

Protocol for Responsible and Accountable Research
for the University of Minnesota Project *Kawe Gidaa-Naanaagadawendaamin*
Manoomin

This research protocol is a directive for collaborative research between university researchers on the project *Kawe Gidaa-Naanaagadawendaamin Manoomin* and Tribes that are involved in any way with the project. The project began with funding by the University of Minnesota's Grand Challenges Initiative and Institute on the Environment to engage in community-based and Tribally driven research to study the cultural, ecological, and policy dynamics of manoomin /psin (wild rice), with the aim of protecting this culturally and environmentally important resource.

The following research protocol is a statement of how the *Kawe Gidaa-Naanaagadawendaamin Manoomin* project team at the University of Minnesota will approach and conduct research with the Tribes. Researchers are expected to respect and follow the principles and procedures set out in this document to ensure the highest standards of research and to develop accountable and trusting relationships and co-produce knowledge.

This document outlines overall principles and provides guidance for creating specific research plans and agreements that should specify what specific Tribal concerns need to be addressed, who is involved, and how data will be collected and stored, how the data will be analyzed, and how the results will be communicated. Any research conducted with Tribal communities and on Tribal reservation lands must have full consent of the Tribe following their preferred approval process. Research on ceded territories must also have consensus support from the appropriate inter-Tribal resource management agencies and Tribes that are treaty signatories and exercise treaty rights in the area.

Guiding Principles

Collaborative research with Indigenous peoples is based on principles of respect for the beliefs, culture, traditions, and practices of Native American Tribes, and building relationships of accountability and mutual trust. Therefore, University researchers will develop cultural competency and learn about Tribal histories and traditions, and approach research with respect for the cultural and spiritual meanings of manoomin /psin for Indigenous peoples. Researchers recognize and respect the sovereignty and self-determination of the Tribes, which include the authority to make decisions about research in their communities and on their lands. Decisions will be made in collaboration with the Tribes and other Tribal partners who will be involved in every stage of the research process. The Tribes and other Tribal partners will have co-ownership, control, and access to information and data from research activities. The priority of the research is to benefit the Tribes and Indigenous communities and support their efforts to protect

manoomin /psiq. Therefore, research should promote community and ecological well-being, and assist in promoting Tribal rights and sovereignty.

This document provides detailed procedures and guidelines around the following topics:

1. Project procedures
2. Ensuring community benefits
3. Research with Tribal members and Indigenous communities
4. Research with animals, plants and habitats
5. Do no harm principle
6. Project outputs
7. Data ownership, sharing and dissemination

Protocol Guidelines

1. Project Procedure

Full and equal participation: Tribal staff, leaders, elders and community members, University researchers from the Kawe Gidaa-Naanaagadawendaamin Manoomin project, and other external partners are full and equal partners in all aspects of the research. The Tribes will be included in all stages of the process from design to implementation to dissemination and publication.

Traditional knowledge and the perspective of Tribal elders should guide the project. Specific procedures will be developed for particular research projects and agreements with the Tribes.

Approval: Researchers must obtain approval to conduct research from the appropriate Tribal representatives. For research on reservations, the Tribal government has authority on decisions to allow and continue research. The Tribes will determine the exact process for this approval, e.g., through Tribal elders, Tribal Council, Tribal Chairpersons, natural resource departments, or some combination. For research in ceded territories, the UMN team will work through the appropriate inter-Tribal organization for approval and will move forward with research if there is consensus among Tribes that are treaty signatories. Before research begins, the University team will provide a research plan, protocol, and data-sharing agreement to the appropriate Tribal representative for review and approval. During the project, researchers will also maintain communication with the appropriate Tribal authorities to coordinate ongoing research and secure specific approvals for when and how data is collected, such as contacting rice Chiefs or resource managers before collecting samples from on-reservation lakes. The specifics steps for coordination will be determined in detailed research work plans.

Decision-making: Decisions about research design (where, what, how, and when to collect data), interpreting data, and publishing will be made collaboratively between UMN and the Tribes. Prior to any form of publication, the University researchers will send all materials (journal articles, presentation slides, blog articles) to the Tribes for review and comments. The University

researchers will consider all comments and make revisions prior to final Tribal review and then submission or dissemination.

