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Letter to the Editor

City people don't understand the north woods

Published: Thursday, August 19, 2010 2:16 PM CDT

Mic Isham Lac Courte Oreilles

Editor:

I am so tired of big city people with their big city values moving up here and trying to change our wilderness into an environment to be controlled at their whim. This Round Lake/Hwy NN culvert issue is a prime example. Big city rich guy buys grandpa's old cabin in a lowland area. Big city guy tears down cabin and builds a mansion while cutting down all the trees and planting a chemical-dependant lawn. Mother Nature calls for a time of rain and the big city guy who built in a lowland area gets his lawn mower tires wet while mowing his chemically dependent lawn. Big city guy gets together other big city guys and whines about high water levels, and they use their big money to buy influence and build water controls to make sure they can maintain the water level they want. Thinking only of themselves, they don't care about what happens downstream to other people.

This scenario plays out time and time again. The members of the RLPOA who sided with Mr. Hausman contend that the culverts are a dam, but yet barely a drop of water passes through the system. How they can say it's a dam with a straight face is beyond me. Even in times of heavy rain events it's nary a trickle.

It is not a dam, yet they push their personal agenda without regards to the impacts or concerns of the affected downstream people of Osprey Lake and Lac Courte Oreilles. By the way, the people of LCO know all too well what a dam is. In 1923 whole LCO villages were flooded, lost forever from a dam. Hausman's sob story won't move us.

We love our beautiful natural wetland system with its sacred wild rice and all the critters that go with it. The faction on Round Lake doesn't appear to care at all about the fact that what they seek must be done at our expense. Osprey Lake is on our lands along with the entire Osprey Creek system. From Osprey Creek to Little LCO to Big LCO to Couderay River - all on the reservation!

It took a half page in the Sawyer County Record to explain all the things done to Round Lake in the past 80 or so years. Round Lake has been screwed up so much that it is no longer even a lake, it's a flowage. Their own engineering study (paid for with tax dollars) indicates that to do what Hausman and company wants - the system will have to be manipulated to the tune of many more hundreds of thousands of tax dollars and even then it won't keep the Round Lake waters from naturally rising.

If you don't like nature as it is, go back to the big city where all the lakes and rivers are cemented in channels. Don't bring that thinking here!

Mic Isham Lac Courte Oreilles

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