

From: Don Button <dkbutton@alaska.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2016 4:27 PM
To: Simonsen, Jonathan M - DNR
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Wild Restoration; DNR request for comment.

Hi Jon

More than ten years ago I set out to understand what is happening to the wild rice. Asking the natives pollution and boating, was among the suggested reasons; nothing seemed definitive.

Literature indicated nitrogen limitation. I discovered N was ineffective along with rice straw and bioturbation as also suggested in the literature. Test enclosures indicated phosphorus was the problem in Big Sand, Burnett County. Big Sand had been converted to a seepage lake mostly without inlet or outlet.

Working with the Tribe, they did three major annual seedings in the West Bay. All failed at the floating phase giving the characteristic red color of phosphorus deficiency.

Two or three small beds persisted with good stands near shore. on the east side. Also a little rice would grow in sand beaches.

Seeding on the west end had marginal success but the seedings were too small to survive the geese and muskrats.

Worked with the tribe to get better drainage under Sand Creek Road. Now two years after the last tribal seeding, I note a little rice

emerged in the West Bay with rice in the floating phase that is green not red.

Calculations indicate current flow of about one mile per hour maximizes nutrient transfer by diffusion, a likely explanation of greening in the floating phase and the rice growing in the sand. Am checking but expect resident geese, beaver, and muskrats will get it all this year. Seeding will produce six foot stands in the west bay with a little supplementary phosphorus.

Conclusions are that the main reason for the demise of wild rice is the grid of roads that surround most lakes. The second problem is the large number of migrating geese called in by the new switch to growing corn for ethanol. Third is lake level control for drainage lakes that reduces suitable habitat.

I suspect that rice could be restored in Big Sand with sufficiently large seedings if surface drainage were to be restored from wetlands to the east that has been diverted from Yellow to Clam rivers. This has been sad to have been done but I have not seen the evidence. It is certain

that Big Sand was a flowage lake around 1950 but probably not during the dust bowl days. Useful but not large quantities of rice were harvested prior to 1950.

I am interested in facilitating the return of wild rice as a component of the Big Sand Lake Association, working with the Chippewa, Tribe, to improve the health of Big Sand by with increased biodiversity.

There is some resistance to wild rice from some property owners but Big Sand has never been a big producer and I am claiming that overrunning with rice is unlikely because it did not happen in earlier times. The only major bed was on the populated north side and this was lost by removing macrophytes along the shore. Amazing!

Some of this is discussed in the current Sand Lake Observer..Aspects are discussed in earlier issues as well which I believe are also posted.

I am pleased to see this initiative, fully support it, and stand ready with technical assistance as required.



D. K. Button
Big Sand Lake Preservation Association

██████████
Professor of Marine Science and Biochemistry Emeritus
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

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████████████████████

From: Mariquita Sheehan <mashee@co.vilas.wi.us>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2016 9:49 AM
To: Simonsen, Jonathan M - DNR
Subject: Wild Rice Strategic Analysis List

Hello Jon,
Under the category:

Water quality standards related to wild rice associated with different forms of development
Analysis of the effects of shoreline development, specifically loss of shoreland buffer, on wild rice productivity.

Thank you,

Quita

Mariquita Sheehan
Conservation Specialist
Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Dept.
330 Court Street
Eagle River, WI, 54521
Phone: 715.479.3721
Fax: 715.479.3627
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"Change is Nature's Delight" Emperor Marcus

Aurelius

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2016 8:49 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: stop the nonsense of Use-Value assessing

I'm a Retired Property Tax Assessor.....if you own water frontage with wild rice on it, you will be taxed at full value on your land. But your property taxes will be eliminated if you plant and cultivate cranberries, or introduce cattle, goats, llamas, etc to your water frontage. If you really want evidence for the court or changing the mind of the assessor, open up some bags of fertilizer and spread it on the land you want property taxes reduced on...don't worry about zoning, a zoning determination makes no difference in Use-Value.

40% of Wisconsin's land is agriculture, 40% of that agriculture land is not even zoned agriculture, but it still receives the property tax breaks. Actually, over 1/2 the taxable land in Wisconsin has lowered property taxes because of Use-Value assessing. Also later introduced and passed was the classification 5M...giving additional property tax breaks to agriculture owners on their wooded land, consequently pushing the 40% to over 1/2 the taxable land in Wisconsin that receives reduced property values. It also pushes higher taxes on homeowners, and in Wisconsin the school system is blamed for everything, so don't worry about pissing off the neighbor.

