rice*

*Psin*

*Mad Oats*

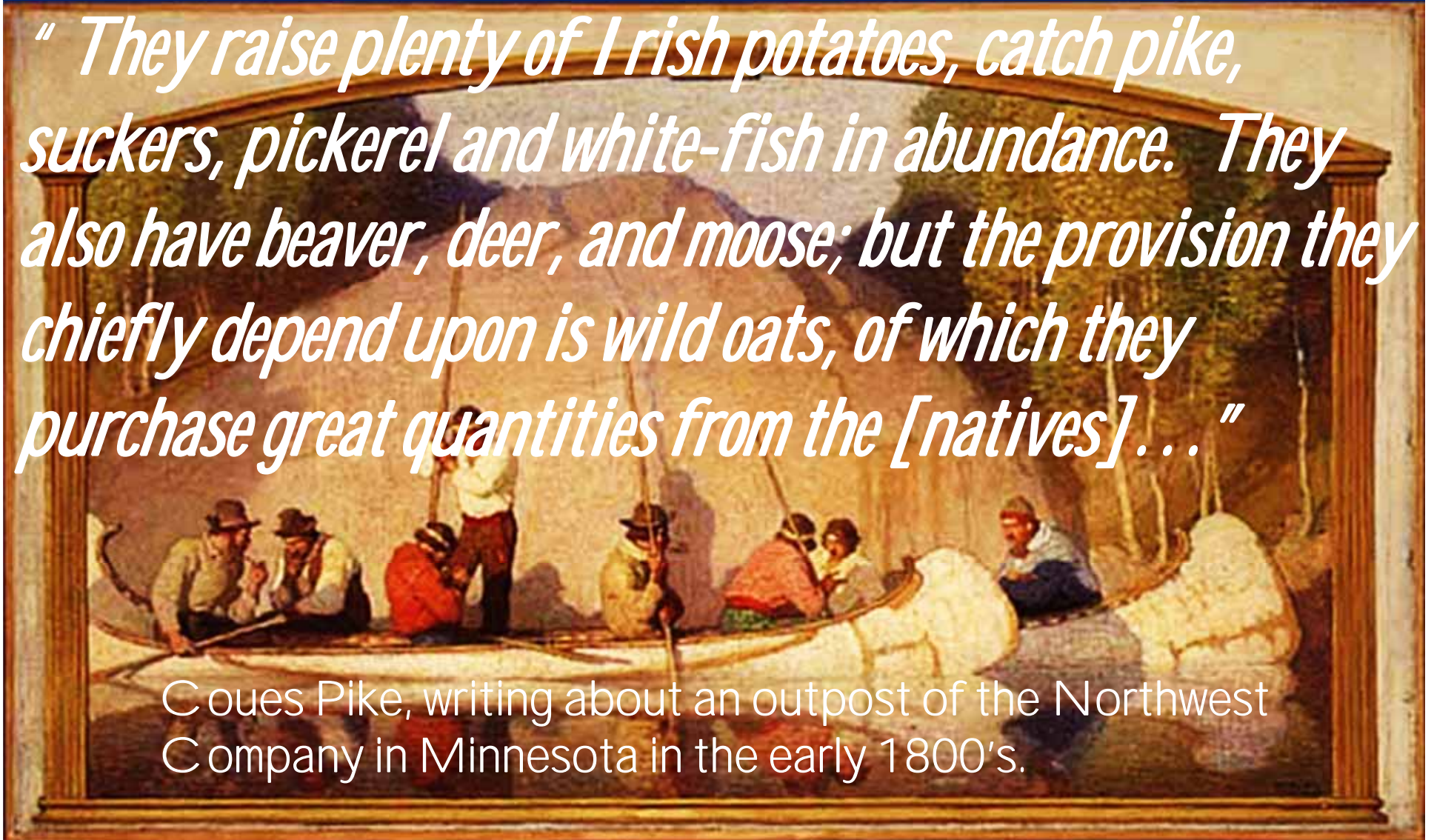
*Canadian Rice*



# A Mainstay for the Fur Industry

*" They raise plenty of Irish potatoes, catch pike, suckers, pickerel and white-fish in abundance. They also have beaver, deer, and moose; but the provision they chiefly depend upon is wild oats, of which they purchase great quantities from the [natives]... "*

Coues Pike, writing about an outpost of the Northwest Company in Minnesota in the early 1800's.



*"... we came to a shallow lake where you could see water, but in the canoe tracks the wild oats were so thick that the Indians could scarcely get one of their small canoes into it, and the wild ducks when they rose made noise like thunder. We got as many of them as we choose, fat and good."*

*Peter Pond: 1775 Near Lake Butte des Morts*





- *“Here we were obliged to paddle through an immense long field of zizania [wild rice], growing in the water...and to encamp in the long grass, there being nothing else near us. I had a glorious scene here at sunset, that luminary lighting up with his parting beams several thousand acres of zizania extending at least five miles in one direction and two miles in the other; the heads of the plant all waving gently about, as we sometimes see those of an extensive wheat-field do. ... The wild ducks concealed amongst the plants were quacking loudly, the red-winged blackbirds were issuing from them in clouds, and the night hawks were wheeling about and screaming in every direction. Take it altogether, it was one of the most rare and pleasing scenes I ever witnessed.”* G. W. Featherstonhaugh, 1835



