

**WDNR AIS Control Grant  
AEPP-204-10**

**Protecting the Iron River and Delta Area Lakes 2010 - 2011**



**Final Report: Spring 2010 - Fall 2011**

Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department  
Aquatic Invasive Species Project Coordinator

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1. Emails and Comments for Support
2. Monitoring Maps
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## **SUMMARY**

This project has had another successful year thanks to the dedicated workers, lake organizations, volunteers, and other partners involved in implementing it. A driving force behind this is communication. This is not only communication between partners, but also by effectively sharing the AIS message and prevention steps throughout the area. This communication has been achieved using workshops, Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) inspections, newsletters, signs, brochures, and various other tools. The local coordinators have been crucial in keeping the lines of communication open. Their work has greatly contributed to this program and as a result no new AIS infestations have been found in the area.

How do we know there are no new populations of AIS? This project included monitoring of these lakes. Monitoring was conducted through both volunteer and professional efforts. Boaters have been encouraged by watercraft inspectors to keep an eye out for AIS when on the water. Local residents perform searches for AIS using canoes and pontoon boats and by checking the plants that wash ashore. Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) beds on the Pike Chain are checked by volunteers throughout the summer. The EWM population in the chain has been diminishing thanks to control efforts through the Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association (IRPCLA) sponsored AIS Control Grant. Professional surveying alongside of DNR personnel was also done on two of the major water bodies in this project.

While monitoring provides us information on the status of AIS in the area, education is the reason the AIS has not spread. Watercraft inspectors have worked hard both summers to make sure boaters are educated. Inspectors ensure each contact knows about AIS and how they can prevent its spread and encourages those contacts to spread the message. Information gathered during the inspections is shared with the DNR through the SWIMS database. Other education was done by displaying AIS messages and distribution materials at local businesses and outreach events. AIS awareness was accomplished through creative ideas like Milfoil Man and information booths at fairs and other events.

### **AIS Monitoring**

Both Long Lake and Buskey Bay were surveyed this past summer using the protocols developed for the DNR "Early Detection Lake Surveys." These surveys were a team effort conducted by DNR personnel, Bayfield County AIS coordinator, and a volunteer. While we are still awaiting results of the zooplankton tows conducted, preliminary results of these surveys indicated that the only new invasive species found was Chinese Mystery Snails (CMS) on Buskey Bay. However, it is not likely that this is a new infestation as the adjoining Lake Millicent is already known to have CMS. In the upcoming season, it will be further investigated as to whether CMS has spread throughout the Pike Chain and possibly downstream into the Delta Chain.

There is also volunteer monitoring occurring in specified areas of the lakes. These areas have been highlighted by maps provided in this report. In 2011, 99 hours of monitoring was reported by volunteers. We are sure there is more than this occurring, but reporting has been a challenge, unless suspected AIS is found. Many lake residents use their personal watercrafts to conduct surveys. In addition to this, watercraft inspectors were also successful in encouraging boaters to monitor as they spent their day on the lake.

Post cards and monitoring worksheets have been used to track some of the monitoring. However they have not yet been used to their full potential. In the upcoming season we will attempt to improve this reporting effort by using pre-addressed postcards with paid postage. These will be distributed to committed volunteers at CLMN AIS monitoring workshops.

Lake	Monitoring effort (hours)	
	2010	2011
Long	14	8
Hart & Twin Bear	147	91
Delta & Hay	22	0

\* Please note, this effort describes only what has been documented/verified, not the total effort.

### Watercraft Inspections (CBCW)

The Iron River Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program continues to be a solid education tool in preventing the spread of AIS. There is strong support for it as echoed in emails and comments sent to the county AIS Coordinator. (see Attachments)

Watercraft inspectors have been trained at workshops both in Bayfield County as well as adjacent counties. In 2011, there were two CBCW workshops held in Bayfield County that trained inspectors for this project. One was in Drummond and the other in Iron River. Most of the Pike and Delta Chain inspectors attended both of these workshops. The Long Lake coordinator attended a CBCW workshop in Solon Springs (Douglas County) and one in Iron River. Also three Long Lake inspectors attended an Ashland County CBCW workshop and an Iron river workshop. The Iron River CBCW workshop was held on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in conjunction with the landing blitz campaign. The local television stations were invited to report on this event and film boat landing inspections; however no media were in attendance. This workshop was also advertised on the county website and in local newspapers all referencing the landing blitz. See attachments for press release and county website page. A CBCW Workshop was also held in Iron River at the end of April 2010. Six individuals attended. (No match was submitted for this workshop as the Project Coordinator forgot a sign-up sheet).

