

Similar projects could be repeated, but probably only rarely since the environmental setting which makes this project practical is not common.

A variety of other phosphorus control measures are being undertaken in the Balsam Branch Priority Watershed. These include barnyard runoff controls, cropland erosion controls, and shoreline restoration activities. All these measures are designed to improve water quality in the watershed.

23. Significance of Risk

- a. Explain the significance of any unknowns which create substantial uncertainty in predicting effects on the quality of the environment. What additional studies or analyses would eliminate or reduce these unknowns? Explain why these studies were not done.

The efficiency of the pond at trapping sediment and phosphorus has been estimated based on settling tests performed on Rice Creek water, and calculations for flow velocities, holding times, and settling rates for the proposed pond. It is felt all reasonable efforts have been made to make these estimates. Monitoring of the inflow and outflow from the pond will be conducted after construction to determine how effectively the finished pond performs.

- b. Explain the environmental significance of reasonably anticipated operating problems such as malfunctions, spills, fires, or other hazards (particularly those relating to health or safety). Consider reasonable detection and emergency response, and discuss the potential for these hazards.

Possible problems with the operation of the temporary bypass channel could occur, although the bypass procedure has been used successfully elsewhere. The potential for significant problems is considered low. If problems do occur, the impact would be additional sediment lost from the construction site and transported down Rice Creek to Balsam Lake.

Spills or leaks of hydraulic fluid or other fluids from machinery used during excavation are possible. Since nearly all work will be done in areas which are isolated from streamflow, the risk of transport of these materials are minimal. Excavation in winter will minimize any infiltration of fluids into the ground. Any spills or leaks which may occur are likely to be easily contained and removed.

24. Significance of Precedent

- a. Would a decision on this proposal influence future decisions or foreclose options that may additionally affect the quality of the environment? Explain the significance.

No. The proposal is not significant in this regard.

b. Describe any conflicts the proposal has with plans or policy of local, state or federal agencies that provide for the protection of the environment. Explain the significance.

There are no conflicts. There are concerns with altering stream channels and wetlands. These concerns are felt to be adequately addressed as follows:

- A temporary bypass channel will be used to separate streamflow from the area of active excavation.
- Erosion control measures will be used.
- Wetland area lost is being converted to other wetland types, and the changes are felt to enhance the value of the surrounding wetland system.
- A DNR permit (Chapter 30) is being obtained.
- An Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit is being obtained.

25. Discuss the effects on the quality of the environment, including socio-economic effects, that are (or are likely to be) highly controversial, and summarize the controversy.

This project is not believed to be controversial.

26. Explain other factors that should be considered in determining the significance of the proposal.

No other factors are known.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

27. Summarize citizen and agency involvement activities (completed and proposed).

This project is a product of a long process of citizen and agency activities aimed at reducing phosphorus loading from Rice Creek to Balsam Lake. Activities include:

- DNR study of Rice Lake: "Restoring Rice Lake at Milltown, Wisconsin". 1991. This study documented the degraded condition of Rice Lake after many years of sewage inputs and nonpoint source loading.
- The Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (BLPRD) sponsored a USGS study with funding support from a DNR Lake Management Planning Grant: "Water and Phosphorus Budgets and Trophic State, Balsam Lake, Northwestern Wisconsin 1987-1989". This study identified Rice Creek as a major phosphorus source for Balsam Lake.
- An intent to pursue phosphorus loading reduction options at Balsam Acres was identified in the Balsam Branch Priority Watershed Plan, April, 1995. It was recognized that efforts beyond standard nonpoint source

