

LAKE MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

Date of Report: 01-03-24	Fisheries Manager: Brennan Caputo	District: 1
Lake Name: Four Lakes	County: Winnebago	Water No: 4116
Ownership (STATE, PUBC, PUBO): Public Co-op Winnebago County Forest PD		Acreage: 19.0

LM STATUS REPORTS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

1. List of the Sport Fish Regulations in Effect
2. Listing of Stocked Fish
3. Vegetation Treatments
4. Fish Surveys
5. Lake Management Plan Progress Table
6. Recommendations for Observed Problem Trends

1. SPORT FISH REGULATIONS IN EFFECT:

All Fish 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
 Large or Smallmouth Bass 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit (14" Minimum Length Limit)
 Channel Catfish 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)

2. FISH STOCKING:

2022:
 08/31/2022 Channel Catfish 341 8.0" Jake Wolf Hatchery

2020:
 08/18/2020 Channel Catfish 345 8.0" Jake Wolf Hatchery

3. AQUATIC VEGETATION TREATMENTS:

No vegetation treatments were required at Four Lakes

4. FISH SURVEYS:

The fall community assessment survey took place on 09/12/23 and consisted of 1 daytime DC-electrofishing run for a total of 20 minutes of sampling effort. Overall, 5 species and 81 individual fish were collected.

5. LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRESS TABLES:

Largemouth Bass:

A total of 11 Largemouth Bass were collected ranging from 70 – 437 mm (2.8 – 17.2 in), with 8 ≥ Stock size (200 mm [7.9 in]). Average length was 281 mm (11.1 in). This survey did not meet the minimum required number of fish > Stock size (n = 30) to accurately quantify population demographics as set forth in the Lake Management Plan (LMP). The largemouth bass population has a low population of stock size fish. This could be due to the largemouth bass population not getting a success spawn off in previous years. A 3-year

supplemental Largemouth bass stocking will start in 2024 to rehabilitate the population. Another survey will be conducted in 2026 to assess the supplemental bass stocking success.

<u>Lake Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2023</u>
# Stock (200mm)	>100	29	8
PSD	40-60	93	88
RSD 14	20-40	69	63
Wr	90-110	86	106

Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr.) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected.

<u>Year</u>	<u><7.9"</u>	<u>7.9-11.8"</u>	<u>11.8-15"</u>	<u>15-20.1"</u>	<u>> 20.1"</u>	<u>Total CPUE</u>
2020	32	4	36	18	0	90
2023	9	3	9	12	0	33

Bluegill:

A total of 41 Bluegills were collected ranging from 30 – 119 mm (1.2 – 4.7 in), with 32 \geq Stock size (80 mm [3.1 in]). Average length was 78 mm (3.1 in.). This survey did not meet the minimum required number of fish > Stock size (n = 50) to accurately quantify population demographics as set forth in the Lake Management Plan (LMP). The Bluegill population has a low population of stock size fish. A lack of larger size fish could be due to the low Largemouth bass population and the high fishing pressure the ponds get. A 3-year supplemental Bluegill stocking will start in 2024 to rehabilitate the population. Another survey will be conducted in 2026 to assess the supplemental Bluegill stocking success.

<u>Lake Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2023</u>
#Stock(80mm)	>100	86	32
PSD	20-60	0	0
PSD-P (8 in.)	5-20	0	0
Wr	90-110	87	N/A

Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr.) of each length group of Bluegill collected.

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1"</u>	<u>3.1-5.9"</u>	<u>5.9-7.9"</u>	<u>7.9-9.8"</u>	<u>9.8-11.8"</u>	<u>Total CPUE</u>
2020	44	172	0	0	0	216
2023	21	96	0	0	0	112

Redear Sunfish:

A total of 26 Redear sunfish were collected ranging from 70 – 144 mm (2.8 – 5.7 in), with 13 \geq Stock size (80 mm [3.1 in]). Average length was 96 mm (3.8 in.). This survey did not meet the minimum required number of fish > Stock size (n = 50) to accurately quantify population demographics as set forth in the Lake Management Plan (LMP). The Redear population has a low population of stock size fish. A lack of larger size fish could be due to the low Largemouth bass population and the high fishing pressure the pond gets. This population will be reassessed in 2026 after the 3-year Largemouth bass and Bluegill stockings.

<u>Lake Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2023</u>
#Stock (100mm)	>100	41	13
PSD	20-40	7	0
PSD-P (8 in.)	5-20	0	0
Wr	90-110	85	93

Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr.) of each length group of Redear Sunfish collected.

<u>Year</u>	<u><3.1"</u>	<u>3.1-5.9"</u>	<u>5.9-7.9"</u>	<u>7.9-9.8"</u>	<u>9.8-11.8"</u>	<u>Total CPUE</u>
2020	18	76	6	0	0	100
2023	39	39	0	0	0	78

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OBSERVED PROBLEM TRENDS:

1. Keep surrounded native vegetation for fish habitat
2. Supplemental stocking of advanced fingerling Largemouth bass at 25 an acre.
3. Supplemental stocking of fingerling Bluegill at 250 an acre.
4. Install signage for public to encourage legal size harvest.