This program has a relatively large contribution to the states CBCW program considering inspections are occurring at just 5 boat landings. In 2011 the Iron River area CBCW program made up 2% of the boats inspected, people contacted, and hours spent of the statewide CBCW effort. This is important as many of the users of this area are transient boaters and travel all over the state. About 12% of the boats inspected had been used on a different body of water in the past 5 days. Many of these boaters named Lake Superior as that other body of water.

Weekday watercraft inspections have been made possible through cooperation with the departments that manage the county park at Twin Bear Lake. The county Tourism department (2010 season) and Forestry department (2011 season) have been supportive of these inspections and have provided reduced camping fees for the seasonal camper that conducted weekday inspections. These inspections were brought about by encouragement from the members of the Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association. Their work included many discussions, letters, and visits to the county, and

developing options for weekday inspections. The Tourism and Forestry Departments collaborated with the Land & Water Conservation Department to develop a plan where a seasonal camper would voluntarily perform watercraft inspections during the week. This inspector was then offered an incentive via discount on their campsite for their services. In 2011, part of this incentive was paid for via the Bayfield County AIS Project in the amount of \$829.00. This gave a total of 332.5 hours of monitoring the landing and 347 boats inspected in one summer through this relatively small amount of funding. In comparison to pay someone for this monitoring it would cost \$3,325. This attributes to \$2,496 in voluntary match for the grant. Patti Mitchen was the volunteer inspector and her letter to the county AIS Coordinator is attached. In 2010, Ms. Mitchen's data was compiled with the weekend data so the Monday – Friday afternoon boat traffic data is not easily gained. In 2011, this data was separated and a better picture can be gained of the week vs. weekend boat traffic at the landing.

The two Buskey Bay access sites were staffed in 2010-11(as they were in 2009). With this coverage, all of the public access to the Pike Chain is staffed with watercraft inspectors on the weekend which provides a strong containment element for keeping the EWM within the chain. Staffing hours for the Buskey Bay landings are adjusted based on usage, and are much lower than at Twin Bear landing (because the traffic is lower). This complete coverage is again appreciated by the local lake associations and residents alike. The Delta Chain of Lakes and Long Lake had weekend inspections as well. Delta Lake seemed to have less traffic in 2011, but it is hard to estimate as 100 less inspection hours occurred there than the previous year. This was based on the priority placed on covering the landings on the infected body of water. More hours may need to be spent at the Delta Lake landing as there has been significant improvements to the campground there. Long Lake had an increased amount of boats inspected in 2011. This is not a due to increased staffing, as there was the same amount of inspection hours both years. This may have been due to improvements made at the landing at Long Lake (gravel was added)

**CBCW Statistics:**

Landing	# of Boats		# of Contacts		# Vol hours		# Paid hrs	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
Long Lake	142	212	297	486	18	12	208	214
Pike Chain:								
Buskey Bay Wheeler Rd	26	86	56	202	1	0	17	59.5
Buskey Bay Hyde's Landing	181	238	367	558	2	0	137.5	199.5
Twin Bear Park*	1,814	1289	4,254	3170	107	21.5	623.5	512.5
Weekday inspections at Twin Bear Park	?	347	?	890	?	332.5	?	0
Delta Chain	310	196	711	483	12	0	294.5	175.5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>5,789</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,161</b>