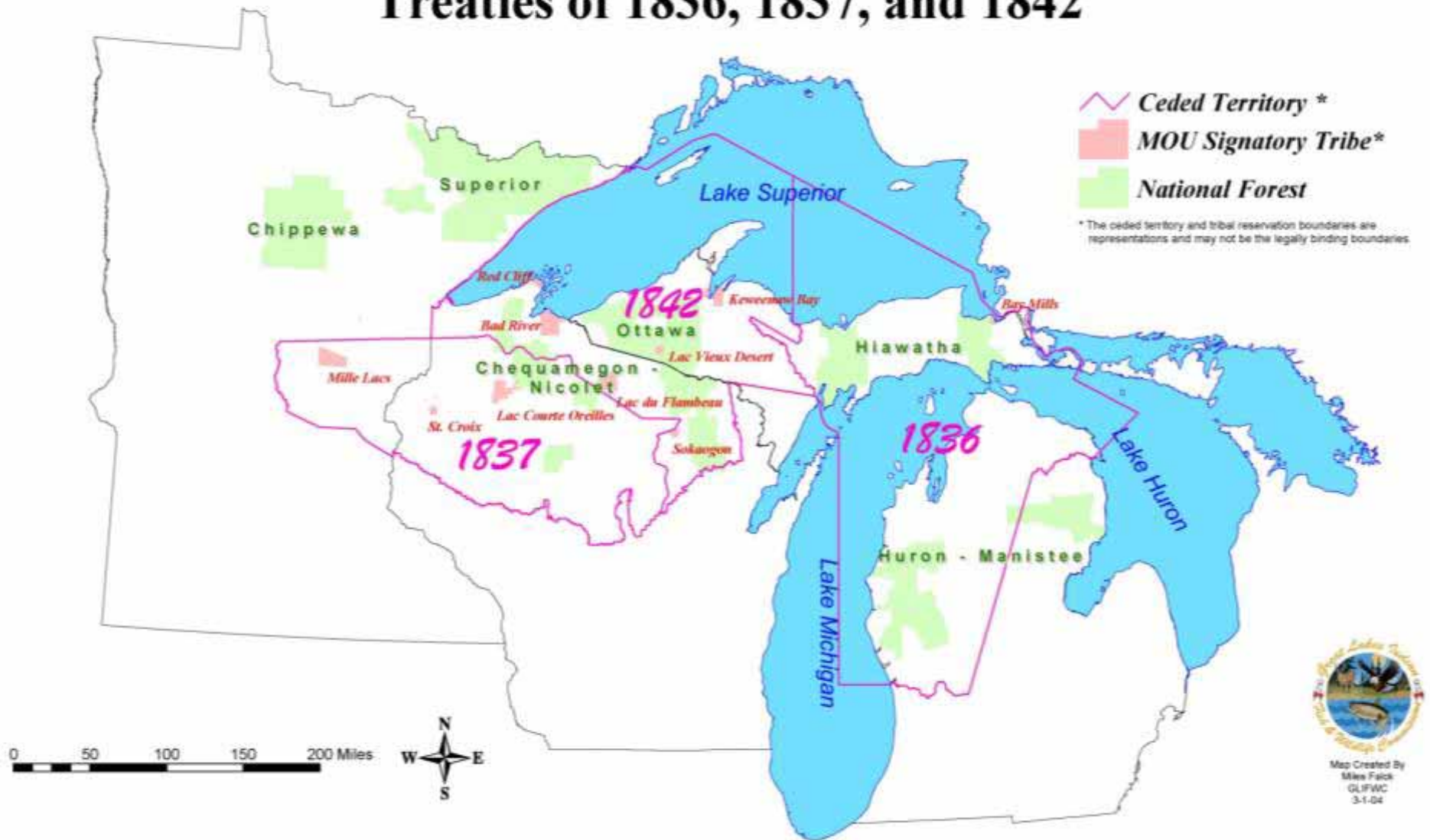
“We left this bay to enter the river that discharges into it; it is very beautiful at its Mouth, and flows gently; it is full Of bustards, Ducks, Teal and other birds, attracted thither by the wild oats of which they are very fond.”

*Fr. Marquette's Journal*

*1673-1675*



# Lake States National Forests and Chippewa Ceded Territories: Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842



*"The privilege of hunting, fishing and gathering the **wild rice**, upon the lands, the rivers and the lakes included in the territory ceded, is guaranteed to the Indians, during the pleasure of the President of the United States."*



From the Treaty with the Chippewa, 1837



*“That our people... desire a donation of twenty-four sections of land, covering the graves of our fathers, our sugar orchards, and **our rice lakes and rivers**, at seven different places now occupied by us as villages...”*

From a “Petition of the head chiefs of the Chippewa tribe of Indians on Lake Superior, February 7, 1849



# Our Maps Still Reflect this Request (for example: the Mole Lake Reservation)





# But Unfortunately Much Else Has Changed



Rice Lake, Polk County



Chippewa Flowage,  
Sawyer County

# A cascade of losses:

## Testimony regarding the creation of the Chippewa Flowage, May 17, 1921:

- *"As people eat bread and use it for food, we use rice."*
- *"From the very place I get rice from my allotment, I get fish there."*
- *"One of the reasons it is the best area to trap is there is considerable rice there, and the muskrats make their homes among the rice fields."*
- *"The ducks come here to feed on the rice beds, and of course that means a living to us as well."*



# Disruption of Natural Hydrology



Wilcox Island

Bubar Island

53

Gordon, WI 54838

Image © 2010 TerraMetrics  
© 2010 Europa Technologies



“We left this bay to enter the river that discharges into it; it is very beautiful at its Mouth, and flows gently; it is full Of bustards, Ducks, Teal and other birds, attracted thither by the wild oats of which they are very fond.”

