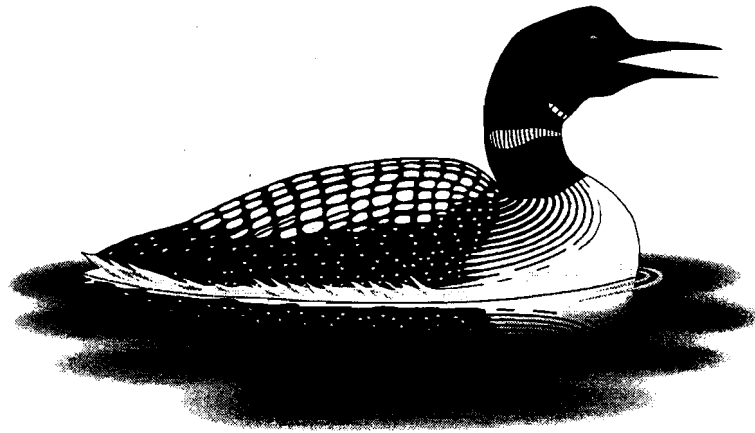


**WASHBURN COUNTY  
LAKES PLANNING PROJECT  
1996-1997**



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Washburn County Lakes Planning Project was made possible through funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Planning Grant Program.

The Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Inc. provided in-kind support of the project, serving as administrator of the grant.

The project was directed by Beverly Stencel, Associate Professor, Community Resource Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension, Washburn County, with in-kind support provided by Washburn County.

The project coordinator was Patricia Buck.

The project advisor was Robert Korth, Lake Education Specialist, University of Wisconsin-Extension/Stevens Point.

Survey support was provided by staff of the Center for Economic Development, University of Wisconsin-Superior/Extension.

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

There are approximately 15,000 lakes in the State of Wisconsin. Of these, almost 13,000 are located in the northern part of the state. Many of these northern lakes, including the mostly small lakes which until recently had just one or only a few lakeshore property owners (riparians), are experiencing increasing levels of population growth and shoreline development. Rapid growth is putting tremendous pressure on fragile lake ecosystems.

Members of the Wisconsin Lake Partnership<sup>1</sup>, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Inc. (WAL) and county agencies have been involved in lake stewardship issues for years. However, the State of Wisconsin, even with these active groups, does not have the resources to effectively protect the vast number of Wisconsin lakes without getting assistance from the residents who live on these lakes. Yet, the northern lakes in particular have little representation via lake associations and districts, with only 340 known to have some level of organization. As the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources noted in their 1994 *Summary of Northern Lakes Protection Strategy*, "increasing the number and effectiveness of lake organizations" is a key to the protection of state lakes.

### **Selection of Washburn County as a Pilot Project for Lake Organization**

As part of their overall mission of lake stewardship, WAL chose Washburn County for a pilot lake organizational project. One consideration in the choice was the low ratio of lake organizations to lakes in Washburn County (2.5%). Property owners on only 24 of the 968 lakes have formed organizations to play a direct role in lake management.

Additional key factors that contributed to the selection of Washburn County as a pilot county were the willingness of the Washburn County Extension Community Resource Development Educator to act on behalf of WAL in the coordination and implementation of this project, and the support of key Washburn County elected officials and staff.

Partial funding for this project was provided by a \$10,000 lake planning grant awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In-kind support was provided by Washburn County and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup>The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership consists of the Department of Natural Resources which supplies the technical expertise and regulatory authority and the University of Wisconsin-Extension which builds linkages among stakeholders and provides supporting educational materials and programs.

### **Project Goals**

The overall goal of the Washburn County Lakes Planning Project was to provide education and assistance to lake residents to encourage their involvement in local lake management organizations and lake stewardship issues. Project activities included:

1. Hiring a limited term employee (LTE) to implement the project.
2. Developing a computer database of riparian landowners.
3. Conducting a survey of lake residents.
4. Developing an expanded county lake management education program.
5. Assisting interested lake property owners with the formation of lake organizations.
6. Producing an analysis of the survey results and description of follow-up actions.

### **Developing the Database**

Washburn County lakes targeted for this project were more than ten acres in size with the land surrounding the lake in private ownership and the owners not organized into a lake association or district. A major goal of this initiative was the inclusion in the database of those riparians (single riparians) who own all the property around their lakes.

The 209 lakes which fit these three criteria were identified from *Wisconsin Lakes*, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources PUB-FM-800 95REV, with supplemental data regarding existing organizations obtained from *The Lake List 1995-96*, a publication of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point.

To identify contact persons on each of the 209 lakes, a multiple step approach was used. In the spring of 1996, suggested contact names were requested of town boards in the five townships containing a large number of the study lakes. By June 1996, all of the town boards provided a listing of contact names for the study lakes located in their township.

Meanwhile, project staff focused on identifying contacts for the remaining 121 study lakes. The majority of the remaining contacts were selected from Washburn County land records. The key criteria for selection was the amount of land owned. Owners of the largest parcels were selected for the survey mailing. A small number of property owners were selected based on personal acquaintance on the part of project coordinators. Eleven people were included due to individual referrals or because they contacted project staff in response to seeing newspaper and newsletter reports on the lake survey project.

Project staff used these lists of names to develop a database of lake contacts for each of the lakes targeted by the Washburn County Lakes Planning Survey. Survey forms were mailed to each name in the database.

## THE SURVEY

The survey instrument, found in Appendix A, was developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension Community Resource Educator Beverly Stencel and University of Wisconsin-Extension Lake Management Specialist Robert Korth; with input from Washburn County Lake Planning Project Coordinator Patricia Buck.

On August 10, 1996, 252 surveys, accompanied by a cover letter (see Appendix B), were mailed to lake property owners listed in the database of local lake contacts. In some instances, survey forms were sent to more than one property owner on an individual lake. This occurred primarily where more than one person was referred or where more than one large property owner was identified through the county land records.

Replies from this first mailing were received from 90 lake property owners. On August 27, 1996, a postcard reminder was sent to the 162 non-respondents. Several days following the postcard mailing, a second mailing of the survey instrument and cover letter went out to the remaining 128 non-respondent lake property owners. (See Appendix B)

A total of 170 surveys, representing 137 Washburn County lakes, were returned as of November 11, 1996, representing a 66% response rate. Tabulation of the completed surveys and preliminary analysis were provided by University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Economic Development staff at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

### KEY FACTS ABOUT THE SURVEY

Total number of surveys mailed	258
Total number of surveys returned (66% response rate)	170
Number of unusable surveys (don't own property on lake; no lake name identified)	8
Total number of lakes represented by mailed surveys	209
Total number of lakes represented by returned surveys	137
Number of returned surveys representing multiple riparian owners	132
Number of returned surveys representing single riparian owners	36
Number of surveys indicating lake already organized	3

## SURVEY RESULTS

When interpreting the following results, please consider the following:

\*Note 1: The totals for single property lakes and multiple-property lakes in many cases do not equal the totals for all property owners. This is because: (a) two respondents did not answer the questions on single versus multiple property owners on a lake, and (b) non-responses to specific questions were excluded from the data set. For the purposes of this survey, single property lakes (single riparians) refers to those lakes where the land surrounding the lake is owned by one person. Multiple-property lakes (multiple riparians) refers to those lakes where the land around the lake has multiple owners.

\*\*Note 2: For several of the questions the responses were coded as a weighted average. The method of computing a weighted average is as follows: A number 1 ranking (#P1) is assigned a weight of 3; a number 2 ranking (#P2) is assigned a weight of 2; a number 3 ranking (#P3) is assigned a weight of 1. This weighting is multiplied by the number of times an issue was selected. The sum is the weighted average  $(\#P1 \times 3) + (\#P2 \times 2) + (\#P3 \times 1) = \text{weighted average}$ .

\*\*\*Note 3: Due to rounding, some percentage totals may not equal 100%.

### Reasons for Purchasing Lake Property in Washburn County

Three primary reasons for purchasing Washburn County lake property emerged from the survey. "Scenery, aesthetics" ranked first with 38.7% (62 out of 163) and "absence of lakeshore development" followed closely with 33% of the total respondents.

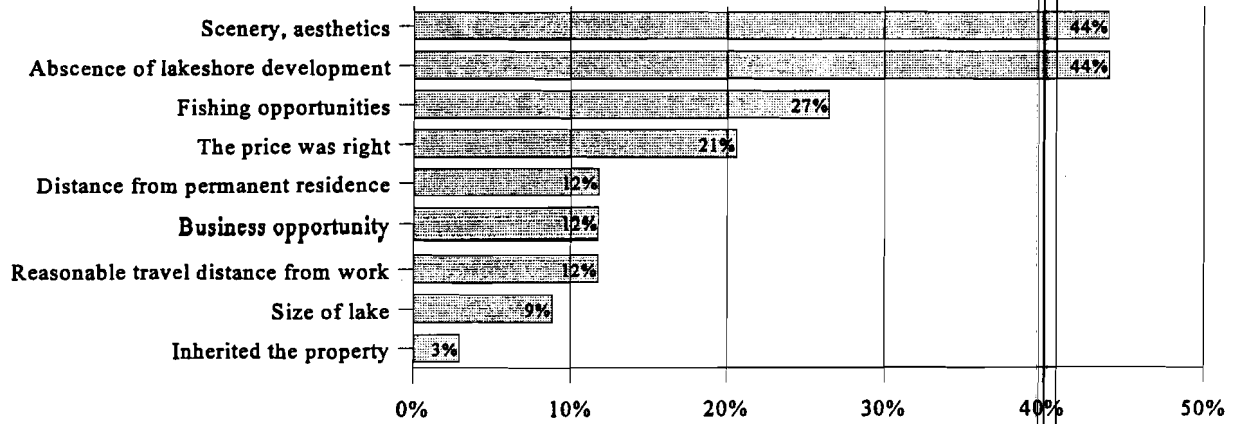
Not surprisingly, single riparian owners were substantially more likely to indicate "absence of lakeshore development" as a primary purchasing motivation than were respondents from lakes with multiple property owners (44% versus 29%). This reflects the relatively undisturbed nature of the shoreline on single riparian lakes.