CBCW Data	2010		2011	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Paid Hours	1072.5	90%	947	98%
Volunteer Hours	122	10%	21.5	2%
Total Hours Spent	1194.5		968.5	
Entering	1285	56%	1011	56%
Leaving	1014	44%	798	44%
Used Past 5 Days - Yes	244	11%	270	15%
Used Past 5 Days - No	1990	87%	1534	85%
Inspect and Remove Plants - Yes	2221	97%	1804	100%
Inspect and Remove Plants - No	14	1%	4	0.22%
Dispose of Bait - Yes	713	31%	358	20%
Dispose of Bait - No	29	1%	43	2%
Dispose of Bait - N/A	1540	67%	1402	78%
Drain Water from Boat - Yes	2077	90%	1772	98%
Drain Water from Boat - No	25	1%	3	0.17%
Drain Fish and Livewell - Yes	724	31%	443	24%
Drain Fish and Livewell - No	221	10%	10	1%
Drain Fish and Livewell - N/A	1358	59%	1327	73%
Aware of Laws - Yes	2180	95%	1760	97%
Aware of Laws - No	71	3%	30	2%
Would Use Wash Station - Yes	1368	60%	1482	82%
Would Use Wash Station - No	748	33%	296	16%
Radio	50	2%	27	1%
TV	96	4%	36	2%
News	51	2%	40	2%
Internet	134	6%	176	10%
Billboard	72	3%	57	3%
Sign	603	26%	435	24%
Person	1475	64%	1544	85%
Plants Present - Yes	508	22%	527	29%
Plants Present - No	1751	76%	1278	71%
Violation Occurred - Yes	24	1%	1	0.06%
Violation Occurred - No	2026	88%	1758	97%
Did Not Remove Plants	0	0%	0	0%
Did Not Drain All Water	0	0%	1	0.06%
Bait Violation	0	0%	0	0%
People Contacted	5318		4413	

-More CBCW data is available on attached CD and will be made available at

<http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/aisupdates.asp>

## Other Outreach and Highlights

The people involved year after year are the main reasons this program is such a success. The Pike and Delta Chain CBCW coordinator, Karen Austin, is one of those individuals. Her dedication and passion for the CBCW program is extraordinary. She has done a tremendous job of keeping communication with the Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association (IRPCLA) and the Delta Area Lakes Association (DALA). She has kept the associations in the know by contributing articles in newsletters, providing updates at meetings, and giving presentations at annual meetings. She has also attended and assisted at CBCW workshops. She provides information not only to boaters, but also educates the campers and lake residents. Her work does not stop in the Iron River area. She has provided information on this program and feedback to the state CBCW coordinator. She has worked with partners like Vilas County and attended their end of season CBCW meeting, exchanging ideas with them on what has and has not worked. These were all done during the 2010-2011 season, but she has been with the program since its inception. Though prior to this project's period, an event worth mentioning, is the State of Wisconsin Governor's visit to the Pike Chain. Along with another volunteer extraordinaire, Jane Swenson, and the prior County AIS coordinator, Stefania, Governor Doyle was given a tour of the Pike Chain and educated on AIS issues from a local perspective. Jane and Karen have also worked as part of the Shoreline Weed Attack Team (SWAT). They have received reports of both aquatic and wetland invasive species. Purple Loosestrife and Japanese Knotweed have both been discovered this way. These sites are being managed by working with Northwoods Cooperative Weed management Area partners using bio-control and herbicide treatments.

The Long Lake Property Owners Association (LLPOA) is kept up to date by their CBCW coordinator. In 2011 Tom Trianoski provided AIS updates at the monthly meetings, entered CBCW data, and coordinated landing schedules. The Bayfield County AIS Coordinator also attended one of the LLPOA meetings to provide information and answer questions. This organization also stayed involved by sending two representatives to the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference. Two other LLPOA members also attended paying their own way. Both lake groups are involved in the Bayfield County AIS project by attending the annual AIS round table and providing input to the Bayfield County AIS Committee.

The lake organizations also assisted with funding inspections at the end of the 2011 season. The grant funding fell short of completing the inspections for the 2011 season and between DALA and IRPCLA, over \$850 was donated to continue paying inspectors through Labor Day weekend.

New DNR "Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species" signs have been placed at all the landings in this project. Old DNR signs have been taken down. It is unsure whether this has been updated with the DNR as the website <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/Stations.aspx?Location=4>, only lists Lake Delta as having a new sign installed. The individuals who installed the new signs reported they submitted the completed survey to the DNR. Follow up will be done by the County AIS Coordinator.

A final highlight was the introduction of Milfoil Man. This is a character that was used at both the Blueberry Festival Parade and county fair to create awareness and publicity for the program. Milfoil Man handed out "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" bobbers and generated media coverage for the program. Milfoil Man was featured in both print material and online.

