



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and our study partners are continuing to analyze data and prepare for sharing our methodology, data, and tentative results as part of the Central Sands Lakes Study (CSLS). The following summarizes CSLS activities from January to June 2020.

COVID-19 Update

With the majority of field work completed prior to March 2020, the DNR and our partners have been able to work on the study and plan to meet legislative timelines required in Wisconsin Statute. The DNR will explore different ways to share information, keeping public safety in mind as the project continues.

Monitoring

The DNR and our partners are continuing to monitor water levels on each of the three study lakes as well as groundwater levels within our monitoring network in the Central Sands Region and will do so through June 2021. See the infographic below on the amount of data collected to inform the Central Sands model domain as part of this study.

Central Sands Geology

The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS) has completed characterizing the subsurface geology and hydrostratigraphy of the area based on compiled data. The WGNHS will deliver a report to the DNR that will provide input for the models and aid in writing the decision document for this project.

Modeling

Modelers at the United States Geological Survey and DNR spent the first half of 2020 building and calibrating a regional groundwater flow model that will be used to support the site-specific assessments of the lakes. The modelers are currently refining and recalibrating the groundwater flow model in the areas of interest (the three study lakes) to ensure the model can accurately simulate fine-scale dynamics around the lakes and replicate the data we have available in the study area.

Lake Characterization

DNR biologists are identifying the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the lakes and creating the methodology to define significant impacts to lake levels based on monitoring and lake surveys conducted the past few years.

Outreach

By request, DNR staff provided an update on the CSLS at the American Public Works Association conference in November 2019. The DNR provided an update at the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association's (WPVGA) February 2020 Grower Education Conference, as well as a WPVGA Water Task Force meeting in March 2020. Late this summer, the DNR will provide the public with a series of recorded presentations to explain the context of the overall study, and methodologies conducted for geology, modeling and the lake resource evaluations.

For more information regarding the status of the CSLS or to request a presentation, contact project manager, Jeff Helmuth at (608)-266-5234, jeffrey.helmuth@wi.gov.

Central Sands Lakes Study

BY THE NUMBERS



BELOW THE GROUND

57,000

Well Construction Logs

~150

Geophysical Measurements



FISH AND PLANT SURVEYS



9,585

Fish Counted

186

Plant Species Identified



New Bathymetry Maps

3

Study Lakes



Pleasant Lake



Plainfield Lake



Long Lake

Continuous Monitoring of Lake Levels

30+
Scientists

WATER LEVELS AND PUMPING

2,800

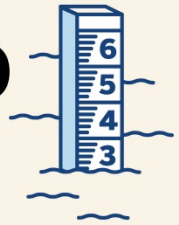
High Capacity Wells in the Modeling Area

>100,000

Water Levels from

~4,000

Locations



WATER QUALITY

~6,000

Results



50

Sampling Dates

34

Parameters