Twenty-eight percent indicated that a significant motivating factor was that "the price was right". This reflects the small acreage of the majority of Washburn County lakes and their relative affordability. The average lake size of the lakes surveyed in this project was a little over 68 acres. Lakeshore property on these smaller lakes has historically been less desirable than on the larger lakes of 300+ acres and thus less expensive to purchase.

At 20%, "fishing opportunities" ranked a distant fourth as a primary reason for purchasing Washburn County lake property. Between 15 and 19 respondents out of the total 170 (9% to 12%) indicated "distance from permanent residence"; "size of lake"; "inherited the property"; and "reasonable travel distance from work".

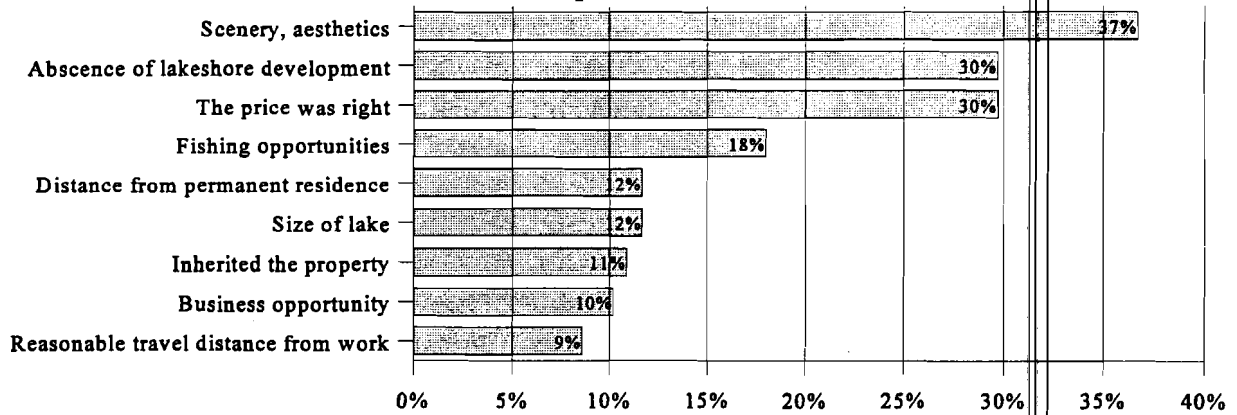
### Primary Reason for Purchasing Property

#### One Owner



### Primary Reason for Purchasing Property

#### Multiple Owners





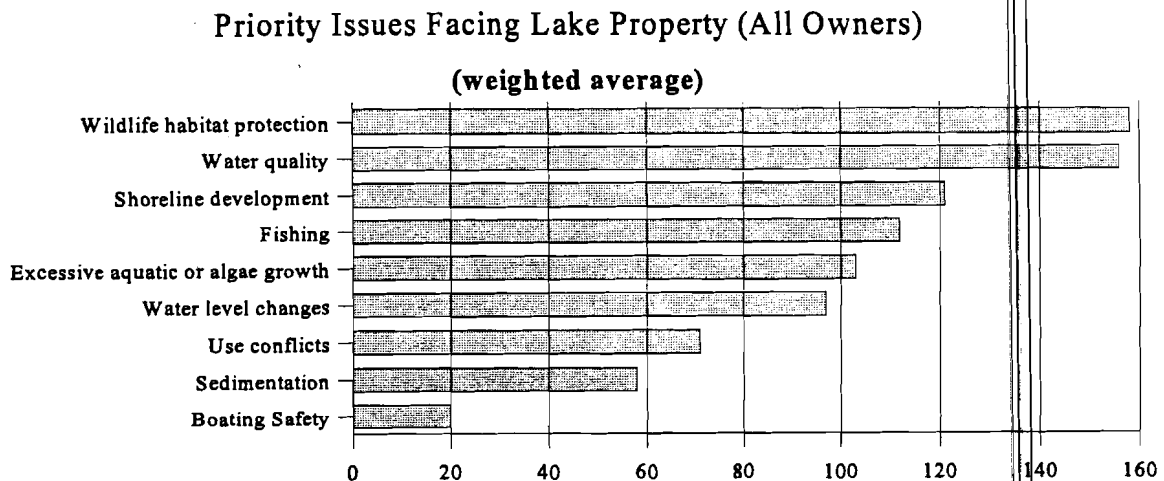
### Priority Issues for Lake Property Owners

Survey respondents ranked up to three lake issues in order of importance and weighted averages\*\* were computed. (\*\*For an explanation of weighted averages, see note #2 on page 4). Two issues emerged as being of highest concern. Wildlife habitat protection ranked first at 158 with water quality concerns ranked at 156.

Rankings differed somewhat for single riparians versus multiple. Among single owners wildlife habitat protection ranked as substantially more important than the other issues, followed by fishing. Again, this may reflect the relatively undisturbed nature of the shoreline on the surveyed single riparian lakes.

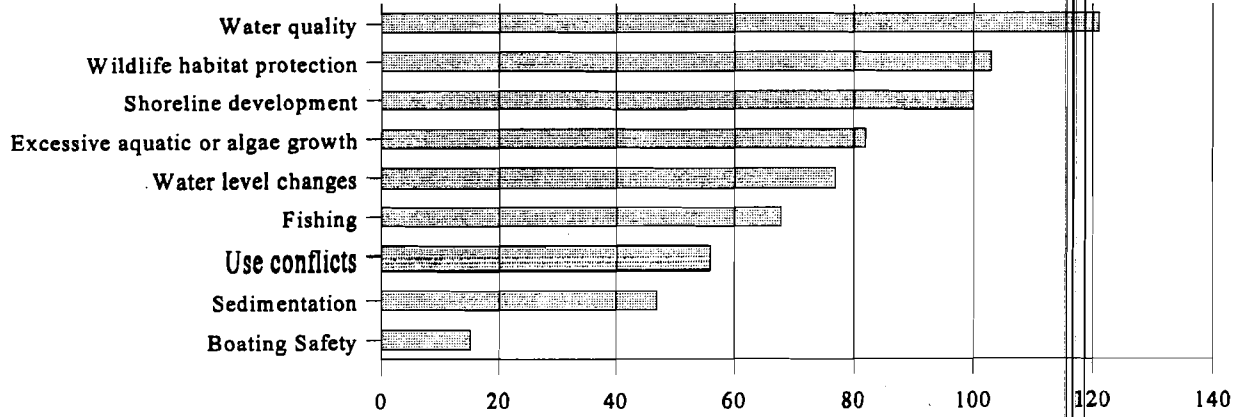
Water quality was a lesser concern for single owners, perhaps because single ownership meant they need not be concerned about the effects other residents would have on water quality. In contrast, multiple riparians ranked water quality as the top issue.

For all property owners, four issues emerged in a second tier of responses, with weighted averages ranging from 121 to 97: (1) shoreline development; (2) fishing; (3) excessive aquatic or algae growth; and (4) water level changes.



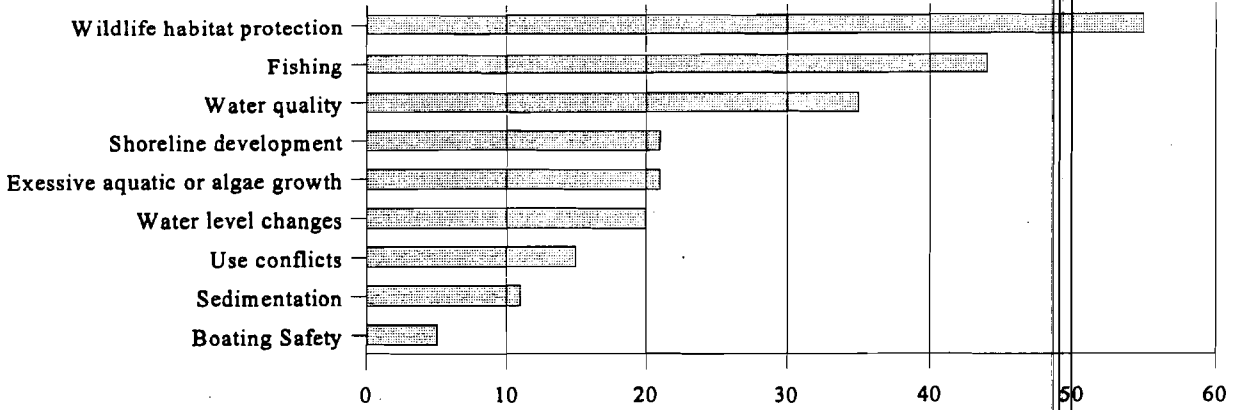
### Priority Issues Facing Lake Property (More than One Owner)

(weighted average)



### Priority Issues Facing Lake Property (One Owner)

(weighted average)



## Lake Education

Respondents expressed considerable interest in lake education -- 83% indicated they would like to know more about their lakes. The Washburn County Lake Planning project partners expected a moderate amount of interest in lake education, but this extremely high level of interest expressed by the survey respondents was unexpected. It demonstrates the untapped needs of Washburn County lake property owners in regards to the lake stewardship message. The challenge is to determine how we can improve our lake-related educational outreach efforts to these riparians.

