

# Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) Lake Lac Vieux Desert

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Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Band of Chippewa

# Lake Lac Vieux Desert



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# U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)

The National Register of Historic Places

Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP)

While it does not place any restrictions on ownership or use, Section 106 of NHPA does offer some protection from adverse impacts of activities that are licensed or funded by the federal government

Rice Bay is significant under National register Criterion A





# Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (LVD)

- The LVD community has gathered rice from the lake since the mid to late eighteenth century, if not earlier
- The establishment of the village had a pattern of gradual intensification, intermittent or occasional use in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, followed by seasonal habitation, and finally continuous habitation by 1900
- Was federally recognized on September 8, 1988, and broke away from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community as designated in the 1854 LaPointe Treaty.



# History of the Rice Bay Manoomin Bed



- In the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, bands moved inland from Madaline Island
- Lake Lac Vieux Desert was discovered and was the cross-roads or four corners for travel throughout the area
- In 1870, the first controlled structure was placed by a logging company on Lake Lac Vieux Desert with minimal impact

# Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC)



- 1937, WVIC installed the current concrete and steel dam under a 50 year FERC permit
- This dam initiated the disappearance of wild rice on Lake Lac Vieux Desert
- In 1984, the Lac Vieux Desert Tribe, attempted to open discussions with WVIC

# Litigation

- In 1988, WVIC received a new permit with restrictions up to 2026
- WVIC appealed the restrictions until 2002
- In 2002, WVIC lowered the lake levels to that of 1937, and a ten year test period was initiated.
- 2002-2005- 14,000 lbs of wild rice seed went into Rice Bay and Misery Bay



Rice Bay 2003



# Litigation continued...



Rice Bay 2010

- In 2012, a report for the test period was drafted and submitted to FERC. The TCP application was initiated.
- In 2015, an adaptive management plan was drafted and submitted to FERC.
- The TCP status was awarded in December 2015.



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QUESTION?

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