

By Lee Evans
Loon Lake LMD Chairman

Over the last three years, the Loon Lake Management District (LMD), under the direction of Stevens County, has been working with the Washington State Department of Ecology following the guidelines of a Water Quality Aquatic Invasive Plant Funding Agreement (Grant). DOEs overall goal for this grant is

“To maximize efforts to identify and implement the most effective treatment for this new, hybrid strain of water milfoil on Loon Lake and prevent its spread to other regional water bodies.”

The final Task (#5) of our grant is a lake-wide application with the suggested herbicide from Grant Tasks #3 and #4.

It has been determined (from Grant Tasks #3 and #4) that the best available technology is a chemical called ProcellaCOR. Some of the benefits of this chemical include

- Lower costs
- Low volume use rates
- No swimming, fishing, or human potable water restrictions
- No turf irrigation restriction

This herbicide is a systemic product that is selective for Eurasian Milfoil and hybrid strains of aquatic weed. "Reduced Risk" herbicides are a new class of products recognized by the US EPA in February of 2018. The EPA issued registration of ProcellaCOR, the new reduced risk aquatic herbicide, to this category because it has a better environmental profile than current registered products. It also has the fastest uptake time of any of the aquatic herbicides available, which was also proven in our study, making it more effective in high water exchange environments. Applicators have been able to use this technology for over a year in other states. In addition, one or two pints of this product replaces between 200 and 400 pounds of 2,4D, reducing the amount of herbicide needed.

Ecology felt, however, that the NPDES permit required an amendment. Initially, the Department was going to delay amending the permit until the next permit cycle some years in the future. After considerable public input to DOE, last summer they agreed to move ahead with a permit amendment. The public comment period on this closed in December, over 4 months ago. This permit was promised to be available for use in May of 2019. We recently found out that because of priorities within the Department it will be delayed until July 5, 2019, or maybe longer. The original May approval would have allowed the LMD to complete the grant requirements and meet the June 30, 2019 deadline.