*Fr. Marquette's Journal*

*1673-1675*





Photo courtesy of Jim Wark





# And the History we are Making Today?





# Invasives







# Clam Lake

# Clam Lake

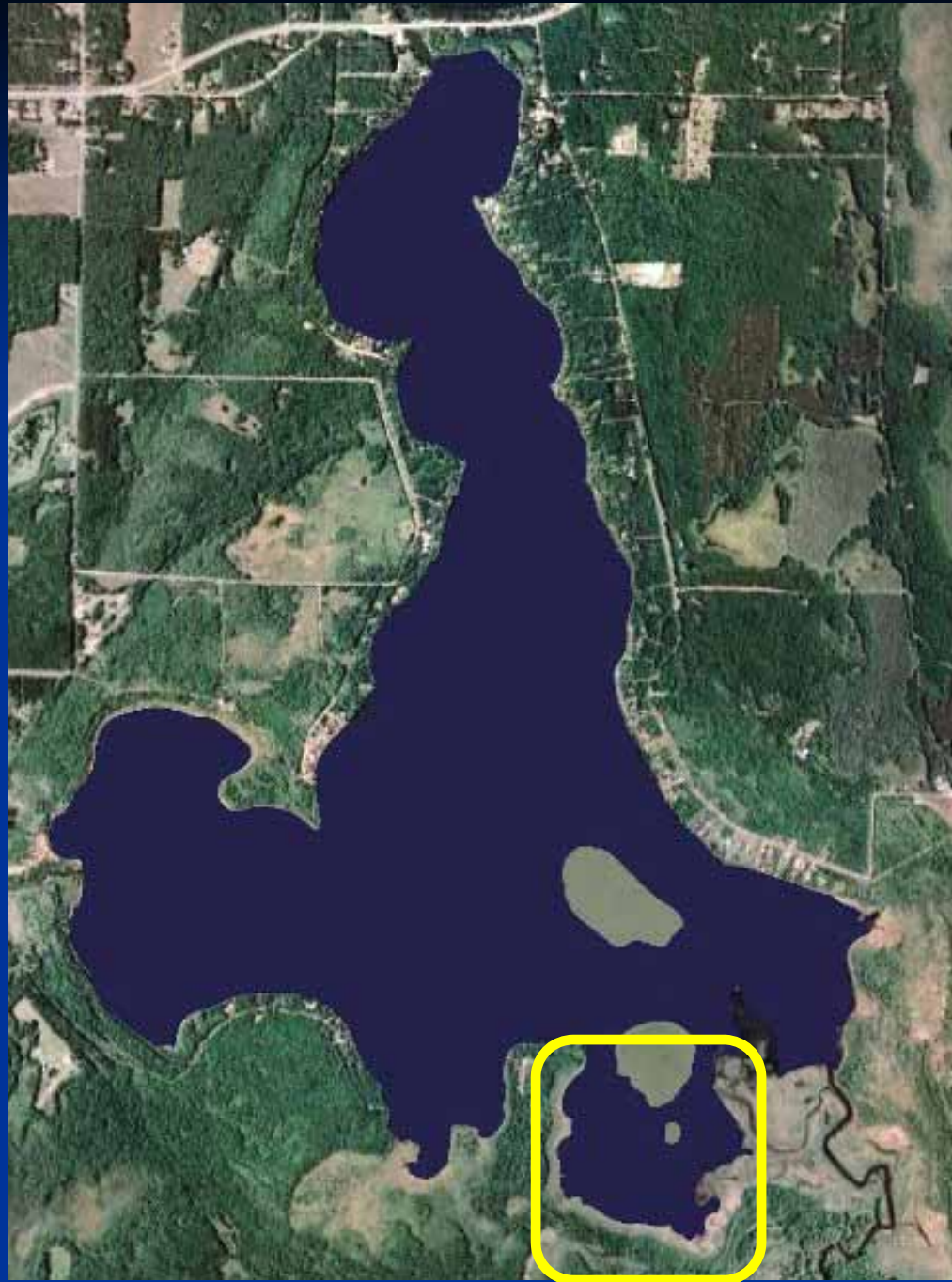


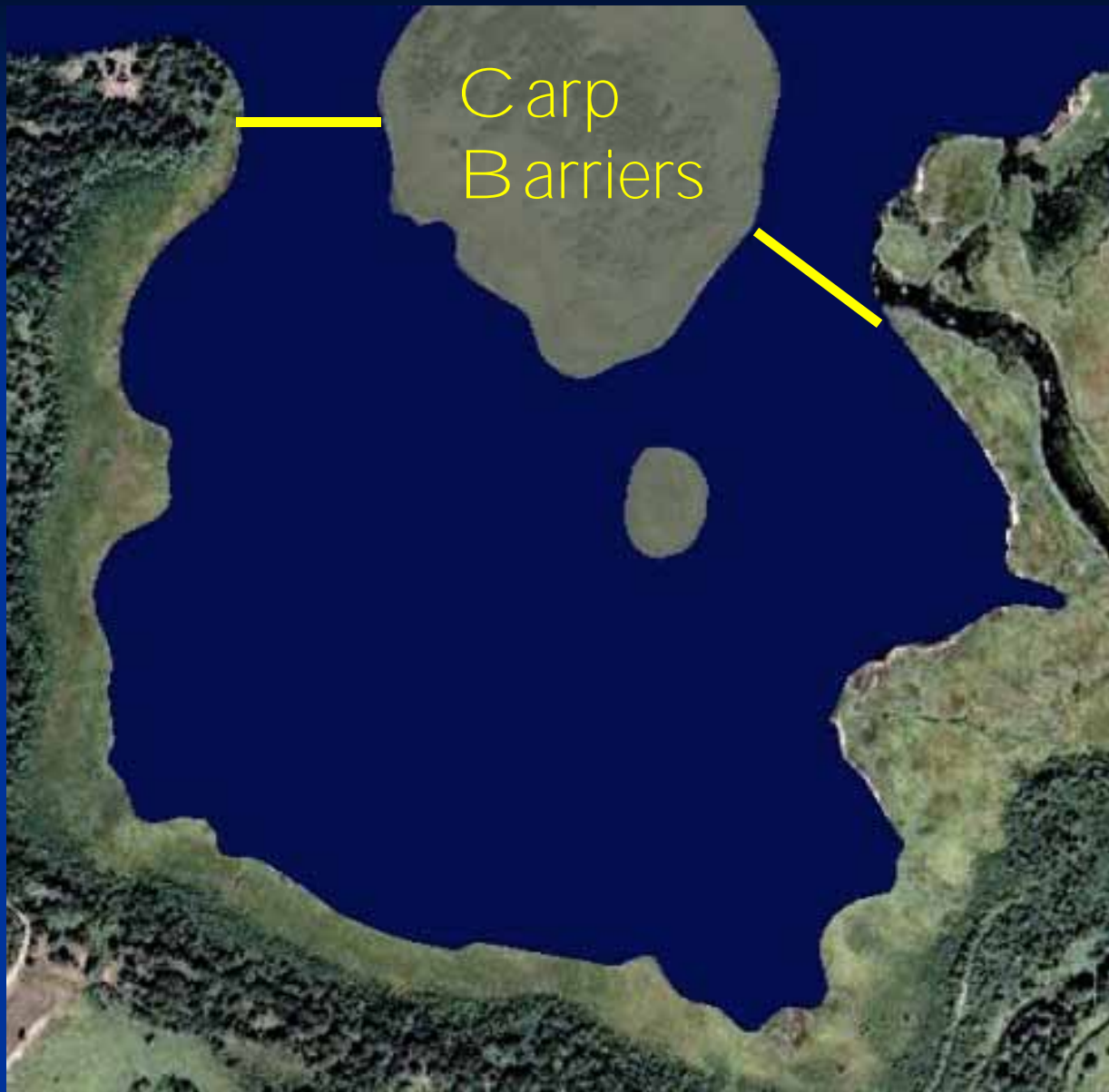
# Lone Star Bay





# Clam Lake











# Climate Change?



The Big Lake T thoroughfare in healthy and diseased years.

# Brown Spot Disease









# Genetic Engineering



But there is good news too:



We are still harvesting manoomin









And the harvest is still celebrated

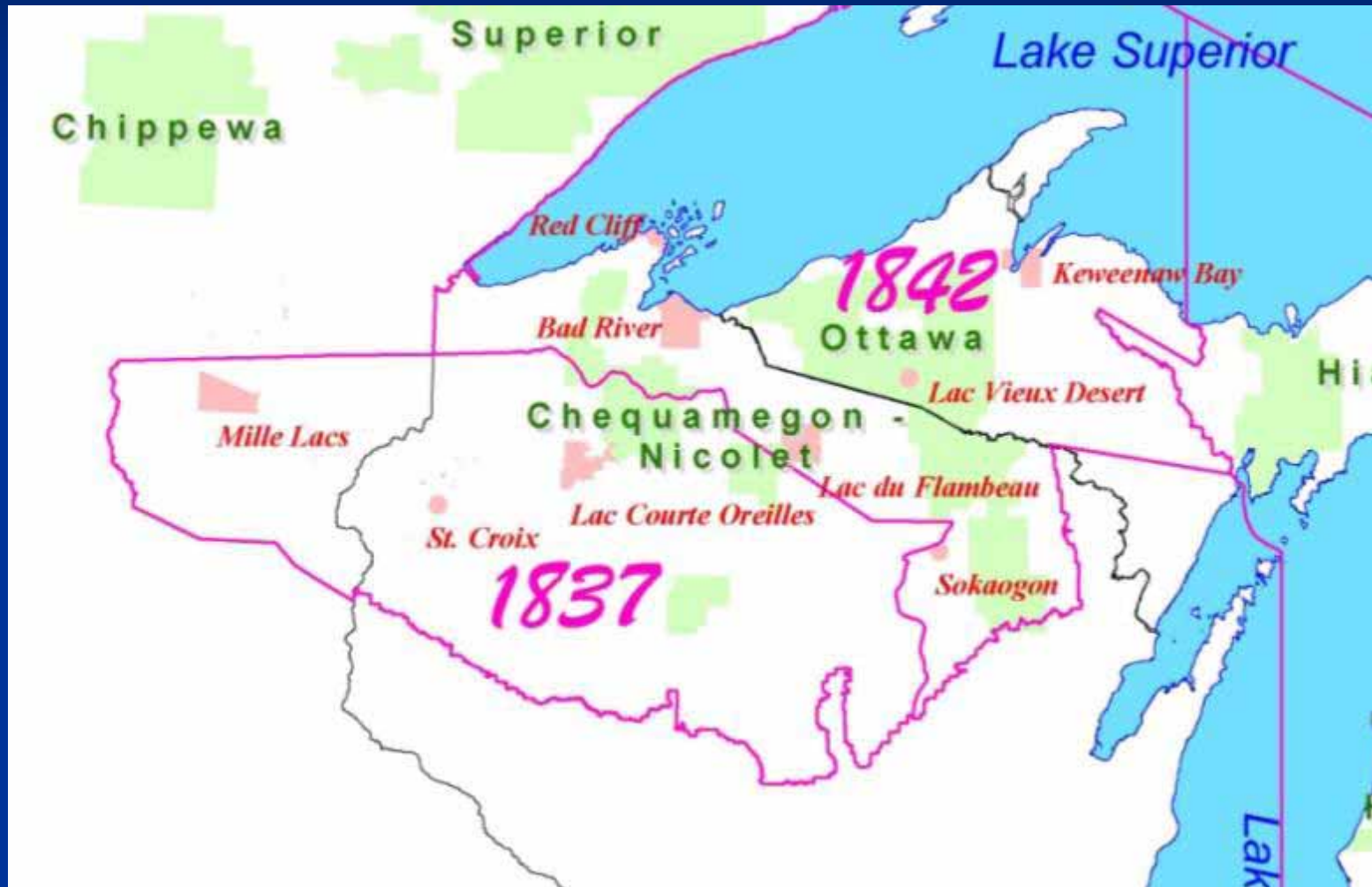






Hunting / fishing /trapping

# The Re-Affirmation of Treaties



# A Resurgence in Management







# Phantom Flowage







2003

2010





# Water Level Management





2009

# Mud Lake

2010





# A mik (Beaver) Control





ATTENTION BOATERS!  
THIS WATER BODY SUPPORTS  
**WILD RICE!**

*Wild rice is important to wildlife and human harvesters, and is protected by state law. Rice is easily uprooted, especially during the "floating-leaf" stage from May-June. Please use care whenever boating near the rice beds.*