- controls would be needed to achieve phosphorus loading reduction goals. The plan was prepared by the DNR, the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and the Polk County Land Conservation Department. A 21 member Citizens Advisory Committee was involved in plan review and approval.
- The BLPRD purchased the Glenna property in 1995 with partial funding by a DNR Lake Protection Grant. A barnyard located on the bank of Rice Creek was relocated and the property was renamed Balsam Acres.
 - The BLPRD sponsored a 1996 study to identify options for controlling phosphorus delivery by Rice Creek on the Glenna property (Balsam Acres). A sedimentation pond was identified as the single best option. The study was partially funded by a DNR Lake Management Planning Grant.
 - The BLPRD sponsored a study of phosphorus and sediment loads carried by Rice Creek during 1997-98. This study established current loads and flow ranges for Rice Creek. The study was partially funded by a DNR Lake Management Planning Grant.
 - DNR conducted a study of phosphorus settleability of Rice Creek water in 1997. Settleability was measured for samples collected on 5 dates during that year. Thirty percent phosphorus removal occurred after a 48 hour settling time.
 - The BLPRD hired Cedar Corporation in 1998 to design a sedimentation pond for Rice Creek at Balsam Acres.
 - In 1998, the BLPRD applied for, and received, a DNR Lake Protection Grant to construct a sedimentation pond on Rice Creek. The application contained letters of support from:
 - the Polk County Land Conservation Dept.
 - the Village of Balsam Lake
 - the Village of Milltown
 - Alice Clausing, State Senator
 - Bob Dueholm, State Representative
 - the Indianhead Chapter of Pheasants Forever
 - the Unity School District Board of Education
 - the Town of Georgetown
 - the Town of Apple River
 - Mike Johnson, DNR Wildlife Technician
 - In 1998, the Polk County Land Conservation Dept. applied to DNR for a water regulatory permit to construct a sedimentation pond on Rice Creek.
 - Numerous meetings have been held involving DNR staff, Polk Co. Land Conservation Dept. staff, BLPRD members, Balsam Lake Homeowners Association members, and environmental consulting firm staff to develop and refine plans for the proposed sedimentation pond.

28. List agencies, groups, and individuals contacted regarding

the project (include DNR personnel and title)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
Oct 98	Victoria Dirst, DNR Archeologist	determined that project site had no known archeological sites or historic structures
Jun 98	Rick Cornelius, DNR Fish Biologist Kevin Morgan, DNR Wildlife Biologist	conducted Water Regulation Permit Investigation Report
Jul 97	Rick Cornelius, DNR Fish Biologist	provided information on the fish community of Rice Creek
Dec 98	Chuck Revak, DNR Water Regulation and Zoning Specialist	was informed of the project and will issue chapter 30 permit upon completion of the environmental assessment review
Dec 98	Army Corps of Engineers	received application for 404 permit
Aug 98	Phil Anderson, DNR Polk Co. Sub-Team Supervisor Pete Prusak, DNR Wastewater Engineer Kevin Morgan, DNR Wildlife Biologist Mike Johnson, DNR Wildlife Technician Craig Roesler, DNR Water Resource Specialist Milt Stanze, BLPRD Chairman Allen Dornfield, BLPRD Secretary Polk Co. LCD staff member	
These 8 persons met at the project site to review the plans. All were supportive of the project as long as proper controls were utilized to control sediment inputs to the creek from excavation and storage of soils. The stream bypass, erosion control measures, and placement of excavated materials in a sand pit satisfy the concerns that were expressed.		
Nov 98	Polk Co. Zoning Office	The zoning map for the Town is not at a scale which can be readily reproduced. The project site is zoned agricultural, with the area within 300 feet of Rice Creek also included in a shoreland zoning district.
April 98	Polk Co. Land Conservation Dept.	expressed support
April 98	Bob Dueholm, State Representative	expressed support
April 98	Indianhead Chapter of Pheasants Forever	expressed support
April 98	Unity School District Board of Education	expressed support
April 98	Town of Apple River	expressed support
April 98	Mike Johnson, DNR Wildlife Tech.	expressed support
April 98	Village of Balsam Lake	expressed support
April 98	Village of Milltown	expressed support
April 98	Alice Clausing, State Senator	expressed support
April 98	Town of Georgetown	expressed support

Project Name: RICE CREEK SEDIMENTATION POND

County: POLK

DECISION (this decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s.11.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

29. Complete either A or B below.

A. EIS Process Not Required...../

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion, therefore, an environmental impact state is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

B. Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process...../

The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Signature of Evaluator Craig Roessler Date Signed 12-23-98

Regional Staff Specialist or Bureau Director John Lydyall Date Signed 12-23-98

Copy of news release or other notice attached? YES NO

Number of responses to notice 0

Public response log attached? YES NO

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

Regional Director or Director of ISS (or designee) William Gantz Date Signed 1-13-99

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed.