Right of withdrawal: The Tribes have the right to withdraw from the project at any point and stop research being conducted on their reservations. For research on ceded territories, Tribes or inter-Tribal organizations can decide to stop and withdraw from research. If there are differences in opinion among Tribes who have treaty rights in the area, the UMN team will not continue research and will only continue if the Tribes reach consensus on how or if the research should be conducted.

Communications with partners: The University research team will regularly communicate with the Tribes and update representatives from the Tribes on the progress of the project. This will include monthly conference calls with all Tribal partners, bi-weekly conference calls around sub-themes (social and biophysical science), regular emails and conference calls with working groups. The University team will provide participants with notes from meetings and reports from conferences and other events. The Tribes and community members can contact individual team members with questions or communicate via the project email, manoominpsin-gc@umn.edu, or phone number, 612-624-9243 (Crystal Ng, project lead), with any questions or concerns.

Review procedures and periods: The Tribes will be given advance notice to review publications that include data collected on reservations, and may request additional time to review. The University team will also provide the Tribes with as much review time as possible for new applications for funding. No applications for additional grants and funding for continued work on the reservation will be made without support from the Tribes. The University team will also consult the Tribes about collaborating with any new non-tribal partners or adding new researchers to the project.

2. Ensuring Community Benefits

This project is driven by the needs of Tribal communities and protecting manoomin/psinj. Researchers are committed to contributing to the interests and needs of the Tribal community. Thus, all efforts will be made to maximize the benefits for the Tribal partners.

Informing and educating the Tribal community about the research is a primary goal. Thus, research data and findings will be shared with the Tribes and communicated to Tribal communities through culturally appropriate and accessible venues and formats. The project will also prioritize involving Tribal community members as active participants in the research.

Engaging youth is a priority and the project will conduct outreach through schools on and near reservations and Tribal community colleges. Indigenous college students will be involved through summer research opportunities, and research assistant positions and internships.

Project events will be held on reservations and at Tribally-owned facilities when possible and will prioritize purchasing from Tribal businesses.

The University team will make sure not to duplicate work of Tribal resource managers, state agencies, or other researchers. The University team will build upon existing work and provide new data, resources, analysis, and publications to assist ongoing efforts by the Tribes.

3. Research with Tribal Members and Indigenous Peoples

Follow Institutional Review Board (IRB) procedures: The University researchers will follow all applicable University and Tribal IRB procedures and protocols for conducting ethical research.

Free, prior, and informed consent: Individual participants in any research (such as interviews, oral histories or surveys) must have free, prior, and informed consent before participating. Participants will be made fully aware of their rights and the nature of the research and their involvement through written and oral information that describes the purpose and nature of the research. These materials will be culturally appropriate and use clear language. This information will explain the potential beneficial and harmful effects of the research on individuals, the community, and the environment. Potential participants must not be subjected to undue pressure or influence. Individuals can withdraw from the research at any point, and refuse to have their data used.

Respect for traditional knowledge: Information and knowledge from Tribal elders or traditional knowledge will only be gathered at the expressed request of the Tribal partners, and will be protected and treated with sensitivity.

Privacy, confidentiality, and anonymity: The project will follow University policy and applicable law regarding confidentiality and privacy for all records, data, and information gathered with the consent of the Tribes. Participant information will remain anonymous whenever possible while reporting results, unless participants explicitly request that their name or identifying information be shared.

4. Research with animals, plants and habitats

Research must respect Indigenous customs, values, and understandings of plants, animals, and relationships between humans and non-humans, particularly the cultural and spiritual significance and meanings of manoomin/psij.

All efforts must be made to reduce negative ecological impacts of research and limit any invasive data collection practices.

5. Do No Harmful Research

Past and ongoing research at the University has ignored Tribal perspectives and harmed manoomin/psij and Indigenous livelihoods. The project team is committed to avoiding these

mistakes and working to make changes with other researchers and University administration to develop more equitable, accountable, and culturally sensitive practices for engaging with Tribes.

Unless asked explicitly to do so by Tribal partners, the researchers pledge to **NOT** engage in research that could influence the natural distribution and diversity of manoomin/psij (e.g., through genetic research or moving seeds between lakes), and to **NOT** apply economic value to manoomin/psij and its significance for Indigenous peoples. The researchers will never genetically modify manoomin, e.g., through genetic engineering or breeding.

