



# Briggs Lake Chain Association

## January 2024 Lake Report

The President's Report Shelly Alger- Peyton

email: [sdreimer@fronter.com](mailto:sdreimer@fronter.com) cell: 612 283 8362



Greetings & Happy New Year!!!

*Though we had an unseasonably mild December, we know what happens in January here in Minnesota, SNOW, SNOW and MORE SNOW. Hahahahaha I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and was able to enjoy quality time with family, friends and neighbors.*

***Watch your January 2024 mail for our annual BLCA Sponsorship mailing packet.***

**We have a NEW option this year for renewing your sponsorship or signing up to be a new sponsor. You can now complete/submit your form AND payment online!!!!**

If you know of any new property owners or would like to learn more about renewing your previous sponsorship, please contact a BLCA committee member or myself so we can reach out to you/them and discuss membership details, water conservation and the various programs we have in place to protect our waterways through the BLCA and Health Lakes committees along with our TLID (Three Lake Improvement District).

***If you do not receive your BLCA Sponsorship packet by February 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact me for assistance.***

*\* Also, if you did not receive an application mailing for **PLM's Individual Aquatic Plant Management/Spraying** and would like one, you can either contact PLM directly at 1-866-687-5253 or download an application from the main page of the BLCA website at [www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://www.briggslakechainassociation.com)*

**I would like to continue the BLCA's tradition of the annual "SHOUT OUT & THANK YOU's" to all our 2023 BLCA Board members and coordinators and acknowledge their contributions of time, materials and talent spent on behalf of us who love our lakes.**

**Tom Nordin** – BLCA Vice President and Two Inlets Park committee BLCA representative

**Adele Munsterman** – BLCA Secretary & Sunshine mailing coordinator

**Walt Munsterman** – water tester/transporter

**Robin Uchanski** – BLCA Treasurer

**Brad Kipp** – Past President, current Newsletter (The Lake Report) editor, membership mailing co-chair, McDonald's Meats coordinator and Directory co-editor  
**Rosalie Musachio** – Past President & current Healthy Lakes committee member  
**Margie Macaulay** – Big Elk Lake representative  
**Diane Tiegs** – Past Treasurer  
**Roger Miller** – Past Palmer Directory co-editor.  
**Lynn Miller** – Past Palmer Directory co-editor and website editor  
**Bre Bauerly** – Briggs bayou new lake representative, Healthy Lakes co-chair, BLCA Website editor, Gentle Footprint/Healthy Lakes Plant Bank/Lake Steward programs co-chair, membership mailing  
**Brad Thom** – Lake Julia new representative, Hwy 25 cleanup co-chair  
**Ruth Thom** – Healthy Lakes co-chair, Lake Steward co-chair, children's paddle event co-chair, Hwy 25 cleanup co-chair, grant writer, Facebook editor, Healthy Lakes website Editor, membership mailing and Instagram editor  
**Scott Ruiter** – COLA representative, volunteer water tester and grant writer  
**Debbie Stacey** – Past Secretary, newsletter editor, membership mailing and McDonalds meats fundraising chair  
**Deb Affeldt** – Past Big Elk Lake representative  
**Chuck Heinemann** – Gentle Footprint & Healthy Lakes Plant bank co-chair  
**Dave Jacobsen** – Facebook editor  
**Doug Solem** – Website TLID editor  
**Cameron Graber** – Past Healthy Lakes co-chair  
**Lyf Titcomb** – BLCA Food Booth co-chair  
**Forrest Brothen** – Ice Day on the Chain Coordinator  
**Robert Sinclair** – Lighted Train on the Chain parade coordinator  
**Naomi Campbell** – Children's Paddle Event co-chair  
**Shelly Alger-Peyton** – current BLCA President, COLA representative & COLA Exec. member, BLCA Food Booth co-chair, Facebook editor, membership mailing co-chair. volunteer coordinator and Gentle Footprint/Healthy Lakes Plant Bank coordinator

**Generating this "thank you" list can be a little tricky, so please do not be offended if I missed someone, it is not intentional, and I apologize in advance if I missed you. We so appreciate ANYONE & EVERYONE'S time and talent that has volunteered in any capacity. INCLUDING, ALL of our amazing volunteers throughout 2023 who helped with the Palmer Day BLCA food booth, Palmer Day parade float, Boat Parade**



**entries/registration/judging/parade leads, fireworks, water testing, grant writing, Hwy 25 ditch cleanup, ice fishing/ice out cleanup, high-water sign posting, Ice Day on the Chain and the many other events the BLCA is involved in.**

**This non-profit would NOT be possible without EACH AND EVERY volunteer!!!!**

### **Upcoming Winter/Spring events around Palmer:**

- [Ice Day on the Chain](#) – Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and volunteer opportunities.
- [McDonald's Meats Pork Chop/Brat fundraiser](#) – May/June TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and volunteer opportunities.
- [BLCA Spring Hwy 25 Ditch cleanup](#) – April/May TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and volunteer opportunities.
- [Spring Garage Sale weekend](#) – May TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details.