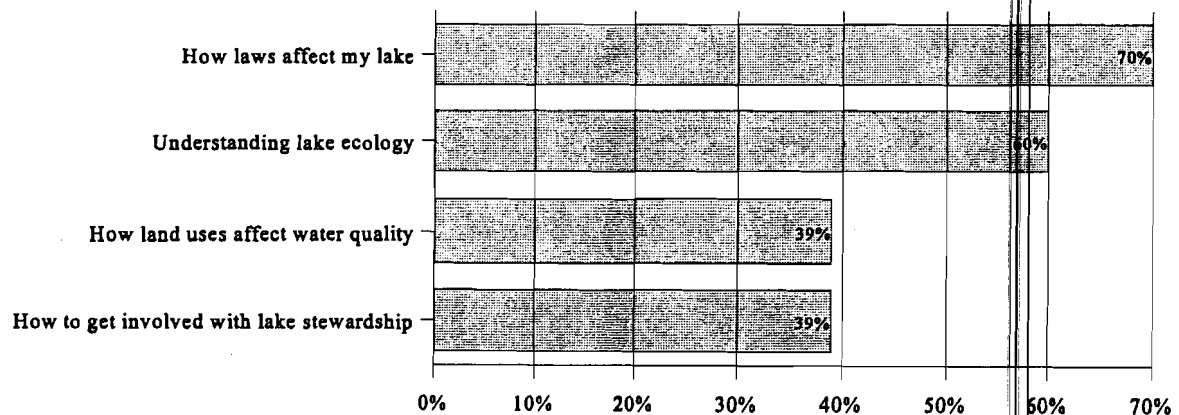
### Topics

Legal concerns topped the list of educational interest with 98 out of 141 (70%) noting that they wanted to know more about "how laws affect my lake". Scientific issues also ranked high, with 60% desiring a greater understanding of lake ecology and one third wanting to know more about how land use affects water quality.

Thirty-nine percent also wanted to learn more about how to get involved in lake stewardship, with those riparians owning all the land around their lake showing a greater level of interest than those on lakes which had multiple owners of the lakeshore property (57% versus 34%). This may be because it is easier for a single owner to implement lake stewardship initiatives. Single owners don't have to reach a consensus or coordinate their efforts with other lake property owners. Property owners on lakes with multiple shoreline ownership may feel stewardship efforts focused on their single piece of lake property would not significantly impact overall lake water quality. This may pose a challenge for lake stewardship educators in reaching riparians on multiple property owner lakes.

There was little difference expressed between single and multiple riparians on the other educational issues presented.

Lake Education Interests

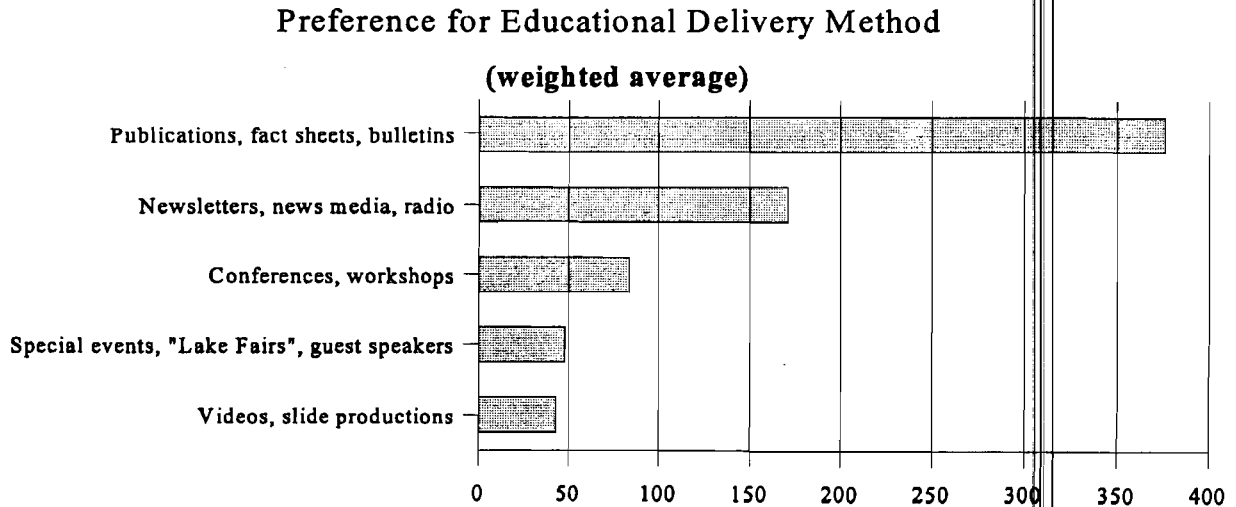


**Preferences for Educational Delivery Method**

Preferences among methods for delivering lake stewardship educational materials and information overwhelmingly pointed to a written format, i.e. publications, fact sheets and bulletins. The weighted average\*\* of the next-ranking choice of newsletters, news media and radio was less than half (171 versus 376). Other choices, including workshops, videos, and lake fairs, ranked considerably lower.

Although the survey respondents expressed an eagerness to receive information about their lakes, lake issues, and lake stewardship initiatives, they gave a clear indication that they prefer the message “from a distance”. This is not surprising considering that almost half (43.4%) of the surveyed lake property owners in Washburn County are second homeowners. (See the subsection below on Residential Status, under the Respondent Characteristic section of this report). When second homeowners come up to their Washburn County lake home mainly on weekends (30.1%) or only for the summer season (13.3%), it is not surprising they prefer to spend their time on the lake reading up on lake issues at their leisure, rather than attending meetings or workshops away from their lake “haven”.

These survey responses on educational preferences provide valuable input and direction to the development of Washburn County lake stewardship educational efforts. (See the section below on “Follow-up Actions Taken”)



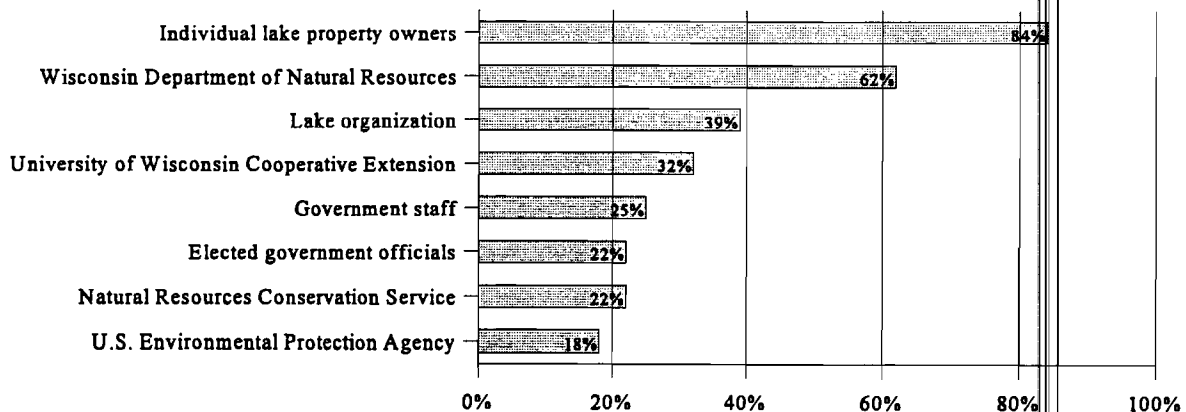
## **Lake Stewardship**

An overwhelming number of survey respondents expressed a willingness to take the primary responsibility for lake stewardship. When asked who should have a role in lake stewardship, 84% (128 out of 152) listed themselves and their neighbors (individual lake property owners) as key players. Thirty-nine percent (59) also mentioned lake organizations as responsible units.

The willingness of the lake property owners to personally accept the responsibility for stewardship of their lake properties is a key finding of the Washburn County survey. As noted in the overview of this survey project (See page 1), in order to ensure the continued high quality of the vast numbers of Washburn County lakes, assistance from the residents who live on these lakes is a critical element. The response to this survey question seems a clear indication that Washburn County lake property owners are receptive to taking a more active role in lake stewardship initiatives.

A variety of public sector entities were also checked as responsible for lake stewardship, particularly the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) indicated by 62% (94) of the respondents. This is not surprising considering that 66 out of the 96 people (69%) answering the question whether they had utilized any of the listed agencies noted that they had actually contacted the WI DNR regarding issues on their lake, primarily for fish management, permitting, boating ordinances and lake monitoring. Contacts with other governmental agencies were mentioned by 3 to 25 respondents. (See Appendix D).

**Lake Stewardship: Whose Responsibility?**



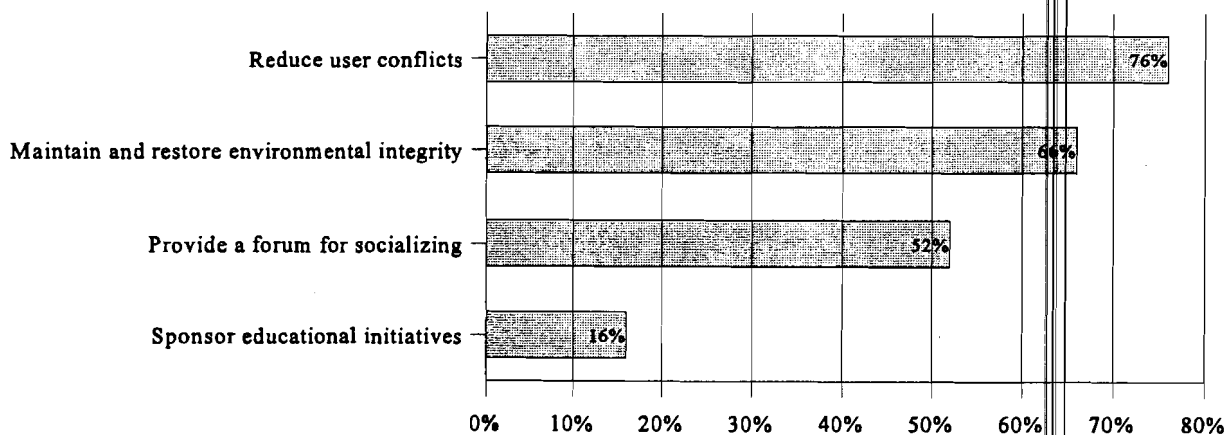
### **Roles for Lake Organizations**

When asked whether some level of lake organization would be beneficial for their lake, 56 lake property owners, representing 48 lakes, said yes. Fifty-four of these property owners indicated their willingness to actually assist in the formation of a lake organization on their lake. In addition, several others indicated that although they did not want to be the key contact in the formation of an organization of their lake, they would be willing to assist in the effort.