There will be **no commercial use** of the data, research products, biophysical samples, or traditional knowledge without prior written consent from all the relevant parties.

For each project and research site, the researchers will work together with the Tribes to identify potential risks to participants, personnel, Tribal communities, nonhuman life, and manoomin/psij ecosystems, and develop ways to minimize those risks. Research on the reservations will move forward only if the Tribes determine that the benefits of the work outweigh any potential risks.

6. Project Outputs

Each aspect of the project will identify expected outputs and deliverables (e.g., data, publications, oral presentations, outreach, technology) and provide products to benefit the Tribal community. The University team and the Tribes will agree on outputs when the research begins and collaboratively decide on additional products as the project is completed.

All public communications, reports, presentations, and publications will acknowledge Tribal participation and contributions. Researchers will provide the opportunity for Tribal representatives to co-author on all project-related publications.

Public communication materials could include newsletters, blog articles, social media posts, presentations at schools and community events, and Tribal radio station programs.

The project seeks to co-produce knowledge between University researchers and the Tribes and will analyze and interpret data collaboratively. University researchers will work to communicate and translate technical analysis. This can facilitate knowledge sharing and creation, and dialogues across different forms of knowledge.

Peer-reviewed publications are a major goal of the project, and will include the Tribal partners in the data analysis, writing, review, and comment processes to the extent possible with the option for Tribal representatives to co-author. Publications can benefit both the Tribes and the University researchers. Documented understanding of manoomin/psij ecosystems, cultural practices, and policies can prompt better-informed resource management and protection for the Tribes. A record of publication will allow University researchers to pursue further funding to

continue the collaborative work. Overall, publications will expand society's knowledge about the important natural and cultural resource of manoomin/psiq. The team and Tribal partners will also pursue presentations at academic and professional conferences.

The project will provide data that can be used for future research and resource management by the Tribes.

The project may also provide research materials, such as monitoring instruments, field supplies, and possibly software, all sufficiently documented to allow the Tribes and other researchers to fully utilize them.

Researchers recognize their continuing obligations to the Tribes after the completion of the research, including returning materials and providing continued support and continuing concern for the well-being of the community and ecosystem.

7. Data Ownership, Sharing, and Dissemination

“Data” refers to all information directly gathered during the course of the project. Directly gathered information includes: measurements taken in the field, laboratory analyses of field samples, observational field notes of events and interactions, and interview audio recording and transcripts. Data does not include information publicly available or previously collected or published.

All data collected during the project will be shared among UMN researchers and Tribal partners for collaborative analysis and interpretation.

All data collected on the reservations will be considered “Band data,” subject to the laws and codes of the corresponding Tribal government. The corresponding Tribe(s) maintain sole ownership and control of all Band data, including all data relating to Band individual(s), Band institution(s), Tribal culture, history, and practices, and the Band itself. Such data are subject to the corresponding Tribes' laws. Such data shall not be shared with third-parties without the express written permission of the corresponding Tribes.

Data collected in the ceded territories will be considered “Project data,” and will be co-owned by the Tribal and University collaborators.

Culturally sensitive data from the reservations will not be shared with other University researchers who are not on the project team or other institutions unless the Tribes expressly allow it. The researchers and the Tribes will collectively determine what data is and is not shared with other researchers, and what data is made public and what is culturally sensitive and confidential.

The University team and Tribal partners will maintain joint ownership of all reports and publications, which will be reviewed and approved by the Tribe(s) directly impacted by the reports and publications, and will include Tribal representatives as co-authors when desired by Tribal partners.

The University team shall comply with all applicable state, Tribal, and federal laws and regulations, including the Privacy Act and other laws protecting privacy in as much as the laws of the State of Minnesota allow its state university to do.

The University team will take all possible steps within legal requirements and University-wide policies to ensure the data is protected from third-parties and only shared with other researchers and institutions based on the expressed desire of the Tribes. If project data is compelled by applicable law or by court order, University researchers agree to immediately notify and consult with the Tribes, in order to permit the Tribes to intervene.