In my years assessing, I often engaged in getting new assessors to pass the assessor exam. I often liked to use our absurd and environmentally unsound system in making them think about property taxes. Question; A rented canoe is in the water, a rented manure spreader is also in the water and finally a rented skidsteer is working the bank... So which one of the three receives a personal property tax bill?Answer: the canoe. Agriculture and Logging Equipment are exempt, rented canoes and kayaks are not.....I then explain on how tree planters are taxable, but tree cutting machines are considered logging and they are exempt.

George Meyers once said "Conservation Practices that have been around for 100 years no longer exist," he wasn't talking about Scott Walker or Cathy Stepp. He was referring to ridiculous implementation of Use-Value assessing. There are many politicians out there that believe, zoning or smart growth planning is what determines how we use our land.....I can stand on a soap box all day long and point out growth areas in the State of Wisconsin that are happening because of property tax breaks, whether the give-away is a TIF District, Use-Value Assessing or recreational land that does not pay full value property taxes.

Trust me, land owners are more concerned about their property taxes than wild rice.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 10:22 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Wild rice and treaty obligations

Sir or Madam,

I am an acupuncturist registered in WI. I am concerned with the health maintenance of our population. Wild rice is an important food source for native and non native people. It required clean and abundant water for proper growth and harvest. The persistent and destructive reliance on oil is a constant threat to our water resources. We have already moved beyond reliance on Oil based technology and must act to curtail the extraction and transport of this poison. Please do all in your capacity to make our world safe for the future.
Act to eliminate oil trains and pipelines and protect water in treaty and non treaty areas.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 1:56 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Wild Rice Management

Any issue related to wild rice seems to be resolved in the interests of native Americans in the ceded territories. A more balanced approach such as an allowable harvest proportionally shared between native Americans and others seems appropriate.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 10:28 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Public comment

Hi,

I feel wild rice is very important to Wisconsin because of its importance it should be protected and restored.

Water quality is of supreme importance to wild rice, therefore the needs of wild rice should supersede that of development and other sources of pollution. Water levels at dams should be set for the needs of wild rice. Invasive species should be controlled in rice waters. Motorized boats banned in rice beds.

By protecting and restoring rice beds, our environment will continue to have clean water and air, aquatic habitats will improve, high quality forage will be available for a variety of wild life, and an important cultural resource will be honored.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad mini

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 3:16 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Topics for consideration and resolution

1) The loss of rice lakes: in close proximity to my home there are 2 major historical rice producing lakes that are almost completely void of rice. This occurred in the past few years. WHY? We need to research the reason for such decline. In addition there are several other lakes that were known to produce rice in the past but quit producing years ago. Speculation includes beaver activity resulting in water level changes and dredging which may have changed the flow patterns?

2) Regaining rice production in lakes that have quit producing: How do we do it? Aquatic vegetation control? Seeding? Water level control? Aggressive beaver control?

3) In recent years the conservation wardens have abrogated their responsibilities in managing rice waters by not being involved in assigning opening dates or enforcing current regulations, especially relating to ricing hours. The WDNR needs to again become active in promoting the health and harvest of wild rice.

4) There have been recent changes in the open/close cycle on regulating days of harvesting of wild rice (ie open 1 day& closed for 2, vs. continuous openings.) There needs to be more study and discussion of the impact of these changes on the health and harvest rate on regulated beds.

5) The laws relating to the harvest of wild rice should probably be reviewed and perhaps changed.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 8:20 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Spur Lake, Oneida County

Considerations for Seeding and Restoring Wild Rice Beds

- Spur Lake went from a premier wild rice water to nothing in a five (5) year period.
- Hydrology changes raised water levels after culvert replacements and ditching of East Stella Lake Road.
- Beaver activity downstream blamed, but not totally to blame. Find the problem and correct it.
- Excess muskrat trapping wiped out the muskrats, which utilize lily pad tubers. Consider a trapping ban.
- Spur Lake is now predominantly lily pads that lessen sunlight penetration which is needed to germinate dormant rice seeds.
- Consider some method of herbicide application to limit lily pad growth.

What has happened to this lake is a shame.