Home News Community

# Iron River Blueberry Fest

Story Comments Images (2)

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## Iron River Blueberry Fest

**MILEOR MAN** - A walking warning to clean the bottom of boots in the name of forest law, Mileor Man spends the week about the rocky outcrops as during the Iron River Blueberry Fest. (Photo: Ashland Press)



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## Calendar

February 2012						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

[http://www.ashlandwi.com/news/community/article\\_94b1794e-409f-5360-b7ed-c40e06d63762.html?mod...](http://www.ashlandwi.com/news/community/article_94b1794e-409f-5360-b7ed-c40e06d63762.html?mod...) 2/21/2012

- courtesy of Ashland Daily Press



## ATTACHMENTS

From: Patti Mitchen [desertloon08@gmail.com]  
To: Stefania Strzalkowska  
Cc:  
Subject: Clean Boat Clean Waters Program

Sent: Sun 9/19/2010 1:44 PM

Stefania,

I had the pleasure of being a volunteer for the program this summer at the Twin Bear landing. I did the Monday-Friday during the day hours. The positive comments by the cabin owners totally amazed me in regard to having someone at the landing during the week now. The shaking of my hand, the thank yous, the offer of tips for doing the job were numerous.

Out of state and out of town visitors to the Pike Chain were so impressed with the program and how well it is being executed here. They took the information and education from our landing to go back home and bring up to their lake associations and county and city officials. Such a wonderful feeling to have been a part of this.

Karen Austin is so dedicated to this program that her attitude passes on to each and every person that she trains and works with at the landings. Her love of the waters and surrounding areas is infectious, one conversation with her and many people walk away with a new or maybe renewed respect for all of the waterways that they venture out on, what a wonderful thing to accomplish.

I have been at Twin Bear Campground for 17 years as a seasonal camper and am so glad that I became a part of the program this year. Whether I am able to volunteer again next summer or not, I leave this park now a better person for having been a part of this program and I thank you for that. I see the programs accomplishments in so many aspects living at the boat landing area and I pray that I see this program continuing for many years to come.

The cabin owners are so appreciative to have their lakes protected by everyone working at the landing. Not a single day goes by without a positive comment from one of the boaters and when I talk to the other workers they too find this happening also.

Have a wonderful fall and winter in this beautiful state of Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

Patti Mitchen

**From:** [philrach@rucls.net](mailto:philrach@rucls.net)

**Sent:** Monday, August 01, 2011 12:52 PM

**To:** Jeremy Bates

**Subject:** clean boat checks

Good Afternoon,

My family has just returned from a wonderful vacation on the Pike Chain, and I would like to express my appreciation for the clean boat clean waters program. Education of boat owners and monitoring of all watercraft has helped keep the Chain as healthy as can be. The volunteer staff has always been courteous and helpful in their duties and explanations of why this program is important. Karen Austin has done an excellent job in coordinating the boat ramp checks on Twin Bear. I hope this program will continue, with the hope that additional lakes throughout the state getting involved.

Thank You  
Phil

Phil Peterson  
1440 Wellington Drive  
Reedsburg, WI 53959

## Other Comments

“Out of state and out of town visitors to the Pike Chain were so impressed with the program and how well it is being executed here. They took the information and education from our landing to go back home and bring up to their lake associations and county and city officials. Such a wonderful feeling to have been a part of this. The positive comments by the cabin owners totally amazed me in regard to having someone at the landing during the week now. The shaking of my hand, the thank yous, the offer of tips for doing the job were numerous.”

- Patti Mitchen, CBCW Volunteer, Twin Bear County Park.

“I’m from Wisconsin but live in Minnesota . . .” and [was in the Pike Chain of Lakes at the end of August,] and want to express it was “real nice to have someone there at the lake . . . to have someone explaining it to you.”

- Craig H., visitor to Twin Bear launch in late August.

“. . . a very welcome and NECESSARY program running . . .” - S. Donnelly via email regarding CBCW program.

