

Recommended Implementation, Funding, and Priority Plan for the Big Cheta

Goals/Objectives/Actions		Priority Level
Maintain and/or improve water quality in Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch lakes to make them more appealing, more attractive for recreation, and better able to support a healthy fishery.		
Reduce the combined nutrient loading from all sources by 18% (from 11,748lbs to 9,639lbs) based on 2010 CLMP numbers		
A	Work with property owners adjacent to the lakes to reduce the amount of impervious surface and lawns in the nearshore area.	Hi
B	Work with property owners adjacent to the lakes to maintain septic system and gray water compliance on all riparian properties according to the Sawyer County Private Sewage System Ordinance (2011)	Md
C	Identify and support implementation of watershed best management practices related to agriculture, forestry, and mining that will reduce runoff and minimize the nutrient loading into Big Chetac and Birch Lakes.	Hi
D	CLP bedmapping and management	Hi
E	Application of alum in Big Chetac Lake	Lw
Complete an update of nutrient and water budgets for Big Chetac Lake and Birch lakes.		
A	Work with the WDNR, Red Cedar River Water Quality Partnership, and the Red Cedar Lakes Association, and other resource professionals to design a project that will establish new nutrient and water budgets for all lakes (Big Chetac, Birch, Little Birch, Balsam, Red Cedar, and Hemlock) in the Red Cedar Lake Watershed	Hi
B	Support, through available resources and volunteer services, a Lake Management Planning grant application to complete nutrient and water budgets for the lakes in the Red Cedar Lake Watershed	Hi
Sponsor an alum treatment education, information, and public involvement outreach campaign		
A	Through community meetings, public surveys, and other media outlets review and discuss the implications of and determine support for application of alum in the North basin of Big Chetac Lake	Hi
Evaluate the need for an Alum Study for Birch Lake.		
A	After water and nutrient budgets have been established for Birch Lake, evaluate the need for a study	Md
B	Complete an alum study on Birch Lake if needed.	Md
Promote and support a healthy, diverse, and sustainable fishery.		
Develop a Fisheries Management Plan for the Big Chetac Chain of Lakes		
A	Form a Fisheries Management Committee with representation from the different fishing interests on Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes and oversight by the WDNR with the sole purpose of developing a Fisheries Management Plan in 2019	Hi
Improve in-lake fisheries habitat through the installation of Fishsticks Habitat Projects through the Healthy Lakes Initiative		
A	Work with property owners to install a minimum of 10 Fishsticks fisheries habitat improvement projects in Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes in five years	Md
Reduce the threat that new aquatic invasive species (AIS) will be introduced into the lakes.		
Educate boaters on methods to prevent the spread of AIS into and out of Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes		
A	Implement and/or maintain a watercraft inspection program (Clean Boats, Clean Waters) at the Birch Lake Landing by the dam, and at the WDNR public access at Ol' Hayes Road	Hi
B	Design and install new signage that is more complete and informative than the common WDNR AIS signage at the four public landings: two on Big Chetac (Ol' Hayes Road & the NE Shore) and two on Birch (Dam and Doolittle Park)	Hi
C	Engage Resort Owners in the installation of WDNR AIS signage or AIS signage designated by the BCABLA at private (resort) access points on the lakes	Hi
Monitor all three lakes for AIS currently not listed as being present, or that may be present at low levels		
A	Implement/maintain an AIS monitoring program following WDNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) guidelines	Hi
Promote constituent AIS education and training		
A	Plan and implement at least one annual AIS education event and include AIS education/ information materials in at least one annual mailing to the lake constituency	Hi
Balance various lake uses on Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes so residents and visitors can enjoy the lakes.		
Review and report on existing town ordinances regarding lake use on all three lakes		
A	Work with the Towns of Edgewater and Birchwood to identify existing ordinances regarding the lakes and determine if any modification should be made, or if new ordinances should be made.	Md