Submitted By

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:09 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: White lake

My husband and I live on White Lake, it is our permanent year round home, in the past three years we have watched the increase of the rice and feel it is spreading way too fast and taking over the lake. There is no one harvesting it, in some areas it is taking over the boating lanes, and swimming area, or what used to be swimming areas. It is our opinion that the rice is out of control and needs to be taken care of, we really don't want the rice to continue to spread, nor do we want the lake to turn into a rice field.
Thank you
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 9:21 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Factors That Affect Growth of Wild Rice

Among the above factors I'd like to see you emphasize the role of seed bank replenishment and substrate disturbance in the fecundity of wild rice beds. Beds are very difficult to restore w/o repetitive and heavy seeding and I suspect heritage beds retain viability better because of high re-seeding rates.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:59 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Scope of Study for Wild Rice

Hi Jon! I'm still alive and kicking... lol. Read the news release regarding the Wild Rice Strategic Analysis and took a look at the list of topics. I have been ricing for the last 10-15 years and will be interested in following the process.

I mainly looked at the scope topics to make sure that the "reseeding" or seeding new waters was one of the topics. Although I recognize the value of wild rice, I also have seen where some lakes or flowages have become so overgrown, the lakeshore owner's use of the lake for recreation became extremely limited. I looks like you will include that in your analysis.

I would also like to suggest that the process and timeliness of opening wild rice waters up for harvest should be included in the analysis.

Hope things are going well for you, Jon! Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 1:23 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Whiate Lake in Weyauwega

Hi DNR

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a resident on White lake for 11 years. The rice grass problem in White Lake is out of control. Over the last 10 years I have seen acres of navigable water being reduced by rice grass and other weeds. The association has done great work in tackling the exotic weed problem, but the rice grass is thick and spreading at an alarming rate. It has become a danger to swimmers, tubers, and jet skiers who become tangled in the mesh of vegetation. The association is in an ongoing battle to harvest the channel lanes but the spread of rice grass is overwhelming. Now not even the channels are cleared. Look at every channel (north, south, east and west) and it is plain to see the spread is taking acres of open water away. Take a look at satellite images from just a few years ago. The entire lake is being choked spreading in all directions. The north channel is thick with rice grass, I understand the aerator had to be moved. The east and west channels are so thick with weeds, even kayak and canoes have to wrestle with pulling weeds off their paddles. The West shore continues to intrude into the boat launch lane and the turn from West to South is continuing to become narrower and narrower as the grass continues to spread. I do not know if the rumor is accurate but my understanding is the rice grass isn't even native to the lake. Someone who enjoys duck hunting planted it and it has been spreading ever since.

My wish is the association(s) are allowed to control the rice grass with the help of the DNR. I would like to see:

- Stop the overall spread
- Push back the weeds along all shore lines – perhaps keeping the growth centered on the lake.
- Clear 100' of channel space throughout the lake.
- Specifically reclaim acreage on the West and East shores.
- Would it help to raise the DAM?

I love White Lake and do want rice grass to thrive as I am aware of its benefits to fowl and fish but without a measure of control we will lose this lake

Thank you for your time

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: Robert Rehm <jrrehm@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:33 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Cc: Johnson, Ted M - DNR
Subject: Wild Rice Management Strategic Analysis

July 13, 2016

On behalf of the DNR Subcommittee of the White Lake Preservation Association (WLPA) in Waupaca County, we would like to respond to the June 20, 2016 call for comments regarding the DNR "Wild Rice Management Strategic Analysis." WLPA and White Lake property owners would like to call attention to the overabundance and rapid spreading of wild rice on our lake.

The following items from the draft list of wild rice topics may be relevant to the WLPA position regarding wild rice on White Lake:

- Wild rice harvest regulations, monitoring, and trends
- Competing recreational uses of wild rice waters
- Wild rice management issues considering long term environmental trends

White Lake is a 1,064-acre lake located in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. The White Lake Preservation Association was founded in 1985 as a non-profit corporation. Its primary purpose is to maintain water quality and control excessive weed growth to make White Lake a more desirable recreational destination for those people living adjacent to the lake, lake property owners, and all users of White Lake.

White Lake is characterized by extensive areas of cane and reeds plus wide spread thick growth of indigenous underwater weeds. We live with the reality of lake weeds and depend on our weed harvester keeping boat lanes open for duck hunters, fishing enthusiasts, and pleasure boating, including tubing or jet skiing.

