



Bayfield County AIS Project – Coordinator’s Update 2010

Successes:

- For the third year in a row, no new lakes in the county were found with populations of EWM or CLP (to the best of our knowledge).
- CBCW inspectors in the county contacted 19,280 individuals this summer! (The county’s population is around 16,200)
- Lake associations continue to build capacity and independency, have increased relations with their municipalities, and support many CBCW programs across the county.
- CBCW inspectors are sponsored (with primary funding from the WDNR) by lake associations, municipalities, the county, Wisconsin Sea Grant and some WDNR Water Force. An awesome group of collaborators!
- Expanded partnerships with the area Boy and Girl Scouts, a river group, a local college, public libraries, and schools.
- Continued to extend the AIS prevention message regarding problems with water gardens and pet/aquarium disposal. General outreach events were successful in the number of individuals who received information at various venues and the interest displayed by attendees.
- Completed a focused ‘getting AIS education in our schools’ project instructing at least one teacher from each of the county’s school districts on AIS issues and information, including using available resources and lesson plans to teach about AIS in their classrooms.

Challenges:

- For the second year in a row, there is little to no interest of individuals to become “official” CLMN AIS Monitoring volunteers. Various levels of AIS monitoring continue across the county; however, individual monitors are not inclined to sign-up for a program nor input their observations on a database—even with a free \$65 packet. This coordinator believes this desire must be encouraged and supported at a more local level for better record-keeping, protocol, and initiative.
- Purple loosestrife populations in the Bayfield Peninsula—egads!! Beetle populations (and there are many throughout the county) cannot keep pls populations at a manageable scale across the landscape. Management really needs a boost with herbicidal treatment.
- Speaking of herbicides—and in regards to wetland/riparian plants specifically—more training and information needs to be disseminated to coordinators on various (and proven successful) control options. If species management plans exist within the WDNR or other agency, those plans should be disseminated also. This project has been asked for something like that for Japanese Knotweed and phragmites.
- Juggling all the activities involved with this position.