

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN, a federally recognized Indian tribe, on its own behalf and as *parens patriae* for its members,

BAD RIVER BAND OF THE LAKE SUPERIOR TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF THE BAD RIVER RESERVATION, a federally recognized Indian tribe, on its own behalf and as *parens patriae* for its members,

LAC COURTE OREILLES BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN, a federally recognized Indian tribe, on its own behalf and as *parens patriae* for its members,

LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF THE LAC DU FLAMBEAU RESERVATION OF WISCONSIN, a federally recognized Indian tribe, on its own behalf and as *parens patriae* for its members,

ST. CROIX CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN, a federally recognized Indian tribe, on its own behalf and as *parens patriae* for its members, and

SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY, a federally recognized Indian tribe, on its own behalf and as *parens patriae* for its members,

Plaintiffs,

-v.-

PRESTON D. COLE, in his official capacity as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources,

DR. FREDERICK PREHN, in his official capacity as a person who claims to be, and is acting as, both the Chair and a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

GREGORY KAZMIERSKI, in his official capacity as

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the Vice Chair and a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

BILL SMITH, in his official capacity as the Secretary and a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

SHARON ADAMS, in her official capacity as a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

WILLIAM BRUINS, in his official capacity as a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

TERRY HILGENBERG, in his official capacity as a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

MARCY WEST, in her official capacity as a member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board,

Defendants.

DECLARATION OF MIKE WIGGINS IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

I, Mike Wiggins, declare as follows:

1. My name is Michael Wiggins, Jr. I currently serve as Tribal Chairperson for the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa and have held this position from 2009 – 2015 and 2017 - 2021. As Chairperson, my responsibilities include general supervision of the Tribal Council and such matters as naturally pertain to the general welfare of the community.

2. The Bad River Band's tribal government is funded largely with grants and contracts with federal and other government agencies. Tribal discretionary revenue is extremely limited, with many competing priorities for those funds.

3. I currently serve as Vice Chairman on the Board of Commissioners for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and sit as a tribal representative on the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force. I am also Secretary for the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Executive Board.

4. I've lived all my life on the Bad River Reservation. Hunting and fishing have given me the opportunity to see first-hand the positive return of wolves to their rightful place within our ecosystems. In 2021, I harvested a large buck deer within a quarter mile of an active wolf den. Our Reservation home has a healthy deer herd and healthy wolves.

5. I have worked closely with the Bad River Natural Resources Department to protect and administer a respectful, science-based approach to wolves (ma'iingan) within our sovereign tribal land boundaries.

6. The Bad River Band adopted the Ma'iingan (Wolf) Relationship Plan in 2019, which is attached to this declaration as an exhibit. The Bad River Band has formally listed the ma'iingan as a tribally protected species.

7. The Bad River Band has determined that at least three wolf packs spend some of their time within the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation. But because of the small size of the reservation, and because of the wide range of the gray wolf, the wolf packs that do come onto the reservation do not spend more than 50% of their time there. The minimum population goal for the Bad River Reservation is to have at least three packs partially occupying the reservation.

8. Surveys of our tribal members have shown that while views differ on wolves and wolf management, including whether there is a need lethal management of nuisance wolves, or whether wolf hunting should be allowed, tribal members generally favor protections for wolves. Many tribal members have seen wolves and believe it was a unique and interesting experience.

9. Under the 1837 and 1842 Treaties, the Anishinaabe have a right to half of the harvestable species in the lands that were ceded. This means we have to work together with the state to manage those resources, protect those resources, and manage the harvest of those resources by our members. This is the role of GLIFWC and the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force

Committee.

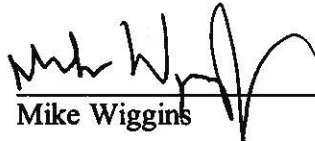
10. Wisconsin's harvest of wolves in 2021, with the lack of adequate wolf population data is a disrespectful management approach as it pertains to a fragile species like wolves. Harvesting where there is no science-based management plan represents the worst approach for management of any species of Treaty Resources in the Ceded Territory.

11. As co-managers of ceded territory natural resources, the State of Wisconsin is responsible for protecting the shared resources based upon science-based management.

12. Instead, the State of Wisconsin is taking actions that erode our treaty rights, and threaten the very existence of wolves.

13. Our treaties represent a way of life for our tribal people. Eroding and disregarding our treaties is unacceptable. We view violations of our treaty rights as hostile actions against our tribal sovereignty and the very lives of tribal people.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C Section 1746, I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 30, 2021 on the Bad River Reservation.


Mike Wiggins