

HONOR THE RIGHTS OF MANOOMIN/PSÍŃ

WHAT IS WILD RICE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Known as manoomin to Anishinaabeg people and psíŃ to the Lakota and Dakota, wild rice is crucial to the health of people and ecosystems in Minnesota. **Importantly, manoomin/psíŃ is central to Anishinaabeg and Dakota spirituality, cultural, and nutrition, as well as their economies.** As the state grain of Minnesota, wild rice is also core to the Minnesota economy and environment, not just because it's an incredibly delicious source of nutrition that requires no fertilizers to grow, but also because it is so central to Minnesota's biodiversity – **more than 17 species of wildlife listed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as "species of greatest conservation need" use wild rice lakes as habitat for reproduction or foraging.**

WHY DO WE NEED TO PROTECT IT?



Now is the time to protect manoomin/psíŃ. According to the Governor's Wild Rice Task Force, historical data shows **the abundance of wild rice has decreased in Minnesota** and it is no longer abundant in southern Minnesota. Manoomin/psíŃ faces many threats from climate change, invasive species, pollution, and genetically engineered crops. **Particularly, sulfate byproducts from current and proposed sulfide-ore mines like Polymet and Talon can leach into the fresh waters in which wild rice grows,** not just negatively impacting the rice itself, but also the plant and animal life that depend on this grain – including us!

HOW CAN RIGHTS OF MANOOMIN/PSÍŃ RESOLUTION HELP?

Rights of Manoomin/PsíŃ is a resolution that would recognize the rights of wild rice or manoomin/psíŃ to exist, flourish, regenerate, and evolve.

By recognizing the rights of wild rice or manoomin/psíŃ, we would also acknowledge that this sacred plant and its freshwater habitat are important parts of our lives and biodiversity here in Minnesota.

This resolution would require our state to adopt legislation protecting manoomin/psíŃ in Minnesota within two years. Now is the time to ensure that manoomin/psíŃ or wild rice remains for the next seven generations.

**ASK YOUR LEGISLATORS TO
HONOR THE RIGHTS OF
MANOOMIN/PSÍŃ!**

