

These weevils feed on all milfoil, both native and non-native species and damage milfoil by feeding on the top portion of the stem. It is thought that the weevils do not fly or swim well and they need natural vegetation near the water's edge to overwinter (Maccoux 2007). No milfoil weevils are known to be present on Lake Wissota. Biological control with the milfoil weevils is not considered a viable option for Lake Wissota at this time.

Bottom Barriers. Bottom barriers are often sold as mats of plastic or fabric, of varying colors, that can be laid over a bed of aquatic plants to stifle their growth. These barriers are non-selective and will kill off plants, however sediment collects on top of the barriers which allows new plants to establish growth. In addition, when barriers

are removed, aquatic invasive species often re-establish in the site more readily than the natives that might have been mixed in with the invasive species previously. Bottom barriers are not considered a viable option to control Eurasian water milfoil in Lake Wissota at this time.

Dredging. Dredging of a lake is often done to remove excess sediment from the lake or restructure parts of the lake that may have altered in a negative way over time. Dredging is very expensive and takes a lot of time. It is not an effective method for removing aquatic invasive species and is not recommended for Lake Wissota at this time.

II. Lake Wissota, Yesterday and Today

Lake Description

Lake Wissota was created between 1915 and 1917 when a dam was built on the Chippewa River, which created the 4-mile long and 2-mile wide main impoundment (Borman 1991). Lake Wissota is 6,024 acres and has a maximum depth of 64 feet (Konkel 2007, Hartnett and Molnar 2005). There are two smaller embayments, Little Lake Wissota and Moon Bay. The Wissota dam impounds water up to the Jim Falls dam, 13 miles upstream. The Yellow River, Stillson Creek, Frederick Creek and Paint Creek empty into the lake and drain an area of roughly 941 square miles (Brakke 1996). Lake Wissota has a total drainage area of approximately 5,548 square miles

Fishing, swimming, boating, and spending time with family were responses repeated over and over when asked, "What does Lake Wissota mean to you?"

(Tinker 1996). Lake Wissota is located north east of Chippewa Falls in T28-29N R7-8W, in the civil towns of Anson, Eagle Point and Lafayette, and the city of Chippewa Falls. The Waterbody Identification Code (WBIC) for Lake Wissota is 2152800. A 2005 map of Lake Wissota, Little Lake Wissota, and Moon Bay is included in Appendix B. A new map of the lake will be available in 2010.

Sociological Survey

A sociological survey entitled Lake Wissota Planning Survey (Braun, 2009) was conducted in 2008 and **was critical to the development of this Lake Wissota Aquatic Plant Management Plan.** The thoughts and ideas provided by survey respondents helped determine what management strategies