The majority of the respondents who viewed a lake organization as beneficial to their lake indicated that they felt it would be most helpful in “reducing user conflicts by building communication and respect” (76%). Additional benefits perceived by many respondents were “maintaining and restoring environmental integrity of the lake ecosystem” (66%), and “providing a forum for socializing with lake neighbors” (52%). Education, crime watch, emergency assistance, controlling development, and water maintenance were also mentioned by from one to ten people.

Of the 104 respondents who indicated a lake organization would not be beneficial for their lake, 82 provided specific reasons why no lake organization as necessary. (See Appendix E). The most common response (54 of the 82) was that the lake was too small and/or the population was not large enough to support an organization.

**Possible Benefits of Lake Organization**



### Respondent Characteristics

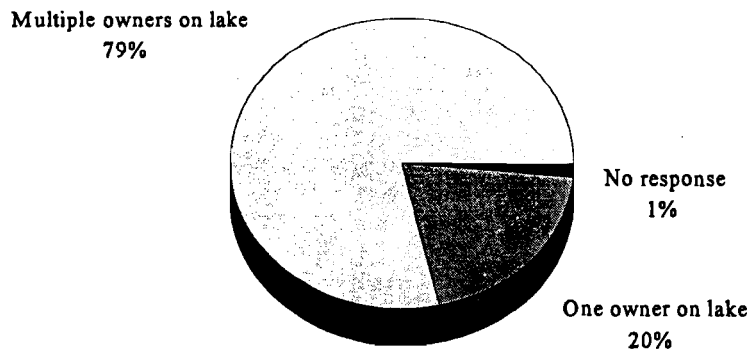
In addition to soliciting responses to various lake stewardship questions, the Washburn County Lakes Planning Survey gathered data on several characteristics of the respondents and their lake property. This information included:

- (1) Number of property owners on the lake.
- (2) Year the property was purchased.
- (3) Property acreage.
- (4) Residential status.
- (5) Business operation.

#### *(1) Number of property owners on the lake:*

The majority (132) of the survey respondents lived on lakes with multiple riparians. Thirty-six owned all the land around their lake (single riparians) and two did not indicate the number of property owners.

### Number of Property Owners on Lake

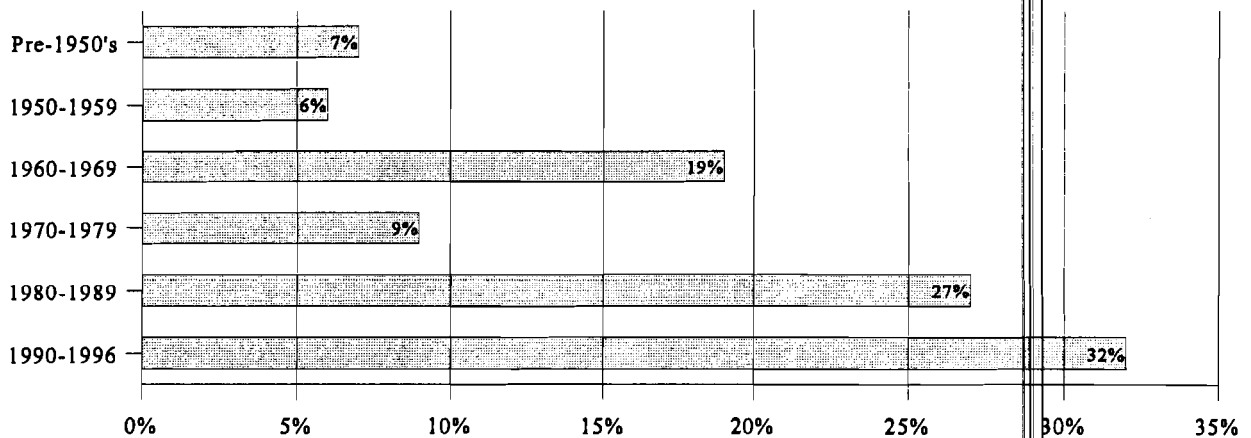


***(2) Year the property was purchased:***

Many of those responding to the survey had acquired their lake property fairly recently. Approximately a third were purchased in the 1990's and nearly 60% were acquired in 1980 or later. Almost 80% of the surveyed lakeshore properties were acquired since 1960.

This reflects the general development trends for lake property in northern Wisconsin. According to "Northern Wisconsin's Lakes and Shorelands", a report examining changes in the development of lakes and shorelands, about two-thirds of previously undeveloped lakes ten acres and larger have been developed since the 1960's. The average number of lakeside dwellings more than doubled over the same period.

**Year Property Was Bought**





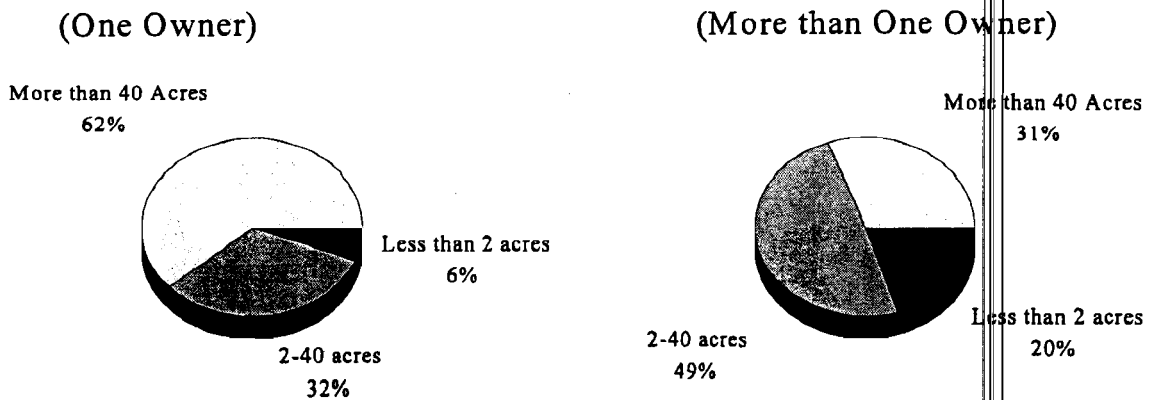
**(3) Property Acreage:**

The lake property acreage owned by the survey respondents varies considerably. Looking at all of the respondents, 77 out of 169 (46%) own land varying between 2 and 40 acres, and 62 (38%) had more than 40 acres. Not surprisingly, among single riparians there was a higher proportion of properties over 40 acres. Single ownership also tended to occur on the smaller of the lakes surveyed. The average acreage of the lakes with one person owning all the land surrounding the lake was 26.85 acres. This compares to the average of all the surveyed lakes of 68.16 acres.

A previous informal study by UW-Extension staff focused on the historic ownership of lake property on 82 Washburn County lakes. In 1915, only five of the 82 lakes (6%) were developed in small tracts (less than 10 acres with less than 200 feet of frontage). By 1952 the number was up to 33 lakes (40%) and in 1994, 56% (46 of the 82 lakes) had their shoreline developed into small tracts.

As late as 1946, Dunn Lake, one of the lakes represented in this survey, had 100% of its' shoreline in large tracts. In 1994, the reverse was true with 100% of the shoreline in small tracts.

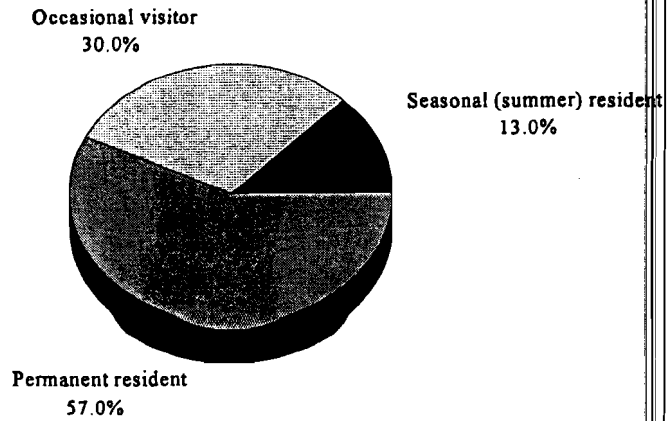
**Amount of Acreage on Lake Property**



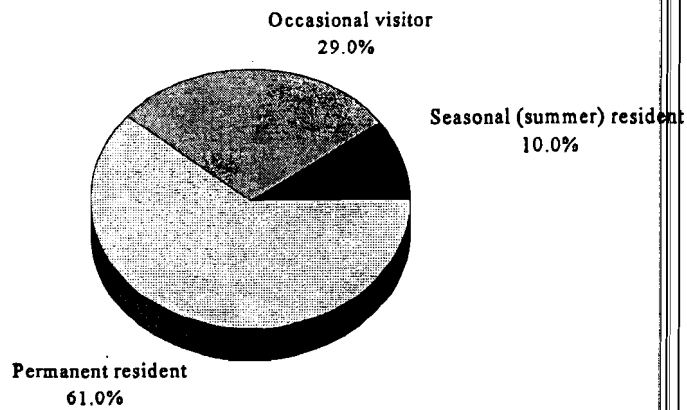
**(4) Residential Status:**

Of all the lake property owners that responded to the survey, 57% (94) were permanent residents. Thirty percent were occasional visitors and 13% were seasonal residents. Multiple riparian owners were predominantly permanent residents (61%), but single riparian owner respondents were more evenly distributed among the three categories of residential status.

