

Big Portage Lake Stewardship Program

In February 2018, the Big Portage Lake Riparian Owners Association (BPLROA) was awarded a Lake Management Planning Grant by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). This grant funds the Big Portage Lake Stewardship Program which is projected to continue through June 2020.

Previously, between August 2009 and February 2010, the BPLROA was awarded three grants by the WDNR to fund studies on Big Portage Lake. The 2012 Lake Management Plan is available as a PDF in the Big Portage Lake section of the bigportagelake.org website. The comprehensive lake management plan which was developed from these grant funded studies has enabled BPLROA to take a proactive approach to manage and monitor the quality of the lake and its watershed.

The current grant program is designed to enhance this long-term stewardship for Big Portage Lake by updating information about the lake and its watershed area. Lake stakeholders and volunteers will work collaboratively with White Water Associates (Amasa, Michigan) on a wide range of ecological studies of the lake and its surrounding properties. Information collected about water quality, fish, aquatic plants, animals, watershed habitat and aquatic invasive species will be used to update the lake's comprehensive management plan. This plan will include protective and restorative steps for the lake based on the study findings. The updated plan and associated data from the lake study will be submitted to the WDNR to enhance their knowledge base of Wisconsin lakes.