## Message left on the answer machine of S. Strzalkowska:

6 Oct 2010 @ 6:15 pm

From: Craig Holsinger (sp?) regarding the CBCW Program at the Twin Bear landing launching/leaving (?) with Karen Austin on duty:

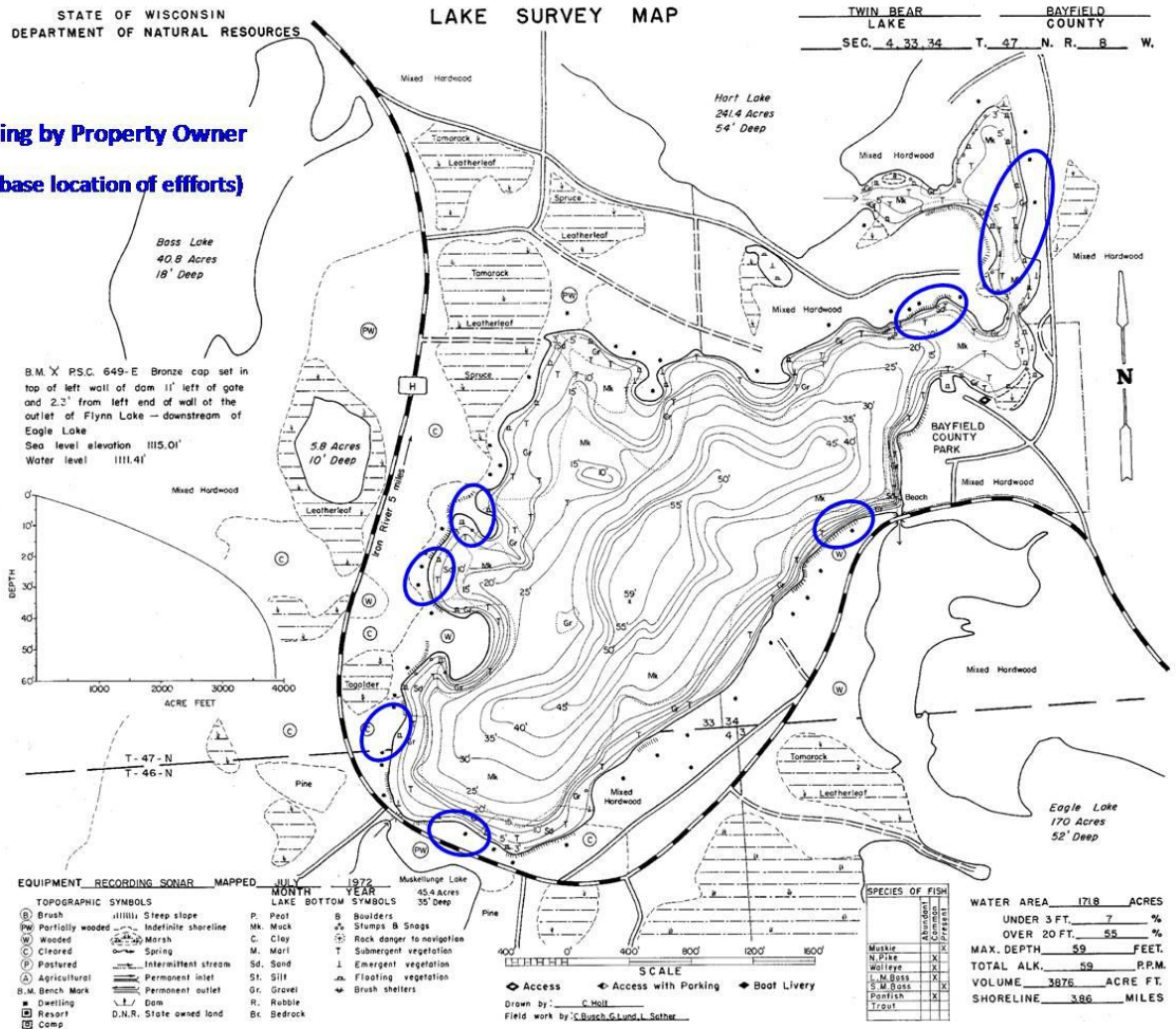
“I’m from Wisconsin but live in Minnesota . . .” and [was in the Pike Chain of Lakes at the end of August,] and want to express it was “real nice to have someone there at the lake . . . to have someone explaining it to you.”