Witnesses watched wild rice being planted in White Lake a few decades ago as a way to improve duck hunting at the west end of the lake. It took two years for the rice to "take". Since then beds of wild rice are spreading across the lake and growing in size. It is making areas of the lake that had been clear unpleasant for recreation. Wild rice is adding to the percentage of unusable area of White Lake.

We are expressing the legitimate concern of White Lake property owners who worry about the unchecked expansion of wild rice beds. We would like to take part in a plan for wild rice reduction on White Lake.

We recognize the value of wild rice for wildlife, however, we strongly believe that White Lake provides a favorable habitat even without the nonnative wild rice. May we suggest that as part of the strategic analysis, a report is published that includes data regarding why the

wild rice is being protected on White Lake and whether anyone has applied for permits to harvest wild rice on White Lake.

Thank you,

Judi Rehm
Representing the WLPD DNR Subcommittee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:52 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Wild Rice

I am writing in regards to wild rice management. I realize the importance of the plant as habitat and food for various species. I appreciate the use of wild rice by the native americans and the natural harvesting process that must be used. However, our 1100 acre lake is not on the rice harvesting circuit, and if rice growth is allowed to continue without restraint, our lake will be a swamp before too long. Every year it spreads more on both ends of the lake, and some homeowners have lost access to the lake as the rice takes over.

It seems as if the rice management plan must have accommodations for lakes like ours which support both duck hunting and boating, swimming, tubing, sailing and other aquatic activities. The hunting only lasts a few weeks of the year but the lake homeowners would like to have clear access to the lake, and the total acreage should not be allowed to shrink without evaluation. Our lake association harvester cuts weeds in the boat lane, but that is a small portion of the lake. Cutting rice is not allowed. Folks have been complaining here on White Lake for years about the "wild" rice, apparently "planted" by resident hunters seeking to improve lake hunting. I think there is more than enough wild rice for all, and lake homeowners would be molified if rice growth could be curtailed and even cut back.

The DNR Wild Rice management plan must take into account lakes like ours, with respect given to lake homeowners as well as the rice beds. There must be some balance and not just laws protecting wild rice at all costs.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Johnson, Ted M - DNR
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2016 8:40 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Cc: Fries, Jacob J - DNR; McLennan, Robin - DNR; Niebur, Alan D - DNR
Subject: RE: Wild Rice Management Strategic Analysis

FYI

As a follow up to this letter; wild rice is indigenous to White Lake. The belief that it was recently introduced is not true. Please call if you have questions.

I am the lake biologist for Waupaca County.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Ted M. Johnson

Phone: (920) 424-2104

e-mail: tedm.johnson@wi.gov

From: Robert Rehm [<mailto:jrrehm@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 3:33 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Cc: Johnson, Ted M - DNR
Subject: Wild Rice Management Strategic Analysis

July 13, 2016

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Thank you,

Judi Rehm
Representing the WLPA DNR Subcommittee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2016 7:05 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: ATTN: Jon Simonsen - Wild Rice comments regarding topics chosen for Strategic Analysis .

I personally consider wild rice the most dynamic of all wild plant species in northern WI and I wish that more effort would be put into utilizing the positive dynamic qualities of wild rice to benefit Wisconsin.

Thank You to the WI DNR for efforts to further improve the knowledge base for issues concerning Wild Rice.

Listed below are additional comments regarding the WI DNR list of topics considered for strategic analysis:

- Drawdowns of flowages too early in growing stage of wild rice could prevent wild rice from getting established strong enough to produce seed ?
- Routine drawdowns of wildlife management flowages could often become more intensively dry than is ideal for majority of plant animal species and might have become more of a habit than necessity? Many drawdowns of flowages within WI wildlife management areas are conducted with water flow structure kept wide open for much of growing season, which might NOT have as much of a beneficial effect on the whole of animal and plant communities – total draw down allow flowages to be more easily ignored, which might bias decision to let out maximum amount of water? There is a question whether total flowage drawdowns actually provide the most beneficial effects for game and non-game species or are wide open draw downs less beneficial to wild rice and the rest of species using flowages that are intentionally dried up ?
- Shoreline owners unnecessarily removing all wild rice along their entire shoreline? Property owners whose property boundary extends out under wild rice bed claiming all control ownership of wild rice bed within their property boundary?
- Allowing higher water levels while wild rice is growing during submergent stages which could help with stronger establishment of new wild rice bed by helping to keep tips of wild rice leaves submergent, while leaves grow more length and density prior to emergence. The extended submergent growth could then be complimented with controlled water level drop to provide longer and denser floating leaves that could secure stronger wild rice growth with less chance of stunting growth through wildlife clipping tender emergent leaf tip growth above water surface?
- Information pamphlet to help all wild rice harvesters make this experience of gathering wild rice enjoyable for all harvesters. Develop a pamphlet and/or website through WIDNR/GLIFWC providing visual aid for use in: learning history, cultural significance, methods for scouting potential harvesting location, examples of stages in pistillate spikelet growth on panicles up to and past ripe, outline of steps to take prior, during,

