



# Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu

Governor's Climate Change Task Force  
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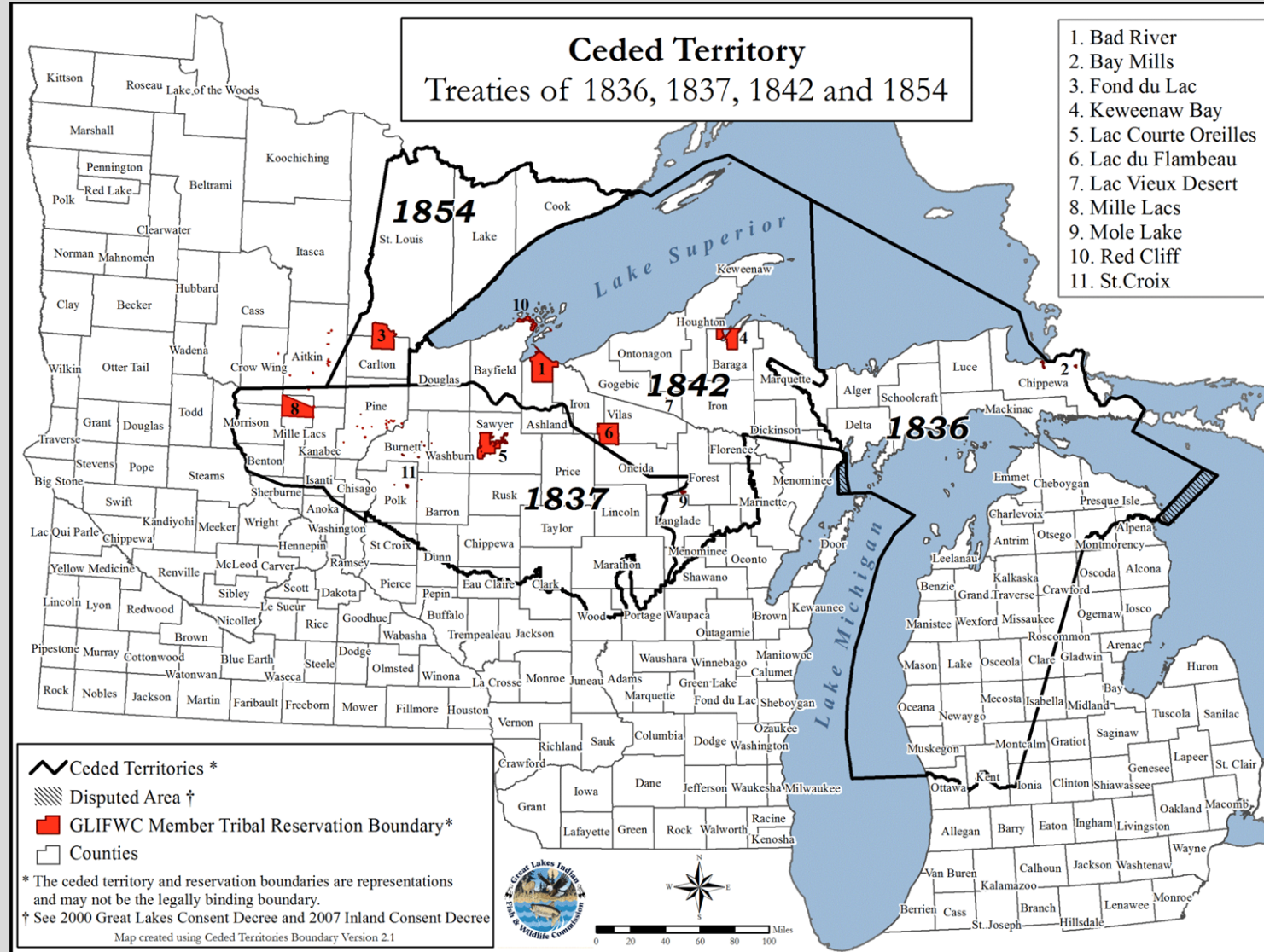


# What is GLIFWC?

An intertribal natural resource agency exercising authority delegated by its 11 Ojibwe member tribes to implement federal court orders and interjurisdictional agreements related to their treaty rights.