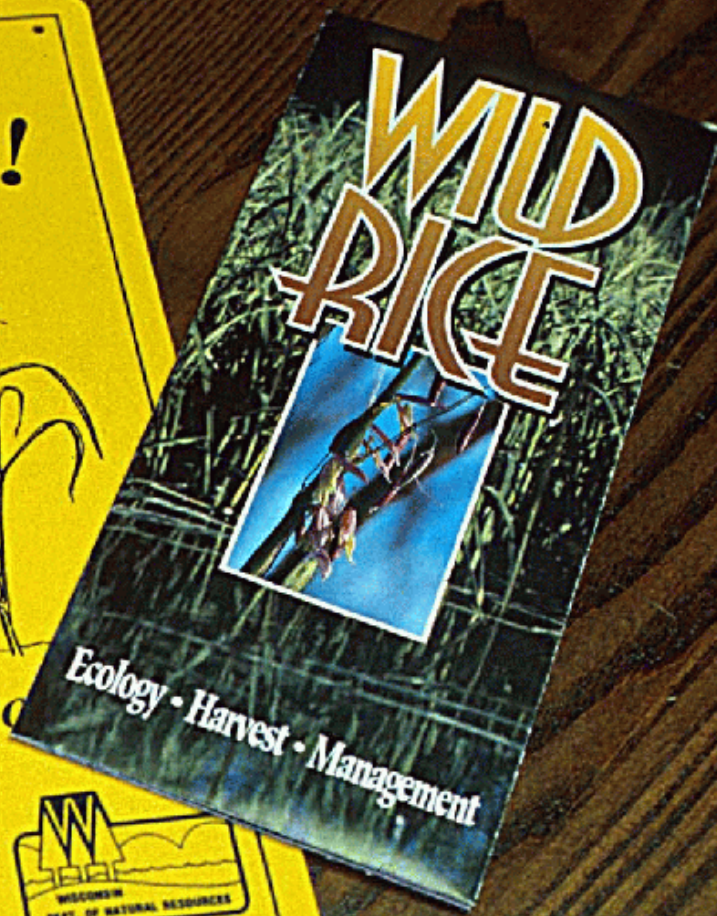


**PRESERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

GLIFWC:  
P.O. BOX 9  
ODANAH, WI 54891  
(715) 682-6619

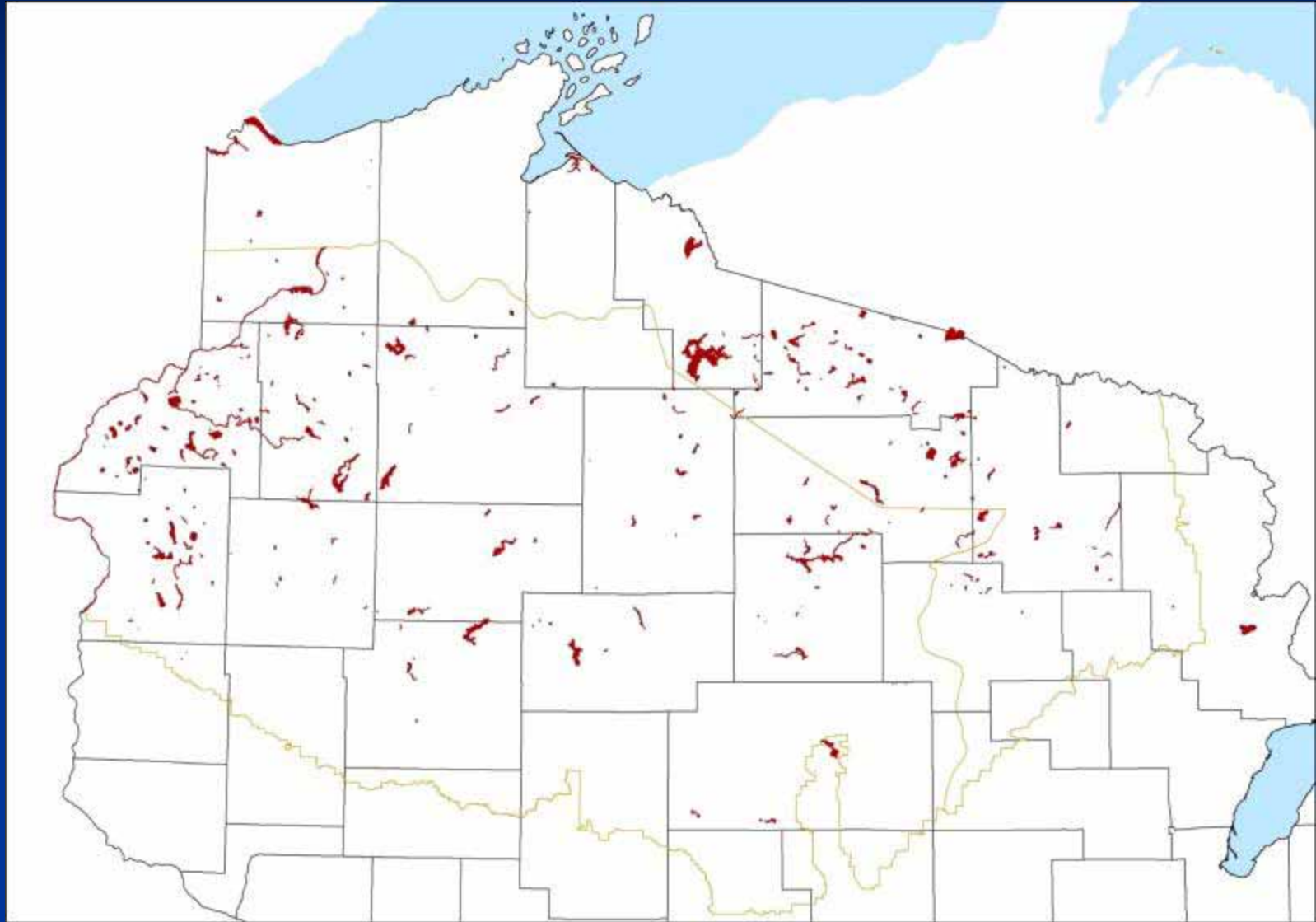
DNR: CONTACT  
LOCAL WARDEN  
OR WILDLIFE  
MANAGER







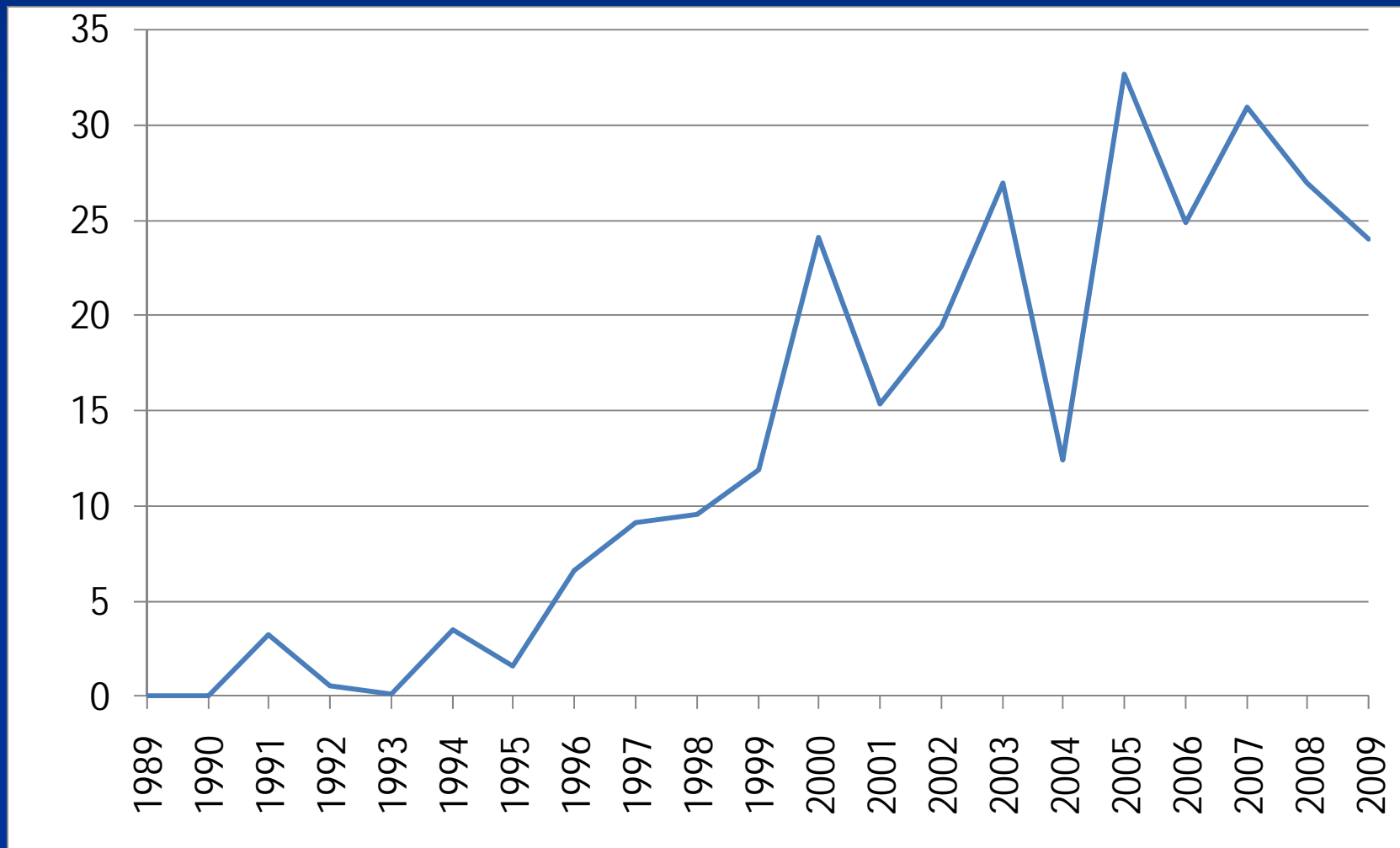
# WI Ceded Territory Inventory





# Making Manoomin

Percent of WI Off-Reservation Harvest  
From Seeded Waters





# Cultural Restoration





*Photo courtesy of Annette Drewes*



# Miigwech!

- For More Information:
- 715-682-6619
- [www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org)



# LuAnn's Wild Rice

- 2 cups grated cheese, any kind (I like swiss!)
- 2 cups sliced ripe olives
- 2 cans stewed tomatoes
- 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 cup diced onion
