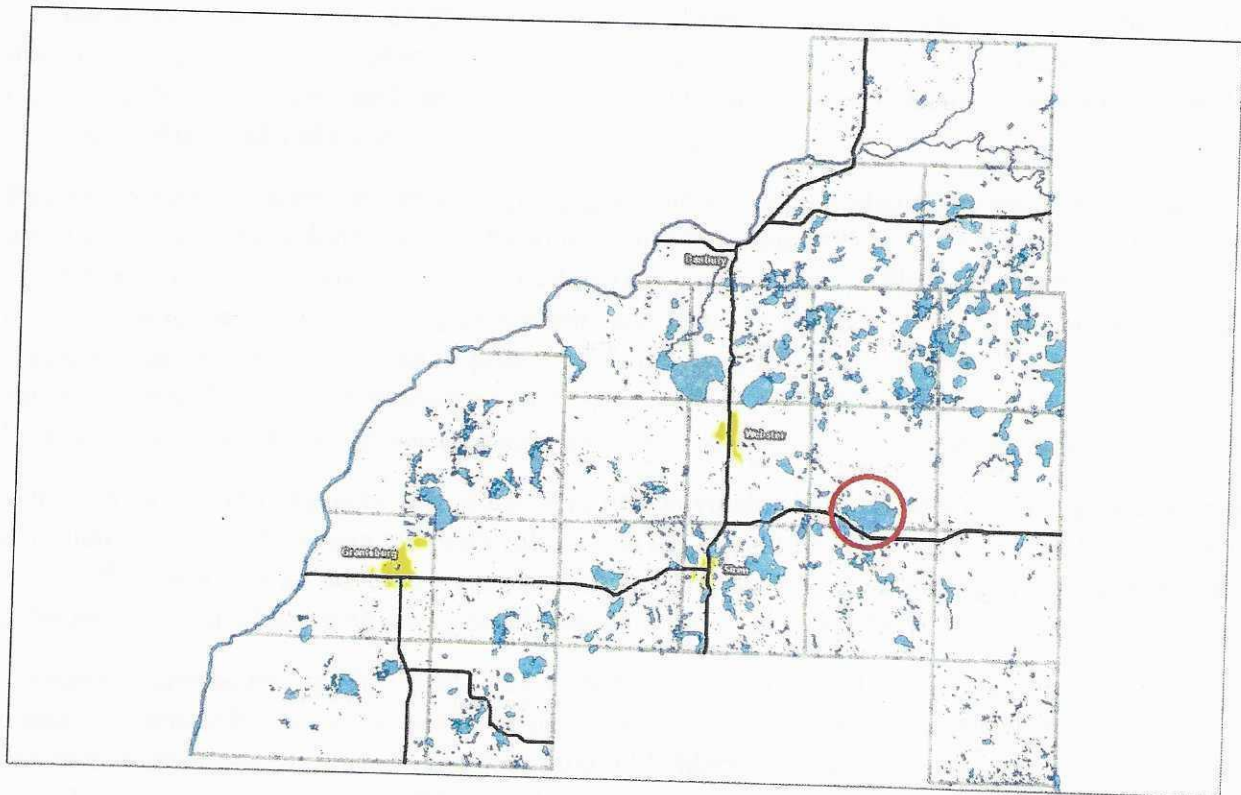


BURNETT COUNTY LAND SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Big Sand Lake AIS Point Intercept Survey

July 10th, 2019



Map 1 – Map of Burnett County with Big Sand Lake circled

BURNETT COUNTY LAND SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BIG SAND LAKE AIS POINT INTERCEPT REPORT

Water Body Identification Code (WBIC): 2676800

Previous AIS Findings: Chinese Mystery Snail

New AIS Findings: None

Field Crew: Sunny Cone and Shayna Vendela, AIS Program Interns and Brad Morris, AIS Consultant

Field Date: July 8th and 10th, 2019

Report By: Sunny Cone

Big Sand Lake is located in Burnett County, WI and has one public boat landing found on Olsen Road, off Highway 70, in Webster, WI. Big Sand Lake is 1434 acres with an average depth of 9 feet, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) classifies this waterbody as mesotrophic. Mesotrophic lakes generally have a moderate level of fertility usually giving way to abundant plant growth, but growth does not become excessive or limited. Big Sand Lake also supports a healthy fishery comprised of panfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, northern pike, and walleye.

