



## **Tribal Wild Plant Gathering on National Forest Lands Harvest Season 2008 - 2009**

by

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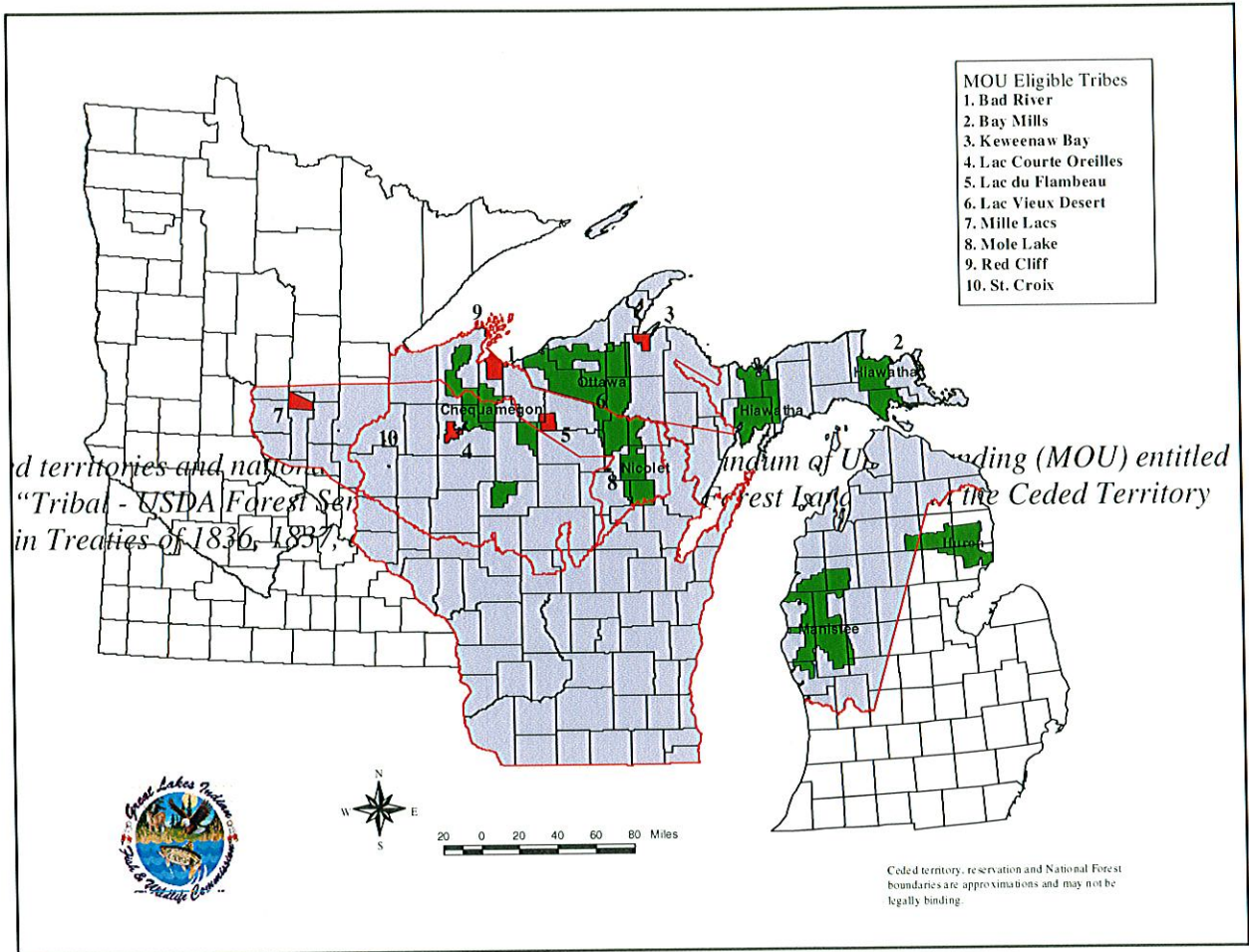
## **Tribal Wild Plant Gathering on National Forest Lands Harvest Season 2008-2009**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) member tribes have reserved harvesting rights in territories ceded to the United States through the Treaties of 1836, 1837, 1842 and 1854. In order to provide for the exercise of these treaty rights on lands managed by the USDA Forest Service (USFS) within the 1836, 1837, and 1842 ceded territories, GLIFWC member tribes and the USFS negotiated interim agreements annually beginning in 1995. At the same time the parties continued discussions to develop a more comprehensive and long term agreement.

