

# Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

## Reservation Business Committee

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Fond du Lac Band Issues Policy on Access to Band-Owned Lands

**Fond du Lac Lake Superior Chippewa, MN, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – Today, the Fond du Lac Band announced a new policy governing hunting on and access to its Band lands. Over the upcoming months, the Band will post all Band-owned lands with signs that read “No Trespassing- Fond du Lac Band permit required” with additional information on how to obtain a permit. The policy is part of the Band’s effort to better manage and conserve its resources.

Fond du Lac’s Reservation Business Committee approved the change last April in order to uphold the Band’s heritage of conscientious resource stewardship. “For us, these lands, waters, animals and plants are a source of food and medicine that are intrinsic elements of our way of life, which is why it is so important for us to strike a balance between usage and natural renewal processes,” says Kevin DuPuis, Chairman of the Fond du Lac Band. “We also recognize these resources provide appealing recreational opportunities for people outside our Band, which is why we welcome the general public to utilize the permitting system to access Band-owned land in a responsible way that helps us protect these sensitive habitats.”

Band-owned lands are defined as all lands owned in fee or held in trust on the Fond du Lac Reservation for the Band, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, or any allotment land where the Fond du Lac Band is part owner of that allotment. This policy does not govern an individual’s ability to engage in any outdoor activity, such as hunting, fishing, and trapping on the reservation. An individual’s ability to engage in outdoor activities is governed by other applicable laws, such as the Band’s conservation code or state hunting laws.

“This policy is about taking proactive steps to ensure that traditions centered around hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering remain viable and sustainable customs on these precious lands for current and future generations,” says Thomas Howes, Natural Resources Program Manager of the Fond du Lac Band. “Over the years, we have seen an enormous amount of stress placed on these fragile

ecosystems. Issues such as illegal garbage dumping, increased ATV traffic, and overall growth in population have the potential to take their toll on wildlife and vegetation.”

As part of the posting process, the Band’s Resource Management staff will begin issuing monthly and annual permits to the general public for access to tribal land at the cost of \$25 for a monthly permit or \$100 for a one-year permit. We will prohibit certain activities such as overnight camping, leaving a fire unattended, harvest of timber or non-timber forest products, etc. These prohibitions will be listed on the permit and communicated to permit holders at the time of permit issuance.

There will be exceptions to the posting policy. In particular, all lands acquired over the past several years with funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund will still be open to the general public for outdoor recreation. In addition, this policy will not affect any existing easements or agreements in place for such things as ski or snowmobile trails on the Reservation.

An informational meeting for the Fond du Lac Band members will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Cloquet Community Center in the Elder Nutrition Program Room, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. There will be a discussion on this policy and light refreshments will be provided.

Attached is the policy,

<http://www.fdlrez.com/RM/downloads/TribalLandAccessPermitPolicy.pdf>. Permits will be issued by the Resource Management Division, as authorized by the Resource Management Director. For more information please contact Resource Management at 218-878-7101.

### **About Fond du Lac Lake Superior Chippewa**

The Fond du Lac Band (Nagaajiwanaang; where the water stops) is one of six Chippewa Indian Bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Fond du Lac Reservation was established by the La Pointe Treaty of 1854.

Archaeologists, however, maintain that ancestors of the present-day Chippewa (Ojibwe) have resided in the Great Lakes areas since 800 A.D. The Band includes 4,200 members.

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