# Map of GLIFWC Bands and Ceded Territories



# How will climate change affect tribes?

Tribes depend on treaty resources to meet spiritual, ceremonial, medicinal, subsistence, and economic needs



# Many beings are highly or extremely vulnerable

## Highly Vulnerable

(range likely to decrease significantly by mid-century)



Northern pike, yellow perch, lake trout, walleye



Fisher



Wild leek, black ash, wild ginger, paper birch, sugar maple, balsam fir, American ginseng



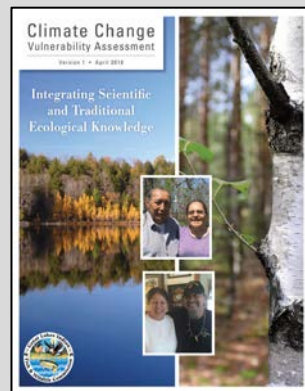
Wood duck, trumpeter swan, common loon, cave bats, sharp-tailed grouse



Wood turtle



GLIFWC  
Vulnerability  
Assessment



## Extremely Vulnerable

(range extremely likely to decrease or disappear by mid-century)



Lake whitefish, tullibee



American marten, moose, snowshoe hare



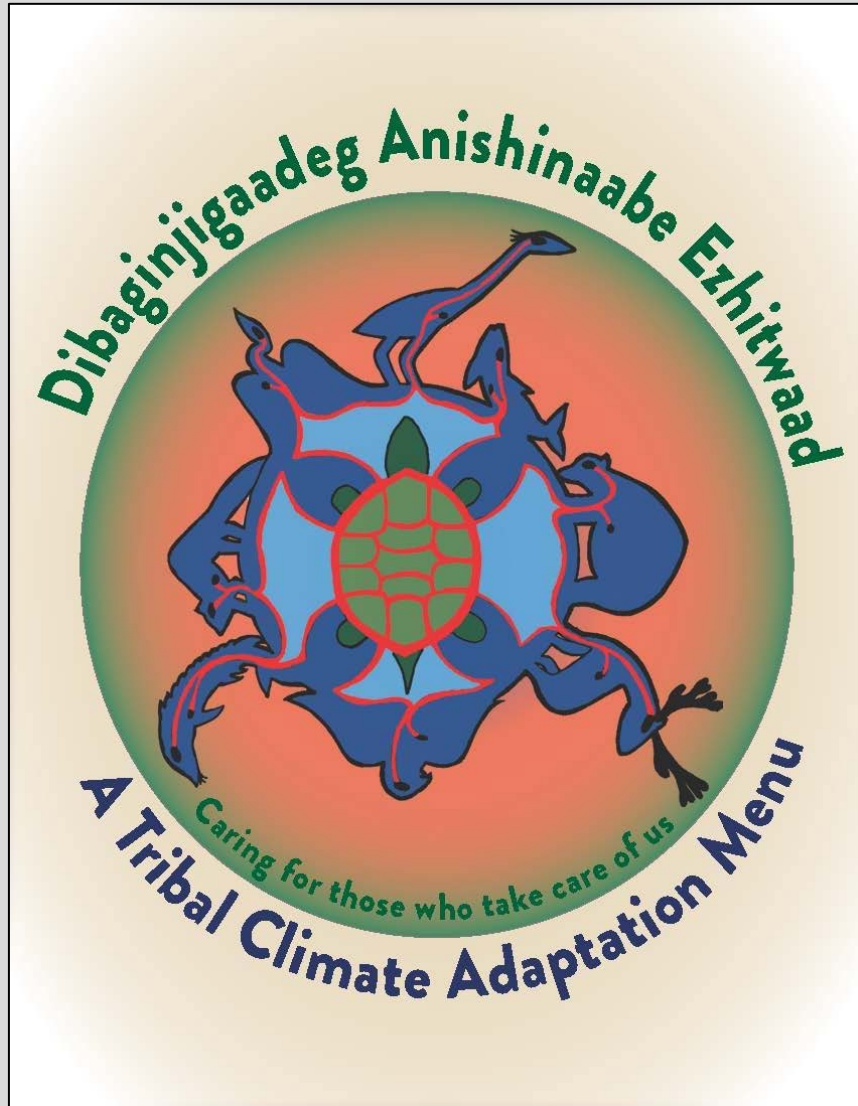
Wild rice, labrador tea, northern white cedar, tamarack

