



Fight against Eagle Lake milfoil gains support (http://pressrepublican.com/0100_news/x1471000063/Fight-against-Eagle-Lake-milfoil-gains-support)

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Press-Republican (http://pressrepublican.com)

TICONDEROGA — An aquatic herbicide that poisons milfoil is being proposed for use in Eagle Lake.

Growing in dense, acre-sized beds in the 3-mile-long body of water, Eurasian milfoil is a clogging weed that residents say is choking the ecosystem in their lake.

The Ticonderoga Town Council is following up on a request from the Eagle Lake Property Owners group to act as a lead agency for the application permit.

"We're doing what we can to help," Ticonderoga Supervisor Debra Malaney said. "The next step is a survey."

Eagle Lake's 90 residents will be mailed a milfoil survey form that they can fill out and return to the town.

The aquatic herbicide the Property Owners group wants to use is Triclopyr, sold under the brand-name Renovate OTF, which has been used to treat milfoil in other lakes.

The herbicide was previously used in Lake Luzerne in Warren County and was approved by the Adirondack Park Agency. The agency must also OK Eagle Lake's treatment.

Eagle Lake President Andy Belkevich said the

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milfoil infestation in Eagle Lake has gotten worse in the last few years.

"Eventually, you'll be able to walk across the lake in a pair of snowshoes in July. That's how bad it is."

The previous use of mats and hand-harvesting of milfoil has made the problem worse, he said.

"Hand-harvesting actually spreads the problem. When you hand-harvest, small pieces break off and float away. Then it grows again."

Once it is approved for use in Eagle Lake, Renovate OTF will be used as a surface-applied granule that dissolves in the water. The chemical is sanctioned by the State Department of Environmental Conservation for use.

Mifoil was first discovered in Eagle Lake in the 1970s. Since then, the Eagle Lake Property Owners group has been hand-harvesting milfoil and installing mats to smother the weed.

Eagle Lake, located off Route 74, is shared between Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and the Crown Point Town Council would share lead-agency status.

The use of Renovate OTF would be funded through a \$110,000 State Invasive Species Program grant awarded to the Town of Crown Point.

"We're behind the Eagle Lake Property Owners," Crown Point Supervisor Bethany Kosmider said. "We hope we can help them get rid of the milfoil."

The Essex County Board of Supervisors has also gone on record in support of the milfoil-eradication effort in Eagle Lake.

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