



Lac du Flambeau Integrated Resource Management Plan Opinion Survey: Spring 2005

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Executive Summary

In April and May 2005 the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls conducted a survey for the members of the Lac du Flambeau (LDF) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians on management and conservation of natural and cultural resources on their reservation. 366 of 1211 surveys were returned (a 30% response rate), producing results that should be accurate to within plus or minus 5 percent.

Some of the key conclusions reached by this study include:

- Two-thirds (67 percent) of Band members feel that the quality of life on the Reservation is either good (57 percent) or very good (10 percent). A substantial minority of the Band (one-third) feel that the quality of life on the reservation is poor (30 percent) or very poor (3 percent).
- A large majority (86 percent) of Band members feel that the reservation should be further developed. However, most members (84 percent) feel that development on the reservation should be controlled rather than allowed to take place where-ever (10 percent).
- In regard to development options Band members strongly favor continuing to operate the transfer station, are in favor of buying private land parcels on the reservation, and would like to expand gambling both on and off the reservation.
- On the other hand they do not favor allowing landfills or junkyards on the reservation. Preserving more land from development has the support of a solid majority but more than one-in-five Band members have not made up their minds about this option.
- A majority of respondents said that business development is a responsibility shared between the Tribe and individual Band members. Between a quarter and a third of all respondents felt the Tribe bears primary responsibility for development of light industry, agriculture, and tourism. About one-quarter said that individuals should bear primary responsibility for small business development.
- More than six times as many people feel more housing subdivisions are needed as say they aren't. The highest percentage of the Band (86 percent) favored purchasing existing homes from non-members for resale to members as a means of expanding housing.
- Development activity in the Bear River area is strongly opposed by Band members. The majority of Band members favor development in the Old Prairie area.
- Water quality is the resource issue that is of greatest concern to Band members. Water quality was identified as one of the top three issues by 72 percent of the 261 people who responded to a question (Q34) about resource issue priorities.
- Ninety percent or more of Tribal members expect to fish, boat and swim and 70 – 80 percent will use water resources in their spiritual practices, to hunt, or to gather rice.
- Eighty-six percent of all respondents indicated that programs to ensure drinking water quality are very important to them. In terms of a programmatic approach to water quality, respondents overwhelmingly (88 percent to 12 percent margin) favor a program focused on standards rather than on zoning issues.
- In terms of water resource concerns, there are several issues of substantial concern. Mercury in fish, existing water quality and protecting wild rice habitat were each identified by more

than half of all members who responded to this question as being among their top three water resource concerns.

- In regard to key cultural issues, the highest priority is placed on protecting cemeteries and burial sites (89 percent ranked this as one of their top three items).
- In terms of use of culturally important gathering resources, by far the two of greatest importance are wild rice and wild berries. The use of these two resources is nearly universal with 86 percent of the respondents ranking wild rice as one of their top 3 gathering resources and 92 percent identifying wild berries in the top 3.
- Also wild rice and wild berries are the most common gathering resources identified as being in need of protection. Wild rice was identified as one of the three resources most in need of protection by 94 percent of the respondents.
- There are two very obvious dominant wildlife priorities for Tribal members; fish and deer. Ninety-nine percent of respondents identified fish as one of the three most important wildlife resources to them and 96 percent so identified deer.
- The most important fish species to Tribal members are walleye and musky. Walleye rates in the top three species for 98 percent of respondents and musky for 81 percent.
- Band members appear to be strongly in favor of more regulations on the reservation to protect fishery resources; 74 percent said they support such an effort.
- Nearly half of all respondents indicated that the most important goal of forest management is to protect or sustain wildlife populations. Substantially more Band members prefer more of an ecologic approach (71 percent) to forest management over an economic one (29 percent).

During April and May, 2005 the Survey Research Center (SRC) at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls sent questionnaires to 1,211 members of the Lac du Flambeau (LDF) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians to gather input on management and conservation of natural and cultural resources on their reservation. The SRC received a total of 366 completed questionnaires for a return rate of 30 percent. The 2000 Census of Population and Housing indicates that there were 2,092 people 18 and older in the LDF Band. Assuming this is close to the current LDF Band population, the estimates in this report should be accurate to within plus or minus 5 percent.

Profile of Survey Respondents

Table 1 summarizes the demographic features of the respondents to the LDF management and conservation survey. As is usually the case in surveys, women are a significantly higher proportion of respondents than men. The SRC tested to see if there are systematic and significant differences in responses of men and women and found astonishingly few issues on which there are gender differences. Most of the differences are consistent with our expectations; women report a significantly lower feeling of personal safety on the reservation, men are significantly more likely than women to report that they expect to take part in fishing, skiing, hunting, and trapping. With respect to the other demographic features, the sample accords fairly well with data from the 2000 census. We conclude that the sample is a good representation of the overall population and no systematic biases are expected.

Gender	Count	Female	Male				
Sample	351	56%	44%				
2000 Census		50%	50%				
Age	Count	18-25	25 – 34	35 – 44	45 – 54	55 - 64	65+
Sample	354	10%	16%	25%	20%	16%	14%
2000 Census		10%	15%	18%	16%	17%	23%
Housing	Count	Own	Rent				
Sample	339	49%	51%				
2000 Census		52%	48%				
Education	Count	Less than High School	High School	Some College/ Tech	Tech degree	College Degree	Grad/ Professional Degree
Sample	355	11%	35%	38%	5%	7%	3%
2000 Census (25+ years old)		19%	35%	30%		11%	4%
Income	Count	< \$25,000	\$25,000 - \$34,999	\$35,000 - \$49,999	\$50,000 - \$74,999	\$75,000 - \$99,999	\$100,000+
Sample	335	54%	22%	13%	6%	4%	1%
2000 Census		40%	17%	15%	18%	6%	5%

Community and Economic Development

The first segment of the questionnaire gathered opinions from Band members about community and general economic development issues. Two-thirds (67 percent) of Band members feel that the quality of life on the Reservation is either good (57 percent) or very good (10 percent). One-third of the Band feel that the quality of life on the reservation is poor (30 percent) or very poor (3 percent). Thus, while a majority of the Tribe seem to be at-least somewhat satisfied with the quality of life on the reservation, a substantial minority feel otherwise. The level of satisfaction with the quality of life on the reservation is significantly higher for Band members 65 years of age and older and lower for young adults (18 – 25 years of age) and those in middle age (45 – 54 years old). People who reported higher levels of feeling safe on the reservation (always or usually) were also statistically more likely to be more positive about the quality of life on the reservation. Only 9 percent of respondents said that they “rarely” or “never” feel safe on the reservation.

