

Eagle River Chain of Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plans Public Questionnaire

The Town of Washington and its partnering governmental units have a state grant which is paying for the creation of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plans for each of the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. APM Plans must be completed to obtain permits from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for management of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) found growing throughout the Chain of Lakes. Public input is needed to refine APM Plan goals and formulate reasonable management methods. Completing this survey will help guide the plan development and future AIS management on the Eagle River Chain. Please complete and return this survey no later than **November 14, 2006**.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please complete only ONE survey per water body. You may complete additional questionnaires for each separate water body that you wish to provide input.

Circle which water body that you are providing responses for. (Select only one for each questionnaire)

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|----------------------|
| A. | Catfish Lake | G. | Scattering Rice Lake |
| B. | Cranberry Lake | H. | Voyageur Lake |
| C. | Duck Lake | I. | Watersmeet Lake |
| D. | Eagle Lake | J. | Yellow Birch Lake |
| E. | Lynx Lake | K. | Eagle River |
| F. | Otter Lake | L. | Wisconsin River |

1. Please circle the response that best describes your affiliation with the lake and the community. (Circle all that apply)

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|-----------------------|
| A. | Shoreline landowner (year round resident)
Specify lake _____ | E. | Area business owner |
| B. | Shoreline landowner (seasonal resident)
Specify lake _____ | F. | Tourist or vacationer |
| C. | Nearby (offshore) resident – year round | G. | Other (specify) _____ |
| D. | Nearby (offshore) resident – seasonal | | |

2. If you are a Vilas county landowner, on which water body do you own land?

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|--------------------|
| A. | Catfish Lake | H. | Voyageur Lake |
| B. | Cranberry Lake | I. | Watersmeet Lake |
| C. | Duck Lake | J. | Yellow Birch Lake |
| D. | Eagle Lake | K. | Eagle River |
| E. | Lynx Lake | L. | Wisconsin River |
| F. | Otter Lake | M. | Offshore landowner |
| G. | Scattering Rice Lake | N. | Other _____ |

3. Please circle the activities that you use the lake for. (Circle all that apply)

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|----------------------|
| A. | Fishing | G. | Pleasure boating |
| B. | Waterskiing | H. | Canoeing & kayaking |
| C. | Personal water craft | I. | Nature viewing |
| D. | Swimming | J. | Enjoyment of scenery |
| E. | Pontoon boating | K. | Hunting |
| F. | Sailing | L. | Other _____ |

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4. Please rank the 4 activities that are most enjoyable or important to you on the lake. Write a 1 for the most important and a 4 for your fourth choice.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleasure boating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterskiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing & kayaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal water craft | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature viewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoyment of scenery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

5. Please circle the statement that best describes how often you recreate on the lake during the summer. (between Memorial day and Labor day)

- A. 1 – 2 days/month
- B. 3 - 9 days/month
- C. 10 days or greater / month

6. Overall, how would you rate your experiences on the lake? (Please select only one)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Very enjoyable | C. Not too enjoyable |
| B. Enjoyable | D. Not at all enjoyable |

7. From the list below, please rank your top 4 lake concerns. Write a 1 for your primary concern and a 4 to indicate your fourth concern.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality / pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> Algae growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline vegetation removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive aquatic plant growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish populations (explain _____) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

8. Considering the lake issues in the question above, please provide an overall lake quality evaluation. (Please circle only one)

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| A. Excellent | C. Fair |
| B. Good | D. Poor |

9. How often, if at all, does aquatic plant growth negatively affect your use of the lake? (Please circle only one)

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| A. Always | D. Rarely |
| B. Most of the time | E. Never |
| C. Sometimes | |

10. Do you believe that aquatic plant management is needed on the lake you use? (Please circle only one)

- | | | |
|--------|-------|-----------|
| A. Yes | B. No | C. Unsure |
|--------|-------|-----------|

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11. Aquatic plant management varies depending on a lake's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) problems, the lake users' tolerance for a particular level of AIS, acceptability of a particular management alternative, and management costs. Considering your answers to the above two questions, please circle what you would consider an acceptable level of AIS control. (Please select only one)

- A. Do nothing B. Manage problem areas C. Aggressive lake wide management

12. If you are a shoreland landowner, please check the choice below that best describes what, if any, as an individual you would be willing to pay for the level of control you described in the question above. (Please select only one)

- A. No individual contribution C. \$100 to \$500/year
B. Less than \$100/year D. Greater than \$500/year

13. Education is a fundamental component of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) planning projects to determine the public's current knowledge about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issues. Knowing this, please use the following scale to rank your understanding of the AIS topics listed below. (For example if you have little or no knowledge about methods of AIS transport, place a 4 next to that choice)

- Scale 1. Very good knowledge of subject
 2. Good knowledge of subject
 3. Limited knowledge of subject
 4. No knowledge of subject

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ AIS present in Vilas County | ___ Methods of AIS control |
| ___ Methods of AIS transport | ___ Effects of AIS on recreation |
| ___ Effects of AIS on ecosystem | ___ Long term results of AIS control |
| ___ Methods of AIS prevention | |

14. There are several methods used to manage AIS, each of which has specific benefits and drawbacks which will later be presented in the APM Plans. Using the following scale, please rank the listed APM control techniques. (For example if you have no opinion about a particular technique, please place a 3 next to that item)

- Scale 1. Support use of this management technique
 2. Do not support use of this management technique
 3. No opinion

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ___ Do nothing | ___ Biological controls (weevils) |
| ___ Hand pulling and raking | ___ Aquatic herbicides |
| ___ Mechanical harvesting | |

15. There are several opportunities for citizens to become actively involved in important roles during APM Plan implementation. From the list below, please identify which activities, if any, you would be interested in helping with. (Select all that apply)

- A. Lake AIS monitor D. Grant writing
B. Water quality monitor E. Do not wish to volunteer
C. Watercraft inspection at boat landings

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IMPORTANT NOTE: If you checked any of the above volunteer opportunities, please provide your name and contact information.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

16. From the potential Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management funding ideas listed below, please rank your top three choices. Write a 1 to indicate your top choice and a 3 for your third choice. (Choose only 3)

___ State grant assistance
___ Private (landowner) funding
___ Countywide sales or room tax
___ Resource user fee (e.g. AIS boat sticker)
___ Property tax or special assessment
___ Federal invasive species management partnerships
___ Other _____

17. The Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan has several goals. We would like to know where you think the Plan should place its emphasis. From the list of APM Plan goals, write a 1 for your primary concern and a 4 to indicate your fourth concern.

___ Study and understand current aquatic plant problems
___ Protect native plant species
___ Reduce extent and density of existing AIS growth
___ Prevent the spread of existing AIS
___ Prevent the introduction of new AIS
___ Identify new aquatic plant management strategies
___ Seek funding for AIS management efforts
___ Other _____

18. Please list additional comments and suggestions that you would like to see incorporated into the APM Plan.

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire. Please return forms via the following:

**Mail to: Town Clerk
 1654 Rangeline Rd.
 Eagle River, WI 54521**

All questionnaires must be completed and received by November 14, 2006.