

A Comparison of the Distribution of Aquatic Plants in Holcombe Flowage, Chippewa County, Wisconsin between 1994/95 and 2006

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Abstract

In 2001 the Lower Chippewa River Settlement Agreement was reached in an effort to balance the energy needs of the community and the health of the Chippewa River biological and economic resources. A comparison of the distribution of aquatic plants in Holcombe Flowage between 1994/95 and 2006 was conducted to determine if the aquatic plant community has changed since the elimination of late-winter drawdowns.

US Army Corps of Engineers staff surveyed Holcombe Flowage in 1994/95. Using similar sampling techniques and sampling sites, a survey was conducted in 2006 by Beaver Creek Citizen Science researchers to be compared with the 1994/95 study. A baseline of information for density was created for use at a later date.

The Holcombe Flowage plant community has significantly changed in the 10-year time span between the surveys, and other minor changes in the community indicate that the community may be moving away from a more natural and diverse state.

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