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| Rob discussed the impact of climate change on their region, particularly on their traditional stories and practices. He noted that the tulip bees' 2-week season is shifting due to climate change, affecting the timing of their fishing and hunting activities. Rob also highlighted the effects of climate change on their environment, such as more extreme rainfall, warmer winters, longer growing seasons, warmer lakes and rivers, and more extreme heat. He shared examples of these changes, including a bridge washout in a 1,000-year flood and the challenges of harvesting wild rice in high temperatures. Rob emphasized the importance of understanding and adapting to these changes to preserve their cultural practices and traditions. |
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| **Traditional Ecological Interviews and Vulnerability Assessment** |
| Rob discussed the vulnerability assessment for different plants and animals selected by Ojibwe knowledge holders. He highlighted the importance of using scientific and traditional knowledge, and mentioned the creation of two versions of the assessment in 2018 and 2023, with 10 and 66 beings respectively. He emphasized the need to treat these beings as relatives rather than resources, and shared the process of conducting traditional ecological interviews with elders and knowledge holders. He also mentioned the use of the Climate Change Vulnerability Index and the provision of gifts and stipends as part of the cultural protocol. |
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| **Vulnerability of Species to Climate Change** |
| Rob discussed the vulnerability of various species, including swimmers, fish, and plants, to climate change. He highlighted that these species are particularly vulnerable due to their limited ability to move away from the effects of climate change. Rob also mentioned the importance of indigenous people and their treaty rights, emphasizing that these rights cannot be easily relocated. He identified 10 beings as extremely vulnerable, including Wabasehi, moose, mosquito, muskegwatig, dug, wabooz, manumen, manumen, gijagatig, and oduna beans. Rob specifically focused on wild rice, which he described as the most vulnerable being and a culturally significant food source for the Ojibwe people. He explained that wild rice is a perennial grass that requires specific conditions to grow and is vulnerable to human impacts, flooding, and competition from non-native species. |
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| **Climate Change Impact on Rice and Maple** |
| Rob discussed the impact of climate change on the environment and ecosystems, particularly in the context of rice cultivation and maple syrup production. He highlighted the changing seasons, shorter sap run, and the need for ice cover for rice germination. Rob also shared insights from tribal elders and knowledge holders about the effects of climate change on their traditional practices and cultural indicators. He emphasized the adaptability of the Anishinabe people and the need for continued adaptation in the face of environmental changes. |
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| **Respecting Nature and Indigenous Beliefs** |
| Rob discussed the importance of respecting nature and the environment, emphasizing that humans should be part of the environment rather than managing it. He shared his experience working with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, where he learned to be a good spokesperson for the environment and navigate between indigenous and non-indigenous societies. Jill asked for advice on transitioning to an ecological approach in her work with watershed districts, and Rob suggested involving tribal folks in the decision-making process. John asked for book and movie recommendations on indigenous beliefs and culture, to which Rob recommended "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmer and the TV series "Reservation Dogs". |
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