There is a large majority (86 percent) of Band members who feel that the reservation should be further developed; 7 percent were not sure if development should occur and 6 percent prefer the status quo to further development. By a very similar margin (84 percent), members feel that development on the reservation should be controlled rather than allowed to take place wherever (10 percent). The remaining 6 percent of respondents were not sure whether development should be controlled or not. In short, there is a near consensus on the need for additional development on the reservation.

Table 2 summarizes the responses of Band members to a variety of development options. The opinions of respondents to these options are fairly clear: they strongly favor continuing to operate the transfer station, are in favor of buying private land parcels on the reservation, and

	Count	No	Not Sure	Yes
Continue tribal transfer station	366	2%	1%	97%
Buy private land on reservation	364	4%	8%	88%
Develop gaming off reservation	366	14%	5%	80%
Expand gaming on reservation	365	15%	5%	79%
Preserve more land from development	360	17%	21%	63%
Allow landfills	365	70%	10%	20%
Allow junkyards	365	80%	8%	12%

would like to expand gambling both on and off the reservation. It is also abundantly clear that they do not favor allowing landfills or junkyards on the reservation.

Preserving more land from development has the support of a solid majority but more than one-in-five Band members have not made up their minds about this option.

Males are significantly more interested in preserving more land from development and, ironically, more undecided about allowing landfills on the reservation. Homeowners are more favorably disposed to purchasing private land on the reservation, less favorable of junk yards,

and more undecided about land fills. Middle aged respondents (45 – 64 years of age) are significantly more interested in buying private land on the reservation but this group and elders are less favorable of expanding off-reservation gambling. Those with more years of formal education are more favorable of buying private land on the reservation and more undecided about keeping the transfer station open.

As noted in Table 2, 88 percent of respondents are in favor of buying more privately-held land on the reservation. Those in favor of this option were asked two follow-up questions. The first asked what type of land the Band should focus on purchasing. Of the three options provided, slightly more than half (53 percent) favor the purchase of private land with lakeshore with roughly comparable proportions favoring wild areas (27 percent) and built-up areas (20 percent).

The second follow-up question asked how much should be budgeted annually for purchasing privately held land and respondents’ opinions are summarized in Table 3. No clear direction is provided by members’ responses to this question with very similar numbers of people each of the top 3 budget categories. Based on these responses, it appears that an annual budget of between

\$0.5 million and \$1.0 million would be acceptable to a majority of Band members.

Count	<\$250,000	\$250,001- \$500,000	\$500,001- \$750,000	\$750,001 - \$1,000,000
322	11%	27%	30%	32%

Survey participants were asked to indicate who (the Tribe, individuals, both or neither) should be responsible for a variety of types of business development. These results (Table 4) confirm the point made earlier that there is wide-spread agreement on the need for business development on the reservation; fewer than 5 percent of respondents were unfavorable of any of the types of business development about which we asked. More than half but less than two-thirds of the

	Count	No One	Not Sure	Tribe	Individuals	Both
Small Businesses	366	0%	1%	9%	24%	66%
Light Industry	365	2%	5%	25%	11%	57%
Agricultural Businesses	366	4%	5%	28%	8%	55%
Tourism Businesses	363	0%	2%	37%	4%	57%

respondents said that business development is a responsibility shared between the Tribe and individual Band members. Except for small

businesses, about one-third of all respondents felt the Tribe bears primary responsibility for business development. About one-quarter said that individuals should bear primary responsibility for small business development. Homeowners are significantly more favorable to placing responsibility for small business development on the shoulders of individuals and higher income Band members feel the Tribe should take more responsibility for tourism-related businesses.

Finally, members were asked their opinion about open burning and backyard burning on the reservation. Sixty-eight percent of all respondents favor allowing backyard burning but only 30 percent favor open burning (55 percent opposed).

Housing and Infrastructure

Recipients of the questionnaire were asked if more housing subdivisions were needed on the reservation and, as Table 5 indicates, more than six times as many people feel more are needed as say they aren't. The remainder of the upper half of Table 5 lists the types of housing developments in descending order of preference. Thus, the highest percentage of the Band (86 percent) favored purchasing existing homes from non-members for resale to members as a means of expanding housing. In addition to purchasing existing homes from non-members, large majorities also favor subdivisions built on Reservation land purchased by the Tribe and subdivisions that are on scattered sites. A weak majority or a plurality of members favor

Housing Options	Count	No	Not Sure	Yes
More Subdivisions Needed	365	13%	8%	79%
Non-Member Home Purchases	326	7%	7%	86%
Subdivisions on Purchased Land	316	4%	12%	84%
Scattered Subdivisions	332	14%	9%	77%
Near-Town Subdivisions	319	31%	18%	51%
Lake Shore Subdivisions	339	37%	14%	50%
Far-From-Town Subdivisions	324	36%	18%	45%
Mobile Home Park	359	49%	8%	43%
Mixed Development Options				
Mixed Development Options	Count	No	Not Sure	Yes
Old Prairie Development	364	27%	9%	63%
East Boundary Development	361	31%	10%	59%
Trout River Development	364	33%	12%	55%
Old Indian Village Development	364	44%	9%	47%
Bear River Development	364	74%	7%	19%

subdivisions that are close to existing towns, are on lake shores or are far from existing towns. For all three of these options, there are substantial numbers of people who have not made up their minds about the desirability of these types of subdivisions or are opposed to them. More people disapprove of developing a mobile home park than favor it.

