

November 7, 2011

Dear Members:

As winter approaches I wanted to provide you a short update on what has transpired this fall.

Wildfire Risk Assessments

As of last October the Maine Forest Service completed the wildfire risk assessment process within the Tacoma Lakes area. Over the course of three separate days they did 68 individual assessments. This will provide them with adequate data for an overall view of the communities situated on the five ponds/lakes and they will document the findings in a report for us, probably next spring.

Milfoil Progress

In early October members of TLIS along with staff from the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, removed 37 benthic barriers from Purgatory stream. This dirty job involved a diver pulling the barriers to the surface and two individuals in a small boat rolling those mats up and bringing them to shore for removal. Those mats then need to be unrolled, cleaned and any repairs done. The good news is that the diver reported that any milfoil under the mat coverage had died from lack of sunlight. This entire process will need to be repeated again next year as the milfoil had spread upstream. It is hoped that one more matting process will reduce the milfoil to a more manageable level that hand pulling in the future will control. Special thanks go to TLIS member Fred Desjardins, who has been mister dependable in this entire process!

Jimmy Stream

I am sorry to report that the beavers have finally successfully dammed Jimmy stream and effectively blocked boat traffic up the stream. This new dam is being strengthened daily by the beavers and has kept the water level up in the stream, despite the dam being open for the annual fall dropdown. The dam abuts my property and the beavers continue to remove my trees at a fairly rapid rate. Beavers and dams are protected under Maine law; however, can be trapped by licensed trappers. Likewise, dams can be removed with a permit from the state; however, must be removed by hand. I have asked the state to place this overpopulation of beavers on the nuisance beaver list and I am awaiting calls from trappers that may be interested in removing these beavers this winter. If successful, a permit will be applied for to remove this dam this Spring, if the normal spring flowage doesn't accomplish this.

Sincerely,

Bruce Doyle

President

TLIS