



Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point

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MEMO

TO: Nine Mile Creek Board of Managers
FROM: Erica Sniegowski, NMCWD
DATE: March 25, 2021
RE: Normandale Carp Management Proposals

Background

Past fish surveys conducted at Normandale Lake by Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District in 2018 and 2019 indicated that carp were at a level where management was recommended (over 100 kg/ha). In 2019, many young of the year carp were also found during the fish survey. This meant that carp had a successful recruitment (survival to the juvenile stage).

To better understand carp movement and how to manage the population, the District worked with Carp Solutions in 2019 to radio-tagged 12 carp for tracking. Tracking information showed carp leaving Normandale Lake, indicating carp may be using areas outside of Normandale Lake as nurseries. The District worked with Carp Solutions in 2020 to continue monitoring the carp population and to determine management methods for the carp population in the lake. As part of the work in 2020, two box nets were put into Normandale Lake. These box nets had smaller mesh size to help remove the smaller carp from the 2019 recruitment event, which would be able to escape out of normal net mesh size. Using these box nets, approximately 5,000 carp were removed from Normandale Lake in 2020.

Age structure analysis was also completed in 2020 to evaluate carp recruitment patterns. There were only two strong recruitment events in the last 10 years- in 2011 and 2019. Due to the large 2019 recruitment event, the task to refine the population estimate using mark-recapture method was postponed in 2020 to focus efforts on establishing and testing a net design to remove the smaller carp in the lake.

2021 Proposal

The District requested proposals for carp management work in 2021 from Carp Solutions and WSB. The objectives of the work are to:

- Track carp movement via PIT antenna
- Refine carp population estimates using electrofishing and mark recapture
- Remove carp

Based of the cost presented in the proposals and the innovated methods of carp removal that WSB is proposing that look towards current and future carp removal, staff recommends accepting WSB's 2021 carp management proposal.

Staff will provide further background at the board workshop.

Request

Approve the WSB scope of work for an amount not to exceed **\$32,664**.