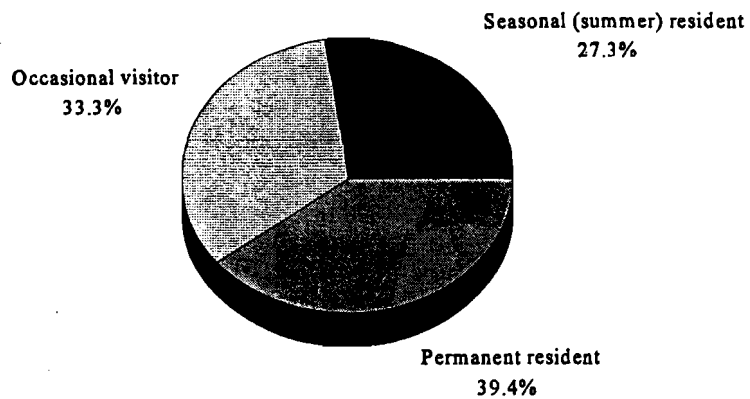
## Residential Status of Lake Property Owners (All Property Owners)



## Residential Status of Lake Property Owners (More than One Owner)



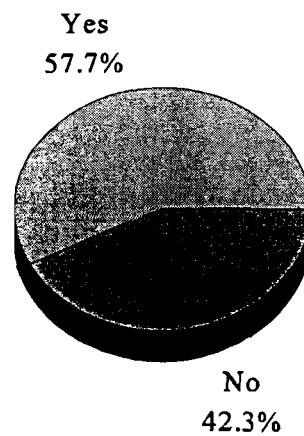
## Residential Status of Lake Property Owners (One Owner)



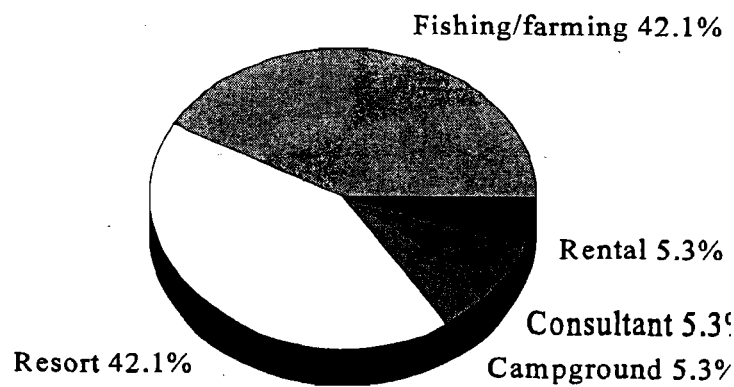
**(5) Business Operation:**

A minority(11%) of survey respondents indicated that they operated a business on the lake. These businesses ranged from fishing/farming and resort operations with eight responses to one each for campground, consultant and rentals. The resorts were more likely to be located on multiple owner lakes (6 to 2), while the farming/fishing enterprises were evenly distributed with four on multiple owner lakes and four located on single owner lakes.

### Operation of Business on Lake



### Type of Business on Lake



## FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TAKEN

The Washburn County Lakes Planning Grant Survey was one component of an overall Washburn County lake planning grant project. The two-fold purpose of the survey was to (1) "assess lake property owners' level of knowledge and interest in available lake management resources, their educational needs, priority issues, and preferred information delivery methods." and (2) "...survey lake property owners' interest in forming lake organizations and assist them with the formation of lake associations and districts."

Follow-up to the surveys was not only implied but stated as the final purpose of the overall grant project to "Expand county lake management education activities, addressing the issues and utilizing the preferred delivery methods identified in the survey." (Wisconsin Lake Management Planning Project Grant Application submitted by Beverly Stencil on behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Inc., 1/29/96). Specific follow-up activities were not delineated due to limited staff time and limited funds available to address lake stewardship educational efforts.

However, under this grant-funded project, several follow-up actions were able to be taken and future ones planned in direct response to the survey results.

### **Informational Packet**

All 129 survey respondents who indicated an interest in learning more about their lake were sent an informational packet of lake management educational material. The packet included eight items: "Wisconsin Lakes Partnership" flyer; "Life on the Edge...Owning Waterfront Property" publication; "Wetlands, Wonderlands" PUBL-WZ-016-90; "Building Near Wetlands" PUBL-WZ-WZ021-91 ; "Shoreline Plants and Landscaping" GWQ014-94; "What is a Lake Association?" flyer; "Lake Leader's Handbook" flyer; and "Best-Sellers for Better Buying" PERMW\WZ28R2382.JFG.

All of these publications, with the exception of "Life on the Edge...Owning Waterfront Property" (Dresen, Michael and Korth, Robert, University of Wisconsin-Extension, 1995), are available free of charge from either the University of Wisconsin-Extension or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The \$3.00 fee for "Life on the Edge" was paid for out of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Lake Planning Grant funding received for the Washburn County Lakes Planning Study.

One version of the cover letter included with the information packet was addressed to the twenty-six single riparian respondents who indicated interest in learning more about their lakes. They were thanked for responding to the survey and directed to the Washburn County Extension Office for further information on lake stewardship topics.

The second version, targeted towards the multiple property owner lake respondents, in addition to the language included in the single riparian version, also addressed the willingness of the survey respondents to act as the lake stewardship education contact person on their lake. (See Appendix F)

All of these survey respondents were added to the mailing list of *Laketides*, the newsletter of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, and were instructed how to proceed if they wished to opt out of receipt of the newsletter.

A third letter was sent to the three survey respondents who indicated that their lakes were already organized into lake associations (See Appendix F). This letter instructed them how to have their organization formally recognized and reported in the Wisconsin Lake Partnership *Wisconsin Lake List*.

### **Lake Stewardship Resource Center**

A lending library of lake stewardship resources has been developed at the Washburn County UW-Extension Office. The materials currently include various video tapes, along with a septic system model and interactive groundwater model.

Making these materials available to lake organizations will enable a greater degree of education and informational sharing with lake property owners. Combining the use of these visual and interactive resources, along with supportive instructional materials and publications currently available, lake groups will be less dependent on the very limited human resources available to present on lake related topics at individual lake meetings.

### **Lake Stewardship Workshop**

With property owners on forty-eight Washburn County lakes expressing interest in forming a lake organization around their lake -- getting them all together for one formal presentation was deemed more time and cost effective than setting up forty-eight individual meetings. A single large meeting also provides opportunity for networking amongst the lake groups. This networking capability encourages the formation of lake groups organized around multiple, smaller lakes.

So, although survey respondents indicated a preference for lake stewardship education and information to be received in a written format, plans were formulated for a lake stewardship workshop as a conclusion to the formal portion of the Washburn County Lake Planning Project. Discussion will focus on topics with very broad appeal to the survey respondents and those most efficiently presented in a large group setting.

The workshop is also designed to address the formation of land trusts and other tools available, particularly for the property owners who expressed an interest in preserving and protecting their lakeshore properties from development.

There was such a high degree of interest in wildlife habitat protection, which ranked first overall with survey respondents (#1 for multiple owners and #2 for single owners), that this topic is included in the workshop agenda. In addition, we had available to us staff from the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin who conducted recent research on the impacts of shoreline development on bald eagle, mink, common loon, upland breeding birds, frogs and toads as part of their ongoing Inland Lakes Sustainability Study.

The workshop will conclude with focus groups discussing what they see for the future of northwestern Wisconsin lakes in general and Washburn County lakes in particular; how we can maintain the positives and how we can turn around the negatives. An additional question will target the role of the individual in lake stewardship and the tools and support needed to take on this role successfully.

### **Future Activities**

Future lake stewardship educational outreach efforts in Washburn County will focus on three areas:

- 1) Maintaining and expanding the database of Washburn County lake contacts.
- 2) Assisting Washburn County lake property owners with forming lake organizations, both formal and informal.
- 3) Continuing to improve and expand Washburn County lake stewardship educational activities using the county survey results as a guide for topics and delivery methods.

# REFLECTIONS ON THE WASHBURN COUNTY LAKE PLANNING PROJECT If We Had to Do it All Over Again . . . . . We Would!

## WHAT WORKED

### The Database

One of the great successes in developing the lake database was the utilization of town boards in compiling the list of contacts. This was possible because of the close relationship developed over time between the Washburn County UW-Extension Office staff and the local town officials.

Because many of the Washburn County town meetings were held on the same evenings and at or near the same times, project time constraints precluded attending the town meetings in all the townships with survey lakes. A recommendation is to solicit input from as many town boards as possible.

This approach saved much time, effort, energy and money in developing the database, freeing these resources to focus on other project objectives such as outreach education. Again, it must be stated that the success of this approach relied heavily on the already established ties between the Washburn County Extension staff and the local town boards.

### The Survey

A 66% return rate on the surveys provides strong evidence that the procedures and format used to both initially introduce identified contacts to the survey project, as well as follow-up to non-respondents, were appropriate. All but eight of the returned surveys were usable, again providing evidence of the user-friendliness of the survey instrument. Some other positives about the survey worth noting are:

- \*High response rate by single riparians.
- \*High respondent willingness to be their lake's contact person
- \*High respondent interest in forming lake organizations.
- \*High respondent interest in receiving further lake stewardship information.

### The Partnerships

This project represents a successful partnering of University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension (UWEX) county and state faculty, along with the staff and board of directors of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Inc (WAL). Washburn County Community Resource Development Educator Beverly Stencel directed the overall project with technical assistance from Robert Korth, UWEX Lake Education Specialist and grant administration service provided by WAL.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Stencel, B. and Korth, R.M., 1997. Washburn County Lakes Planning Survey. University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension, Washburn County.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, January 1996, *Northern Wisconsin's Lakes and Shorelands: a report examining a resource under pressure.*

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1994, *Summary: Northern Lakes Protection Strategy.*



**APPENDIX A**

WASHBURN COUNTY  
LAKES PLANNING SURVEY  
1996

On what lake is your property located? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the only property owner on your lake? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

Do you operate a business on your lake property? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

If yes, what is the type of business? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following best describes your use of the lakeside property?