- 2 cups wild rice (uncooked)
- ½- 2/3 cups olive oil
- 2 t salt
- ½ t pepper
- Mix all above ingredients together; add:
- 3 cups boiling water
- Bake at 350, in a large uncovered casserole dish, about 2 hours



END OF PRESENTATION

(If posting this presentation, please delete this and all subsequent slides.)

*" The defendants agree to consult with the Voigt Task Force before the issuance of any permit which is required to be obtained from the State regarding any activity which may reasonable be expected to directly affect the abundance or habitat of **wild rice** in the ceded territory..."*

From the Wild Rice Regulatory Consent Decree of the Voigt Litigation



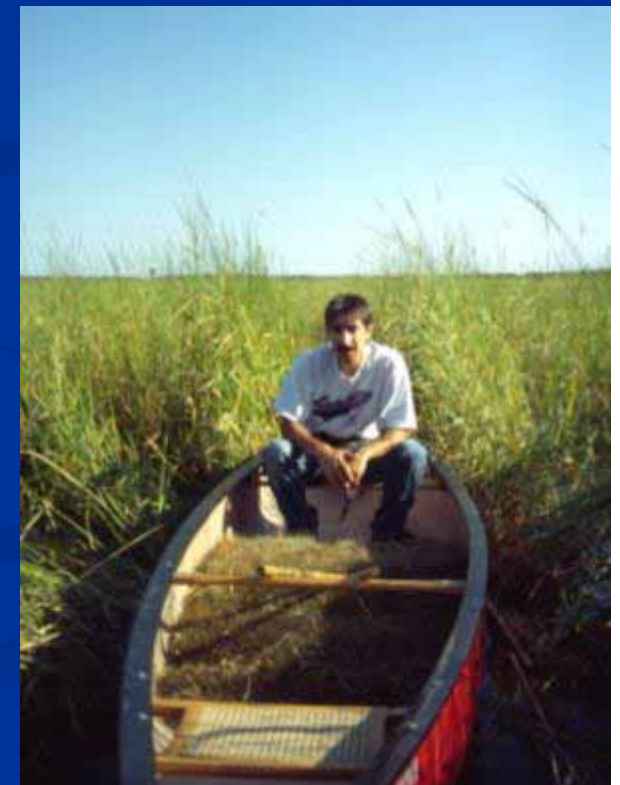


Wasn't that E A S Y!!!



