

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
SWIMS Project Summary

General Project Information

Project ID: LakeTomahRestor

Name: Lake Tomah Restoration

Type: Other Monitoring

Subtype:

Status: ACTIVE

Start Date: 1/1/2009

End Date: 12/31/2010

Purpose: Lake Tomah's restoration is showing great signs of success a year after partners chemically treated it to get rid of carp. The carp are gone, water clarity has improved significantly, and the DNR is restocking the lake with game fish.

The project partners include the City of Tomah, its Tomah Lake Committee, DNR, the Monroe County Land Conservation Department, and individual citizens and fishing club members. A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant funded the chemical treatment and a DNR Lake Protection grant will pay for shoreline habitat restoration work. A separate DNR grant paid for farmers in the watershed to have their soil tested and to participate in workshops to develop their own nutrient management plans.

Objective:

Comments:

Outcome:

Study Design:

QA Measures:

People

Name	Role	Status	Start Date	End Date	Organization	Comments
City of Tomah,	SPONSOR	COMPLETE	1/1/2009	12/31/2010	City of Tomah	
Lake Tomah Lake Committee,	TEAM_MEMBER	COMPLETE	1/1/2009	12/31/2010	Lake Tomah Lake Committee	
Monroe Co. Land & Conservation	TEAM_MEMBER	COMPLETE	1/1/2009	12/31/2010	Monroe Co. Land & Conservation Dept.	
Weeks, Jordan G	TEAM_MEMBER	COMPLETE	1/1/2009	12/31/2010	Wisconsin DNR	
Wisconsin Department of Natura	SPONSOR	COMPLETE	7/6/2012	12/31/2010	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	

Project Statuses

Date	Reported By	Status	Comments
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Actions

Action	Detailed Description	Start Date	End Date	Status
Carp Removal	Removed Carp on Lake Tomah	1/1/2009	12/31/2010	COMPLETE

Details: Parameter	Value/Amount	Units	Comments
% reduction in area infested by invasive species			

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Details: Parameter		Value/Amount	Units	Comments	
Area infested by invasive species					

Monitoring Stations

Station ID	Name	Comments
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Assessment Units

WBIC	Segment	Local Name	Official Name
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Lab Account Codes

Account Code	Description	Start Date	End Date
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Forms

Form Code	Form Name
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Methods

Method Code	Method Description
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Fieldwork Events

Start Date	Status	Field ID	Station ID	Station Name
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Documents

Title	Description	Author	Published	Comments
Bag, size and possession limits lifted from Lake Tomah	As part of an ambitious plan to restore Lake Tomah, the impoundment will be drawn down later this year and any fish remaining in the lake will be eliminated with a chemical treatment.	Wisconsin DNR	2/12/2009	
City officials envision new life for carp-infested Lake Tomah	Officials are embarking on an ambitious, two-year project to restore one of Tomah’s most treasured assets – the 251-acre lake that defines the city’s west side.	Wisconsin DNR	1/26/2009	

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Environmental Analysis and Decision on the Need for Environmental Impact Statement (Lake Tomah)	<p>Within the last two decades, Lake Tomah (Figure 1) has experienced substantial declines in water quality, loss of aquatic habitat and a depressed fisheries to the point now that water clarity is generally less than 2 feet; the lake is virtually devoid of aquatic plants and the fisheries is dominated by carp. Staff field observations and water quality modeling point to excessive carp population as the major cause of Lake Tomah's decline. A Lake Management Plan was developed by the City of Tomah Lake Committee (2008) in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Monroe County Land Conservation Department to rehabilitate Lake Tomah. This Environmental Assessment details the scope of work and associated potential impacts of the Lake Management Plan including the following in-lake management activities. 1) partial drawdown, 2) fisheries reclamation, 3) maintenance dredging, 4) island shoreland protection. In addition to in-lake activities, a comprehensive assessment of the rural watershed nutrient loads and an accompanying plan to installation of nonpoint source pollution best management practices is being conducted.</p>	Jordan Weeks, Wisconsin DNR	2/9/2009	
Extreme Makeover - Lake Tomah Edition	Lake Tomah's restoration is showing great signs of success a year after partners chemically treated it to get rid of carp. The carp are gone, water clarity has improved significantly, and the DNR is restocking the lake with game fish.	Wisconsin DNR	10/27/2010	
Lake Tomah advocates celebrate arrival of game fish	A years-long project to restore Lake Tomah to its former glory is nearing the finish line. A crew from the state Department of Natural Resources stocked the newly recovered lake Wednesday with 5,700 largemouth bass.	Wisconsin DNR	10/6/2010	
Lake Tomah carp removal project aims at improved fishery, lake habitat	In the past week and a half, thousands of dead carp have floated to the surface of Lake Tomah, the result of a chemical treatment by the state Department of Natural Resources...	Wisconsin DNR	10/20/2009	

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Lake Tomah drawdown and restoration to begin September 8	The state Department of Natural Resources is urging Lake Tomah residents to prepare for lower water levels. The long-planned drawdown of the urban impoundment is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Sept. 8.	Wisconsin DNR	8/5/2009	
Protecting Lake Tomah	Farmers play an important role in keeping a restored Lake Tomah clean. Learn how they are working with Monroe County and other partners in the restoration project to help keep soil and manure from entering the lake.	Wisconsin DNR, Watershed Management	10/21/2010	
Reclaiming Lake Tomah	Partners working to reclaim Lake Tomah from the invasive carp and from excessive algae are shown using helicopters, drip barrels and backpack sprayers filled with a natural chemical to treat the lake to get rid of the carp. Later phases will restore shoreline habitat and structure, and will restock the lake with game fish and pan fish.	Jordan Weeks, Wisconsin DNR	10/20/2009	
Restocking Lake Tomah	A year after chemically treating Lake Tomah to get rid of overabundant carp, DNR and partner organizations returned to restock the lake with game fish. The stocking is one of the last steps in a collaborative project that's significantly increased the lake's water clarity, fish and wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty.	Wisconsin DNR, Fisheries Management	10/12/2010	
Shore fishing at one of the many public parks located on Lake Tomah	Shore fishing at one of the many public parks located on Lake Tomah	Tomah Lake Committee	12/31/2008	

Budget

Combined Budgets:
Combined WSLH:
Combined Total: \$0.00

Funding

Organization	Source	Type	Amount	Start Date	End Date
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