The discussions resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled *Tribal - USDA Forest Service Relations on National Forest Lands within the Ceded Territory in Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842*. The MOU was ratified by nine GLIFWC member tribes (Bay Mills, Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mille Lacs, Mole Lake, St. Croix and Red Cliff) in 1998 and by the tenth GLIFWC member tribe (Keweenaw Bay) in 2000. The USFS signed the MOU in 1998. The national forests addressed in the MOU include the Chequamegon-Nicolet in Wisconsin; and Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee in Michigan (Figure 1).

Wild plants are harvested by tribal members throughout the year. However, for this report, a harvest season is defined as beginning on August 1, when tribal gathering permits may be issued, and ends the following year on July 31, when the permits expire. This report summarizes the results of tribal wild plant gathering on the above listed national forests for the 2008-2009 harvest season and compares these results with the six previous harvest seasons 2002-2003 through 2007-2008 (Danielsen 2009).





## DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Data were collected and summarized from the following sources:

**2008-2009 Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits** are required by nine of the tribes that have ratified the MOU for wild plant gathering on national forest lands. These permits provide a means to monitor overall tribal interest in gathering. Obtaining a permit does not mean a tribal member actually gathered any wild plant resource. Keweenaw Bay members are not required to obtain these permits, but may use their tribal identification card instead.

**2008-2009 Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits** are required by all ten tribes that have ratified the MOU for commercial gathering of conifer boughs (primarily zhingob, balsam fir), princess pine (gagige bag) and ginseng (jiisens). GLIFWC staff use these permits to determine tribal interest in the commercial gathering of these particular resources. A commercial permit is not required for the commercial gathering of other plant resources. These permits may also be used to specify any special regulations that are deemed necessary for the protection of the resource to be gathered. Tribal members choose which commercial products they plan to gather by “checking off” the products on their permits. Gatherers are requested to identify the national forests from which they will be gathering. More than one person may be authorized under one permit.

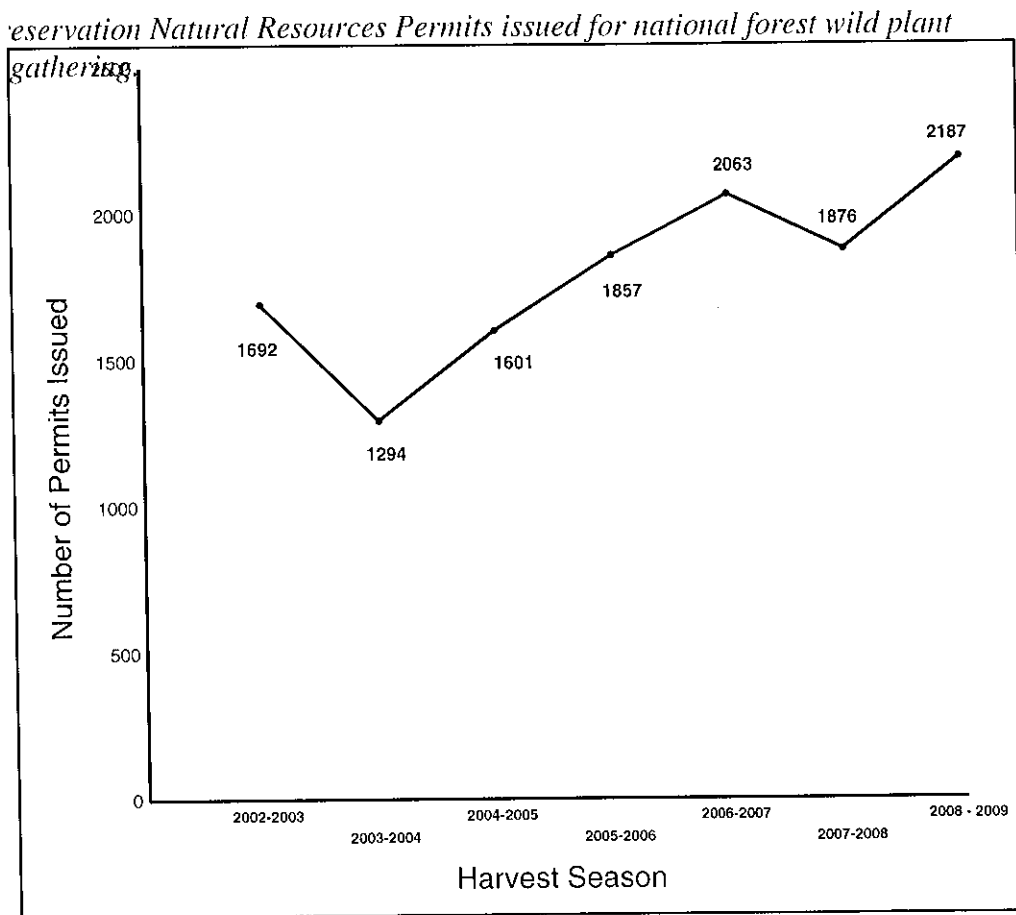
GLIFWC annually conducted and reported the results of a telephone survey to estimate the amount of several non-timber forest products (i.e., conifer boughs, princess pine, ginseng, birch bark and firewood) though the 2006 - 2007 season. However, because the annual estimated harvest of these products has been low, the survey will be done every 3 years rather than annually. The next telephone survey will be conducted in 2011 for the 2009 - 2010 harvest season.