# Climate is impacting treaty rights

- Reservations, ceded territories, and treaty rights are fixed in place, treaty resources are not
- Culturally important beings moving or disappearing due to climate change
- Seasonal indicators no longer correspond with their associated natural phenomena



# Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu



Need for an adaptation planning tool that integrates indigenous knowledge, culture, science and perspective with western science and perspectives

Need to facilitate culturally appropriate climate adaptation between tribes and non-tribal partners



# The beginnings of the Menu

- Started in spring 2017 by a multi-agency/tribe author team
- Published in 2019
- Workshops conducted from 2019 - present





# Why a *tribal* climate adaptation menu?

- Need to create a menu reflective of Indigenous knowledge
- Help to bridge communication barriers
- Perspective and language matter!

## Forest Adaptation Menu:

**Strategy:** Prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive plant species and remove existing invasive species

**Approach:** Eradicate existing populations or seed sources (e.g., upstream) of invasive plants through physical or chemical treatments.

## Tribal Adaptation Menu:

**Strategy:** Maintain or improve the ability of communities to balance the effects of bakaan ingoji ga-ondaadag (non-local beings).

**Approach:** Remove existing bakaan ingoji ga-ondaadag after communicating with beings in the local area to explain intended actions.



# Guiding Principles

- Framework to integrate indigenous and traditional knowledge, culture, language and history into climate adaptation planning
- Provides general guidance for non-tribal partners working in indigenous communities
- Written from an Ojibwe/Menominee perspective but intentionally designed to allow other tribal communities to integrate their customs and culture



Placing asemaa (tobacco) at the base of a tree

# The format of the Menu

- The first three strategies address cultural practices, community engagement and recognizing human/non-human reciprocal relationships
- One strategy emphasizes that sometimes not doing something may be more important than rushing headlong into an action that has not been fully considered
- The remaining strategies consist of a comprehensive list of adaptation actions infused with tribal perspective and cultural practice

## Menu of Adaptation Strategies and Approaches

### Strategy 1: Consider cultural practices and seek spiritual guidance.

*Indigenous knowledges and ways can provide the backbone for successful climate adaptation. Seeking guidance from the community on adaptation needs and actions, respecting and building on dynamic relationships, and honoring cultural responsibilities and histories may benefit both short- and long-term adaptation efforts.*

#### 1.1. Consult cultural leaders, key community members, and elders.

*Cultural leaders, community members, harvesters, elders, and other key individuals have important knowledges and perspectives that can inform climate adaptation activities. Taking time to build relationships and properly consult with the broader community will result in more informed decisions and more support for adaptation actions.*



*Pat and Chibinesiban Jim Northrup from Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Chibinesiban Jim Northrup has since walked on. (Photo by Melonee Montano, GLIFWC.)*

Example tactics:

- ❁ Conduct community engagement workshops to learn about past changes using specific examples or important resources as discussion points.
- ❁ Interview wild rice gatherers to discuss observed impacts on wild rice from storm events or changing lake levels.
- ❁ Work with tribal leaders and members to identify knowledgeable individuals in the community, such as elders, and how to consult with them in a good way.
- ❁ Build organizational capacity by funding outreach staff who are trained to discuss climate change with the community.

#### 1.2. Consider mindful practices of reciprocity.

*Healthy relationships depend on reciprocal exchanges of gifts, knowledge, and respect, among others. For example, it is appropriate to offer asemaa/nāēqemaw (tobacco) when requesting permission to use a gift (resource). This principle applies to land management as well as interpersonal relationships within the community.*

Example tactics:

- ❁ Offer asemaa/nāēqemaw (tobacco) when requesting permission to use a gift (resource).
- ❁ Provide gifts when seeking guidance or knowledge from elders or community members.
- ❁ Share data and results of climate change assessments and adaptation projects with the local community.
- ❁ Ensure that teachers and contributors are credited in presentations, public documents, and materials.
- ❁ Teach harvesting in a good way, such as taking only what you need and leaving enough to sustain a population. For example, harvesters should refrain from harvesting wild rice when it is raining, because it can weaken the root system.

