

Carp cause poor lake water quality, poor game fish habitat

Recently I read in the Prior Lake American about a large 30 pound carp that was caught from Prior Lake and was returned to the lake. Congratulations to this young person for his amazing fishing skill catching that really big carp.

However, please do not return carp to our lakes. Here is why.

Lake bottom feeding carp are one of the most damaging aquatic invasive species and bad for the health of a lake.

Carp cause poor water quality, destroy aquatic plants needed by game fish releasing phosphorous, and making more algae and green water. The aquatic plants are good for the lake by consuming phosphorous.

Carp can produce 3 million eggs in one year. Game fish consume carp until the carp get too big.

You can use them for food, garden fertilizer, composting, or put them in a plastic bag and in the trash.

Extra minnows should also be put in the trash, not in a lake. Minnow water should not be put in the lake.

Aquarium fish should be returned to the fish store and not put in a lake.

If you are over 16 years old you must

have a fishing license to catch carp and it is illegal to put a dead or injured fish back in the water.

The Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District is making a strong effort to reduce carp with these projects:

- Carp bow hunting contests
- Carp barriers have been installed to reduce carp
- Electronic tagging of carp
- Hiring commercial fisherman to remove carp
- Approximately 75% of the carp in Spring Lake were removed last winter

If you would like to help improve our lakes consider a volunteering for the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District. Website: www.plslwd.org

Steve Pany
Chairperson, Citizen's Advisory
Committee for the Spring Lake
Watershed District