B	Work with the Village of Birchwood to identify existing ordinances regarding Birch and Little Birch lakes and determine if any modification should be made, or if new ordinances should be made	Md
C	Present proposals for modification to existing ordinances or for new ordinances to the general community for input	Md
D	Implement changes to local ordinances	Md
Open and maintain dialogue between the BCABLA and fishing tournament sponsors		
A	Designate a BCABLA member to act as a liaison between local fishing tournament sponsors and the BCABLA for communication and sharing of information	Md
Increase level of lake stewardship both on the water and on the shores of Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes		
A	Educate and inform lake residents about state and local guidelines, zoning regulations, and ordinances pertaining to the shores and water	Hi
B	Work with the towns, village, and local businesses/resorts to garner support for a seasonal "lake educator". The Lake Educator would spend time on all three of the lakes, report regularly to the BCABLA and other Sponsors; and could act as the Fishing Tournament Liaison	Hi
C	If appropriate support can be garnered in Action 2, hire a seasonal Lake Educator to spend time on all three lakes promoting good lake stewardship practices	Hi
Educate and inform property owners about best management practices in the nearshore area that can improve natural habitat and reduce runoff and nutrient loading		
A	Provide lake constituent training through workshops introducing nearshore best management practices and how to implement them	Hi
B	Encourage implementation of nearshore best management practices through WDNR Healthy Lakes grants	Hi
C	Recognize property owners who implement nearshore best management practices through the Healthy Lakes Program and other outlets	Md
Provide targeted nuisance and navigation relief from dense growth non-native and native aquatic vegetation for affected property owners (including resorts) on all three lakes		
A	Work with Stakeholders to identify areas in all three lakes that would benefit from a nuisance and navigation harvesting program for CLP in the spring and dense growth native vegetation in the summer	Hi
B	Contract with local providers of small-scale harvesting contracting to implement harvesting for nuisance and navigation purposes in areas identified in Action 1	Md
C	Consider small-scale application of aquatic herbicides to provide lake access only if implementation of Action 2 in any areas of the three lakes cannot be completed due to lake characteristics	Lw
Complete appropriate and on-going tracking, monitoring, and management strategy modification to allow for thorough evaluation of management act		
Track surface water quality changes in Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes		
A	Continue expanded CLMN surface water quality monitoring in the North and Central basins of Big Chetac Lake	Hg
B	Add regular surface water quality monitoring of TP and Chlorophyll A (ChlA) in the South basin of Big Chetac Lake	Lw
C	Add regular surface water quality monitoring of Secchi, TP, ChlA, temperature, and dissolved oxygen in Birch Lake	Hg
D	Add September and October TP and ChlA to all three sites on Big Chetac Lake and on Birch Lake.	Hg
Complete more regular water clarity and temperature/dissolved oxygen profiles in all three sites on Big Chetac Lake and on Birch Lake		
A	Lake volunteers will be instructed to collect this data a minimum of two times per month (three times would be better) between April and October.	Hg
Document nutrient and sediment contributions to Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes from the three main tributaries (Portions of this objective could be done via Objective 1 in the water quality goals for Big Chetac.		
A	Collect TP, total suspended solids (TSS), flow, and volume data four or more times from each tributary annually	Hg
B	Collect annual rainfall data from at least two locations on opposite ends of the system by enrolling in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) precipitation monitoring program	Md
Complete fisheries monitoring as determined in a Fisheries Management Plan		
A	After the completion of a Fisheries Management Plan for the Big Chetac Chain of Lakes, implement monitoring actions recommended in that plan	Md
Improve communication and collaboration between public, local governments, WDNR, and the Big Chet		
Increase the amount of community, constituent, and public involvement in lake management and general lake operation		
A	Review the function and format of existing BCABLA Committees. Determine if additional committees are needed	Hg
B	Present committee recommendations from Action 1 to the BCABLA constituency; implement recommended changes	Hg
C	Fulfill committee needs including members and resources	Hg
Seek regular community, constituent, and public input regarding lake management planning and implementation		
A	Hold regular meetings of the BCABLA. There is one annual meeting required by the Association by-laws.	Hg
B	Hold public stakeholder forums, listening sessions, and planning sessions	Hg
C	Continue to support BCABLA on the web, Facebook, and other social media outlets	Hg
Implement the Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes Management Plan effectively and efficiently wi		
Set, evaluate, and modify (if necessary) project priorities annually		
A	Prioritize project tasks for each year by reviewing the Funding, Priorities, and Implementation Matrix provided as part of this management plan	Hg