\_\_\_ Permanent Resident

\_\_\_ Seasonal (Summer) Resident

\_\_\_ Occasional visitor

Please indicate the amount of acreage you own on this lake:

\_\_\_ Less than 2 acres

\_\_\_ 2 - 40 acres

\_\_\_ More than 40 acres

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What year did you buy your lake property? 19\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was your primary reason for purchasing property on this lake?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> absence of lakeshore development     | <input type="checkbox"/> the price was right    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> scenery, aesthetics                  | <input type="checkbox"/> size of the lake       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fishing opportunities                | <input type="checkbox"/> business opportunity   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable travel distance from work | <input type="checkbox"/> inherited the property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> distance from permanent residence    | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____            |

3. What do you see are the priority issues facing your lake? Pick your top three issues and rank them 1-3, with one being the highest concern.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> shoreline development | <input type="checkbox"/> water quality                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boating safety        | <input type="checkbox"/> use conflicts                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fishing               | <input type="checkbox"/> excessive aquatic plant or algae growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sedimentation         | <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife habitat protection             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water level changes   | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____                             |

4. Would you like to know more about your lake?

- yes     no

5. If you could find out more about your lake, which of the following would be of interest to you? Check as many as apply.

- how land uses affect water quality
- how to get involved in lake stewardship
- understanding lake ecology
- how laws impact my lake
- other \_\_\_\_\_

6. If you were to receive lake information, what delivery methods would you prefer?  
Pick your top three and rank them 1-3.

- publications, fact sheets, bulletins
- newsletters, news media, radio
- conferences, workshops
- special events, "Lake Fairs", guest speakers
- videos, slide productions
- other \_\_\_\_\_

7-a. Who should have a role in lake stewardship? Which ones have you utilized? Check here.

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Conservation Service (SCS)  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected local government officials            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government staff (zoning admin., planners)    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake organization                             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual lake property owners               | <input type="checkbox"/> |

7-b. How did you utilize their services?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> permitting                        | <input type="checkbox"/> boating ordinances      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shoreline zoning variance request | <input type="checkbox"/> fish management         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lake monitoring                   | <input type="checkbox"/> shoreline stabilization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> construction site erosion control | <input type="checkbox"/> shoreland restoration   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aquatic plant management          | <input type="checkbox"/> dam removal, repair     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, please specify _____       |  |

8. How many people do you think live on your lake?

0-1     2-10     11-25     26-50     51-100     100+

9-a. Some lakes have organizations, do you think some level of organization would be beneficial for your lake?

yes     no

9-b. If yes, which of these do you think a lake organization could do for your lake?  
Check all that apply.

provide a forum for socializing with lake neighbors

maintain and restore environmental integrity of the lake ecosystem

reduce user conflicts by building communication and respect

sponsor educational initiatives

other, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

9-c. If no, why not?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Would you be interested in assisting in the formation of some level of lake organization on your lake?     yes     no

**APPENDIX B**



## Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension

850 West Beaverbrook Avenue, Spooner, WI 54801 Phone (715) 635-3192

Washburn County UW-Extension Office

August 8, 1996

Dear

Our county's lakes mean different things to each of us and the issues that influence or interest us may vary greatly. If you are reading this letter, chances are you have made an investment in your lake and you care about its future. We would like to offer you opportunity to play a role in determining the path of Wisconsin's lake stewardship, as well as the chance to learn more about the support and information available to lake users and owners of waterfront property.

Washburn County's 963 lakes are a prime example of the spirit of the north. Because of its many lakes and earnest concern of its citizens and local government, Washburn was chosen as the pilot county for a notable project. The project will explore the concerns and requirements of lakefront property owners. Some questions we are interested in include:

- ◆ Your needs for information about your lake (ecological, legal, cultural, physical, etc).
- ◆ Your awareness of and accessibility to available services and information.
- ◆ Your priority issues.
- ◆ Who you think should manage lakes.
- ◆ Your thoughts on the value of lake organizations and which lakes would benefit from one.
- ◆ What services are needed by single owners of entire/large lake frontages (over 1000 feet)

The information gathered will be used to develop techniques used statewide to assist lake property owners seeking support in preserving and protecting Wisconsin's lakes. We will make every effort to share our study results with you and keep you informed of our progress.

Most successful undertakings are the result of many people with diverse ideas working together for a common goal. In this case, the goals are to assure protection of the lakes of Washburn County and Wisconsin by increasing the awareness, concern and action of all of us who enjoy them. *In order to accomplish this we need your help!*

You were identified as a possible contact on \_\_\_\_\_ Lake. You can play a significant role in enhancing the quality of your lake by taking a few minutes to complete the enclosed survey and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope by August 19, 1996.

Thank you for your interest and involvement. Feel free to contact Beverly Stencel or Patricia Buck at (715)635-3192 with any questions or to discuss this project.

Sincerely,

Beverly Stencel  
UW-Extension Community Resource Educator

Patricia Buck  
Project Coordinator

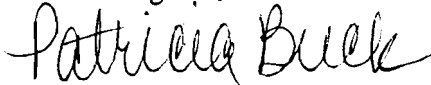
August 27, 1996

Dear Lake Property Owner,

Last month, a Lakes Planning Survey seeking your opinion about lake stewardship education in Washburn County, was mailed to you. If you have already completed and returned the questionnaire, please accept our sincere thanks. If not, please do so today.

If by some chance, you did not receive the questionnaire, or it was misplaced, please call Beverly or me at 715-635-3192 and we will send you one immediately.

Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Buck".

Patricia Buck,  
Project Director





Washburn County UW-Extension Office

September 12, 1996

Dear

About a month ago, we sent you a Lakes Planning Survey seeking your opinion about lake stewardship education in Washburn County. As of today, we have not received your completed survey.

The University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension is conducting this survey in an effort to learn more about your needs as a lake shore property owner. Even if you do not have a need to learn more about your lake right now, your opinions are still important to us.

We are writing to you again because your response is important to the study. In the event your questionnaire has been misplaced or lost, a replacement is enclosed. Please return your survey enclosed self-addressed stamp envelope by Monday, September 23, 1996.

Thank you for your time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Buck".

Patricia A. Buck

Project Coordinator

enc.



## Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension

850 West Beaverbrook Avenue, Spooner, WI 54801 Phone (715) 635-3192

Washburn County UW-Extension Office

September 11, 1996

Dear «Title» «Last name»:

Thank you for returning the Washburn County Lakes Planning Survey sent to you recently. In appreciation we are sending you the enclosed Lake Stewardship folder which we hope you will find helpful as a single property owner or owner of the majority of land on your lake. Your packet contains the following publications:

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership	Free from UWEX
Life on the Edge... Owing Waterfront Property	\$3.00 from UWEX
Wetlands, Wonderlands	Free from WI DNR
Building near Wetlands	Free from WI DNR
Shoreline Plants and Landscaping	Free from UWEX
What is a Lake Association?	Free from UWEX
Best-Sellers for Better Buying (a list of publications)	Free from WI DNR

In addition to providing you with these Lake Stewardship resources, you will receive Lake Tides, a free quarterly newsletter about Wisconsin Lakes from the UWEX-Lake Management Program, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point. UW-Extension complies with the Wisconsin Public Records Law, Chapter 19 Wisconsin Statutes, and the University of Wisconsin System policy with regard to requests by individuals and organizations for lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers which are in the custody of an Extension office. If you wish to have your name and address withheld from Extension lists which are open to the public or do not want to receive the Lake Tides newsletter, please write or call our office before September 30, 1996.

We are investing this time and money in Washburn County lakeshore property owners so that the land, the lakes, and you will benefit. We want you to be able to make informed decisions about your lake and lake shore property management. We are also hoping you will share your knowledge of sound lake stewardship practices with other landowners; neighbors and friends, through whatever means you are comfortable with. If they would like copies of any of the above noted publications, please refer them to the proper resource. Quantities of some publications may be limited.

Further educational resources are available through our office. If you wish to explore any of these topics or any other lake stewardship topics, please contact Beverly or Patricia at 715/635-3192. Thank you again for your interest in the lakes of Washburn County and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Beverly Stencel  
Community Resources Educator

Patricia Buck  
Project Coordinator

enc/wlp.01so

**Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension**

850 West Beaverbrook Avenue, Spooner, WI 54801 Phone (715) 635-3192



Washburn County UW-Extension Office

September 11, 1996

Dear «Title» «Last name»:

Thank you for returning the Washburn County Lakes Planning Survey sent to you recently. In appreciation we are sending you the enclosed Lake Stewardship folder which we hope you will find helpful as a contact person on your lake. Your packet contains the following publications:

- The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership
- Life on the Edge... Owing Watertown Property
- Wetlands, Wonderlands
- Building near Wetlands
- Shoreline Plants and Landscaping
- What is a Lake Association?
- The Lake Leaders Handbook flyer
- Best-Sellers for Better Buying (a list of publications)
- Free from UWEX
- \$3.00 from UWEX
- Free from WI DNR
- Free from WI DNR
- Free from UWEX
- Free from UWEX
- Free from UWEX
- Free from UWEX
- Free from UWEX
- Free from UWEX
- \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping from UWEX
- Free from WI DNR

In addition to providing you with these Lake Stewardship resources, you will receive Lake Tides, a free quarterly newsletter about Wisconsin Lakes from the UWEX-Lake Management Program, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point. UW-Extension complies with the Wisconsin Public Records Law, Chapter 19 Wisconsin Statutes, and the University of Wisconsin System policy with regard to requests by individuals and organizations for lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers which are in the custody of an Extension office. If you wish to have your name and address withheld from Extension lists which are open to the public or do not want to receive the Lake Tides newsletter, please write or call our office before September 30, 1996.