For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review and does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

Note: Not all Department decisions respecting environmental impact, such as those involving solid waste or hazardous waste facilities under sections 144.43 to 144.47 and 144.60 to 144.74, Stats., are subject to the contested case hearing provisions of section 227.42, Stats.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 227.48(2), Stats.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISION ON THE NEED FOR AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
(FORM 1600-1)

Contact Person: Craig Roesler	Region: Northern
Title: Water Resources Specialist	Type List
Address: Dept. of Natural Resources	Designation:
810 W. Maple St.	NR150.03(8)(f)(1)a
Spooner, WI 54801	NR150.03(7)(a)(1)a
Telephone No.: 715-635-4077	NR150.03(7)(b)(1)a

NOTE TO REVIEWERS: Comments should address completeness, accuracy or the EIS decision. For your comments to be considered, they must be received by the contact person before _____ (time), _____ (date).

Applicant: Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
2218 140th Ave.
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

Title of Proposal: Rice Creek Sedimentation Pond

Location: Polk County, Milltown Township,
E 1/2, NW 1/4, Sec. 28, T35N, R17W

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview)

This project will construct a 3.52 acre sedimentation pond along Rice Creek on Balsam Acres. The basin will include a 2.44 acre active sedimentation area that averages 5 feet deep and a 1.08 acre wetland bench that slopes from 1 to 2 feet. Emergent vegetation on this bench will provide habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, amphibians, and fur-bearers.

2. Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

The City of Milltown discharged poorly treated sewage to Rice Lake for many years. Agricultural non-point source runoff has also contributed to nutrient enrichment of the lake. These sources of nutrient enrichment have been largely controlled. However, Rice Lake, which is very shallow and subject to sediment resuspension, continues to export stored phosphorus and sediment downstream via Rice Creek to Balsam Lake.

Balsam Acres is an eighty acre property owned by the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. Construction of a basin to capture sediment and phosphorus will be the culmination of several years of study and investment in water quality improvements in the Rice Creek drainage to Balsam Lake. Rice Creek at Balsam Acres carries about one quarter of the total phosphorus load to Balsam Lake. This project will result in a

30% reduction of this load, and when combined with other efforts already completed on Balsam Acres, will produce significant improvements in the water quality of Rice Creek and Balsam Lake. It will also improve wildlife habitat along Rice Creek.

3. Authorities and Approvals (list local, state and federal permits or approvals required)

Chapter 30 permit from DNR, and 404 permit from Army Corps of Engineers

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

Cost = \$131,913.50

Funding Source = 75% from a DNR Lake Protection Grant; 25% from the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES (More fully describe the proposal)

5. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yds., etc.)

20,600 cubic yards of soil will be excavated from the site which is primarily a wetland. Surficial soil is organic and subsoils are sands. Excavated soil will be placed in an old sand pit on the Balsam Acres property. This sand pit is internally drained, so no surface runoff can leave the pit. The design and configuration of the pond is shown on attachment C.

6. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs., acre feet, MGD, etc.)

Rice Creek will be widened and deepened at the pond location, as shown in attachment C. The widened and deepened channel section will slow the stream velocity and allow settling and storage of sediment and attached phosphorus. The pond has been designed to prevent any scouring of stored sediment during flood events. Stored sediment will be removed every 10-15 years. Average flow in Rice Creek at the site is 4.5 cfs.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures (include size of facilities, road miles, etc.)

Only temporary access roads will be developed to allow equipment to operate at the site.