Summarize the results of management actions implemented as a part of this plan		
A	Complete annual summaries, mid-plan summaries, and end of plan summaries evaluations	Hg
Keep stakeholders involved in the entire management process		
A	Complete annual management planning based on needs of the lakes and available resources	Hg
B	Strive for continuous communication between the community, public, and constituency and resource personnel from the BCABLA, WDNR, local Towns and Village, Sawyer and Washburn Counties, Tribal Resources, Red Cedar River Watershed Committee, and Consultants	Hg
Seek outside funding to support management actions		
A	Discuss grant options with the BCABLA, WDNR, and other grant resources	Hg
B	Solicit funds from the local Towns, Village, and other community resources	Md
C	Explore opportunities to access Federal funds associated with the Red Cedar River Watershed/Tainter-Menomin TMDL	Md
D	Look for other non-mainstream sources of financial support. (Example – Hayward Area Visitors and Convention Bureau proposal for a Room Tax allocation to local units of government.)	Md
Provide navigation relief from dense growth native and non-native aquatic vegetation in areas of all three lakes		
Reduce navigation impairments caused by dense growth native aquatic vegetation.		
A	Identify areas of dense growth native vegetation that may be causing navigation issues	Md
B	Implement aquatic plant management in areas determined to cause navigation issues	Lw
Plan and consider implementation of CLP management actions.		
A	Document changes in CLP distribution and density in Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch lakes.	Hg
B	Identify potential areas of navigation impairment caused by dense growth CLP	Hg
C	Annually determine larger areas of dense growth CLP that could be harvested to provide nuisance and navigation relief and help meet phosphorus loading reduction goals.	Md
D	Contract with local providers of small-scale harvesting to implement harvesting for nuisance and navigation purposes in areas	Md
E	Small-scale (<10-ac) application of aquatic herbicides	Lw
Maintain or improve current (2017) measurements of the health of the native aquatic plant community in all three lakes.		
A	Compare measurements of the health of the native aquatic plant community prior to and after a multi-year aquatic plant management project.	Md
Implementers: BCABLA, Big Chetac and Birch Lake Association; RP, resource professionals/consultant; WDNR, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; TE, Town of Edgewater; TB, Town of Birchwood; VB, Village of Birchwood; RCLA, Red Cedar Lakes Association; WC, Washburn County; SC, Sawyer County; PrRst, Private Resorts; TS, Tournament Sponsors		
Abbreviations/Acronyms: CLMN, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network; AIS, aquatic invasive species; CLP, Curly-leaf pondweed; TP, total phosphorus; CBCW, Clean Boats, Clean Waters		

Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan

Healthy Lakes Grant	AIS Education Grant	AIS Control Grant	LPL Grant	LPT Grant	CBCW Grants	Sport Fish Recreation Grant	Implementers (suggested, not complete)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Healthy and diverse ecosystem. The seasonal (June 1-Sept. 1) target phosphorus for Big Chetac Lake is 55 ppb. For Birch/Little Birch Lake it is slightly less at 47ppb.												
x	x	x	x	x			BCBLA, RP	x	x	x	x	x
			x				BCABLA, WDNR, ProOw	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x			BCABLA, SC, TE	x	x	x	x	x
	x	x	x				BCABLA, RP	x	x	x	x	x
				x								
			x				BCABLA, WDNR, RP, RCRWC, RCLA	x	x	x	x	x
			x				BCABLA, WDNR, RP, RCLA		x	x	x	x
			x				BCABLA, Pb, CoMe, ProOw, TE, OS, WDNR, TR, RP	x	x	x		
			x				BCABLA, RCLA, RCRWC, WDNR, RP	x				
			x				BCABLA, RP		x	x	x	
Very Big Chetac, Birch, and Little Birch Lakes												
			x				BCABLA, WDNR, CoMe	x	x			
x							BCABLA, WDNR, RP, ProOw	x	x	x	x	x
Boat and go undetected in Big Chetac, Birch and Little Birch Lakes												
	x	x			x		BCABLA, TB, VB, TE, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
	x	x	x		x		BCABLA, TB, VB, TE, WDNR, RP	x	x			
	x	x					BCABLA, PrRst	x	x	x		
	x	x					BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
	x	x	x				BCABLA, RP, CoMe, Pb, WC,	x	x	x	x	x
Lake users can share in many recreational opportunities that are available												
			x				BCABLA, TE, TB, WC, SC	x	x			

