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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An International Ecological Treasure

Often called the Everglades of the North, the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs, a pristine wetland complex located in northern Wisconsin, may soon be formally recognized as an international treasure. In a letter dated December 13, 2011, the Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has requested the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs be designated as a Wetland of International Importance, or a Ramsar site. The



Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, also known as the Ramsar Convention, is a treaty initiated in 1971 that provides for international cooperation among 160 countries for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Located in the downstream portion of the Bad River Watershed and comprising a large portion of the Lake Superior coastal wetlands, the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs complex is both culturally and ecologically significant due to its diverse habitats supporting a vast array of species, such as *Manomin* (wild rice), *Ogaa* (walleye), and *Name* (lake sturgeon). This Sloughs complex has a long list of designations and recognitions including a National Natural Landmark, a Wisconsin Wetland GEM, and an Important Bird Area. A multitude of health and environmental challenges, such as the loosening of environmental regulations, a changing climate, and poorly planned industrialization, threaten the integrity of this unique and valuable water resource. The Bad River Tribe



will continue its environmental stewardship and its partnerships with entities, such as the Wisconsin Wetland Association, to protect and maintain the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs for future generations.

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