

## DRAFT – LOVE LAKE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Site Description:

The subject property is located on the west side of Love Lake and contains approximately 2,848 feet of shoreline. The subject property is located immediately north of a 36-acre parcel donated to WWLT in 2005, which contains another 7,087 feet of lake frontage. All total, the two properties contain nearly 2 miles of undeveloped sensitive shoreline.

The subject property's near-shore area is a mosaic of bays, wetlands and floating bog mats, although the actual shoreline is hard and highly developable. A navigable channel running along the shoreline connects the secluded bays to the main body of Love Lake. Numerous perennial springs have been observed along the shoreline providing Love Lake with a permanent source of clear water maintaining the overall water quality of the lake.

Burnett County has classified all lakes in the County and states the following about Love Lake:

“Love Lake is a hard water, drainage lake connected to Faulk Lake. The lake level is maintained by the water control structure on Minerva Lake. The fish population consists of northern pike, largemouth bass, walleye, bluegill, perch, black crappie, pumpkinseed, bullhead, white sucker, bowfin and forage minnows. The lakeshore is predominantly upland except for 79 acres of adjoining wetlands at the west end which provide habitat for muskrat, nesting puddle ducks, ring-necked ducks and loons. The west end of the lake has areas of floating bog and dense stands of water lilies, water shield, pondweed species, coontail, water weed and water milfoil.”<sup>2</sup>

The shoreline portion of the subject property has not had a complete DNR Sensitive Area Study, although a preliminary examination by DNR Water Quality staff has indicated that all of the area could qualify as critical habitat or sensitive area in that it provides superb wildlife habitat and extensive shallow water fish habitat (see attached email correspondence). DNR Endangered Resources has indicated that the state-threatened pugnose shiner (*Notropis anogenus*) is located in the immediate area, and typically inhabits areas indicative of the subject property.

Shallow near-shore habitat is ideal for spawning fish, shorebirds, waterfowl and reptile and amphibian use. The forested upland is primarily dry, although the subject property also contains approximately two thirds of a small, intact bog lake of between 3 and 7 acres, depending on definition of the ordinary high water mark. According to DNR Webview, this water body is identified as an “unnamed lake”. The upland soils are generally sandy, and tree species include red oak, white pine, maple, jack pine, aspen and birch. The Grayling Sand, the dominant soil type is noted for supporting jack pine, a primary habitat component needed for the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. This part of Wisconsin is within the Kirtland's range, although a complete songbird census has not been conducted.

### Lake and Ecosystem Protection:

The Property in its present state does not negatively impact Love Lake. Shoreland buffers are intact, and will not change with permanent protection of the property. All aquatic and terrestrial

systems on the property are intact and will be left in their natural, wetland and forested condition.

**Management and Maintenance:**

Management and maintenance of the property will occur much as it has in the recent past. The subject property and Love lake I property will be open to the public for low-impact recreation such as hunting, hiking, bird-watching and nature study. Management as it pertains to several categories of property use is addressed below:

**Vegetation:**

- A minimum 100' intact shoreland buffer zone will be implemented along all shores of Love Lake.
- No timber harvest is planned, although further consultation with DNR Wildlife and Forestry staff is recommended to ensure future management is conducive to area goals, deficiencies and optimal diversity of species.
- Ecological community restoration and/or management will be permitted provided a sound plan is reviewed by WWLT, and provided there is no degradation of the property or to Love Lake.

**Structures and Improvements:**

- There are no structures on the subject property. No structures will be permitted on the subject property.
- There is presently a gravel drive / road that accesses the property from the west. This area will not be actively maintained, but permitted to exist to facilitate future use and management.
- Foot trails may be constructed on the property.
- A snowmobile trail crosses the property and will be allowed to exist.

**Subdivision:**

- No subdivision is permitted.

**Ownership:**

- The property will be owned and managed by West Wisconsin Land Trust. The subject property will be managed in conjunction with the Love Lake I property and the pending transfer property from Northland College.