#### 1.3. Understand the human and landscape history of the community.

*Every place has a unique context and unique stories to tell. The history of the community and the land can inform land management decisions, and it is worth investing time and attention to cultivate a deeper understanding of a place before deciding on appropriate management actions.*

Example tactics:

- ❁ Identify and meet with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and discuss the history of the local community.

# Example from the Menu

Participate in local- and landscape-level management decisions with partner agencies

Example tactics:

- Utilize a tribal liaison to increase communication with partner agencies on climate change planning
- Emphasize partnerships and bring tribes into projects at the beginning
- Establish Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with tribal entities in order to maintain relationships in perpetuity



# TAM workshops: 5 since January 2019



Akwesasne  
September 2019



Cloquet Forestry Center  
January 2019



Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center  
March 2020

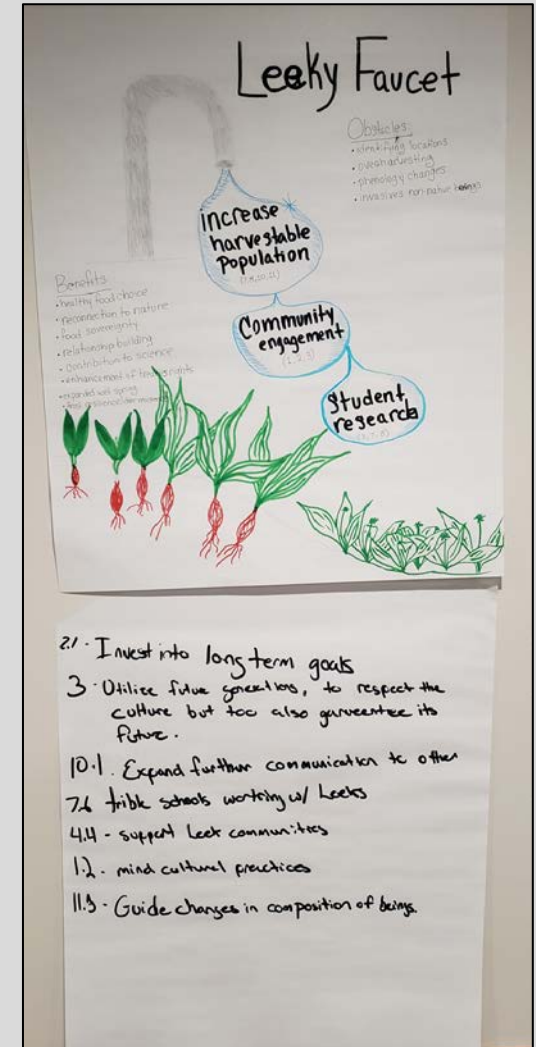


College of Menominee Nation  
October 2019



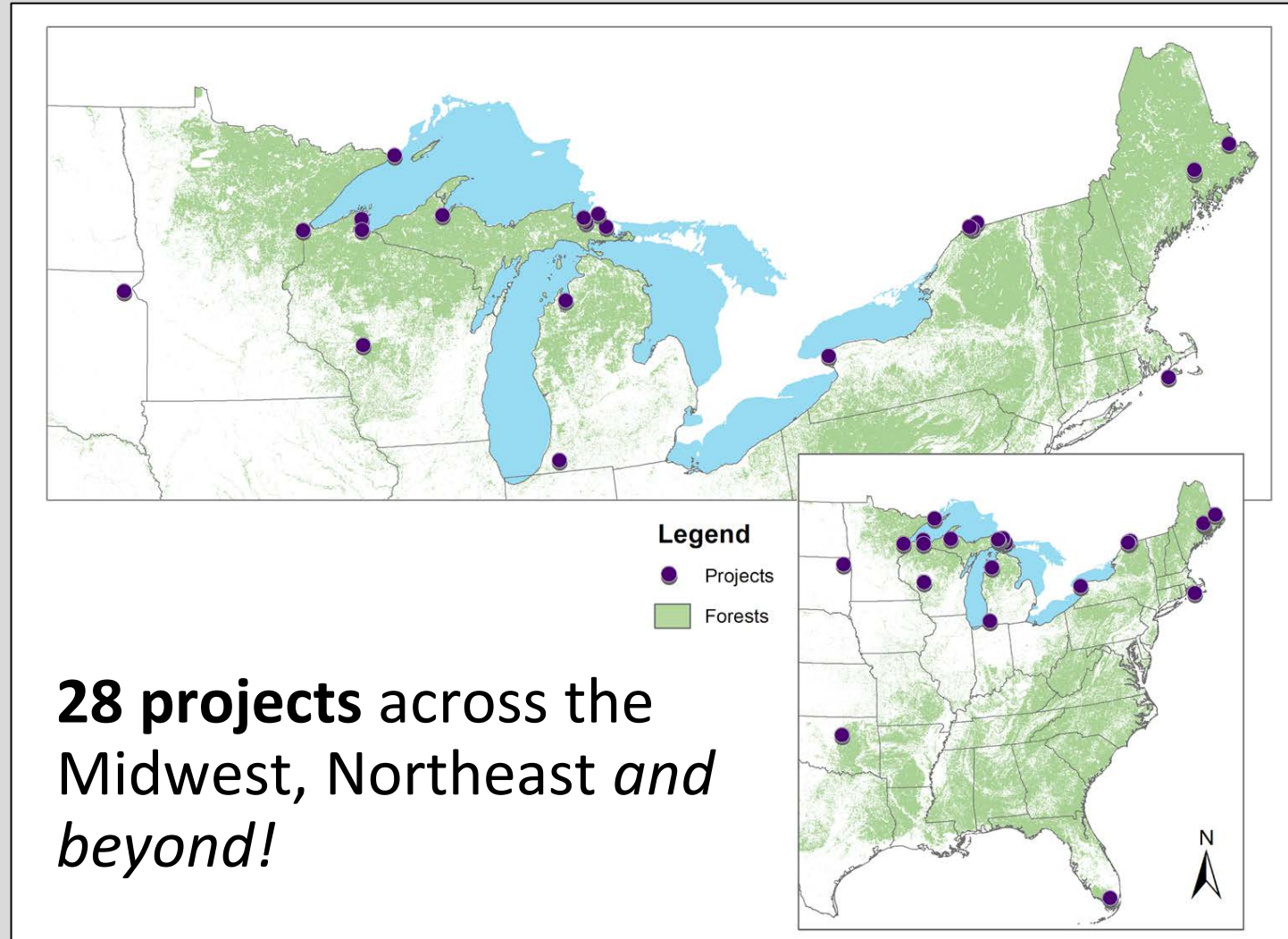
Bay Mills Community College  
June 2019

# TAM workshops: 5 since January 2019



21. Invest into long term goals
3. Utilize future generations, to respect the culture but too also guarantee its future.
- 10.1. Expand further communication to other
- 7.6. trible schools working w/ Leaks
- 4.11 - support Leek communities
- 1.2. mind cultural practices
- 11.3 - Guide changes in composition of being.