Renters are significantly more favorable to the need for more subdivisions in general and for lakeshore subdivisions in particular. Males favor subdivisions closer to town and disfavor those far from town more than do women. Members

from higher income groups favor more subdivisions in general. Those under 25 years of age are particularly opposed to the creation of a mobile home park on reservation land.

Finally, this set of questions received more (24) comments than any other question in the survey. The comments were varied and some were conflicting. Development suggestions ranged from recreational development (golf course) to efforts to address specific housing needs (i.e. housing for people without children, housing for people with children).

In addition to preferences about subdivisions, respondents were asked to indicate where they think developments, that would include housing, should take place (summarized in the bottom portion of Table 5). It is clear that development activity in Bear River area is strongly opposed by Band members. It is also reasonably clear that a majority of Band members favor

development in the Old Prairie area. While more people are favorably disposed to developments in the East Boundary, Trout River and Old Indian Village areas than oppose them, more community discussions on these options might be beneficial since substantial numbers of people are opposed to or are unsure about them.

There are relatively few differences of opinion among different demographic groups regarding these five development venues. Higher income members are less supportive of development in the Bear River, Old Prairie and Trout River areas than those with lower incomes. In contrast, members who rent their housing are more supportive of development in the Old Prairie, Trout River and East Boundary areas than home owners. Women and younger members (those under 25) are more favorably disposed to development in the Trout River and East Boundary areas than are males and those older than 25.

Natural Resources

The next, and most extensive, portion of the questionnaire sought input about management and conservation of natural resources on the reservation. To facilitate the comparison of these resources issues, we will use a weighted average value. The weighted average value assigns a value of 3 for each time a given resource issue is identified as the most important issue, a 2 each time it's said to be the second most important issue and a 1 for each third most important tally. These values are added together and divided by the total number answering this set of questions (261) to get the average weighted value. So, the weighted value for water quality is calculated as: $((88*3) + (60*2) + (40*1))/261 = 1.62$. There are several instances in the questionnaire where Band members are asked to provide this sort of ranking and the same process will be used in each to calculate a weighted average value.

Water Quality. As Table 6 shows, water quality is the resource issue that is clearly of greatest concern to Band members. Water quality is identified as the most important issue by more than

Resource Issue	Most Important Issue	Second Most Important Issue	Third Most Important Issue	Average Weighted Value ¹
Count	261	261	261	
Water Quality	88	60	40	1.62
Cultural Resource Protection	43	27	28	0.81
Wildlife Management	33	31	34	0.75
Private Land Purchases	28	18	38	0.61
Air Quality	26	35	22	0.65
Fisheries Management	25	36	43	0.73
Forestry Management	10	34	35	0.51
Wetlands Protection	8	20	21	0.33

1. Weights: Most important = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1

twice the number of people who chose the second most common option, cultural resource protection. Water quality is also the most commonly selected second most important issue and is nearly the most commonly selected third most important issue. In fact, water quality was

identified as one of the top three issues by 72 percent of the 261 people who answered this question. The importance of water issues is reinforced by the fact that fisheries management, which is closely related to water quality, is also identified by a substantial proportion of the sample as a key resource issue.

One reason water quality is the dominant resource concern for the Lac du Flambeau is intensity with which they use this resource. Survey recipients were asked to indicate the likelihood that they will take part in a variety of water-related activities. Their responses are summarized in

	Count	Percent Very Unlikely	Percent Unlikely	Percent Likely	Percent Very Likely	Weighted Average ¹
Fish	361	2%	6%	20%	71%	1.53
Boat	361	2%	5%	28%	66%	1.51
Swim	363	3%	7%	26%	63%	1.39
Spiritual	355	5%	15%	37%	43%	0.98
Hunt	354	6%	18%	26%	51%	0.97
Gather Rice	356	9%	21%	35%	34%	0.64
Trap	354	21%	44%	22%	13%	(0.37)
Water Ski	352	32%	43%	13%	12%	(0.70)

1. Weights: Very Unlikely = -2, Unlikely = -1, Likely = 1, Very Likely = 2

Table 7. Ninety percent or more of Tribal members expect to fish, boat and swim and 70 – 80 percent will use water resources in their spiritual practices, to hunt, or to gather rice. In addition to the water-related activities asked about in the survey, respondents identified additional water-related

activities: water activities they take part in: photography, maple syrup making, berry picking, drinking water, recreational vehicles, ice fishing, cleaning out garbage, spear gun, and birch bark gathering. In short, a large proportion of the people of the Lac du Flambeau use their water resources in a variety of ways so, naturally, concern about the quality of this resource is high.

The questionnaire gathered additional information about water program priorities which are summarized in Table 8. The results point in a clear direction. Eighty-six percent of all respondents indicated that programs to ensure drinking water quality are very important to them.

Program Priority	Most Important Issue	Second Most Important Issue	Third Most Important Issue	Average Weighted Value ¹
Count	279	275	276	
Drinking Water Quality	198	17	24	2.34
Lake Water Protection	43	126	47	1.55
Fisheries Protection	14	55	40	0.70
Shore Land Protection	10	33	77	0.63
River/Stream Protection	2	25	54	0.40
Wetland Protection	11	19	32	0.37

1. Weights: Most important = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1

To put this in perspective, the maximum value that the average weighted value can have is 3.0 and anything above 1.5 indicates a

very high level priority. So the 2.34 average weight on drinking water quality programs is very high indeed. In terms of a programmatic approach to water quality, respondents overwhelmingly (88 percent to 12 percent margin) favor a program focused on standards rather than on zoning issues.

