



**VILAS COUNTY  
LAND AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**



330 COURT STREET  
EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521  
715/479-3682

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SMALL SCALE PLANNING GRANT  
SPL-203-09**

**FINAL REPORT**

**DECEMBER, 2009**

Prepared on behalf of  
Vilas Co. Land & Water Conservation Dept.  
By Ted Ritter, Invasive Species Coordinator

**BACKGROUND:**

Demand in 2009 by Vilas County lake organizations for aquatic plant assessments, both native and non-native species, had grown beyond the ability of the WDNR to satisfy. Department budgetary restrictions have resulted in fewer lakes being surveyed at a time when the need for such field work is increasing. The option of employing consultants for lake surveys is restricted by the high cost and limited availability of qualified services in this lake rich region of Wisconsin.

The objective of this project was for Vilas County to contract with Barb Gajewski, a local budding professional not yet established as a for hire service, to conduct plant survey and mapping on four specific lakes. Barb has a strong interest in lake management and is pursuing a Master's degree with the intent of becoming the first locally based lake management consultant in Vilas County. This project provided WDNR staff an opportunity to work with, oversee and evaluate Barb's ability to conduct surveying and mapping of aquatic vegetation.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

This project was intended to:

1. Provide assistance to the WDNR in conducting point intercept aquatic plant surveys on the following lakes:
  - a. Lac Vieux Desert
  - b. Harris
  - c. Big Arbor Vitae
  - d. Fishtrap
2. Locate Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) on Big Arbor Vitae Lake and provide the Vilas County Mapping Department with field data enabling the creation of a CLP location and density map.

**PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

1. As the project was about to be initiated, a critical need for similar work developed on another Vilas County lake. Big Sand Lake has a long term, well established population of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). The Big Sand Lake Association started an aggressive control program in 2008 with favorable results. A WDNR AIS Control grant had been applied for to continue the project in 2009, but the grant was not awarded. The lake association needed to scale back on the project to a level it could afford without the benefit of grant funding. Elimination of professional consultant services for EWM mapping prior to and following chemical treatment would enable the association to proceed with its 2009 EWM control plans. Kevin Gauthier of the Rhinelander WDNR office and Ted Ritter of Vilas County agreed to use Barb Gajewski to perform 2009 pre and post treatment EWM mapping and density assessment at no cost to the lake association. The results of Barb's field work enabled 2009 chemical treatment to occur as well as planning for 2010. The 2009 chemical treatment site map created by Vilas County Mapping is included as **Appendix A** to this report.
2. Point intercept plant surveys were conducted by WDNR staff with Barb's assistance on the four lakes as planned. Results for Lac Vieux Desert, Harris and Big Arbor Vitae Lakes are on file at the WDNR office in Rhinelander.

Results for Fishtrap Lake are on file at the Center for Limnology, Trout Lake Station.

3. CLP mapping was completed on Big Arbor Vitae Lake as planned, in addition to the full lake point intercept plant survey. Field data was provided to the Vilas County Mapping Department for creation of the map included as **Appendix B** to this report.

In spite of having used Barb to conduct pre and post EWM chemical treatment surveys on Big Sand Lake in addition to the planned work on other lakes, the time allocated for this project had not been fully consumed at the conclusion of the field season. Barb was therefore called upon to prepare a CLP management plan for Big Arbor Vitae Lake. The plan accompanies this report.

**PROJECT EXPENSES:**

All contracted services for this project were provided by Barb Gajewski. Barb also provided the required 25% local match in the form of donated time beyond the time she was paid for. Project expenses were allocated as follows:

Activity	Rate
Point intercept survey services	\$15/hr
EWM / CLP mapping services	\$18/hr
Point intercept in-kind services	\$6/hr
EWM / CLP mapping in-kind services	\$5/hr

Project expenses are summarized in **Appendix C**

It should be noted that the services of the Vilas County Mapping Department were provided at no cost to this project.