8. Emissions and Discharges (include relevant characteristics and quantities)

Some temporary discharge of sediment will occur during construction. Construction is expected to last several days. However, this discharge will be minimized by various sediment

control practices which will be used. These include:

- A temporary streamflow bypass channel to separate streamflow from areas of active excavation
- Silt screens
- Mulching and seeding

Detailed descriptions of these practices are contained in attachment C and H. The long term benefits of sediment capture by the pond will far outweigh any temporary discharge of sediment during construction.

Some noise will also be produced by the excavation and soil trucking process. The construction contract specifies that no work shall be done between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or on Sundays or legal holidays without express written permission of owner.

9. Other Changes

None.

10. Identify the maps, plans, and other descriptive material attached

- Attachment A. County map showing the general area of the project
- Attachment B. USGS topographic map
- Attachment C. Site development plan
- Attachment D. Plat map
- Attachment E. DNR county wetland map
- Attachment G. Water Regulation Permit Investigation Report
- Attachment H. Specifications (for) Balsam Acres Sedimentation Basin
- Attachment I. Assessment of wildlife benefits of project by Mike Johnson, DNR Wildlife Technician
- Attachment ____ Other _____

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT (Describe existing features that may be affected by the proposal)

Information Based On (check all that apply):

- Literature/correspondence (specify major sources)
 - topographic survey of site, contained in attachment C.
 - Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory Map
 - Natural Heritage Inventory
 - Water Regulation Permit Investigation Report
 - Feasibility Study, Glenna Property - Balsam Lake, Mead and Hunt, Inc., January, 1996.
- Personal Contacts (list in item 28)
 - Field Analysis By: Author Other (list in item 28)
 - Past Experience With Site By: Author Other (list

in item 28)

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air)

The excavation site is relatively flat and primarily a wetland. Existing topography is shown in attachment C. 20,600 cubic yards of soil will be excavated from the site and placed in an old sand pit located about 1/2 mile from the excavation site (see attachment C). Surficial soils at the excavation site are organic and subsoils are sands. Soils at the sand pit are sands.

Rice Creek is a small warm-water stream which flows out of Rice Lake which is about 1/2 mile upstream of the site. Rice Lake has an area of 128 acres and a maximum depth of 5.5 feet.

Between Rice Lake and the project site, Rice Creek is generally low-gradient and wetland-fringed. The substrate is primarily muck. Below the project site, the stream gradient increases and sand, gravel, and cobble substrates predominate.

12. Biological (dominant aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species and habitats including threatened/endangered species; wetland amounts, types and hydraulic value)

Vegetation above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) is dominated by grasses, with Kentucky bluegrass, bluejoint grass, canary grass, nettle and goldenrod present. There are a few large willow trees located along the northern edge of the site.

Vegetation below the OHWM includes sedges, canary grass, burreed, cattail, spike rush, yellow water lily, and duckweed.

Wildlife using the area includes frogs, turtles, red-winged blackbirds, wading birds, waterfowl, furbearers, and deer.

The fishery in Rice Creek is primarily forage species, with northern pike possibly present at times.

The bald eagle is the only threatened or endangered species known to use the area. The Natural Heritage Inventory lists eagle sitings in 3 Sections of T35N, R17W. Eagles are occasionally seen at Rice Lake and, at times, they very likely include the upper portion of Rice Creek in their feeding territory.

The 3.52 acre excavation will take place in a wetland (including the stream channel). This wetland area is classified as an E-2-H wetland (emergent/wet meadow - narrow leaved persistent - standing water, palustrine) on the Wisconsin Wetlands Inventory map (attachment E). A hydrologic modifier of "wet soil, palustrine" (K) may be more appropriate, since standing water is generally not present, except within the creek channel. This wetland area is part of a large wetland system which extends between the site and Rice Lake and extends around much of the Rice Lake shoreline.

The wetland at the site currently provides some floodwater storage potential.

13. Cultural

a. Land Use (dominant features and uses including zoning if applicable)

Land use immediately adjacent to the site is ungrazed grassland and wetland. Surrounding land use is primarily agricultural, with some residential use also present.

