



March 29, 2018

Trish Carlson
Lotus Lake Association
896 207th Street
Dresser, WI 54009

Subject: Lotus Lake Management Plan Approval Request

Dear Ms. Carlson,

This letter is to notify the Lotus Lake Association that the 2018-2022 Lotus Lake Management Plan meets the criteria of NR 191.45 and thus the Wisconsin DNR has approved the Plan. Management activities identified in the Plan under Goals 2 through 4 are eligible for funding under Administrative Code chapters NR 190, NR 191, and NR 198 subject to the eligibility requirements of those programs. Activities listed under Goal 1 are partially approved for funding. Specifically, the following Goal 1 activities are eligible for DNR Fisheries Program funds and/or Surface Waters Grants opportunities subject to the requirements of those funding sources and all applicable permits:

- Objective C, Activity 4 – Stock bluegill and gamefish to sustain a reduced carp population and/or replenish Lotus Lake fishery in the case of rotenone
- Objective C, Activity 6 – Maintain the aerator to prevent winterkill of bluegills and gamefish (solar)
- Objective D, Activity 1 – Determine number of marked fish removed from Lotus Lake to estimate population reductions and develop a mark recapture population estimate
- Objective D, Activity 3 – Use existing population data to inform the need for future removal efforts to keep carp populations below 89 pounds/acre (100 kg/hectare)

The following activities listed under Goal 1 may be implemented if they are funded by the Lotus Lake Association or some other outside entity, and they meet all applicable permit requirements:

- Objective A, Activity 1 – Remove carp through commercial fishing or contracted seining (***would require a dedicated net for Lotus Lake***)
- Objective A, Activity 2 – Remove carp through targeted harvesting (electrofishing/box netting) as allowed by regulations
- Objective A, Activity 3 – Organize a carp fishing tournament on Lotus Lake
- Objective A, Activity 5 – Eradicate carp with chemical piscicides such as rotenone
- Objective A, Activity 6 – Build a modified seine for use in Horse and Lotus Lakes to eliminate the potential spread of invasive species (modify mesh size, roller size, density, and weight)
- Objective B, Activity 1 – Radio tag/monitor carp to determine locations and formation of population aggregates (10 high frequency radio tags, monitoring weekly for 12 wks/yr)
- Objective B, Activity 2 – Determine spawning locations for the Lotus Lake carp population
- Objective B, Activity 3 – Determine movement of carp between Horse Lake, Lotus Lake, and surrounding wetlands
- Objective B, Activity 4 – Determine locations for the installation of carp barriers
- Objective C, Activity 1 – Install carp barriers to limit carp movement into and out of Lotus Lake (cost for fixed grate barrier at the culverts crossing the Stowers Trail) (***Since barriers will limit native fish movement as well, barriers should be installed only after the carp population is reduced to the goal of 89 pounds per acre***)

- Objective C, Activity 2 – PIT (passive integrated transponder) tag carp and northern pike to confirm movement observed anecdotally and through radio telemetry to dictate timing and location of barrier installation
- Objective C, Activity 3 – Install a rotating drum or vertical barrier at the Lotus Lake outlet and a fixed grate at the Horse Lake Inlet (*Since barriers will limit native fish movement as well, barriers should be installed only after the carp population is reduced to the goal of 89 pounds per acre*)
- Objective C, Activity 5 – Stock bluegill in wetlands that serve as nursery ground for spawning carp
- Objective D, Activity 4 – Complete late summer/early fall trap netting to confirm nursery sites on Lotus Lake, Horse Lake, and in the wetlands (3 sites with 3 net nights/site)
- Objective E, Activity 3 – Evaluate a carp-proof enclosure to provide a pilot demonstration of what Lotus Lake could look like without carp

The following are Goal 1 activities that the Department does not approve:

- Objective A, Activity 1 – Remove carp through commercial fishing or contracted seining *if there is not a dedicated net for Lotus Lake*
- Objective A, Activity 4 – Consider experimental options including: species specific pathogens/viruses, poisoned corn, pheromone lure traps, water level manipulations, modified fish genes, etc.
- Objective D, Activity 2 – Determine carp population estimates if suspected carp population changes using the electrofishing catch per unit effort (*not needed if there is a mark-recapture population estimate*)

Furthermore, the Department must certify that all proposed projects recommended in an approved plan comply with the provisions of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA). This certification could involve additional public informational meetings or other environmental assessment action.

Thanks to you and the lake community for your planning efforts for Lotus Lake. Carp management will be an ongoing, laborious process to reduce the carp populations down to the goal of 89 pounds per acre. We look forward to working with you and the Lotus Lake Association to protect and improve Lotus Lake and the surrounding watershed.

Sincerely,



Alex Smith
Lake Biologist

CC: Aaron Cole, Mark Hazuga, Jeff Kampa, Alison Mikulyuk – DNR
Katelin Anderson – Polk County LWRD