It is also clear that protecting lake water quality is important to tribal members. Again given the intensity with which band members swim, boat, fish, gather rice, hunt, and engage in spiritual practices, a high level of interest in programs that protect lake water is not surprising. Seventy-eight percent ranked such programs as among their top three priorities. A comment made by one respondent “All of them are inter-twined and are all important” sums up the quantitative data perfectly. Concern with lake water protection is higher in families reporting higher incomes and somewhat lower among those under 25 or over 65. Younger respondents were, in contrast, more concerned with river and stream protection than those over 25 years of age.

In terms of water resource concerns, Table 9 indicates that there are several issues of substantial

Concern	Most Important Issue	Second Most Important Issue	Third Most Important Issue	Average Weighted Value ¹
Count	277	276	276	
Mercury in Fish	72	54	39	1.31
Maintain Existing Water Quality	68	41	52	1.22
Wild Rice Protection	48	49	44	1.03
Loss of Habitat	40	44	32	0.87
Development Near Lakes/Rivers	26	32	51	0.70
Maintain Visual Beauty	17	35	31	0.55
Cranberry Bog Run-Off	6	21	26	0.31

1. Weights: Most important = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1

concern, none of which are as dominant as the concern about drinking water quality noted in Table 8. Mercury in fish, existing water quality and protecting wild rice habitat were

each identified by more than half of all members who responded to this question as being among their top three water resource concerns. Women are more concerned about protection of wild rice habitat and maintaining the visual beauty of water resources than are men.

Written comments suggest efforts to “increase member’s knowledge of tribal and cultural relationship with water resources”. Which would address another comment that “the tribe doesn’t do anything to protect its’ water”.

Protecting Cultural Resources. Going back to Table 6, protection of cultural resources is the next highest rated natural resource priority of Band members. Table 10 summarizes the priorities of Tribal members with respect to some key cultural resources. Clearly the highest

Table 10: Priorities for Protecting Cultural Resources				
	Most Important	Second Most Important	Third Most Important	Average Weighted Value ¹
Count	275	274	269	
Cemeteries	56%	18%	15%	2.19
Ceremonial Areas	15%	41%	22%	1.49
Historic Villages	9%	13%	24%	0.77
Archeological Sites	7%	15%	16%	0.60
Gathering Areas	9%	9%	15%	0.69
Standing Structures	3%	4%	6%	0.22
1. Weights: Most important = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1				

priority is placed on protecting cemeteries and burial sites (89 percent ranked this as one of their top three items). In a separate question, 76 percent said they feel the Tribe should require buffer zones of grass and woodland around

burial sites. Protection of ceremonial areas is also a high priority for Band members; 78 percent of respondents identified this as one of their top 3 priorities for protecting cultural resources. Written comments are consistent with this data. There are no statistically significant differences in priorities for protecting cultural resources in different demographic groups (e.g. men versus women, young versus old). Those under 35, interestingly, show a slightly elevated interest in preserving historic villages compared to older members of the Tribe.

The community was asked about their use of gathering resources and the ones they feel are in greatest need of protection. The results of these questions are summarized in Table 11, the top half of which looks at use of these resources and the bottom half of which looks at protection priorities. In terms of use of culturally important gathering resources, by far the two of greatest importance are wild rice and wild berries. The average weighted average is calculated by assigning a value of 3 to every person who selected the resource as the one they use the most, a 2 if it is the second most used resource and a 1 if the third most. These are divided by the number of observations (“Count” in Table 11). The use of these two resources is nearly universal with 86 percent of the respondents ranking wild rice as one of their top 3 gathering resources) and 92

Table 11: Use and Need for Protection of Gathering Resources				
	Most Used Cultural Resource	Second Most Used Cultural Resource	Third Most Used Cultural Resource	Average Weighted Use Value ¹
Count	273	255	243	
Wild Rice	145	61	21	2.16
Wild Berries	77	97	62	1.86
Native Plants	18	33	57	0.69
Birch Bark	8	24	44	0.46
Sugar Bushes	14	17	31	0.41
Basswood	6	21	19	0.31
Ash	1	0	1	0.02
	Most Needs Protection	Second Most Needs Protection	Third Most Needs Protection	Average Weighted Protection Value ¹
Count	276	269	263	
Wild Rice	164	60	32	2.35
Wild Berries	35	74	57	1.15
Native Plants	35	42	57	0.91
Birch Bark	19	46	45	0.72
Sugar Bushes	16	36	51	0.64
Basswood	3	10	14	0.16
Ash	1	1	5	0.04

1. Weights: Most important = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1

percent identifying wild berries in the top 3. None of the other items listed were identified as a top 3 gathering resource by more than half of the Band members who responded. There are few differences in the importance attached to the use of these gathering resources. Women rated wild berries as the most used cultural resource used significantly more often than did men and those over 35 years of age

rated gathering wild berries as the second most used cultural resource at significantly higher rates than did younger members of the Tribe.

The bottom portion of Table 11 summarizes Member opinions about the need for protection of gathering resources. The order and bottom line conclusions are basically the same with respect to protection of gathering resources as they were for their use. Again wild rice and wild berries are the most common gathering resources identified as being in need of protection. Wild rice was identified as one of the three resources most in need of protection by 94 percent of the

respondents. Only 62 percent ranked protection of wild berries in the top three. Half of all members ranked protection of native plants in their top three. Interestingly, in a separate question, 77 percent of respondents said they thought the Tribe should grow culturally important plants. There are no statistical differences in the rankings of different demographic segments of the Band with respect to protection needs.