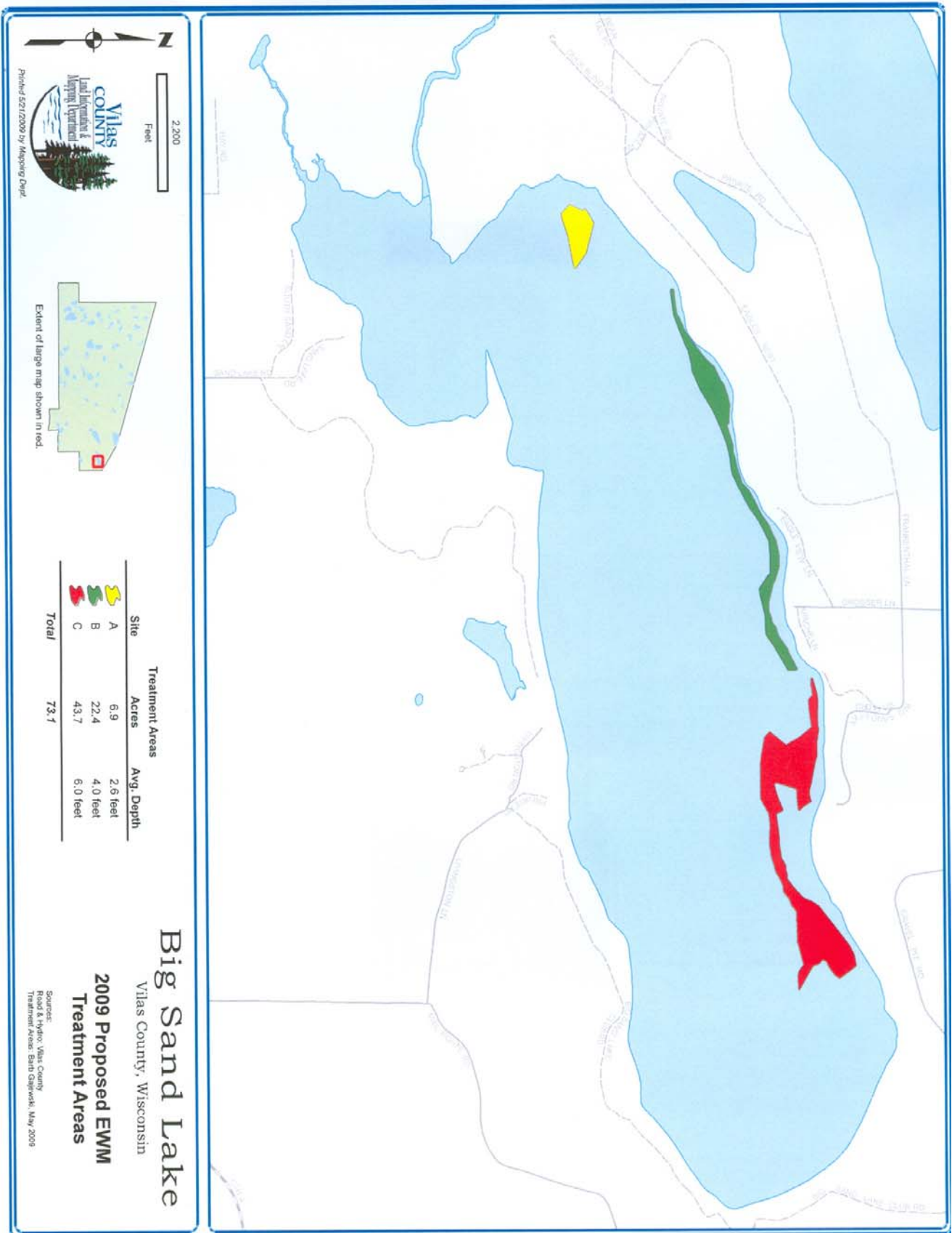
**CONCLUSIONS:**

It was difficult to predict the amount of time that would be needed to accomplish the objectives of this project. Efficiencies of the WDNR survey team were complimented by Barb's plant survey skills which resulted in planned field work being accomplished in less time than had been allocated. Barb's willingness to provide pre and post chemical treatment EWM mapping on Big Sand Lake and preparation of a CLP management plan for Big Arbor Vitae Lake were unanticipated project components.

The success of this project highlights the benefits of County and State partnerships reaching out to include local talents and services. Barb Gajewski is now recognized by the WDNR as having credibility in aquatic plant survey work. Furthermore, Barb has gained valuable experience and local exposure which will be helpful when she completes her studies and launches her lakes management consulting business.

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# Appendix A



# Appendix B

