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Small test patch demonstration proposal overview plan for Eagle Lake

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What follows below is a revision of the *March 2009 Renovate water restriction and use plans*. This revision was developed after completing a more comprehensive cost analysis for Plan #1 (a large 10 acre curtain contained treatment), described in the above-mentioned March document. It was determined that the costs associated with curtains, their depth, length and associated deployment and removal labor costs, would be well beyond the costs originally budgeted for the total milfoil project. Plan #3 (spot treatment without curtains) was presented to the APA, but is currently unacceptable because of their concern for in-water drift of Renovate from the treatment location and possible damage to native vegetation as a result of it. Plan #2 (the continuation of hand harvesting and matting) is going to be implemented in 2009.

As discussions were taking place as to location and size of herbicide treatment sites for plan #1 and the cost escalated the suggestion to “go small” was made. While this does not remove large amounts of milfoil as is the interest of the applicant(s), the purpose of the go small approach would allow for a test or demonstration of the product within the Adirondack Park. As a result of the suggestion for a small test patch, criteria for selection of this type of patch needs further exploration by the permitting parties and others involved.

Plan #4, the proposal for this plan is to;

- Look at one of a few small patch sites that are in the several hundred square foot size.
- Use a curtain to contain this site, but limit the length of the curtain to a couple hundred feet, even if the containment ring does not include all of the milfoil in the patch. A preference however would be to select a patch that would be completely contained so that eradication of this site could be completed, thus reducing the possibility of nearby milfoil plants re-establishing themselves or re-populating the site.
- Make a site selection where the depth of the milfoil patch is in no more than 15 feet of water. Commercially produced curtains are most commonly used in this depth range, and it might be possible to locate a used curtain for our application. The used curtain would have to be cleaned to prevent introduction of anything from the location of its previous use. Consideration is also being given to fabrication of a “lightweight” purpose-built curtain, as most commercially produced turbidity curtains are built for heavy-duty, long-term deployment under construction conditions. The lightweight curtain might be able to be fabricated for a cost less than that associated with rental and delivery of a commercial curtain. Options for this are still being explored, and since this proposal was very recently presented, there are no specific details or costs worked out as of yet.
- Dye test the curtain-contained site, if required, specifics for an acceptable percent of leakage are still in need of determination. A staff member at DEC Raybrook has commented that he is optimistic that he will be able to provide support for this part of the project, especially if the plan is for a small sized containment.
- Have a licensed applicator treat the curtained site.
- Complete appropriate post application assay test(s) for herbicide concentrations.
- Complete a follow up plant survey to assess the effectiveness of the treatment.