Written comments generated 13 additional gathering resources used. These include: cedar trees, leeks, deer, fish, maple sugaring, oak and maple firewood, sage, cedar and sweet grass, berries, wild onions, and flowers. Of those, six are thought to be in greatest need of protection and expansion: deer, fish, cedar trees, herbal plants, sweet grass, and leeks.

Wildlife Management. The third highest resource issue in Table 6 is wildlife management. The questionnaire asked Band members for their opinions about the importance of game and non-game species of animals, the relative importance of fish species, and wildlife regulatory practices on the reservation.

Table 12 summarizes opinions regarding game and non-game species. As has been true with many natural and cultural resource issues discussed in this report, there are two very obvious

	Most Important Issue	Second Most Important Issue	Third Most Important Issue	Average Weighted Value
Count	285	284	276	
Fish	45%	49%	5%	2.37
Deer	51%	38%	7%	2.36
Fur Animals	2%	4%	26%	0.38
Ducks & Geese	0%	2%	16%	0.22
Grouse	0%	3%	14%	0.21
Rabbits	0%	1%	14%	0.17
Non-Game Species	2%	1%	8%	0.16
Turkeys	0%	2%	9%	0.13

1. Weights: Most important = 3, Second = 2, Third = 1

dominant wildlife priorities for Tribal members, fish and deer. Ninety-nine percent of respondents identified fish as one of the three most important wildlife resources to them and 96 percent so identified deer. Only one-third of the respondents identified the third item in Table 12, fur animals, as being in their top three.

Demographically, those with higher incomes are statistically more likely to identify fish as the wildlife resource of greatest

importance to them. Shooting sports seem to be positively correlated with educational levels. Those with more formal education are statistically more likely to identify ducks and geese as their second most important wildlife resource and grouse as their third. Males are also more likely to identify grouse as their third highest priority, while women are more likely to select fur animals as their third most important wildlife resource.

Fish and fishing appear to be important to virtually everyone on the Lac du Flambeau reservation. Table 13 indicates that by far the most important fish species to Tribal members are

Table 13: Importance of Key Fish Species

	Most Important	Second Most Important	Third Most Important	Average Weighted Value
Count	232	226	227	
Walleye	87%	8%	3%	2.81
Musky	6%	60%	16%	1.53
Pan fish	3%	12%	34%	0.69
Large mouth bass	2%	9%	21%	0.46
Trout	1%	5%	16%	0.28
Small mouth bass	1%	6%	9%	0.23

walleye and musky. Walleye rates in the top three species for 98 percent of respondents and musky for 81 percent. Half of those answered this question identified pan fish as one of their three most important fish species; as Table 13 indicates most rated pan fish as their third most important fish species. Women and those

with less formal education are more likely to select large mouth bass as their second or third most important fish species. Men and those with more formal education are more likely to identify musky as their second or third most important fish species.

Band members appear to be strongly in favor of more regulations on the reservation to protect fishery resources; 74 percent said they support such an effort. Further, respondents were in favor of all the regulatory measures about which we asked by fairly wide margins:

- 86 percent favor more regulations on shoreline development
- 84 percent favor more regulations on hook and line fishing by non-members
- 64 percent favor more regulations on spearing by Tribal members

Written comments support the statistical conclusions and suggest a few more regulations such as; size regulation on motor boats, overall limits to avoid depletion of fish stocks, and building fish cribs.

Men are significantly more supportive of regulations on shoreline development (93 percent versus 82 percent for women) and spearing by members (73 percent of men versus 56 percent of women). Those 55 years of age and older are also significantly more supportive of spearing regulations than are members younger than that.

The other key wildlife resource identified in Table 12 is deer. Members were split on the question, “Do you feel there are enough deer on the reservation?” with 53 percent saying no and 47 percent saying yes. This is within the expected margin of error, so we can only say that there is no dominant opinion about the adequacy of the deer population. People who rent their home are significantly more likely to find the deer population inadequate than are home owners. Despite being split on the adequacy of the deer population, members are in favor of a regulation to limit the deer harvest; 65 percent said they favor such a regulation compared to 35 who are opposed.

Forestry Management.

Finally, the questionnaire gathered the opinions of Tribal members regarding forest resource issues. Members were asked what the most important goal of forest resource management should be on the Reservation and a summary of their opinions is provided in Table 14. As the table indicates, opinion is more divided on this topic than was the case for most other natural resources discussed in this report. Still, nearly half of all respondents indicated that the forest

	Most Important Goal
Count	352
Wildlife management	45%
Beauty of forest	26%
Housing development	24%
Income from timber sales	5%

should be managed with an eye to the impact on wildlife populations. Interestingly, the top two items in Table 14 have more of an ecologic focus and the bottom two more of an economic focus. So, viewed in this way, substantially more Band members prefer more of an ecologic approach (71 percent) to forest management over an economic one (29 percent). The only demographic difference of note is, not surprisingly, that renters are

significantly more likely to say that the forest ought to be managed with an eye toward housing development.

Specific management practices favored by the Band include:

- 86 percent support management practices to bring pine forests back to the area
- 86 percent support pine forest management in the Old Indian Village area
- 73 percent support prescribed burning on the reservation

Finally, Members were asked about their use of wood to heat homes. Twenty-nine percent of the respondents said they burn wood to heat their homes. For slightly more than half (54 percent), wood provides half or less of the heat they use, another quarter (25 percent) rely on wood for up to three-quarters of their heat, and the remaining 21 percent depend upon wood for all of their heating needs.

Conclusions

There are a number of very clear messages that fall out of the results of this survey. One is that, while a solid majority of Band members feel that the quality of life on the reservation is good, there is a substantial majority who disagree with this assessment. A particular concern about this result is that younger respondents were significantly more likely to be dissatisfied with the quality of life on the reservation than were older ones. This, obviously, may have negative ramifications for the Band going forward.

