



Photo: Martin Neptune

Pəskehtək^Wok

Joining of The Branches

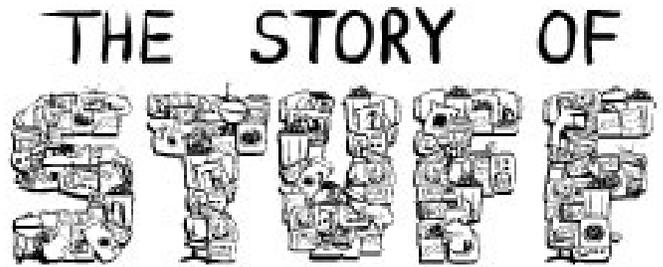
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Penobscot Indian Nation
 Department of Natural Resources
www.penobscotnation.org/DNR/DNR1.htm

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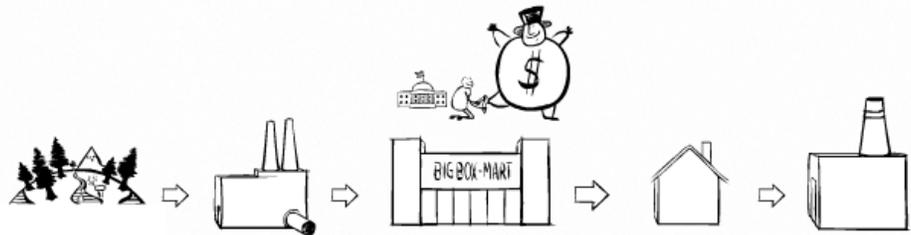
Have you ever wondered where all the stuff we buy comes from and where it goes when we throw it out?



WITH ANNIE LEONARD

Well this woman named Annie Leonard looked it up and found that the textbooks say that our stuff simply moves along these stages: extraction to production to distribution to consumption to disposal. All together, it's called the materials economy.

But as Annie will tell you in the 20 minute video she made, she found out that this is not the whole story. Annie says,



"There's a lot missing from this explanation. For one thing, this system looks like it's fine. No problem. But the truth is it's a system in crisis. And the reason it is in crisis is that it is a linear system and we live on a finite planet and you can not run a linear system on a finite planet indefinitely.

Every step along the way, this system is interacting with the real world. In real life it's not happening on a blank white page. It's interacting with societies, cultures, economies, the environment. And all along the way, it's bumping up against limits. Limits we don't see here because the diagram is incomplete."

To see what's missing from the explanation and get the bigger picture go online to www.storyofstuff.com!

We will also be featuring more of the information in future newsletters!



STORY OF **STUFF**.COM



LEARNING HOW TO PROTECT YOUR RIVER



Just before Thanksgiving the lab at the Department of Natural Resources was full of students from Lee Francis's Native Studies class. Three classes of students were here at various times to check out water samples from the Penobscot River and to have a "hands on" experience of some of the lab tests done here during our sampling season. This is an ongoing collaboration with our department and the Native Studies at the Indian Island School.

The students did not get a chance to go out and take their own samples this year, due to scheduling difficulties. So Jan Paul and Angie Reed collected water samples from above Lincoln Island and at the place where Lincoln Pulp and Paper (LPP) dumps (discharges) their wastewater to have samples of different water conditions.

Unfortunately, not being able to go out and sample left the students less impacted. When they actually get to go see and smell the river near LPP's discharge, it leaves them with a whole different perspective and appreciation for our river, **The Penobscot**. The students were provided with samples for them to do portions of the analyses that is done here on a regular basis. On the first day in the lab, each class got to measure and filter samples for Total Suspended Solids and either observed or participated in the analysis of E. coli. On the second day, students donned blue filtering masks to count E. coli colonies and took turns weighing the filters from the two sampling sights.



Some students took on the role of "recorder" and wrote down weights of filters as students took their turns at the scales and reported individual weights of samples after they had been filtered and allowed to cool after being in a laboratory oven for an hour.

All of the students took away the importance of the DNR Water Program and how we are all working to protect and preserve the natural resources of the Nation's waters. Seeds were planted in all of the students that they too have the opportunity to work and be a part of this important mission of protecting and preserving our river for future generations to enjoy! We hope that with this newsletter we can inspire not only those students but other tribal members as well, to join us and become involved in protecting our sovereignty.

What's up with all of these rocks?

Jason Mitchell



Over the past couple of summers many of you may have noticed rock or “rip-rap” being installed on the banks of Indian Island. This rip-rap is what is referred to as a Best Management Practice or BMP. A Best Management Practice or BMP is installed to prevent NPS from entering a waterbody. In this case the Penobscot River.

Here on Indian Island we have actively eroding riverbanks. Because of a large dam downstream, high flows, boat traffic, and seasonal ice jams, rip-rap and reestablishing a buffer strip of vegetation was selected as a BMP for this problem.

The most recent project completed here on Indian Island was on the banks behind the Shay and Sappier properties. This particular section of riverbank had been eroding for several decades. If a BMP had not been installed soon, there was a real possibility of a house and grave site falling into the river. Also, water quality and aquatic life become threatened from soil and nutrients that enter the river from the site. Through funds awarded to your Tribe's water Resources Department



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from an EPA Tribal competitive Grant, and with the cooperation of the landowners we have been successful in permanently stabilizing this section of riverbank. This project was a collaborative effort that also included engineers from the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Thornton's Construction (local contractor), and myself as your Tribes Water Resources Field Coordinator.

To understand nonpoint source (NPS) pollution you must first understand the concept of a watershed. A watershed is the land area - much like a bowl - in which water is collected. As we all know, water flows by gravity down hill, first forming small streams which flow into larger streams into lakes, rivers and eventually the ocean. When a storm event or snowmelt occurs run-off can erode soils and carry pollutants into waterbodies if there is no buffer.



Plant materials stabilize soils by creating a natural buffer that acts like a sponge which absorbs and filters out pollutants before they come into contact with waterbodies.

Here on Indian Island we live in the Penobscot watershed. Our watershed is roughly 1/3 of the State of Maine. Keeping NPS Pollution out of the watershed is a big task; a task that starts right here on the Reservation, and will continue by working with other community's throughout the watershed.

This project is one of several here on Indian Island. There are also several additional projects currently funded to be carried out here on Tribal Trust lands.

If you have any questions or concerns you can talk to me by stopping by my office in the Nick Sapiel Jr. Building or call 817-7381.



CAN YOU SMELL IT?



If anyone detects an odor that they think may be coming from the Juniper Ridge Landfill in West Old Town, please call this number to report it.

394 - 4376

It's important that folks use this complaint line to report odors so that the company knows when and where the odors are being noticed. The state is in the process of rulemaking to establish regulations to address the landfill odor problem. Thanks for your help!