and after harvest, harvesting techniques, conflict avoidance with other harvesters, storing and processing wild rice, etc. ?

- Monitor influence of commercial wild rice growing operations in potentially cross pollinating undesirable traits into true wild rice genetic structure.
- Use of genetic information gathered from established wild rice to decide on best combinations of wild rice sowing for initiating and restoring wild rice beds and the avoiding wild rice seed sources with prevalent invasive plant and invasive aquatic animal species - to avoid spread of invasive species into more pristine waters?

Thank You for the opportunity to contribute,

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████████████████

██████████

████████████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2016 8:23 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: wild rice management strategic analysis

Thank you for the opportunity to address the wild rice management strategic analysis.

I have been ricing on and off since the early 70s and have harvested and processed. After a long hiatus I have been harvesting again for the past 5 years.

I check the GLIFWC webpage and faithfully fill out the surveys.

Knowing that the crop is natural and dependent on many variables as such. I have report beaver dams that were then removed. Other things like floating bogs can raise the water and then the rice won't grow. Also a creek that flow into the Namekagen River is getting more and more crowded out by what appears to be an aquatic nightshade. It would be nice to have a DNR resource to be able to report these to for a quicker resolution.

I also have friends from out-of-state that would like to rice. It would be nice to have a one or two day permit for them. Many of them are historical fur trade reenactors that would appreciate it.

Of course wild rice is dependent on clean water, which should be an emphasis any way.

Again thanks for the opportunity,

[REDACTED]
Chippewa Falls, WI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 9:03 AM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Subject: Wild Rice - White Lake Waupaca County

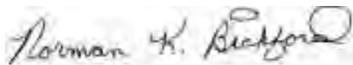
As a resident and owner of property on Whit Lake, I feel that the DNR needs to allow our lake association to control the rapid spread of wild rice in our lake. This was originally a wonderful fishing and recreational lake. It now looks like a marsh due to the rice that was planted by a property owner many years ago. The rice is overtaking the lake, and does not even allow for boats to travel through the lake. The rice and excessive weeds get into boat motors and this lake is looking like a marsh, which was not the case 25 years ago. The rice was not native to the lake, but was planted by one individual who had no idea that this would spread and destroy a 10000 acre lake for everyone else. Please consider allowing our association to weed harvest or use chemicals to decrease the rice and weeds which are destroying our lake.

From: Jane Severt <wcfa@frontier.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 3:32 PM
To: DNR Wild Rice SA
Cc: Gary Zimmer; Barkley, Jeffrey D - DNR; Fleener, Jason L - DNR; 'Peterson, Mike'; Norm Bickford
Subject: wild rice SA draft list of topics

Please accept this input from Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) regarding the proposed list of topics for Wisconsin's wild rice management strategic analysis. WCFA's Executive Director serves as a current member of Wisconsin's Wild Rice Advisory Committee and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this stage of SA development.

- The press release inviting comments regarding the proposed list of topics stresses the importance of wild rice as a food source to "waterfowl and many of Wisconsin's wildlife species". Yet, the significance of wild rice to wildlife species appears to be absent in the list of topics. WCFA recommends including a topic specifically addressing the significance of wild rice to Wisconsin's wildlife.
- WCFA's 29 member counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of public lands in Wisconsin, the largest public land base in the state. Therefore, we look forward to continued participation as Wisconsin's wild rice management strategic analysis is developed.

If we can be of further assistance at this time, or if you have questions regarding this input, please do not hesitate to contact our office
Thank you



Norman K. Bickford, President
Wisconsin County Forests Association



Jane F. Severt, Executive Director
Wisconsin County Forests Association

Jane Severt



Jane F. Severt
Executive Director
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