

# DNR lists county lakes that are impaired by pollution

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NEWS EDITOR

Two new Sawyer County lakes are among those included in an updated list of "impaired" lakes and streams published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), due to excess phosphorus, algae growth, mercury or other contaminants.

The two Sawyer County lakes included are the entire 5,139-acre Lac Courte Oreilles (previously only Musky Bay was listed as impaired) and Lake of the Pines in the Town of Winter.

Sawyer County lakes that continue to be included on the impaired list are Upper Holly, Loretta, Teal, Two Axe, Mud (connected to Callahan Lake), Moose Lake, Nelson Lake, Black Lake, Lake Chetac, Lake Loretta, Big Sissabagama and Windigo.

Washburn County impaired waters include Slim Creek and Slim Lake south of Stone Lake and Trego Lake.

Bayfield County impaired waters include Upper and Middle Eau Claire Lakes. Also listed

is Lower Eau Claire Lake in Douglas County.

One area lake was removed from the impaired list: Lake Namekagon in Bayfield County.

The DNR is seeking comments from the public on the impaired waters, stating it is working to identify new waterways to target for pollution reduction plans.

"Long-term trend and satellite monitoring show that we are making progress with good overall water quality," said Sharon Gayan, director of the DNR Water Quality Bureau. "Wisconsin waters stay healthy through combined efforts, including strong partnerships with citizens, lake associations, local government, permit holders and others implementing practices that protect and restore waters of the state. "However, through expanded monitoring, we've identified lakes and rivers where more work is needed to improve water quality for fish to thrive and for people to enjoy them recreationally."

Over the past five years, Gayan said the DNR has completed assessments on more than 6,000 ad-

ditional waterways. The vast majority, more than 80 percent of assessed waters, are in good condition, she said.

The impaired list identifies waters that need additional management attention, Gayan said. A majority of these new listings are for lakes or river stretches that exceed new, more restrictive phosphorus standards that took effect in December 2010.

Many of these new phosphorus listings are in areas with restoration plans already in development and were waters that previously had never been assessed for phosphorus, Gayan said.

"The listing does not necessarily mean that phosphorus levels in these waters got worse," she said. "Phosphorus levels may be improving in some, but not enough yet to meet these new standards."

Gayan added that listing waters as "impaired" requires the state to develop restoration plans for them and also may make them eligible for state and federal cleanup funds, which can help speed improvements.

Public comments may be submitted by Dec. 29, and can be emailed to the DNR at [DNRimpairedWaters@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRimpairedWaters@wisconsin.gov), or sent by U.S. mail to Ashley Beranek, DNR Water Evaluation Section (WY/3), Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Comments postmarked or received by Dec. 29 will be considered before submitting the final draft list to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

The Impaired Waters List is submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency every even-numbered year under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The department follows standard procedures to assess water bodies against water quality standards, these are known as Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listings Methods (WisCALM).

The 2018 list and other materials can be found by searching the DNR website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), for keywords "impaired waters" and clicking on the link for the "2018 impaired waters list."

## Solar group buying meeting set in Cable

A group buying meet- accessible in Ashland and residential