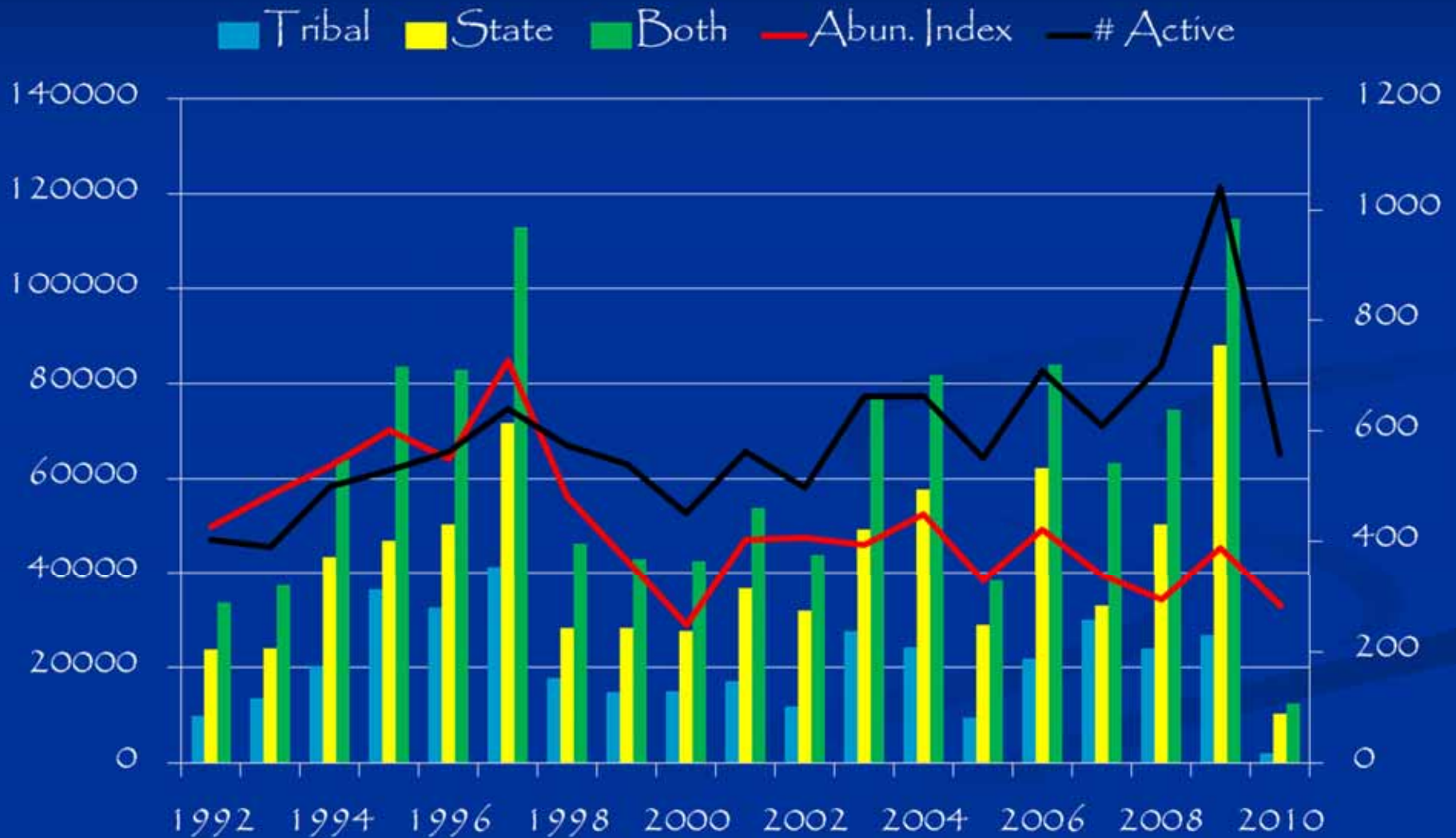
# Wisconsin Harvest Regulations

- State or tribal permit required – usually....
- Smooth, rounded wooden knockers, no longer than 38 inches (must be cedar for tribal ricers)
- Boats no longer than 17 feet or wider than 38 inches
- Propelled with a push-pole or paddles
- Hours 10:00 am to sunset
- Some lakes regulated by date



# Making Manoomin

State and Tribal Harvest vs Abundance Index by Year





Why not just do this?



# Cultivated vs "Wild" Wild Rice

## What's the difference?

- Genetics: not a great difference...yet
- Growing conditions: no herbicides, pesticides, fungicides on wild beds
- Hand vs combine harvesting: **seed maturity**
- Finishing:
  - Small batch versus industrial finishing
  - Greater variation – and choice with wild
  - The additional "**curing**" step of cultivated

# Cultivated vs "Wild" Wild Rice

## What's the difference?

- Different color /cooking characteristics
- Price
- F

L

A

V

O

R !!!





*HELP!*



Spur Lake







*Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society*



Mulligan Lake,  
Douglas County



Spur Lake,  
Oneida  
County

