



Big Wood Lake Association, Inc.

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Big Wood Lake Association: AIS Discovery Protocol

October, 2014

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) poses a potential threat to the health and recreational enjoyment of Big Wood Lake. Eurasian Water Milfoil, an AIS considered to having the worst impact on lakes, has been spreading throughout the county and severely impacts the health and uses of these lakes. In response to the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil in lakes within the region, in 2013 the Association applied for and received a 75% grant from the DNR to conduct an intensive aquatic plant survey of the entire lake and based on its findings, to update our Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

We've completed the intensive survey and did not find any Eurasian Water Milfoil in the lake. We've also updated our plan and will continue to contract out to have annual monthly checks for Eurasian Water Milfoil at the boat launches, river inlet and the perimeter of the lake. It's felt that if Eurasian Water Milfoil would be found within the Lake that it would likely be found within those areas.

While we've established a plan to proactively assess certain portions of the lake for Eurasian Water Milfoil, we also need your help in:

- ***keeping a watchful eye for the plant (see diagram on next page) while in or on the water, and***
- ***if you've had your water craft/trailer in/on another body of water, to prevent the introduction of AIS into Big Wood Lake, to remove any aquatic hitchhikers prior to launching by removing any aquatic plant or animal, and by draining live wells and bilge water away from the landing.***

What should I do if I discover Eurasian Water Milfoil or other AIS in the Lake?

Please contact one of the following AIS professionals and a Board Member to let them know the AIS you've found and where you found it:

**Matt Berg, Research Biologist, 715-689-3197, or
Dave Ferris, Burnett County Conservationist, 715-349-2186**

If Eurasian Water Milfoil is verified, the Board will immediately make application with DNR in attempt to eradicate it. The Association's developed a dedicated account for the purposes of addressing Eurasian Water Milfoil, or other AIS, which threatens the health or recreational use of the lake. The account is comprised of Association dues as well as 100% of the contributions made through "Friends of Big Wood Lake".