



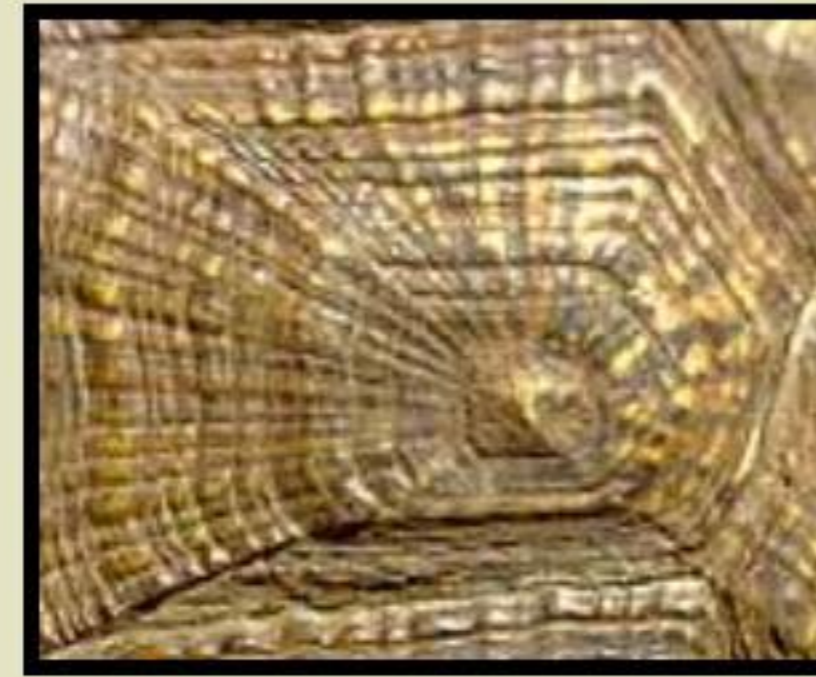
# Wood Turtle

(*Glemptemys insulpta*)



## Current Status: Special Concern

### About the Wood Turtle



- They have orange necks and feet
- Shell size ranges from 18 to 24 cm. Shell has pyramid-like plates that have annual growth rings.
- They have a yellow underside and they have irregular dark blotches that occur around the seams of their shell
- Their skin is dark brown to black and different shades of yellow and orange may be found on both their necks and legs.
- They are the most terrestrial members of their family. [1]

### Current Project on Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

Kitigan Zibi is currently working on a wood turtle survey and protection project. The goal of the project is to determine if the wood turtle species is present within the Kitigan Zibi Indian Reserve limits and if habitat management is required.

This project began in June 2005; during that year the team found a total of 10 wood turtles and 19 sets of tracks on the reserve. In June 2006 the team found a total of 5 wood turtles and 7 sets of wood turtle tracks. The population was deemed to be healthy and no management was required.

### Main threats

- Destruction or modification of their habitat.
- Illegal collecting for pet trade.
- Roadside mortality.
- Nest predation from raccoons, skunks, and foxes. [1]

### Diet

- Adult wood turtles are omnivorous, meaning that they feed on both plants and animals.
- Young turtles are more carnivorous, they eat berries, tender shrub leaves, flowers and fiddleheads. They also eat insects, worms and slugs.
- The aquatic part of their diet includes insect larvae, algae, dead fish and snails. [1]

### Nesting

- Nesting season usually occurs from May until the end of July.
- Most wood turtles nests are found on sandy river embankments.
- Females lay 4 – 18 eggs per nest. [1]

### Reproduction

- Individuals become sexually mature at 7 to 20 years of age
- Nesting season occurs from May to early July
- Most nests are laid on Sandy River banks. [1]

### Wood Turtle Habitat

- The wood turtle over winters in water.
- During the spring and fall it spends most of its time near the water.
- Throughout the summer the turtle can be found further away from water in bushy areas.. [1]

### Habitat Degradation

Human disturbance, agricultural practices and habitat destruction can account for much of the habitat modification and degradation. As more and more land is modified my man, it becomes more susceptible to become inhabited by raccoons and skunks (wood turtles main predators).