### **REMINDERS:**



- We are still in need of additional BLCA committee members for all 4 of our lakes (Briggs, Elk, Julia and Rush). We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers, fresh ideas and solutions to continue our water conservation to heal our lakes and evolve with the ever-changing environment.
- The BLCA is still in need of Palmer Directory editor(s) to join the editing team.
- **Please plan on attending your monthly BLCA meetings at Palmer Townhall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:30am.** To learn about and assist with water conservation, enriching activities and fellowship. **NEXT MEETING: Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.**
- **See [www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://www.briggslakechainassociation.com) for all committee meeting details for your BLCA & Healthy Lakes committee and the TLID. As well as, previous meeting minutes, water testing results/details, budget documents, upcoming events and tips and tricks for seasonal lake conservation.**
- **ALSO look for informative posts on our **BLCA Facebook page and the BLCA on Instagram.****

*If you would like to volunteer with us as a committee member or for one of the above-mentioned positions contact myself, Shelly Alger-Peyton, via call or text at 612-283-8362 or via email at [sdreimer@frontier.com](mailto:sdreimer@frontier.com).*

*I look forward to volunteering alongside you to conserve our waterways in 2024!!!!*

*- Shelly*

## CA Financials through November 30, 2023



Income to date: \$108,608.76  
 Expenses to date: \$ 43,403.82  
 Net Proceeds to date: \$65,204.94  
 Operating checking \$21,902.60  
 Money Market/ rapid response fund:  
 \$103,494.43

Outstanding deposits: None

The 2024 budget was presented and approved at the August general membership meeting.

You may request a detailed year to date 2023 budget or the 2024 budget. Email your request to [bradkipp1@gmail.com](mailto:bradkipp1@gmail.com). Include your name, email address, lake address and phone number.

## 2024 Sponsorship / Membership form and Volunteer opportunities.

**BRIGGS LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION**  
**2024 BLCA SPONSORSHIP FORM**  
 Briggs – Big Elk – Julia – Rush Lakes

*Remembering the Past – improving the Future...promoting the care, improvement, and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain and adjoining and connecting watershed.*

**New to the Lakes:** A BLCA sponsorship (membership) is a Tax Deductible 501C3 non-profit donation.

Do I have to pay the \$40 sponsorship to get the monthly newsletter, high water alerts and other notices? No, the BLCA will email the BLCA Lake Report Newsletter and notifications to all residents that have provided an email address below.

**\* NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE \* go to <https://briggslakechainassociation.com/> OR complete the information below and submit it via mail.**  
 \* Sponsors will receive a mailed confirmation for tax purposes and a membership sign to display \*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Own: \_\_\_\_\_ Rent: \_\_\_\_\_ if Renter, Owners Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address (if Different) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 First phone number will be listed in the 2024 Palmer Directory  
 Email Address #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_

**BLCA Membership Donation** Recommended Donation \$40 Your Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)** Recommended Donation \$40 Your Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Three Lake Improvement District will treat and manage AIS (Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil) in common areas of the upper 3 lakes for 2024. Your AIS donation helps the BLCA pay to survey all lakes for AIS and spray for milfoil in Big Elk. Other BLCA prevention includes boat inspections, volunteer milfoil hand pulling, monitoring signs of zebra mussels, golden clams and AIS education.

**Briggs Lake Fireworks - July 6, 2024.** Donations and BLCA Funded Your Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donations for the fireworks display on Briggs Lake are extremely important and must be received by June 1, 2024.  
 Donations received after that date will be credited to the 2025 display.