## RESULTS

### Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits

For the 2008-2009 harvest season, the number of Off-reservation Natural Resources Harvest Permits issued for national forest wild plant gathering was 2,187. This was an increase from the previous harvest season in which 1,876 permits were issued (Figure 2).



For the 2008-2009 harvest season, Lac Courte Oreilles members obtained the most Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits, more than for the previous season (Table 1). There was an increased number of members obtaining a gathering permit from Bad River, Lac du Flambeau, Lac Vieux Desert, Mole Lake, Red Cliff and St. Croix. As mentioned in the data collection methods section, Keweenaw Bay members occasionally obtain these permits, but they may use their tribal identification card instead.

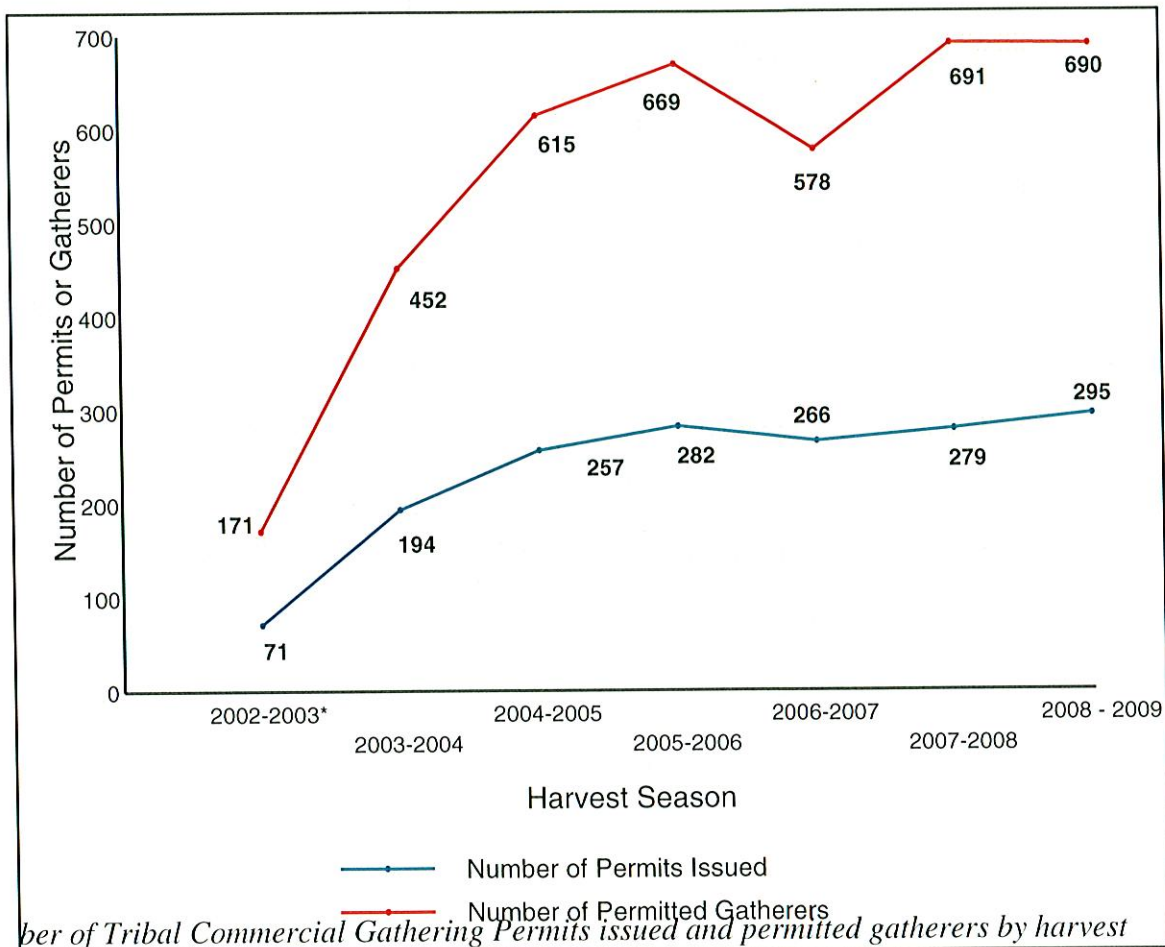
*Table 1: Number of Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits issued for national forest wild plant gathering.*