The area is zoned agricultural, with the area within 300 feet of Rice Creek also included in a shoreland zoning district.

b. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups)

Employment in the immediate area is mostly agricultural. The villages of Balsam Lake, Milltown, and Centuria are within 5 miles of the site, and provide additional employment opportunities for rural residents.

There are no notable ethnic or cultural groups present.

c. Archeological/Historical

There are no known archeological sites or historical structures present at the site (data check done by Victoria Dirst, DNR Archeologist).

14. Other Special Resources (e.g. State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands)

There are no other known special resources present at the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (Probable adverse and beneficial impacts including primary, indirect and secondary impacts)

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

A larger area of open water will be created at the site. This will be visually and aesthetically desirable. The site will be maintained in a natural condition.

Stream temperature is not expected to change significantly. Rice Creek flows out of Rice Lake, so the stream is naturally subject to extensive warming. There is no indication of significant groundwater inflow to the stream between the lake and the site which would lower stream temperatures. Groundwater inflow to Rice Creek does become significant further downstream.

The pond will increase the site's floodwater storage potential, and so will help reduce downstream flood impacts.

Some temporary discharge of sediment will occur during construction. However, measures will be taken to minimize this, and the long term capture of sediment by the pond will far outweigh any small, short-term releases (see item 8, above).

Some limited, temporary discharge of sediment may also occur during the periodic removal of captured sediment. This will be a very small portion of what will be removed from the system.

Temporary noise will also be produced by the excavation and trucking process (see item 8, above).

16. Biological (include impacts to threatened/endangered species)

Capture of phosphorus and sediment by the pond will improve the water quality and reduce the rate of infilling of Balsam Lake. High phosphorus inputs to Balsam Lake are responsible for excessive planktonic algae production which reduces water clarity, creates odors and scums, and results in higher rates of hypolimnetic oxygen depletion. Sediment transported to Balsam Lake results in lake infilling, increases turbidity, and increases the amount of substrate which can support excessive densities of rooted aquatic plants.

Capture of sediment by the pond will result in reduced turbidity and less fine material present in stream substrates downstream in Rice Creek. Reduced turbidity is beneficial to sight feeding fish, and is aesthetically desirable. Cleaner downstream substrate (less fines) will improve habitat for many invertebrates and fish. Stream pools should also maintain greater depths and cleaner substrates, since there will be less fine material for deposition between scouring events. This will improve fish habitat.

The project will result in a change of existing wetland types. The existing wet meadow and shallow stream will be converted to a shallow marsh (1.08 acres) and a shallow (< 6 ft.), open water area (2.44 acres). Portions of the open water area are likely to support submergent aquatic vegetation.

It is expected the completed project will improve, and in some instances restore, habitat for herptiles such as leopard frogs, blue-spotted salamanders, Blandings and painted turtles. Restored herp populations will attract great blue and green herons, mink, racoons, and river otters. It is also expected the project will improve breeding, nesting, and migratory habitat for many bird species including mallards, spotted sandpipers, wood ducks, greater yellowlegs, tree swallows, and others (see attachment I).

The project is likely to have a positive effect on bald eagles, since it will enhance the site as a feeding area.

The project will create deep pool habitat on Rice Creek which currently does not exist. This could potentially increase the diversity of fish species utilizing the creek. It is likely to provide improved habitat for sport fish and may provide recreational sport fishing opportunity.

17. Cultural

a. Land Use (include indirect and secondary impacts)

No cultural land use impacts are expected.

b. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups and

zoning if applicable)

No impacts are expected.

c. Archeological/Historical

No impacts are expected. There are no known archeological sites or historical structures present at the site.

18. Other Special Resources (e.g. State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands)

No impacts are expected.

19. Summary of Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided (more fully discussed in 15 through 18)

3.52 acres of existing wet meadow and stream channel will be converted to other wetland types - 1.08 acres of shallow marsh, and 2.44 acres of shallow (<6 ft) open water.

Some sediment discharge to Rice Creek will occur during the excavation process, although measures will be taken to keep this to a minimum.

