

Spring/Summer 2018
Milfoil Report
by Lee Evans LMD Chairman

For over two decades, Loon Lake property owners have self-funded our Lake Management District to target Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive aquatic lake plants. In the twenty plus years of treatment which included bottom barriers and diver removal in the early days to herbicide treatment of over 100 acres of plants scattered around the shallow areas of the lake. In the past several years 2015 and 2016 it became apparent we were losing ground despite Best Management Practices to control our milfoil. In the fall of 2016 nine samples from various treatment zones were sent for DNA analysis. Results for all nine samples confirmed a hybrid cross of Eurasian and Northern Milfoil a strain that's proven extremely challenging and commonly 2,4-D tolerant.

This new discovery in 2016 led our Lake Management District, with the help of Stevens County and Aquatechnex, to write a grant proposal applying for and receiving a Water Quality Aquatic Invasive Plant Funding Agreement thru the Washington State Department of Ecology for \$75,000, and a \$25,000 matching grant from our LMD, for a total of \$100,000. The DOE goal is to develop an aggressive treatment strategy to keep Loon Lake from becoming a hybrid seed source for other regional waterbodies. This hybrid water milfoil poses a greater threat than Eurasian Milfoil, a class B noxious weed in Washington State.

We are now in year two of our three year study. The summer and fall of 2017 was spent gathering samples for DNA analysis at Montana State University and samples for growing at the University of North Carolina with the purpose of determining the best possible chemical herbicide's that will identify the Optimize Contact Exposure Time (CET) necessary to aggressively kill the plant and the plant roots. The study results are nearing completion which will allow us to take the next step to control our Loon Lake hybrid milfoil. However, new to Loon Lake the hybrid plant has been around for some time. While attending the North West Regional Lake conference last year the topic of hybrid milfoil was addressed with Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho having five different types of hybrid milfoil requiring five different treatment methods. Fortunately all hybrid milfoil plants from Loon Lake are the same species.

The Loon Lake LMD Advisory Board will be looking for new members this season. We have had several members resign and several members have moved from the area. Your advisory board members are Barry Smith from the Granite Point area, Denny Drinkard Silver Beach, Jim Nimnicht Larson Beach, Daryl Howe Carlson Bay and Lee Evans North Shore. If you have an interest please let us know. We can have as many as 9 board members. Board meetings are the second Monday of the month 6:30 pm in the basement of the old school house. All are welcome and we value your input.

An FYI: this is the last year of our current five-year LMD tax assessment. Our board feels it will be necessary to continue with an additional 5 year milfoil commitment at the same tax rate with no tax increase necessary. Your milfoil assessment ballot will be on its way later in the year.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.