Bringing Community to Forest Stewardship

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
Rachel McDonald, KBIC Forester
L’Anse Reservation T51N R33W – T51N R31W
KBIC Forestry’s “Business Model”

Community First
Tribal Forest Stewardship Goals

• Improve and promote forest health, diversity, wildlife habitat and clean water resources

• Ensure sustainable utilization of all timber and non-timber forest resources for the benefit of Tribal members

• Incorporate cultural knowledge, needs, and education into forest land stewardship

• Protect culturally sensitive areas on the Reservation
KBIC Forestry’s “Business Model”

Community First

Know Your Community
Iskigamizigan
These guidelines are intended to help promote respectful and sustainable balsam harvest for generations to come.

\textbf{Aninaandag or Zhingob (Balsam Fir)}

Balsam fir is an evergreen tree that grows throughout most of northern Wisconsin. It is most common in lowland forests or forested wetlands with spruce, tamarack, white cedar and/or black ash. It is also a common under-story tree in upland hardwood and hardwood-hemlock stands, and can form dense thickets. Balsam provides thermal cover for roosting birds and many other animals during the cold winter months.

Known to the Great Lakes Ojibwe as “Nimissé” or “elder sister”, the balsam fir has the highest concern for her family, like a second mother. Her spirit is a maiden who represents illumination and enlightenment. Balsam fir’s beautiful fragrance is understood to represent the tree praying for the People. If one were walking by a balsam fir when she released her fragrance, they would know that someone somewhere needed prayers. Other traditional names associated with balsam fir are \textit{aninaandag}, which refers to the tree, and \textit{zhingob}, which refers to the bough.

There was a man who had several little children who were starving. He went out on a lake fishing. When he caught a big fish, the biggest he had ever seen, he was deeply grateful, but if he stopped to give thanks he might lose this important fish and his little children would go hungry yet another day. So as he worked to bring in the fish he called out “Nimissé” and the balsam fir made his thanksgiving for him.

\textbf{Balsam has many uses}

\textbf{Bedding:} The needles are often sewn into pillows. An enclosure is also made from wood and filled with the springy, fragrant boughs.

\textbf{Sugarbush:} Boughs are used during the boiling phase of maple syrup production. When the boil becomes too rapid, a “swat” with a balsam bough will help regain control.

\textbf{Spearing:} During the ice spearing season, boughs are laid on the ice inside a traditional darkhouse to block the light from above.

\textbf{Medicinal:} The needles and sap have many medicinal properties, such as inhalation for respiratory ailments and a salve and temporary bandage for external sores.

\textbf{Other:} In addition to traditional uses, a common use today is for income. The boughs are widely harvested for sale to commercial wreath makers in the fall.

Woodland Food Sovereignty
Woodland Food Sovereignty
KBIC Forestry’s “Business Model”

Community First

Know Your Community: Your Forestry Community!
Forest Stewardship Plan for
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
L'Anse Reservation
Baraga County, Michigan
2018

Prepared by:
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
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POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION: FORESTRY TECHNICIAN
One (1) part-time (up to 37 hrs/wk), non-exempt position
Up to 37 hours/week until September 30, 2019 (Seasonal)

LOCATION: KBIC Forestry Department
Planning and Development Office
807 US 41 South
Baraga, Michigan 49908

SUPERVISORY CONTROL: Tribal Forester

QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Diploma, GED, or Certificate of Completion
  o This qualification may be waived for individuals 55 years of age or older who meet the remainder of
    the qualifications listed below.
  o This qualification may also be waived for KBIC members working toward obtaining their GED who
    meet the remainder of the qualifications listed below. (Applicants must obtain their GED within one
    year of hire and progress reports must be provided quarterly to the Department Director and
    Personnel Director).

Grade 4: Three months experience* in the fields of forestry, wildlife, or natural resources.

Grade 5: One year of experience* in the fields of forestry, wildlife, or natural resources, OR at least eight
(8) college credit hours in a natural resources-related field. Grade 5 may also be obtained once Grade 4
incumbent obtains wildland firefighting credentials described in the Qualifications section below.

Grade 6: Two years of experience OR at least sixteen (16) college credit hours in a natural resources-
related field. Grade 6 may also be attained with 12 months of successful Forest Technician I employment
+ 15 credits SFI/SAF/Tribal forestry-related and supervisor-approved training received within 24 months
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Cultural Information

Wild Animals (Awesiiyag)
Birds (Bineshiiwag)
Fish (Gigoonh)
Insects (Manidoonsag)
Months of the Year
Other Words
Words to go by
*The Great Flood* from the Mishomis Book by Eddie Benton Banai
An Earth Keeper’s Covenant
Harvest Calendar
Four Sacred Plants
Migration Map
Gathering Birch and Birch Bark
Paper Birch Stands Map
Harvesting and use of Birch Bark

**Links:**
Facts for Kids; Ojibwa Indians (Chippewas Ojibways)
www.bigorrin.org/chippewa_kids.htm
History and Culture
http://www.ojibwe.org