			x				BCABLA, VB	x	x			
			x				BCABLA, CoMe, Pb, TB, TE, VB, OS	x	x			
			x	x			TB, TE, VB		x	x	x	x
							BCABLA, TS, CoMe	x	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA, WC, SC, WDNR, VB, TB, TE	x	x	x	x	x
	x	x	x				BCABLA, TB, TE, VB, CoMe, Pb, PrOw, OS, PrRst	x	x			
	x	x	x	x			BCABLA, TB, TE, VB		x	?	?	?
x			x				BCABLA, WDNR, PrOw, RP	x	x	x	x	x
x							BCABLA, WDNR, PrOw, RP	x	x	x	x	x
x							BCABLA, WDNR, PrOw, RP	x	x	x	x	x
	x		x				BCABLA, PrOw, PrRst, WDNR, RP, OS, Pb	x	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA, TB, TE, RP, VB, PrOw	?	?	?	?	?
							BCABLA, CoMe, Pb, TB, TE, VB, OS, WDNR	?	?	?	?	?
ions, and to determine if those management actions are on target, on track, on schedule, on budget, and within the expected parameters												
			x	x			BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x			BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x			BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x			BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	x	x	x
			x	x			BCABLA, WDNR, RP	x	x	?		
							BCABLA	x	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA, WDNR, RP		x	x	x	x
ac and Birch Lakes Association to support achievement of shared lake management goals												
			x				BCABLA, CoMe, RP	x				
			x				BCABLA	x				
							BCABLA, CoMe, Pb, RP	?	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA	x	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA	x	x	x	x	x
							BCABLA	x	x	x	x	x
th a focus on community, public, and constituent education, information, and involvement												
							BCABLA, CoMe, RP	x	x	x	x	x

	X	X	X	X			BCABLA, RP	X	X	X	X	X
			X				BCABLA, RP, CoMe, TB, TE, VB, OS, PrOw	X	X	X	X	X
			X				BCABLA, RP, CoMe, TB, TE, VB, OS, PrOw	X	X	X	X	X
							BCABLA, WDNr, RP, OS	X	X			
							BCABLA, TB, TE, VB, CoMe, TS	X	X	X	X	X
							BCABLA, RP, WDNr, RCRWC	X	X	?	?	?
							BCABLA, OS	X	X	X	X	X
akes and focused on property owners, resorts, and public use corridors determined annually.												
	X		X				BCABLA, PrOw, RP, PrRts	X	X	X	X	X
						X	BCABLA	?	?	?	?	?
	X	X	X	X			BCABLA, RP	X	X	X	X	X
	X		X				BCABLA, RP, PrOw	X	X	X	X	X
	X		X				BCABLA, RP, PrOw, WDNr, OS	X	X	X	X	X
						?	BCABLA	?	?	?	?	?
							BCABLA, TB, TE, VB, CoMe	X	X	X	X	X
	X		X	X			BCABLA, RP, WDNr		?	?	?	?

llatge of Birchwood; CoMe, Community Members; PrOw, Property Owners; Pb, Public; OS, Other Stakeholders; TR, Tribal Resources/GLIFWC; RCRWC, Red Cedar River Watershed Committee;