What does it mean to be a contact person on a lake? We hope you will share your knowledge of sound lake stewardship practices with other landowners, neighbors and friends, through whatever means you are comfortable with (be it sharing information with your neighbors one-on-one or spearheading an organizational meeting). If others would like copies of any of the above noted publications, please refer them to the proper resource. Quantities of some publications may be limited.

Further educational resources are available through our office. If you wish to explore any of these topics or for assistance in forming a lake organization, please contact Beverly or Patricia at 715/555-3192. We are investing this time and money in Washburn County lakeshore property owners so that the land, the lakes, and you will benefit. We want you to be able to make informed decisions about your lake and lake shore property management. Thank you again for your interest in the lakes of Washburn County and Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Beverly Stencel  
Community Resources Educator

Patricia Buck  
Project Coordinator

enc/wlp.02



## Cooperative Extension • University of Wisconsin-Extension

850 West Beaverbrook Avenue, Spooner, WI 54801 Phone (715) 635-3192

### Washburn County UW-Extension Office

September 30, 1996

Dear :

Thank you for returning the Lakes Planing Survey sent to you recently. We used the Wisconsin Lakes List, 1995-96, which lists all recognized lake associations in Wisconsin to select lakes for the survey. In your survey responses, you indicated there was an association on your lake. However, you were not listed in the above noted publication.

Please complete the enclosed form to be a recognized association. By being in the Wisconsin Lakes List, you will receive Lake Tides, a free quarterly newsletter about Wisconsin Lakes from the UWEX-Lake Management Program, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, and the Community Resource Development free newsletter to keep you up-to-date on county and state lake issues.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and interest in Wisconsin's lakes.

Sincerely,

Patricia Buck  
Project Coordinator

enc.  
wlp.04

# 1996-97 DIRECTORY UP-DATE

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (City/State/Zip)</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Year term expires</u>
-------------	---------------------------------	--------------	--------------------------

(Chair/President)

(Secretary)

(Treasurer)

Other officers, commissioners and board members:


Please send this page to:

UWEX Lake Management Specialist  
College of Natural Resources  
University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point WI 54481

or FAX: 715-346-3624

**APPENDIX C**

## LAKES REPRESENTED IN STUDY

On what lake is your property located?			
Unless otherwise noted, all lakes had one respondent.			
Acorn	Floyd	Lutz	Rocky Ridge
Alder	Gardner	MacKenzie	Round
Balsam	Glendenon	MacRae	Scovil
Baver	Goll	Mathews (2)	Severson (2)
Bean (2)	Goose	Matson (2)	Seymour (2)
Beartrack	Grass	McKinley	Shallow
Berry	Green	McLain	Sherman
Big Bass (3)	Harmon (2)	Middle	Shingle
Big Casey	Haugen (2)	Moody	Sleepy Eye
Big Devil	Hay	Mud	Slim Creek (3)
Big Ripley (2)	Horseshoe	Nice	Spider (2)
Big Sand (2)	Island (2)	No Man's (2)	Spring (3)
Bond	Jerry	No Name (2)	Stanberry
Brickman	Kekegama	Oak	Star
Brown's	Kingelm	Offers	Starkey
Cable (2)	Kinney	Osprey	Stone
Chinty	Lazy	Patricia	Sugar Bush (2)
Cotton (2)	Leach	Paula's	Sunfish
Cranberry	Leesome	Pear	Tony
Crystal	Leisure	Peter's	Tozer (2)
Cyclone	Leonard	Peufeld	Tranus
Deep (2)	Lincoln	Pine	Tucker
Deer	Little Bass (4)	Pokegama	Unnamed Beaver Brook
Dock	Little Cable	Pollywog	
Dugan	Little Devil's	Randall (2)	Unnamed T41NR10W
Dunn (2)	Little Spooner	Rappy (2)	Unnamed Trego (5)
East Wilcox (4)	Little Stone (2)	Reflection	Whalen
Eliza	Loon (3)	Rice	Whaler
Ellsworth	Lost	Rigler	Yellow River
*Fenton (2)	Lower MacKenzie	River	

**APPENDIX D**



## REASONS FOR PURCHASING LAKE PROPERTY

Q#2. What was your primary reason for purchasing property on this lake? (Note: multiple responses were checked for this question)						
	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One owner		More than one			
Response	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Scenery, aesthetics	15	44.1%	47	36.7%	62	38.0%
Absence of lakeshore development	15	44.1%	38	29.7%	53	32.5%
The price was right	7	20.6%	38	29.7%	45	27.6%
Fishing opportunities	9	26.5%	23	18.0%	32	19.6%
Distance from permanent residence	4	11.8%	15	11.7%	19	11.7%
Size of lake	3	8.8%	15	11.7%	18	11.0%
Business opportunity	4	11.8%	13	10.2%	17	10.4%
Inherited the property	1	2.9%	14	10.9%	15	9.2%
Reasonable travel distance from work	4	11.8%	11	8.6%	15	9.2%
Other*	5	14.7%	27	21.1%	23	14.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Other responses: location/privacy (4); retirement home (4); permanent residence (3); investment (3); forest management (3); purchased from a relative/price (1); personal (1); vacation home (1); hunting (1)

## PRIORITY ISSUES FOR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

<b>Q#3. What do you see are the priority issues facing your lake? Pick your top three issues and rank them 1-3, with one being the highest concern.</b>			
	No. of property owners on lake		All property owners
	One	More than one	
Response	Weighted Average	Weighted Average	Weighted Average
Water quality	35	121	156
Wildlife habitat protection	55	103	158
Shoreline development	21	100	121
Fishing	44	68	112
Excessive aquatic or algae growth	21	82	103
Water level changes	20	77	97
Use conflicts	15	56	71
Sedimentation	11	47	58
Boating safety	5	15	20
Other*	9	27	36

\*Other responses: trespassers/privacy (8); unfamiliar w/ lake, unable to rank priorities (6); scenery/aesthetics maintenance (6); wildlife damage to shoreline vegetation (5); HazMat-environmental hazards (3); pollution (3); property taxes too high (3); spearfishing (2)

# LAKE EDUCATION ISSUES

**#Q5. If you could find out more about your lake, which of the following would be of interest to you? Check as many as apply.**

	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One		More than one			
Response	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
How laws affect my lake	18	66.7%	79	69.9%	98	69.5%
Understanding lake ecology	17	63.0%	67	59.3%	85	60.3%
How land uses affect water quality	8	29.6%	46	40.7%	55	39.0%
How to get involved in lake stewardship	15	55.6%	39	34.5%	55	39.0%
Other*	5	18.5%	20	17.7%	25	17.7%
<b>Total respondents for this question</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>113</b>		<b>141</b>	

\*Other responses: information on specific lake (6), how to protect wildlife and habitat (6), how to improve fishing quality/clean up aquatic growth (5), ecology; impact of technology on lake (2), ordinances (1), how to manage disruptive wildlife (1), how to prevent winterkill (1), how to build on property (permits) (1), timber plan on adjacent land (1)

**Q#6. If you were to receive lake information, what delivery methods would you prefer? Pick your top three and rank them 1-3.**

	No. of property owners on lake		All property owners
	One	More than one	
Response	Weighted Average	Weighted Average	Weighted Average
Publications, fact sheets, bulletins	71	305	376
Newsletters, news media, radio	24	147	171
Conferences, workshops	28	56	84
Special events, "Lake Fairs", guest speakers	9	39	48
Videos, slide productions	16	27	43

\*Other responses (After the response each corresponding number pertains to number of property owners - one, more than one, and all property owners): educational programs (1,2,3); more surveys/research (1,2,3); specific information on specific lakes (3,3,6); personal relations with county personnel (0,3,3); UW-Extension personnel (1,0,1); general conversation (0,1,1)

## LAKE STEWARDSHIP: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

Q#7. Who should have a role in lake stewardship?						
Response	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One		More than one		Freq.	Percent
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent		
Individual lake property owners	22	75.9%	105	86.1%	128	84.2%
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	19	65.5%	74	60.7%	94	61.8%
Lake organization	11	37.9%	47	38.5%	59	38.8%
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension	9	31.0%	39	32.0%	48	31.6%
Government staff	8	27.6%	30	24.6%	38	25.0%
Elected government officials	7	24.1%	26	21.3%	33	21.7%
Natural Resources Conservation Service	10	34.5%	23	18.9%	33	21.7%
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	5	17.2%	23	18.9%	28	18.4%
Total respondents for this question	29		122		152	

Q#7a. Which ones have you utilized?						
Response	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One		More than one		Freq.	Percent
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent		
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	15	78.9%	50	65.8%	66	68.8%
Individual lake property owners	7	36.8%	36	47.4%	44	45.8%
Government staff	4	21.1%	21	27.6%	25	26.0%
Elected government officials	3	15.8%	12	15.8%	15	15.6%
Lake organization	3	15.8%	8	10.5%	11	11.5%
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension	3	15.8%	7	9.2%	10	10.4%
Natural Resources Conservation Service	2	10.5%	2	2.6%	4	4.2%
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	0	0.0%	3	3.9%	3	3.1%
Total respondents of this question	19		76		96	