Second, there is a broad consensus on the need to expand development on the reservation and control where it takes place. There is less clarity with respect to whether this development should be driven by Tribal or individual initiatives.

Third, the vast majority of respondents feel that the housing stock on the reservation needs to be expanded. Members also gave some clear messages about the housing stock expansion. They strongly prefer a program to purchase existing homes from non-members and, like development in general, they would like to see some controls on where development takes place – for example they are strongly opposed to development of the Bear River area.

Fourth, the Band has very clear priorities in the area of resource management. Water quality is, by a wide margin, the top resource management issue for the Tribe. Water is clearly central to the life and cultural practices of members. Virtually all respondents indicated they expect to use water resources for recreational (swimming, fishing, boating) and cultural activities (gathering wild rice, spiritual practices). To protect this vital resource, the respondents strongly favor direct regulatory action rather than a more indirect approach using zoning restrictions to protect water quality.

Fifth, the respondents are very clear about their practices with respect to the use of outdoor resources. They have very clear preferences with respect to the types of fish that matter to them (walleye and muskie), the things they gather for food (wild rice and berries), their wildlife protection priorities (deer and fish), and how forests should be managed (for wildlife protection and visual beauty). Here too, Band members expressed a willingness to accept additional regulation (specifically with respect to the fishery and deer hunting) to preserve their outdoor resources.

Finally, the respondents clearly identified cultural issue priorities (protecting cemeteries and burial sites).

These results may provide relatively few surprises but their strength should provide Tribal decision-makers with some very clear signals.

Appendix A – Written Comments

Summary of Other and General Comments

- Eight questions received other comments: Q33, Q36, Q41, Q44, Q45, Q46, Q57, and Q58, plus one general comment was written. Specific comments are included by question.
- A variety of comments were provided. Of all the comments (79) made only three were written more than once (2X each).
- Q33, Opinions about housing/infrastructure, received the most (24) comments. The comments were varied and some were conflicting. Suggestions included things from recreation (golf course) to specific housing needs (i.e. housing for people without children, housing for people with children).

Specific Comments by Question

Q33. Opinions about housing/infrastructure -- Other:

- Golf Course
- Too much control and government involved in the housing issues, members need to do things for themselves.
- nursing home
- the \$12,500 program should be restarted
- Crack down on garbage
- Tribal Approved Local owned TAXI Co.-prevent OWIs
- More ownership for tribal members
- No More Mobile Homes
- Concentrated
- Get reservation land back
- Tribe should loan money for tribal members to purchase fee land on reservation
- Off reservation
- Wigwams
- Gravel Pit area
- Some for younger kids
- Single unit housing for people who don't have children
- larger lots off water scattered
- More 1 person Homes not apartments
- downtown businesses
- more 1&2 bedroom apts
- home loans
- camping site
- Recreation center for the young
- home ownership

Q36. Of the following fisheries, which three are more important to you? -- Other:

- I don't fish

Q41. Wildlife and fisheries: More regulations -- Other:

- Tighter regulations on tribal set lines
- Solid waste in water
- Shoreline very important
- Limits so depletion won't happen
- Size regulation on motor boats
- No PWC's, no motors over 30hp.
- Stop white get away with things they do
- Building Fish Cribs
- Close the reservation to non-member fishing and hunting
- closing other lakes to spearing besides the regular ones
- for tribal members

Q44. Of the following, what are your greatest priorities on which the water resource program should concentrate? – Other:

- All of them are inter-twined and are all important
- Sewer
- Lawn chemicals run off
- All wetland ground water

Q45. Of the following, what are your biggest concerns with which the water resources program to deal? – Other:

- Sewer
- Increasing members knowledge of tribal and cultural relationship with water resources
- The tribe doesn't do anything to protect its water

Q46. Please indicate the likelihood that you will take part in the following water-related activities on the Reservation? – Other:

- Photography
- Maple syrup making
- Berry Picking
- drinking water
- Recreational Vehicles
- Ice fishing
- Cleaning Out Garbage
- Spear gun
- Birch bark/ gathering

Q56. Which of the following gathering resources do you use? – Other:

- cedar trees – 2x
- Leeks – 2x
- Deer, Fish
- Maple sugaring
- oak maple
- firewood
- Sage, Cedar and sweet grass
- Berries
- This question should not be a 1, 2, and 3!
- Wild onions
- Flowers

- None

Q57. Of the following gathering resources, which do you think are in greatest need of protection and expansion? – Other:

- Deer, Fish
- cedar trees
- Herbal plants
- Sweet grass
- leeks

Q58. Which of the following cultural resources should the tribe concentrate on protecting? – Other:

- All of them – 2x
- Sugar Bushes for members to gather
- Roadways
- Burial Cemeteries
- Culture
- Geographical sites-lakes, woodlands
- The whole rez.

General Comments (from one respondent):

- What we need most is education. Not just for our young, but for all. Especially our Tribal Leaders who have no business sense at all. The leaders of our tribe cover up murders. No one is safe. Our reservation is a welfare town. Our people only want free, easy money. Our leaders just keep taking more money for themselves, while our only means of making money is dying. Soon the casino in Lac Du Flambeau will belong to the bank, and this survey will be more wasted money and paper. How sad. Our games are so tight now that no one wants to come here and gamble anymore and the more we borrow the tighter they get. We have the richest cranberry bogs in the world, but our leaders don't want anything to do with it.