**Fish Stocking -** The BLCA will match up to a total of \$600 in donations to stock our lakes.  
 Big Elk Lake Walleye/Sunfish stocking - BLCA stocks the Walleye and Bluegill Your Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Upper 3 Lakes Fish Stocking -** Sunfish (DNR stocks Walleye on the 3 lakes) Your Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ice Day on the Chain - February 10, 2024 -** Donation and BLCA Funded Your Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU for your SPONSORSHIP** TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Donate ONLINE with PAYPAL or via cash/check payable to "BLCA" \*  
 Please complete registration ONLINE at: <https://briggslakechainassociation.com/>  
 OR mail completed forms to: BLCA, 4180 - 105<sup>th</sup> Ave, Box B, Clear Lake MN 55319 12.9.23

**PLEASE TURN OVER FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The new form will be “snail – mailed” in the next week or so and is on the website now. If you don’t get a form in the mail, email us at



[blca@briggslakechainassociation.com](mailto:blca@briggslakechainassociation.com) and let us know. The images of the forms in this newsletter are reduced. Go to the website for full size version.





Resident(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Web: [www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://www.briggslakechainassociation.com) Facebook: [briggslakechainassociation](https://www.facebook.com/briggslakechainassociation) Instagram: [Briggs Lake Chain Assoc.](https://www.instagram.com/briggs_lake_chain_assoc)

*Dear Briggs Lake Chain and Surrounding Residents,*  
This is our annual mailing to request your assistance and generosity with the BLCA mission.

**1. BLCA Membership/Sponsorship**  
Join your local lake association. We are a 5013C non-profit which makes your donation tax deductible.

**FUNDRAISING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES needing volunteers:**

- Neighborhood Watch Parties
- Membership Meeting & Picnic, June 8, 2024
- Fireworks and Boat Parade, July 6, 2024
- Annual Meeting/Ice Cream Social, Aug. 10, 2024
- Brat Sale at McDonalds Meats Clear Lake - TBD
- Palmer Day Food Booth & Parade float – September 14, 2024
- Ice Day on the Chain, February 10, 2024
- Hwy 25 Clean up – Spring & Fall 2024
- Palmer Area Community Directory editing
- Garage Sale – May 2024
- Shoreline Planting - TBD

**2. Aquatic Invasive Species Control (AIS)**  
We are asking for donations for AIS for other than the Three Lake Improvement District (TLID) which covers the upper three lakes to manage Curly Leaf and Eurasian Water Milfoil in common areas. Your AIS donation will help the BLCA to monitor Lily Creek and Big Elk Lake for AIS spreading from the upper lakes. There are other AIS prevention activities the BLCA provides such as boat inspections, volunteer milfoil hand pulling, monitoring for zebra mussels veliger, golden clams, and general AIS education. The objective of these projects is to keep the TLID expenses to a minimum by promoting prevention along with the assistance of unpaid volunteers.

**3. Fourth of July Fireworks**  
The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks display will be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, due to the 4<sup>th</sup> falling on a Wednesday in 2024. The BLCA receives a large discount from "Res Pyro", which is one of the largest fireworks display companies in Minnesota. They provide fireworks displays for the St. Paul Saints, MN Twins, MN Vikings games, MN State Fair, Minneapolis Aquatennial, Minneapolis & St. Paul 4<sup>th</sup> of July displays and many more.

**4. Fish Stocking - The BLCA matches up to a total of \$600 in donations to stock our lakes.**  
Big Elk stocking - Walleye and Sunfish (which eat carp eggs). BLCA stocks Walleye and Bluegill  
Upper Three Lakes Stocking – The DNR stocks Walleye on the Upper Three Lakes

*Please consider volunteering with the BLCA fundraising and/or with other events. Below is a list of events in need of your help. The BLCA needs your assistance and appreciates having fun working alongside residents & friends. Please select which events you are willing to volunteer with below.*

**Volunteer to Help at these Events and Activities**

<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Day on the Chain - February	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch Party
<input type="checkbox"/> Highway 25 Cleanup – Spring & Fall	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting/Ice Cream Social - August
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sale - May	<input type="checkbox"/> Palmer Day Food Booth & Parade Float
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Meeting & picnic - June	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline Planting - TBD
<input type="checkbox"/> McDonalds Brat/Pork Chop Sale - TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Boat Parade - July
<input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks Setup – July	

\* Please contact Shelly Alger-Peyton, BLCA Volunteer Coordinator for details: [salger@frontier.com](mailto:salger@frontier.com) - 612-263-8362

*Thank you for your support,*  
The Briggs Lake Chain Association Board

## Healthy Lakes ... Mission is education.

The overall purpose is to improve and maintain the water quality of the Briggs Lake Chain and connecting waterways.

