

2007 AIS Grant  
Nelson Lake Association

6. a. Description of Project Area

Nelson Lake is a 2,502 acre, shallow flowage with a mean depth of approximately 9.5 feet and a maximum depth of 33 feet. Four public boat landings are located on the lake and 12 landings used by the public at resorts and campgrounds. A large amount of shoreline is publicly owned. The lake experiences high boat traffic and fishing pressure. Rusty crayfish are found in small numbers in the lake, but no other AIS are known.

6. b. Description of problem to be addressed by project

Aquatic invasive species are a great concern to the Nelson Lake Association. Currently, Nelson Lake has no aquatic invasive plants (rusty crayfish are present in the lake at low numbers). The lake association is aware that education and prevention are the best ways to ensure that invasive plants and other animals do not enter the lake causing a greater environmental and economical cost in the long run. The lake association has worked in the past to educate users and residents of the lake about AIS issues (production of key chains, establishment of kiosks at two boat landings, and more). Nelson Lake Association is being proactive in the fight against invasives by establishing educational and volunteer monitoring programs to inform users of Nelson Lake on how to prevent invasives. The established programs will also ensure that if an aquatic invasive species is found, control actions will be taken immediately before the establishment of a large population.

The proposed project dovetails well with the Sawyer County AIS Coordinator position and program effort.

6. c. Discussion of project goals and objectives

The main goal of the Nelson Lake Association is to increase awareness about aquatic invasive species. The main goal is divided into two parts: educate land owners on the lake and educate visitors to the lake. Seven objectives have been developed to address these main goals.

- Educate land owners on the lake
  - Volunteer lakeshore monitoring for invasive plants
  - Training day for volunteer monitoring and plant identification
  
- Educate lake users
  - Kiosk with AIS information at town boat landing on Nelson Lake
  - Kiosk with AIS information at landing on lake upstream of Nelson Lake
  - Place three road signs on roads leading to Nelson Lake
  - Produce laminated key chains for boat dealers in Nelson Lake area
  - Develop Clean Boats, Clean Waters program for high traffic days at landings on Nelson Lake

#### 6. d. Description of methods and activities

##### Objective 1: Volunteer lakeshore monitoring for invasive plants

Volunteer monitors will be assigned a section of the Nelson Lake lakeshore to monitor twice a year, in early June and late August/September for aquatic invasive species. Monitoring guidelines follow suggested protocol by the DNR. All volunteers will receive a map of the lake, a map of their individual shoreline, and appropriate data sheets. Volunteers will travel the shoreline and report any suspicious looking organism. A training day will be held in early June to ensure that volunteers know what to look for and what data to collect if something is found.

##### Objective 2: Training day for volunteer monitoring and plant identification

To improve the volunteer monitoring program, the NLA is proposing to hold a training day for volunteer monitors and others on the lake that would like to learn more about surveying and identifying aquatic invasive species. Prevention strategies will also be taught during the training day. The Sawyer County AIS Coordinator will assist with the training day.

##### Objective 3: Kiosk with AIS information at town boat landing on Nelson Lake

AIS information at the boat landings is important because no aquatic invasive plants are found in Nelson Lake. In 2006, the Town of Lenroot improved a boat landing that was seldom used because of poor quality and limited ability to get any vehicle into the landing. The improvements will make this landing used much more often. A kiosk at this landing will ensure that all boaters into the lake are reached about AIS information and cleaning boats. Information that may be included on the kiosk consists of AIS found in Sawyer County, how to properly clean boats, identification of probable species, and what to do if something suspicious is found.

##### Objective 4: Kiosk with AIS information at landing on lake upstream of Nelson Lake

Directly upstream from Nelson Lake is Totagatic Lake. Totagatic Lake is an undeveloped lake with no lake association and a public access. Nelson Lake is concerned that lack of information at this landing may lead to invasive species introduction which could travel downstream and become a problem in Nelson Lake. A kiosk at this landing would provide the same AIS information as the kiosks on Nelson Lake. Nelson Lake Association will work with Bayfield County, the appropriate township, and the DNR on the establishment of a kiosk on Totagatic Lake.

##### Objective 5: Place three road signs on roads leading to Nelson Lake

The Nelson Lake Association would like to place three “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” signs on highly traveled roads leading to Nelson Lake. The signs would be seen by residents of the lake and people traveling to boat landings. The Nelson Lake Association feels that the more the message is viewed, the more it will become ingrained in peoples actions. Three road signs of 12 square feet will be designed and made using the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” logo. Preliminary approval has been granted by the Town of Lenroot for placement of the signs. Appropriate permits and approval from Sawyer County will be gained before placement of the signs.

Objective 6: Produce laminated key chains for boat dealers in Nelson Lake area

Laminated key chains have been a popular handout for the Nelson Lake Association in the past. Nelson Lake Association would like to continue with the production of the key chains to continue with the education of the public that receive the key chains. The key chain contains information on AIS and cleaning boats.... Members of the lake association make the key chains themselves and distribute them at lake association meetings, kiosks, and at boat dealers throughout the area. The lake association will even customize the key chains for the boat dealer or other business.

Objective 7: Develop Clean Boats, Clean Waters program for high traffic days at landings on Nelson Lake

The Nelson Lake Association would like to increase awareness of AIS at the boat landings by developing a Clean Boat, Clean Water program for high traffic days at four high traffic landings on the lake, possibly two public and two private. The program would occur on the weekends of the walleye opener, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and at least one more weekend yet to be chosen (possible dates include bass tournaments or other days of anticipated high traffic). The program will be done by trained individuals that will receive a stipend to monitor the landings on the specified days. Data will be collected and submitted per the requirements of the program.

6. e. Description of project products or deliverables

Project products include the development of two kiosks on invasive species, three road signs, and laminated key chains. A training day agenda will be developed, lake monitoring and early detection, and educational information will also be a product of the proposed grant project.

6. f. Description of data to be collected, if applicable

Data will be collected in two objectives of the grant, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program and during the volunteer monitoring survey. The Clean Boats, Clean Waters program that will be established on high traffic weekends will collect data on boaters following the established program. The volunteer monitoring survey will collect data on any invasive plant found during the survey. Methods used by the WI DNR and Sawyer County will be used.

6. g. Description of existing and proposed partnerships

A partnership has been developed between the Nelson Lake Association and the aquatic invasive species coordinator for Sawyer County. The AIS coordinator will assist with the development of the volunteer monitoring program, Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, the training day for volunteers, and the information presented on the kiosks. A partnership exists between the Nelson Lake Association and the Nelson Lake Resort Association that will help educate resort visitors...

6. h. Discussion of role of project in planning and/or management of lake

AIS monitoring and education is recommended in the Nelson Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. Management actions suggested by the plan include training volunteers to identify common invasive plants, performing lake

inspections for invasives, and enlisting and training new volunteers for the invasives monitoring program.

6. i. Timetable for implementation of key activities

Timetable						
May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Develop kiosk design and information						
	Install kiosks					
	Hold training day for volunteer monitoring and identification					
	Volunteer monitor					
			Volunteer monitoring			
Assemble key rings						
	Distribute key rings					
				Compile data		

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Walleye opener

Memorial Day

4th of July

Bass tournament

6. j. Plan for sharing project results

Project results will be shared with association members at the annual meeting and in quarterly newsletters. Clean Boats, Clean Waters results will be shared with the DNR. All project results will be shared with Sawyer County. A final report will be developed and submitted to the DNR.