**LAKE STEWARDSHIP: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?** (continued)

<b>Q#7b. How did you utilize their services?</b>						
Response	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One		More than one		Freq.	Percent
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent		
Fish management	8	47.1%	26	32.1%	34	34.7%
Permitting	7	41.2%	24	29.6%	31	31.6%
Boating ordinances	3	17.6%	22	27.2%	25	25.5%
Lake monitoring	5	29.4%	15	18.5%	20	20.4%
Aquatic plant management	2	11.8%	9	11.1%	11	11.2%
Shoreline zoning variance request	4	23.5%	5	6.2%	9	9.2%
Shoreline stabilization	0	0.0%	7	8.6%	7	7.1%
Dam removal; repair	1	5.9%	6	7.4%	7	7.1%
Construction site erosion control	0	0.0%	6	7.4%	6	6.1%
Shoreland restoration	0	0.0%	2	2.5%	2	2.0%
Other*	4	23.5%	21	25.9%	25	25.5%
<b>Total respondents for this question</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>81</b>		<b>98</b>	

\*Other responses: information or advice (8), pollution control/land management (5), called DNR to clean lake (3), provided information for this survey (2), advisory for industry (1), wildlife control (1), research (1), motor laws (1), oppose shoreline zoning variance request (1), fish stocking (1), formed committees (1)

## ROLES FOR LAKE ORGANIZATIONS

Q#9a. Some lakes have organizations; do you think some level of organization would be beneficial for your lake?						
	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One		More than one			
Response	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
No	27	81.8%	77	60.6%	104	64.6%
Yes	6	18.2%	49	38.6%	56	34.8%
Not Sure	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	1	0.6%
Totals	33	100.0%	127	100.0%	161	100.0%

Q#9b. If yes, which of these do you think a lake organization could do for your lake?						
	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One		More than one			
Response	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Reduce user conflicts by building communication and respect	5	100.0%	39	75.0%	47	75.8%
Maintain and restore environmental integrity of the lake ecosystem	3	60.0%	37	71.2%	41	66.1%
Provide a forum for socializing with lake neighbors	4	80.0%	27	51.9%	32	51.6%
Sponsor educational initiatives	0	0.0%	10	19.2%	10	16.1%
Other*	0	0.0%	7	13.5%	7	11.3%
Total respondents for this question	5		52		62	

\*Other responses: Create crime watch and emergency assistance (5), Control further development (1), Help with water maintenance (1)

**ROLES FOR LAKE ORGANIZATIONS (continued)**

Q#10. Would you be interested in assisting in the formation of some level of lake organization on your lake?		No		Yes		Other Responses*		Totals	
		Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
All property owners	No. of property owners on lake	24	72.7%	73	58.4%	97	61.4%	33	100.0%
	One								
	More than one			45	36.0%	54	34.2%	125	100.0%
						7	4.4%		
								33	100.0%

\* Other responses include 1 "Yes and No" answer and 6 "Maybe" answers. Each of these respondents said they would be involved in the organization but not in the formation of it.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Q#1. What year did you buy your property?		No. of property owners on lake		Year		All property owners	
		Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
		One owner		1	3.1%	9	7.3%
		More than one		3	9.4%	30	18.9%
				1	3.1%	11	6.9%
				1	3.1%	9	5.7%
				3	9.4%	30	18.9%
				4	12.5%	15	9.4%
				8	25.0%	43	27.0%
				15	46.9%	51	32.1%
				32	100.0%	159	100.0%

**DEMOGRAPHICS** (continued)

<b>Please indicate the amount of acreage you own on this land:</b>						
	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One owner		More than one			
Response	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Less than 2 acres	2	8.3%	27	19.7%	30	17.8%
2-40 acres	11	33.3%	66	49.2%	77	45.6%
More than 40 acres	21	58.3%	41	31.1%	62	36.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Which of the following best describes your use of the lakeside property?</b>						
	No. of property owners on lake				All property owners	
	One owner		More than one			
Response	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Permanent Resident	13	39.4%	80	61.1%	94	56.6%
Occasional Visitor	11	33.3%	38	29.0%	50	30.1%
Seasonal (Summer) Resident	9	27.3%	13	9.9%	22	13.3%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**APPENDIX E**

## • OPEN COMMENTS

**Comments written in response to Question #9c. Do you think some level of organization would be beneficial for your lake? If no, why not?**

### **I. Lake is too small; population not large enough to support organization**

"Lake is small--should be cleaned up of excess aquatic plants--so lake could be used more for fish habitat."

"I would be the only person so far as I know who would be interested & my children".

"We own the whole lake."

"No other land owners other than the county."

"There are only 2 property owners & the lake has no public access."

"There are only 2 property owners on the lake-I own 95%+ of the land around the lake."

"Only people on the lakes."

"No others involved, but I will interface regularly with DNR fisheries personnel."

"This lake is owned entirely by one owner & will not be developed."

"Family owns property surrounding lake. No need for any organization."

"No one lives there-only a few people visit."

"Lake is too small."

"The lake is too small and shallow and not developed."

"Number too small."

"Few owners (4-5), no need."

"Too small."

"I doubt people want to get involved."

"Too small-not as many issues as large multi-use lakes. Could create ad-hoc group when major issue arises."

"Very few residents."

"Insufficient number of interested people."

"The property around our lake is owned by three individuals with none of us interested in developing the lake property."

"Only two residence (homes) neither near shore-both overlook from distance."

"We are only residents at this time-hope to stay this way."

• "Small lake, only two houses on lake, no public access."

"There are only two people living on the lake and they are married. They probably don't need to be organized."

"I am the only property owner and I already talk with myself."

"No people to organize yet."

"1 year round resident-the rest are summer only-some weekends."

"Lack of inhabitants and use."

"Not enough owners to need formal organization. If problem, we'd just phone the other guy."

"Only 4 property owners and county forest. Very few others use our lake."

"Only two year round residences-both of which rarely use the lake, or have contact with the 7 seasonal residences."

"Because fingers reach into someone's private function-w/only 1 permanent home and 2 parttime users."

"For Private Use."

"Lake too small-at this time we are only ones living on lake year around. Lake does not get a lot of use. Some winter fishing some summer fishing no speed boating or a lot of user conflicts. This may change in future & a lake assoc. maybe needed. E.B."

"Private owned."

"Too small."

"Too small a lake."

"At present not enough residents."

"I am the major owner in control of over 75% of the lakeshore. Why should I relinquish control to the minority owner?"

"This isn't much of a lake. There are no fish, it is only good for minnows, ducks, muskrats, etc. At one time this was a nice little lake but when the county did the highway, J, they made no provision for erosion control and so much silt washed into the lake that much of it is only knee deep. For practical purposes, they ruined this lake, just as they have many others in the area."

"Too small."

"This lake-is only 3 or 4 acres, land locked about 2 to 4' deep this survey is a joke, that's why I never sent other one's back."

"Our lake is very small."

"Only one owner."

"I am an excellent steward, and have the training to take care of it."

"Only 1 cabin on the lake."

• "The property surrounding the lake is family owned."

"Only one owner."

"No one lives on it"

"Single owner."

"Why will we have, a one person organization? This is an exercise in futility. There is no fish management or law enforcement. People fish the lake to death and run speed boats on it. All this on a 40 acre lake. Go figure how this makes sense!"

"Small lake with boating ordinances already in effect. Zoning board over sees variances/permits."

## **II. Organizations too restrictive; no development desired**

"Lake organizations always tend to restrict lake use, not enhance or expand use."

"I prefer to leave my shore natural. I think owners have a right to use what we pay taxes on. Our plantation is a private planting--not a county one. We want no development."

"Thus far it seems all residents value the privacy and maintenance of wildlife habitat."

"In this day of over-regulation, there may be lots of resistance."

"It would take up a great deal of a person's time. Thank you."

"We don't need more goverment control."

"I believe property owners often become selfish and view the lake as being their own and not for public use."

"We tried it-it didn't work-too many bosses."

### • III. No need for an organization

"This lake is not developed to the point of being able to use it yet.

"Lake is currently an insignificant issue."

"Tony Lake is almost surrounded by swamp and not conducive to lakeshore development."

"Lake is small; let well enough alone. Just keep the creek running. The lake froze up a few years ago. No good. I'm an antique. Don't desire to assume any more tasks than I assume for my church responsibilities. Through the years some residents on the lake have made an effort to prevent citizens from using the creek as access to the lake, have posted their land to prevent fishermen to launch their small boats, Fishing is beneficial to a lake this small. Some have refused to let individuals trap the beaver but won't remove dam: also put trees across creek so boats couldn't go upstream. Personally, I think the less development the better. Most of the west side of the lake is swamp. Why not let well enough alone & let the wild life nest, & roam or trap the animals themselves. Big McKenzie is an example of people eyeball to eyeball. Little beauty or peace left. The east side groundwater can't stay pure much longer. I believe a fairly wide green sections should be left between residences on lakeshores. Didn't mean to write a book--"

"The lakes have done without organizations for many, many years."

"We do not feel it's need on this lake."

"It's fine the way it is."

"Not necessary at this time."

"Not necessary at present."

### IV. Organization will not work due to characteristic of lake

"The problem is the mud that is filling our lakes-and getting permits to do something is almost impossible, also the cost in pumping it out is unbelievable. Years ago, we had about 18' feet of water and to day about 8' or 9' feet of water in time, it will become a swamp. If nothing is done to clean up the bottom of our lakes in the county."

"Randall is nothing but a large swamp with muck 1 foot below the surface and swamp around all edges."

"It is not a good fishing lake because it goes dry sometimes."

## V. Miscellaneous comments

"There should be a law to forbid huge motors and speeding on the lake! Every year, several loon get killed by stupid people speeding and waterskiing on the lake! At my resort, I allow no one to water ski."

"Premature."

"Most of the problems on the lake are caused by non-property owners."

"Some lake owners that come on weekends think they can tell permanent people what to do."

"I own the lake. I want some fish. It freezes out now."

"I've retired and resolved to never join a committee or fill out another form-a resolve youve already destroyed."

"-?"

"I do not have any posted land yet & I own 800 acres of semi wooded land & parts of another lake not state owned"

"Nobody likes a complainer."