**Thanks to Ruth Thom & Bre Bauerly** for co-chairing the Healthy Lakes committee.

Summary of Dec. 7, 2023, Healthy Lakes Meeting There were six members in attendance.

TLID Update ● The TLID annual report will be on the BLCA website soon. Applications for grants to control AIS have been/will be submitted by deadlines.

● The TLID board continued discussion regarding the ongoing research on wake boats.

● Alum grant update. All water and sediment samples were completed this summer. Carp study will be next summer. A preliminary report from Stantec is expected this winter. ○ Sediment cores were taken in November. 3-5 samples from 4 different places in Briggs, and 3 different spots in both Julia and Rush.  
Water sampling

- Walt will provide the final numbers for 2023 at our Jan. meeting Lake Steward program
- Bre, Ruth, and Naomi will be trained on how to evaluate properties for Lake Steward designation. The online training will be done this winter so that we can implement the program this spring. The board approved money for signs. Lawn Care Companies
- Dave spoke with neighbors at the Lighted Train event to get names of other lawn care companies that people use. He will be contacting those companies to inquire about their lake-friendly practices.
- Ruth will post a question on FB to gather the names of other companies. Elk Lake Park
- There will be boulders placed along the shore to prevent/deter access from the water. Native plantings have been done along Hwy 16, and many native plants are also coming back now that some of the invasive saplings have been removed. Elk Lake No Wake Ordinance
- It is being finalized. Chuck will monitor the water levels next summer. 2023 goals were reviewed and goals for 2024 were established. 2024 Healthy Lakes Committee Goals which do not have specific owners are owned by the committee.

1. Extend water quality monitoring data throughout 2024 as per Lake Management Plan, with cost sharing for testing from Palmer Township. Walt Munstermann
2. Collaborate with the Three Lake Improvement District throughout 2024 on water quality and water stabilization issues. Bob
3. Participate in BLCA related Board of Adjustment hearings throughout 2024. Steve Demueles
4. Coordinate and fund AIS surveys for Big Elk Lake by August 15, 2024. Gary Anderson
5. Publish a Healthy Lakes committee summary of each meeting in the 2024 Lake Report issues and post it on BLCA website. Ruth Thom, Bre Bauerly
6. Actively participate in Sherburne Coalition of Lake Associations [COLA] throughout 2024. Scott Ruiter, Shelly Alger-Peyton
7. Actively participate in the planning and development of the One Watershed One Plan throughout 2024. Scott Ruiter
8. Continue the Shoreland Restoration program and administer Gentle Footprint grant Program. Shelly Alger-Peyton, Chuck Heinemann
9. Seek ways to increase education and awareness among members, new lake residents, and visitors regarding best practices for maintaining and improving the quality of our lakes. All
10. Implement and coordinate the Lake Steward Program. Bre, Ruth, Naomi

11. Host an educational event for youth to introduce non-motorized watercraft and to provide instruction on water safety and ecology, and the Leave No Trace principle. Ruth Thom, Naomi

**New MN Law: It's Now Illegal to Place ANY Garbage and Waste on Ice**

**Impacts Anglers and Winter Recreationists Statewide**

Nov. 17, 2023: Effective  
.. See more



keepitcleanmn.org  
**Keep it Clean MN – Be Nice to Our Ice**

**All Fishermen! A New 2023 MN Fishing Law is NOW in Effect.**

**The New Law States: All outside Garbage and Debris MUST be in a Container and Secured to your Vehicle or Shelter AT**

**ALL TIMES and MAY NOT be placed directly on the ice or in the water at ANY TIME.**

**Each Violation will be Subject to a \$100 Fine.**



**Thank you for keeping our Lakes Clean and Healthy!**

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and shoreline Weed Control on our lakes.** The Three Lakes Improvement

District's (TLID) finances cover the upper 3 lakes to manage Curly Leaf and Milfoil in the common areas. BLCA donations and grants cover AIS in Bik Elk. **Weed control on the shorelines of individual properties for all lakes is an option for all property owners.** The shoreline area covers approximately 50 feet from the shoreline. This is at the property owner's expense. The BLCA's recommended vendor is PLM. The same vendor who does the common areas.

2024 NEW CUSTOMER

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.  
Midwest Region  
Tel. 1-866-687-5253  
Office. 1-218-270-3338

SUBJECT: BLCA 2024 Individual Aquatic Plant Management

Dear BLCA Property Owner,

We at PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. hope this message finds you well; you had an enjoyable season at the lake in 2023 and are starting to prepare for the 2024 season.

