TREGO LAKE AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY SUMMARY, 2011

An aquatic plant survey was conducted for Trego Lake during June 14th to June 20th, 2011. The survey was done in June because curly-leaf pondweed, an aquatic invasive species of concern, is present. Curly-leaf pondweed is usually at its peak of growth in June, and then dies back substantially in early July. Other, native aquatic plant species usually reach their peak of growth in August or September.

The survey was done by Craig Roesler of the DNR with the assistance of volunteers from the Trego Lake District. Volunteers included Kevin Korasick, Doug Wogstad, Barbara and Virgil Broering, Mike Williams, and Donna Roesler.

The point-intercept method was used for the survey. A grid is placed on a map of the lake to establish sampling locations. A grid spacing is selected that produces an adequate number of sampling locations at grid intersections in areas likely to support the growth of aquatic plants. Coordinates (latitude, longitude) of the sampling locations are identified.

On the lake, a GPS unit is used to navigate a boat to each sampling site and a plant sample is collected using a long handled rake. Plant species on the rake are identified as well as any other species observed within a 6 feet radius of the sampling point. An effort is also made to identify other aquatic plant species in the lake that do not occur at the sampling sites.

Maps of sampling point locations and a spreadsheet that lists the findings from all sampling points are available. Some key findings of the survey are listed below:

- Aquatic plants grow to a maximum depth of about 9 feet in Trego Lake. Insufficient light reaches the lake bottom at greater depths to support aquatic plant growth.

- 55% of the lake's area is shallow enough to support aquatic plant growth

- 270 sites were sampled in the area shallow enough to support aquatic plant growth

- 84% of these sites had aquatic plants present

- Thirty-nine species of aquatic plants were found

- Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) is an aquatic invasive species that has been present in Trego Lake for many years. It was found at 12% of the sites sampled.

- Wild rice (*Zizania palustris*) was found at 17% of the sites sampled

- The three most commonly occurring aquatic plants were: coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), 41% of sites; flatstem pondweed (*Potamogeton zosteriformis*), 37% of sites; and common waterweed (*Elodea Canadensis*), 24% of sites.

- Two other non-native aquatic plants were found - narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Both of these are widely distributed in the state and often considered naturalized. They are unlikely to be a concern for Trego Lake.