Appendix B – Questionnaire

A. OPINIONS ABOUT COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1.	How would you rate the quality of life on the Reservation? N = 342	very good 10%	good 57%	poor 30%	very poor 3%
2.	Do you feel safe on the Reservation? N = 346	always 24%	usually 68%	rarely 7%	never 1%
3.	Do you think the Reservation should: N = 335	develop 87%	stay same (<i>go to question 5</i>) 6%		not sure 7%
4.	If you think the Reservation should develop, should development: N = 321	be controlled 85%	be allowed anywhere 10%		not sure 5%
5.	Should the Tribe designate more land on the Reservation that couldn't be developed? N = 340	yes 63%	no 16%		not sure 21%
6.	Should the Tribe purchase private land on the reservation? N = 344	yes 88%	no (<i>go to question 9</i>) 4%		not sure 8%
7.	If yes, which of the following should the Tribe focus on purchasing (select one): N = 314	wild areas 28%	lakeshore 52%		developed areas 20%
8.	If yes, how much should budgeted annually? N = 305	\$0 - \$250,000 12%	\$250,001 - \$500,000 27%	\$500,001 - \$750,000 30%	\$750,001 - \$1,000,000 31%
9.	Should the Tribe continue to operate the Tribal Transfer Station, which is the drop off center for such things as household furniture, appliances, and tires? N = 346	yes 97%	no 2%		not sure 1%
10.	Should junkyards be allowed on the Reservation? N = 345	yes 11%	no 80%		not sure 8%
11.	Should landfills be allowed on the Reservation? N = 345	yes 19%	no 70%		not sure 11%
12.	Should back yard burning be allowed on the Reservation? N = 345	yes 68%	no 25%		not sure 7%
13.	Should open burning be allowed on the Reservation? N = 344	yes 31%	no 54%		not sure 14%

14.	Who should be responsible for developing small businesses? N = 346	Tribe	individuals	both	neither	not sure
		9%	23%	66%	0%	1%
15.	Who should be responsible for developing light industry? N = 345	Tribe	individuals	both	neither	not sure
		26%	11%	57%	1%	5%
16.	Who should be responsible for developing agricultural businesses? N = 346	Tribe	individuals	both	neither	not sure
		28%	8%	55%	3%	6%
17.	Who should be responsible for developing tourism businesses? N = 343	Tribe	individuals	both	neither	not sure
		38%	3%	57%	0%	1%
18.	Are you in favor of developing gaming or gambling expansion on the Reservation? N = 344		yes		no	not sure
			80%		15%	6%
19.	Are you in favor of developing gaming or gambling off the Reservation? N = 346		yes		no	not sure
			80%		14%	6%

B. OPINIONS ABOUT HOUSING/INFRASTRUCTURE

20.	Should there be more housing subdivisions on the Reservation? N = 345	Yes	no	not sure
		79%	13%	8%
21.	If yes, should the subdivisions be on lake shores? N = 319	yes	no	not sure
		51%	37%	13%
22.	If yes, should the subdivisions be on scattered sites? N = 312	yes	no	not sure
		78%	14%	9%
23.	If yes, should the subdivisions be far from town? N = 305	yes	no	not sure
		47%	36%	18%

24.	If yes, should the subdivisions be close to town? N = 300	yes	no	not sure
		52%	31%	17%
25.	If yes, should the subdivisions be on land purchased on Reservation for this purpose? N = 297	yes	no	not sure
		85%	4%	11%
26.	If yes, should the Tribe purchase exiting homes from non-members for resale to Tribal members? N = 307	yes	no	not sure
		86%	7%	7%

27.	Should there be development, including housing, in Old Indian Village area? N = 344	Yes 45%	no 45%	not sure 10%
28.	Should there be development, including housing, in Bear River area? N = 344	yes 19%	no 74%	not sure 8%
29.	Should there be development, including housing, in Old Prairie area? N = 344	Yes 63%	no 27%	not sure 9%
30.	Should there be development, including housing, in Trout River area? N = 344	Yes 55%	no 33%	not sure 13%
31.	Should there be development, including housing, in East Boundry area? N = 341	Yes 55%	no 33%	not sure 13%
32.	Should the Tribe establish a mobile home park on the reservation N = 339	yes 44%	no 48%	not sure 8%

C. OPINIONS ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES

33. Of the following resource issues, put a 1 in front of the one that is most important to you, a 2 in front of the second most important, and a 3 in front of the third most important.

N = 245

Ranking			Resources	Ranking			Resources
Most	2 nd	3 rd		most	2 nd	3 rd	
12%	13%	13%	wildlife management	34%	23%	15%	water quality
4%	12%	13%	forestry management	3%	7%	8%	wetlands protection
10%	13%	16%	fisheries management	16%	11%	11%	cultural resource protection
10%	13%	9%	air quality	10%	7%	15%	private land purchases

Wildlife and Fisheries

34. Of the following natural resources, which three are most important to you? (*please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3)*)

N = 268

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Resource	most	2 nd	3 rd	Resource
49%	40%	7%	Deer	0%	2%	8%	Turkeys
46%	48%	5%	Fish	0%	2%	17%	Ducks/Geese
0%	3%	15%	Grouse	2%	4%	26%	Fur animals
0%	0%	15%	Rabbits	2%	1%	8%	Non-game species

35. Of the following fisheries, which three are more important to you? *(please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3))?*

N = 268

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Fisheries	most	2 nd	3 rd	Fisheries
2%	10%	20%	Largemouth bass	6%	58%	16%	Musky
1%	6%	9%	Small mouth bass	1%	5%	17%	Trout
87%	8%	3%	Walleye	3%	13%	34%	Pan fish

36.	Do you think it is necessary to have more regulations on the reservation to protect the fisheries on the reservation? N = 332	yes 27%	No 73%
<i>If you circled yes, go to 38. Else go to 42.</i>			
37.	Hook and line on non-members N = 252	yes 15%	No 85%
38.	Spearing on tribal members N = 253	yes 35%	No 65%
39.	Shoreline development N = 255	yes 13%	No 87%
40.			
41.	Do you feel there are enough deer on the reservation? N = 340	yes 54%	No 46%
<i>If you circled no, go to 43. Else go to 44</i>			
42.	If no, should there be a regulation limiting the deer harvest? N = 220	yes 33%	No 67%