The gist of his message was that he was very impressed with Karen and the CBCW program and was sure happy it exists!

# Monitoring Maps

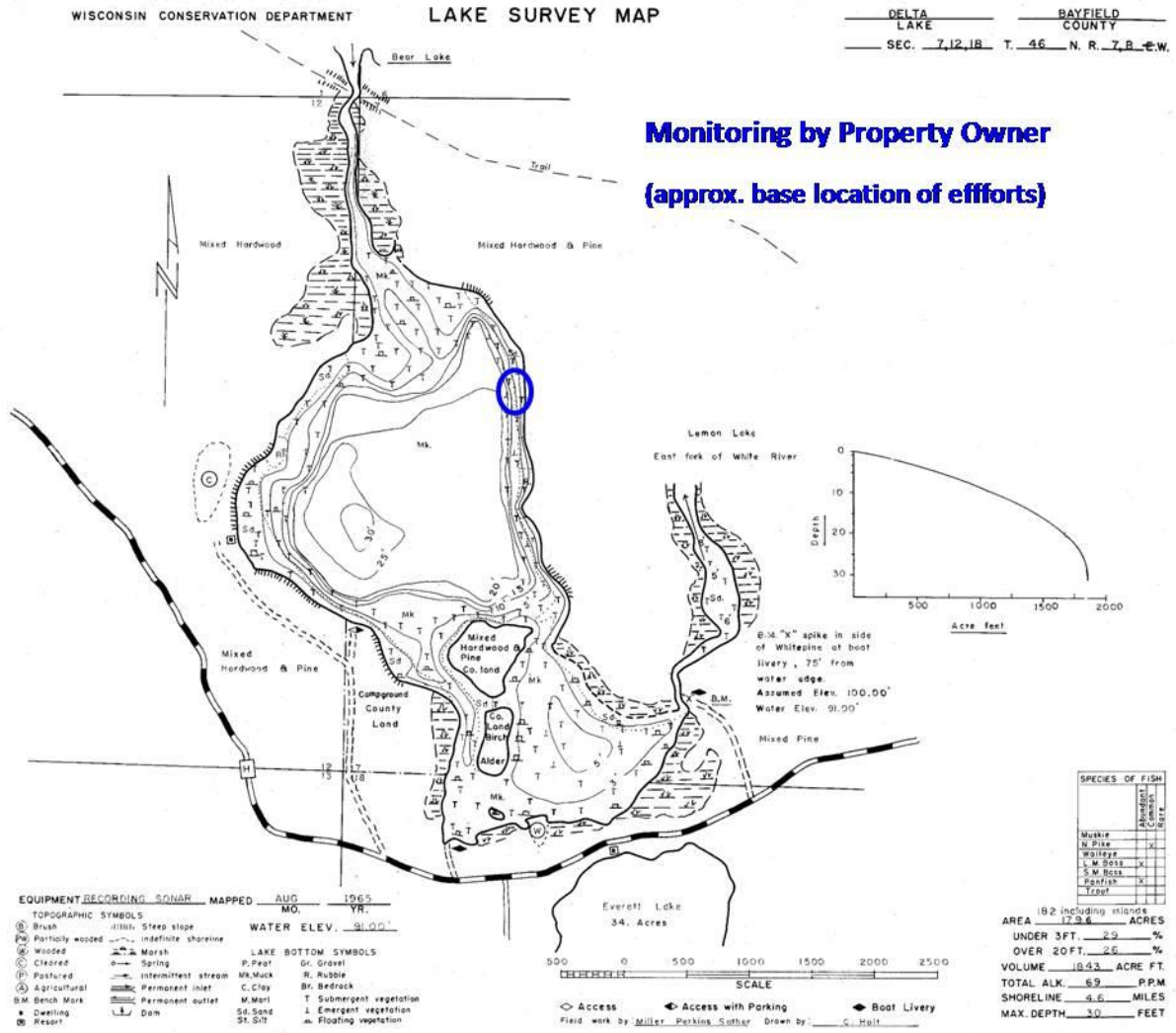
## Twin Bear Lake

**Monitoring by Property Owner**  
(approx. base location of efforts)





# Delta Lake



# Hay Lake

