

Staples Lake Aquatic Plant Harvesting Plan Summary

May 2016

The Staples Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District completed an aquatic plant harvesting plan to meet state requirements of NR 107. The plan includes information about the lake, its watershed, water quality, and the fish in the lake. It describes the plants that are present and summarizes their benefits.

Native aquatic plants are very important to the lake. They provide a diversity of habitats, help maintain water quality, sustain fish populations, and support common lakeshore wildlife such as loons and frogs. Native aquatic plants also provide a line of defense against invasion by non-native species like Eurasian Water Milfoil.

The harvesting plan allows native plants to continue to provide these functions while allowing navigation in common channels around the lake. Funding for harvester purchase and operations is provided by a special assessment from Barron County owners within the district boundaries. Voluntary contributions are also sought from owners who live in Polk County. Harvesting costs are kept low by having volunteer operators and maintenance.

A permit must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources each year. The permit includes a map of harvesting channels and designates plant disposal locations. Because the permit is submitted well in advance of harvesting operation, new harvesting sites may not be added until the following year. Harvesting is permitted only in areas of the lake that are 3 feet and deeper to establish common navigation channels.



Staples Lake Harvesting Channels 2016

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