Staples Lake Aquatic Plant Harvesting Plan Summary

May 2016

The Staples Lake Protection and Rehabilitation
District completed an aquatic plant harvesting plan to
meet state requirements of NR 107. The plan includes
information about the lake, its watershed, water
quality, and the fish in the lake. It describes the plants
that are present and summarizes their benefits.

Native aquatic plants are very important to the lake. They provide a diversity of habitats, help maintain water quality, sustain fish populations, and support common lakeshore wildlife such as loons and frogs. Native aquatic plants also provide a line of defense against invasion by non-native species like Eurasian Water Milfoil.

The harvesting plan allows native plants to continue to provide these functions while allowing navigation in common channels around the lake. Funding for



Staples Lake Harvesting Channels 2016

harvester purchase and operations is provided by a special assessment from Barron County owners within the district boundaries. Voluntary contributions are also sought from owners who live in Polk County. Harvesting costs are kept low by having volunteer operators and maintenance.

A permit must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources each year. The permit includes a map of harvesting channels and designates plant disposal locations. Because the permit is submitted well in advance of harvesting operation, new harvesting sites may not be added until the following year. Harvesting is permitted only in areas of the lake that are 3 feet and deeper to establish common navigation channels.

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Navigation around your dock

Areas around your dock less than 3 feet may not be cleared with the Lake District harvester according to permit conditions. However, homeowners may maintain an access corridor up to thirty feet wide and 150 feet out into the lake in front of their property. To prevent invasion of invasive species, this corridor should be as narrow as possible. The waterfront access corridor may be maintained by hand (rake or hand pulling) without a permit.

Curly Leaf Pondweed

Curly leaf pondweed (CLP) is a nonnative invasive plant found in Staples Lake. While its growth doesn't create severe nuisances in the lake, homeowners may wish to remove CLP along their waterfront. If wild rice does not grow along your shoreline, it is fine to remove CLP across your entire shoreline by hand by pulling or raking. This is not the case with native plants, which may be removed only in an area up to thirty feet wide. Herbicide treatment always requires a permit from DNR. Any plant material that is removed must be disposed of or composted in an area where plants will not wash back into the lake. For appropriate management, it important to be able to distinguish CLP from native plants.



Identifying Curly Leaf Pondweed



CLP is shown in the photo to the left. The plant grows in water from 3 – 12 feet deep. Its leaves are strap-shaped with round tips and curly edges. CLP is found growing in the water in the spring before native aquatic plant species are actively growing.

Additional non-native invasive species threaten Staples and other Wisconsin lakes. The best line of defense is to have a healthy native plant population in the lake. It is also important to follow proper invasive species prevention steps.

For more information: http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/



*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."