Tribe of Enrollment	2002-2003 Harvest Season	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season	2008-2009 Harvest Season
Bad River	168	132	181	113	233	145	289
Bay Mills	214	132	129	135	168	157	78
Keweenaw Bay	5	5	7	4	7	2	1
Lac Courte Oreilles	413	250	446	449	547	675	648
Lac du Flambeau	305	294	334	407	403	328	417
Lac Vieux Desert	83	69	87	84	145	71	104
Mille Lacs	13	26	41	103	39	129	66
Mole Lake	151	104	126	138	97	96	109
Red Cliff	224	154	135	271	301	193	304
St. Croix	116	128	115	153	123	80	171
<b>TOTAL</b>	1692	1294	1601	1857	2063	1876	2187

## Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits

The number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2008-2009 harvest season was 295, similar to the previous three seasons (Figure 3). Taking into account that multiple gatherers can be listed under one permit, the total number of permitted gatherers for the 2008 - 2009 season was 690. The number of gatherers per permit ranged from 1-7 and averaged 2.3 for the 2008-2009 season.

*\* Data are incomplete due to the inadvertent misplacement of permits issued to Lac Courte Oreilles members (Danielsen 2006).*



For the 2008-2009 harvest season, Lac Courte Oreilles members obtained the most Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits. No permits were obtained by Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay and Lac Vieux Desert members (Table 2).

*Table 2: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued by harvest season and by tribe of enrollment.*

Tribe of Enrollment	2002-2003 Harvest Season*	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season	2008-2009 Harvest Season
Bad River	23	34	29	34	25	32	31
Bay Mills	0	0	1	3	5	0	0
Keweenaw Bay	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Lac Courte Oreilles	1*	114	177	188	189	182	198
Lac du Flambeau	15	7	3	2	4	21	30
Lac Vieux Desert	3	1	2	9	13	9	0
Mille Lacs	0	7	1	2	1	1	2
Mole Lake	8	7	18	6	0	0	8
Red Cliff	20	23	24	36	24	29	24
St. Croix	1	0	2	2	3	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	71	194	257	282	266	279	295

*\* Data for Lac Courte Oreilles are incomplete due to an inadvertent misplacement of issued permits.*

Tribal members may select up to three non-timber forest products listed on their Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits. Occasionally, tribal members neglect to make any selection (e.g., 1 permit for the 2008-2009 season). For the 2008 - 2009 harvest season, the number of permits issued for conifer boughs (292), princess pine (258) and ginseng (250) was the highest of the previous six seasons (Table 3). For each of the seven seasons, conifer boughs have been selected most often, followed by princess pine and then ginseng.

