

Sierra Club

BINATIONAL GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE



February 12, 1993

Executive Committee Board of Directors Great Lakes United

Dear Friends,

I am submitting this request to Great Lakes United on behalf of the Great Lakes Indian/Environmentalist working group of the Sierra Club's Binational Great Lakes Committee. As you know, this Committee, as well as the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program and most of the Sierra Club Chapters falling within the Great Lakes Basin, are members of GLU.

The Great Lakes Indian/Environmentalist working group is an initiative of my committee. The participants of this working group include representatives of several indigenous tribes and organizations around the basin. By design, it has an Indian majority and is driven by the consensus of the group.

One of the goals of the working group is to increase the awareness and understanding within the Great Lakes environmental community of issues facing indigenous communities. We feel Native rights issues and the relationship of environmental concerns with Native perspectives are important to include in our work. The result of greater understanding will be an increase in our effectiveness as we call on our governments to do their jobs.

We have identified major gatherings of the environmental community in the Great Lakes basin as targets for our educational strategy. The GLU Annual meeting is one of these.

I have discussed this with several board members, have listened to their concerns and suggestions, and, given that much of the program planning is in near final form, have a number of possibilities to suggest:

* Since this is an initiative coming from ongoing work of a member organization, it could be dealt with as a task force. This would not give us as wide an audience as we would like, but would provide the opportunity to review GLU policy and previous resolutions on issues relevant to Native Americans and First Nations.

It would also provide opportunity for discussion and debate on whatever resolutions were proposed. Possible initial resolutions could include 1) setting up an ongoing Indigenous Task Force, 2) using the GLU network to provide educational information to GLU members, and 3) provide support to the Native member of the Board.

We could offer an educational program or workshop on indigenous issues to the participants of the GLU Annual meeting. A couple of hours during Friday afternoon or evening has been suggested. This could be approached from the perspective of creating opportunity for exposure to the concepts and discussion of the relationships of those concepts to environmental goals.

This would provide the opportunity to anyone interested in learning about Native issues, but might avoid confrontations with GLU members having strong feelings about hunting and fishing rights.

- * We could offer a much less structured, more visual and experientially oriented multi-media event. This could include small discussion groups, informational displays, video showings, etc. This could be presented either as a separate offering, or as an ongoing opportunity concurrent with the reception. This format would provide more exposure but less indepth coverage of issues. Since many non-native environmentalists have little actual knowledge about Native Rights, this might be an ideal, non-threatening introduction.
- * We could offer a workshop separate from the GLU annual meeting, but open to participants. Again, a likely time seems to be Friday afternoon or evening. This option does not appeal to me, since it might imply that GLU does not care to address these issues.

I'm sure there are many other possibilities I haven't thought of, working either in tandem or outside the GLU event. Please let me know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

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Fishery Management

Wildlife/ Wild Rice



of Chippewa society and culture.

Commission biologists and

. Implementation of one of the

during spring spearing, a system

which accounts for every fish

harvested by tribal fishermen.

Cooperation with biologists

fishery analysis and planning.

· Fishery enhancement through

from state, federal and tribal man-

agement agencies in data sharing.

most intensively monitored

fishing seasons in the world

technicians are involved in

numerous aspects of fishery

fish populations.

The preservation of a sound fishery in the coded territory is one principle objective of the Commission. Along with their neighbors. Chippewa people value many fish, such as walleye, muskellunge, lake trout and whitefish These fish are important both as and wild rice. a food source and as a part

involved in many assessment and conservation projects, such as: · Wetlands preservation and

- management, including: such as loosestrife control Assessment of numbers. reproduction, age and growth of
 - Wisconsin.
 - migration surveys.

 - · Monitoring of treaty harvests
 - waterfowl, and wild rice.
- projects that assist tribal hatcheries with fish rearing and stocking. Involvement in cooperative
- Harvest level recommendations. · Participation in technical policy-making committees.

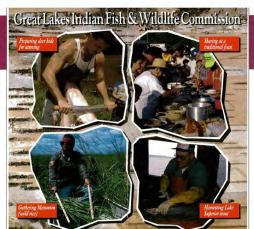


ff-reservation treaty harvests include many wildlife and plant species. Therefore, the Commission provides professional biological staff to work in areas of treaty harvest including deer, fur-bearers, waterfowl,

GLIFWC wildlife biologists are

- enhancement, through programs
- · Research on fisher, marten, beheat and covote in northern
- · Waterfowl population and
- · Participation in the Mississippi
- Flyway Council Technical Section. · Wild rice assessment and enhancement programs.
- of deer, small game, furbearers.
- Maintenance of on-reservation registration stations.
- · Harvest level recommendations.
- wildlife management projects with





he Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) serves thirteen Chippewa Bands in

The purpose of the Commission is to assist member tribes in the implementation of the treaty rights.

Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, The Commission was formed in 1984. The Board of

Commissioners, with a representative from each member tribe, governs the Commission.

This involves several aspects of natural resource management, including the harvest regulation, habitat

Conservation Enforcement, Resource Planning, Policy Analysis, and Public Information.

protection and enhancement, and enforcement. In order to provide the opportunity for harvest and to protect

the resource, the Commission provides assistance to the member tribes through its divisions: Biological Services,

Environmental Issues



The Chippewa Tribes ribal conservation laws recognize that fish and govern each of the offwildlife are affected not reservation seasons. The Commission's member tribes only by pressure from harvesters, such as sport recognize the need for effective interests and treaty harvesters. law enforcement to protect the but also by environmental natural resources. The Commission wantens are problems. In order to protect habitat for upcoming generations. stationed throughout the ceded the Commission is involved territory. All wardens are fully in several environmental trained and certified. They projects, including participate in annual training that uperades and maintains . Testing fish for levels of mercury and other toxics. proficiency levels in all areas of . Serving the tribes as a conservation enforcement. Some watchdog on proposed mines. Commission wardens are paper mills, oil drilling, FERC deputized by Wisconsin to

enforce state conservation codes. The Commission also assists member tribes in maintaining tribal courts. Violations of tribal off-reservation codes are cited

dams, and toxic waste dumn sites. Networking with regional national and international environmental protection organizations in order to share information and keep the into tribal courts. member tribes informed. Addressing surface water issues through membership on a legislative committee. · Participating in the Lake

Superior Forum. . Cooperating with other organizations and local governments in development of an environmental health laboratory in the region.



Law

Enforcement