Some noise will be generated during the excavation process.

ALTERNATIVES (No action - enlarge - reduce - modify - other locations and/or methods)

20. Identify, describe and discuss feasible alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts. Give particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.

The existing project plan was developed because it was felt to be the best alternative with the least impact. A variety of alternatives were considered earlier.

One proposal was to construct an outlet control structure for Rice Lake and to de-water the lake to consolidate sediment. This approach would have produced far greater environmental impacts.

The construction of a dam on Rice Creek to create a pond was also considered. This option was not chosen because it would have obstructed fish passage and navigation on the stream and would have created a long term need for dam maintenance.

Two other options for creating a temporary bypass of Rice Creek flow during pond excavation were also considered. One

option was to use pumps to bypass water. This was judged to be less desirable since it was an active system subject to mechanical failure. The cost of having a second back-up pump on site was prohibitive.

The other bypass option considered was to excavate the pond in halves and use an impermeable curtain to separate the halves and prevent flow-through in the area of active excavation. There appeared to be more risks associated with this method, especially since work is likely to be done in Winter when ice formation could be a problem.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE

21. Significance of Environmental Effects

- a. Would the proposed project or related activities substantially change the quality of the environment (physical, biological, socio-economic)? Explain.

The net effect of the project on environmental quality is felt to be positive. 3.52 acres of existing wet meadow will be converted to other wetland types. However, wet meadow is a common wetland type in this geographic area, and the conversion is felt to enhance the existing wetland system.

- b. Discuss the significance of short-term environmental effects of the proposed project including secondary effects; particularly to geographically scarce resources such as historic or cultural resources, scenic and recreational resources, prime agricultural lands, threatened or endangered species or ecologically sensitive areas. (The reversibility of an action affects the extent or degree of impact)

The project will have positive benefits for Rice Creek and Balsam Lake (recreational resources). An area of existing wetlands will be converted to other wetland types which are likely to enhance the existing wetland system.

22. Significance of Cumulative Effects

Discuss the significance of reasonably anticipated cumulative effects on the environment. Consider cumulative effects from repeated projects of the same type. What is the likelihood that similar projects would be repeated? Would the cumulative effects be more severe or substantially change the quality of the environment? Include other activities planned or proposed in the area that would compound effects on the environment.

Since the project is felt to produce a net environmental benefit, cumulative effects from repeated projects would also be beneficial.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
NORTHERN REGION HEADQUARTERS
810 W MAPLE, SPOONER, WI 54801
PHONE: 715/635-2101
FAX: 715/635-4105

EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS: The department of Natural Resource's administrative code for the environmental impact process makes provision for public comment and review of all Environmental Assessments. This short news release is designed to sketch the proposed action and provide public contact information. Your usage of this item is vital to public notification. Use of the last three paragraphs in this release in their entirety would be appreciated.

The Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has made application to the Department of Natural Resources to excavate a 3.52 acre sedimentation pond in the bed of Rice Creek and adjacent wetlands. The project is located in Section 28, Township 35 North, Range 17 West, within the Town of Milltown. The purpose of the project is to improve water quality and reduce sediment loading of Rice Creek and Balsam Lake by capturing sediments that contain phosphorous and other nutrients. About 20,600 cubic yards of soil will be excavated from the site and disposed of in an abandoned sand pit onsite.

Before the proposed withdrawal can be approved, an opportunity for public review and comment must be provided. This notification ensures the chance for public input on the proposal.

The proposed sediment detention pond is not anticipated to cause significant adverse environmental effects. The Department has made a preliminary determination that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required for this action. This recommendation does not represent approval from other DNR sections which may also require review of the withdrawal. Specific information about the project can be obtained from Craig Roesler, Department of Natural Resources, 810 West Maple Street, Spooner, WI 54801-0160 or 715-635-4077.

Comments on the proposed withdrawal are welcome and should be received by Mr. Roesler no later than 4:30 p.m., January 11, 1999. Comments may be submitted either verbally or in written form.