Water Resources

43. Of the following, what are your greatest priorities on which the water resource program should concentrate? *(please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3))*

N = 260 (most), 258 (2nd), and 258 (3rd)

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Water resource program	most	2 nd	3 rd	Water resource program
4%	7%	12%	Wetland protection	70%	7%	9%	Drinking water quality
16%	46%	18%	Lake water protection	5%	20%	15%	Fisheries protection
1%	9%	20%	River/stream protection	0%	0%	3%	Other: _____
4%	12%	24%	Shore land protection				

44. Of the following, what are your biggest concerns with which the water resources program to deal? *(please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3))*

N = 260 (most), 258 (2nd), and 258 (3rd)

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Concern	Most	2 nd	3 rd	Concern
15%	15%	11%	Loss of habitat	17%	18%	16%	Wild rice protection
25%	20%	15%	Mercury in fish	6%	13%	11%	Maintain visual beauty
			Cranberry farm				Maintain existing water
2%	7%	10%	pesticide/herbicides	25%	15%	19%	quality
			Development near lakes				Other _____
10%	10%	19%	and rivers	0%	0%	0%	

45. Please indicate the likelihood that you will take part in the following water-related activities on the Reservation?

a. Swimming N = 343	very likely 63%	likely 26%	unlikely 8%	very unlikely 3%
b. Boating N = 342	very likely 65%	likely 28%	unlikely 5%	very unlikely 2%
c. Fishing N = 342	very likely 71%	likely 21%	unlikely 6%	very unlikely 2%
d. Skiing N = 332	very likely 11%	likely 13%	unlikely 43%	very unlikely 33%
e. Spiritual N = 335	very likely 42%	likely 37%	unlikely 16%	very unlikely 5%

f. Hunting N = 335	very likely 50%	likely 26%	unlikely 18%	very unlikely 6%
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g. Trapping N = 334	very likely 13%	likely 22%	unlikely 44%	very unlikely 21%
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h. Rice gathering N = 335	very likely 34%	likely 35%	unlikely 22%	very unlikely 10%
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i. Other: _____ N = 14	very likely 79%	likely 14%	unlikely 7%	very unlikely 0%
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46. Should the water quality program focus on water (<i>Choose one answer</i>)		quality standards	or	zoning issues
N = 323		88%		12%

Forestry Resources

47. Do you burn wood to heat your home? N = 339	yes 29%		no (go to question 50) 71%
48. If yes, about what percentage of heat in your home is provided by wood? N = 102	half or less 53%	up to three-quarters 26%	all of it 21%
49. Should the forestry department manage forest to get pine back in the area? N = 335	yes 86%		no 14%
50. Should the pine forest be managed in the old Indian village area? N = 337	Yes 85%		no 15%
51. Should the forestry department consider prescribed burning on the reservation? N = 333	yes 72%		no 28%

52. Considering the following forest management factors, which is the most important factor the forestry department should consider in managing forestry resources? (*circle the most important*):

N = 334

- 26% Aesthetics (beauty of forest)
- 4% Housing development
- 23% Income from timber sales
- 46% Wildlife management

D. OPINIONS ABOUT CULTURAL ISSUES

53. Should Tribe require buffer zones of grass and woodland around burial sites?	yes	no	not sure
N = 343	77%	5%	17%
54. Should the Tribe grow culturally important plants?	yes	no	not sure
N = 342	77%	9%	14%

55. Which of the following gathering resources do you use: (*please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3)*)

N = 253 (most), 241 (2nd), and 230 (3rd)

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Resource	Most	2 nd	3 rd	Concern
5%	7%	13%	Sugar bushes	0%	0%	0%	Ash
54%	25%	9%	Wild rice	2%	7%	7%	Basswood
3%	10%	18%	Birch bark	29%	37%	26%	Wild berries
6%	15%	23%	Native plants	1%	1%	3%	Other_____

56. Of the following gathering resources, which do you think are in greatest need of protection and expansion: (*please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3)*)

N = 259 (most), 254 (2nd), and 249 (3rd)

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Resource	Most	2 nd	3 rd	Concern
6%	13%	19%	Sugar bushes	0%	0%	2%	Ash
60%	23%	12%	Wild rice	1%	3%	5%	Basswood
7%	17%	17%	Birch bark	13%	26%	23%	Wild berries
13%	17%	21%	Native plants	0%	0%	1%	Other_____

57. Which of the following cultural resources should the tribe concentrate on protecting: (*please indicate first (1), second (2), and third most important (3)*)

N = 257 (most), 257 (2nd), and 250 (3rd)

Most	2 nd	3 rd	Resource	Most	2 nd	3 rd	Concern
55%	19%	15%	Sugar bushes	8%	16%	18%	Ash
15%	40%	22%	Wild rice	3%	4%	5%	Basswood
9%	14%	24%	Birch bark	0%	0%	2%	Wild berries
10%	8%	14%	Native plants	0%	0%	0%	Other_____

E. DEMOGRAPHICS

The following questions will be used for statistical purposes only. You don't have to answer any question with which you are uncomfortable.

58. What is your gender? 56% female 44% male
59. What is your age?
- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 10% = 18 – 24 | 16% = 25 – 34 | 23% = 35 – 44 |
| 20% = 45 – 54 | 16% = 55 – 64 | 14% = 65+ |
60. For your housing, do you 49% = rent 51% = own
61. What is your highest level of education:
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10% = less than high school | 35% = high school | 39% = some college/tech |
| 5% = tech college grad | 4% = college degree | 1%=grad/professional degree |
62. What is your approximate annual household income:
- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 56% = Under \$25,000 | 21% = \$25 - \$34,999 | 13% = \$35 - \$49,999 |
| 6% = \$50 - \$75,000 | 4% = \$75 - \$99,999 | 1% = \$100,000+ |

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