

Nelson Lake 2010 AIS Grant

7a. Project Area

Nelson Lake is a 2,502 acre, shallow flowage with a mean depth of 9.5 feet and maximum depth of 33 feet. Four public boat landings are located on the lake and 10 landings are used by the public at resorts and campgrounds. A large amount of shoreline is publicly owned. The lake experiences a high level of boat traffic and fishing pressure, including fishing tournaments. Rusty crayfish are present in small numbers in the lake, but no other AIS are known to be present.

7b. Problem to be Addressed

Aquatic invasive species are of significant concern to the Nelson Lake Association. Currently, the lake has no aquatic invasive plants (rusty crayfish are present in low numbers). The lake association is aware that education and prevention are the best ways to ensure that invasive species do not enter the lake and cause environmental and economic damage. The lake association has worked in the past to educate users and residents of the lake about AIS issues through a lake monitoring program, installation of information kiosks, educational materials and a Clean Boat/Clean water program. The emergence of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) as a new invasive organism with potential catastrophic results highlights the need for continuing education and prevention programs.

7c. Goals and Objectives

The goal is to educate people that use the lake about the problem of AIS and how to prevent their spread, but in the event of an aquatic invasive plant introduction, we need to identify it early while corrective action could be effective. Objectives designed to meet these goals are as follows:

1. Continue the lake monitoring program that was implemented in 2007.
2. Recruit and train new and replacement lake monitors on monitoring procedures and AIS identification. Training will be available to everyone interested and will be used to kick off the new season.
3. Distribute laminated "Stop AIS" key chains that were produced in 2009 to boat dealers in the local area.
4. Expand the Clean Boat/Clean Water program that was implemented in 2007 to include more weekend coverage.
5. Maintain the signage and kiosks that were installed in prior years on the highways and boat landings.
6. Install signs at the exit of the public boat landings to remind boaters to clean their boats, remove plants, and drain all water.

7d. Methods and Activities

Objective 1: Volunteer Lake Monitoring
lake Volunteer monitors will be recruited and assigned to one of 31 sections of the shore to inspect for invasive plants twice a year, in June and September. Monitoring procedures will follow DNR guidelines. All volunteers will receive a map of the lake, a map of their assigned shoreline, and plant identification materials. They will inspect their area and report any suspicious findings.

Objective 2: Training

A training day will be held for new monitors and anyone else interested in learning more about the monitoring procedure, invasive plant identification and prevention strategies. We will publicize training sessions to all 263 member families of the Nelson Lake Association to maximize education about AIS with a goal of making all members “unofficial lake monitors”. The Sawyer County AIS Coordinator will assist in the training. Information on VHS will also be presented.

Objective 3: Distribution of Laminated Key Chains

Laminated key chains have been a popular handout of the Nelson Lake Association in recent years and we want to continue this educational project. The key chain contains information on AIS and the importance of cleaning boats. They are distributed to boat dealers, other lake associations and kiosks in the area.

Objective 4: Continue the Clean Boat/Clean Water program

In 2007 the Nelson Lake Association initiated a Clean Boat/Clean Water program doing inspections at a limited number of landings on a limited number of days. We were able to expand that program in 2008 and again in 2009 and want to expand slightly more in 2010.

Objective 5: Maintain Existing Signage

In 2007, 2008, and 2009 signs and information kiosks were installed on the highways leading to the public boat landings, at the public boat landings, and several of the resort boat landings. The information in the kiosks needs to be updated and some of the signs have been damaged. The information will be updated and the signs repaired.

Objective 6: Exit Signs

While we have signs at the boat landings for people entering the water, we do not have any signs to remind people to clean their boats before they leave. We will install signs at four of the public landings to remind people as they prepare to leave to clean their boats, remove all plants, and drain all water.

7e Project Products and Deliverables

Deliverables include a Clean Boat/Clean Water program, educational material in the form of key chains and a volunteer lake monitoring program.

7f. Data to be Collected

Data will be collected from the Clean Boat/Clean Water program and the Nelson Lake monitoring surveys. Locations of key chain distribution will be reported.

7g. Existing and Proposed Partnerships

A partnership exists, and will be continued, with the Sawyer County AIS Coordinator. A partnership also exists with the Nelson Lake Resort Association and will continue.

7h. Role of Project in Lake Management Plan

AIS monitoring and education is recommended in the Nelson Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. Actions suggested in the plan include training volunteers to identify common invasive plants, performing lake inspections for invasives and enlisting and training volunteers for the monitoring program.

7i. Time Table

May/June - Distribute key chains produced in 2009

May/June - Train volunteers for lake monitoring and Clean Boat/Clean Water program

May/June - Update existing signs and install new signs

June/September - Monitor lake for invasive

May through September - Clean Boat inspection program

Budget

Key chains - 500 units

Cash costs

None (produced in 2009)

Donated value

Distribution	10 hr @ 12	120
	150 mi @ 0.42	63

Total \$183

Lake Monitoring -

Cash costs

None (Materials produced in 2009)

Donated value

Project planning	5 hr @ 12	60
Training -trainer and trainees	45 hr @ 12	540
Coordination, tracking, reporting	8 hr @ 12	96
On water inspections	180 hr @ 12	2,160
Watercraft time	50 hr @ 32.75	1,638

Total \$4,494

Clean Boat/Clean Water -

Cash costs

CB/CW materials		100
Paid inspections -	350 hr @ 10	3,500

Donated value

Planning, training, reporting	35hr @ 12	420
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Total \$4,020

Signage -

Cash costs

New signs & posts	4 @ 75	300
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Donated value

New sign installation and existing sign maintenance	10 @ 12	120
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Total \$420

Grand Total \$9,117