*Table 3: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued by forest product selected and harvest season.*

Forest Product Selected	2002-2003 Harvest Season*	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season	2008-2009 Harvest Season
Conifer Boughs	70	191	253	258	266	279	292
Princess Pine	40	150	178	196	218	247	258
Ginseng	34	137	175	186	206	237	250
No Selection	0	2	3	24	0	0	1

*\* Data are incomplete due to an inadvertent misplacement of permits issued to Lac Courte Oreilles members (Danielsen 2006).*

For the 2008-2009 harvest season, Lac Courte Oreilles had more permits issued for all three non-timber forest products than any other tribe (Table 4).

*Table 4: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2008-2009 harvest season by tribe of enrollment and by forest product selected.*

<b>Tribe of Enrollment</b>	<b>Conifer Boughs</b>	<b>Princess Pine</b>	<b>Ginseng</b>	<b>No Selection</b>
<b>Bad River</b>	31	22	21	1
<b>Bay Mills</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Keweenaw Bay</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Lac Courte Oreilles</b>	195	190	186	0
<b>Lac du Flambeau</b>	30	29	29	0
<b>Lac Vieux Desert</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Mille Lacs</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>Mole Lake</b>	8	0	2	0
<b>Red Cliff</b>	24	13	8	0
<b>St. Croix</b>	2	2	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	292	258	250	1

On their Tribal Commercial Gathering Permit, tribal members may select more than one (and occasionally fail to select any) national forest from which they expect to gather. For the 2008-2009 harvest season, similar to the previous six seasons, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was selected on a permit most often followed by the Ottawa, Hiawatha, and Huron-Manistee National Forests (Table 5).

*Table 5: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits by national forest and harvest season.*

National Forest	2002-2003 Harvest Season*	2003-2004 Harvest Season	2004-2005 Harvest Season	2005-2006 Harvest Season	2006-2007 Harvest Season	2007-2008 Harvest Season	2008-2009 Harvest Season
Chequamegon-Nicolet	69	178	256	270	251	276	292
Ottawa	39	83	84	93	46	64	114
Hiawatha	35	77	82	88	45	61	112
Huron-Manistee	35	77	80	86	33	61	111
None Selected	2	15	0	4	5	3	0

*\* Data are incomplete due to an inadvertent misplacement of permits issued to Lac Courte Oreilles members.*

For the 2008-2009 harvest season, the Chequamegon-National Forest was the only selection on permits issued to Mille Lacs, Mole Lake and St. Croix members and the most frequent selection on permits issued to Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau and Red Cliff members. (Table 6). No permits were issued to Bay Mills, Keweenaw Bay and Lac Vieux Desert members.

*Table 6: Number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits by tribe of enrollment and by national forest for the 2007-2008 harvest season.*

<b>Tribe of Enrollment</b>	<b>Chequamegon-Nicolet</b>	<b>Ottawa</b>	<b>Hiawatha</b>	<b>Huron-Manistee</b>	<b>No Selection</b>
<b>Bad River</b>	10	20	18	17	0
<b>Bay Mills</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Keweenaw Bay</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lac Courte Oreilles</b>	196	65	65	65	0
<b>Lac du Flambeau</b>	30	26	26	26	0
<b>Lac Vieux Desert</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mille Lacs</b>	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Mole Lake</b>	8	0	0	0	0
<b>Red Cliff</b>	24	3	3	3	0
<b>St. Croix</b>	2	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	292	114	112	111	0

## **SUMMARY**

The number of tribal members obtaining Off-reservation Natural Resources Permits validated for national forest wild plant gathering for the 2008-2009 harvest season (2,189) increased from the previous season (1,876). The number of Tribal Commercial Gathering Permits issued for the 2008-2009 harvest season was 295, slightly more than the 279 permits issued for the 2007-2008 season. Taking into account that multiple gatherers can be listed under one permit, the total number of permitted gatherers for the 2008-2009 harvest season (690) was just one fewer than the 2007-2008 season (691).



## CITATIONS

Danielsen, K.C. 2009. Tribal wild plant gathering on national forest lands; harvest season 2006-2007. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah, WI. Administrative Report 09-10, June 2009.

Danielsen, K.C. 2006. Wild plant and non-timber forest products gathering on national forest lands during 2002-2003. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Odanah, WI. Administrative Report 04-06, Version 2, November 2006