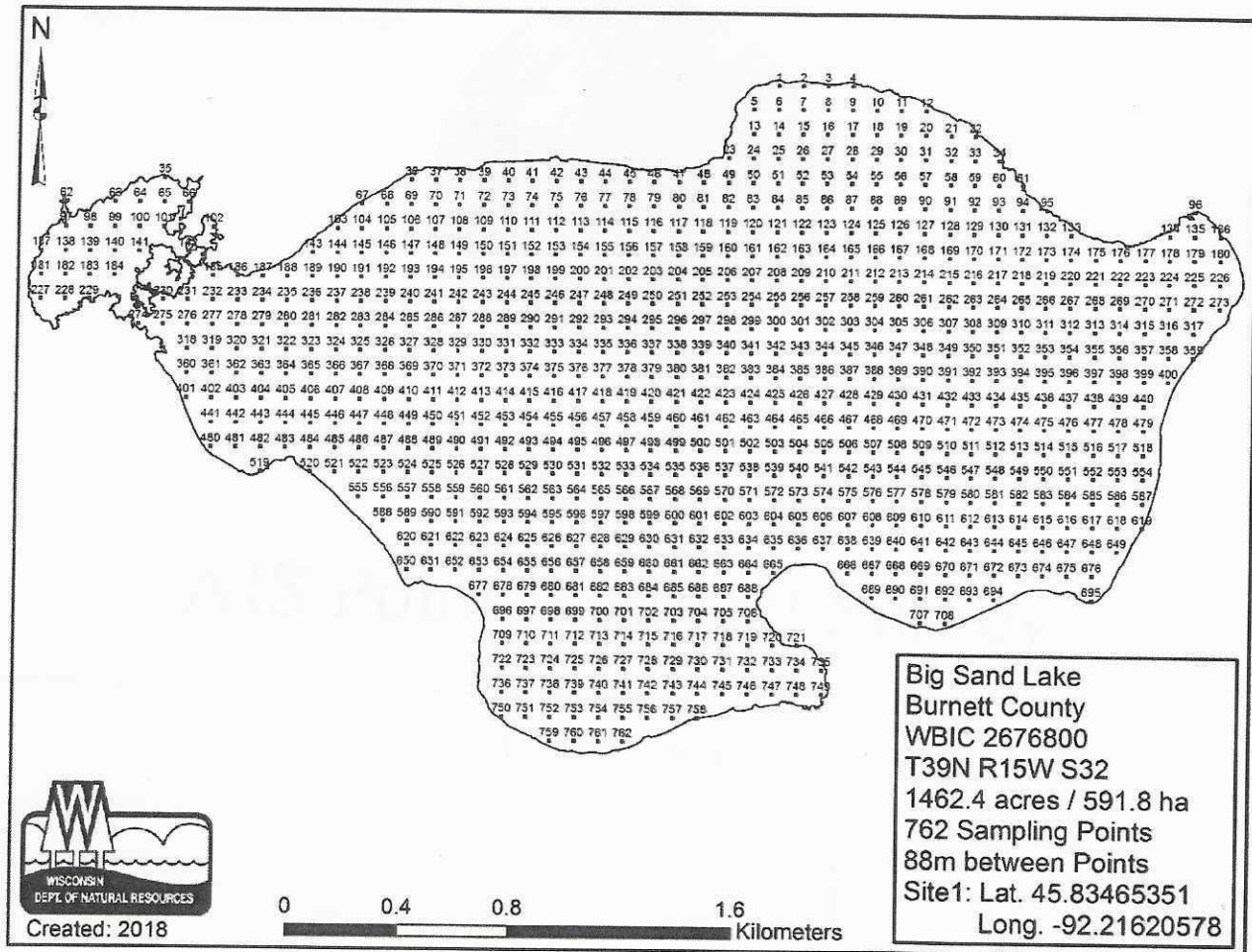
The Aquatic invasive species (AIS) point intercept survey was conducted by utilizing a sampling grid developed by Michelle Nault with the WDNR. This type of sampling grid is generally utilized for aquatic plant management plans, however, these grids can provide a thorough and systematic approach when used for AIS monitoring. Each point is sampled with a throw rake, and the contents are examined upon retrieval. Examples of invasive plants that could be found during a sampling grid are: Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). The sampling grid utilized on Big Sand Lake can be viewed below (Map 2).

Beyond using the aforementioned sampling grid Burnett County also scans the shoreline areas when possible. This is done visually by looking for shoreline invasives such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and non-native Phragmites (*Phragmites australis subsp. australis*). Submergent plants and invasive animals along shoreline areas are also visually scanned for with the aid of polarized sunglasses. Examples of animal species would be zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), Chinese mystery snails (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*), banded mystery snails (*Viviparus georgianus*), and rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*).

While on Big Sand Lake very few areas were non-navigable by boat, and a thorough survey was completed. The weather was fair with full sun on the 8th and fair with light rain and wind present on the 9th. There was no adverse weather to impede our survey. Overall, Big Sand Lake appeared to be healthy, but Chinese Mystery Snails were found on the waterbody at this time.

Common plants found on Big Sand Lake were fern-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton robinsii*), coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), common waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*), white-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*), common bladderwort (*Utricularia macrorhiza*), and white pond lily (*Nymphaea odorata*). We found that aquatic plant growth stopped around 12 feet.

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Map 2 – Big Sand Lake Sampling Grid