# The TAM has been used throughout the US



# Example TAM projects

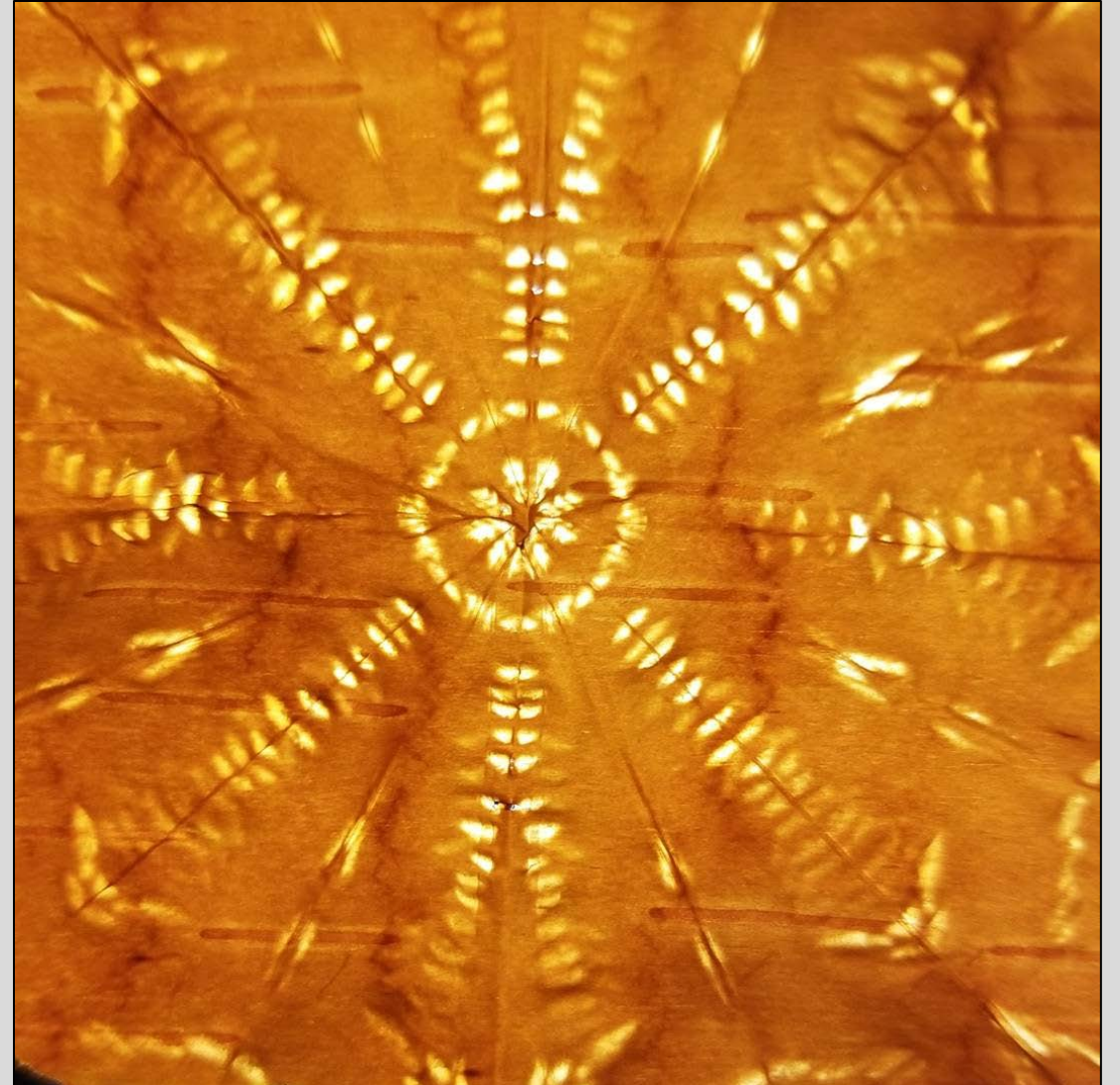
- Forest management/cultural fire/moose habitat (*Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe*)
- Great Lakes coastal marsh/manoomin restoration (*Sault Tribe of Chippewa*)
- Cedar restoration (*Bay Mills Indian Community*)
- Road/stream crossings (*Hiawatha National Forest*)
- Sea level rise planning (*Miccosukee Tribe of Florida*)
- Penokee Hills Lake Management Plan Development (*Northland College/Burke Center*)
- Culturally appropriate invasive species control (*GLIFWC*)





# Final thoughts and recommendations

- Tribes are disproportionately affected by climate change
- Climate change is affecting treaty rights
- Tribal knowledge holds many answers to climate change adaptation
- Tribes need a seat at the table
- The TAM is a great resource for the Governor's Climate Change Task Force
- The TAM Team is available for workshops



# Miigwech!



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