The BLCA is pleased to announce that they will be using PLM for shoreline aquatic plant control in 2024. PLM is offering a one or two treatment program during the summer. The first treatment is expected to occur in early June and the second follows approximately four to six weeks after. PLM's two-treatment program comes with a Homeowner Satisfaction Guarantee.

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. is offering a reduced price to BLCA property owners. PLM will also pay for your \$35.00 MN DNR permit in 2024 for new customers.

- **Important Information:**
  - BLCA Price Per Foot along shore, Per Treatment **\$5.40**
  - You may request to treat up to half of your shoreline owned up to 100', whichever is less, and up to 100' lakeward.
  - All new customers will be assessed a **\$5.00** fuel surcharge
    - **Example:** You own 100' of shoreline, so you request to treat 50' along shore, 100' lakeward, and you chose to have two treatments:
      - 50' x \$5.40 = \$270.00 x 2 treatments = \$540.00 plus \$5.00 fuel surcharge = \$545.00 **Season Total**
- **Provided Documents:**
  - 2024 Blank Contract
    - Please review the requested fields on the blank contract and complete in its entirety, this is critical for your MN DNR permit application.
    - Please remember to draw a general sketch of where you prefer treatment at your lakefront property.
    - Lastly, please remember to sign the bottom of the contract and remit payment.
      - **PLM requires payment in full prior to performing services.**
- **Due Date:** **April 30th** to help ensure a timely and valid MN DNR permit.


We at PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. look forward to the opportunity to work with you and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.  
Midwest Region  
218-270-3338  
mnadmin@plmcorp.net

**Here is the 2024 cover letter from PLM.** The costs, pricing, dues dates and customer satisfaction guarantees are the same for repeat and new customers are the same. For new customers the \$35.00 permit fee is waived for the first year. Also note there is a referral bonus for returning customers.

Form images are reduced. Go to website <https://briggslakechainassociation.com/> for full size page.



**PLM Lake and Land Management Corp**  
2024 Aquatic Plant Management  
One Year Agreement for New Customers

Mailing and Billing Information	
First Name	Last Name
Street Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	Email Address



Lake Front Property Information	
Lake Name (and bay if applicable)	County
Lake Address Street (if different from billing)	
City, State, Zip	
Lake House Color	Frontage Owned (Feet)
How were you referred to PLM?	Frontage to be treated (shore x lakeward distance)
Identifying features from the lake (dock features, decor, flags, etc.)	
# of Treatments <b>2</b>	Permit Fee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$35 permit fee waived for first year
Program Cost (Quote)	
Treatment Type (if known)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submersed Vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/> Filamentous Algae
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chara	<input type="checkbox"/> Snails (swimmers itch)
<input type="checkbox"/> Floating Leaf	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergent

Payment may be made by credit card via our website at [www.plmcorp.net/product/payinvoiceonline](http://www.plmcorp.net/product/payinvoiceonline) (invoice and customer numbers are customer first and last name) or with a check in the mail to the address above.

I hereby authorize PLM Lake & Land Management to manage my lakefront property and give explicit permission to obtain any necessary permits.

Print Name	Date
Signature	

• PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401 • (218) 316-6050 voice • (866) 527-6399 fax •

**RETURNING CUSTOMERS**

**PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.**  
Midwest Region  
Tel. 1-866-687-5253  
Office. 1-218-270-3338

**SUBJECT:** BLCA 2024 Individual Aquatic Plant Management

Dear BLCA Property Owner,

We at PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. hope this message finds you well, and that you had an enjoyable season at the lake in 2023. Although you may be preparing for the winter, we at PLM are already preparing for next summer. As such, we are sending contracts for the 2024 season to secure our services with you, offer pricing, and apply for any necessary permits from the MN DNR on your behalf. To help streamline the process for you, please notice the below information and review carefully.

- **Provided Contents and Description:**
  - o 2024 Contract
    - Please review, then sign and send with total payment by April 30, 2024
  - o 2023 Pesticide Application Record(s)
    - PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. must supply these to you and the MN DNR, these record(s) are yours to keep
  - o PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. Referral Program 2024
    - We kindly ask for your referral to your neighbors and friends on your lake
    - Your fully executed referral will result in a \$40.00 check issued to you by the end of 2024
  - o Return Envelope
    - Please return your signed contract with total payment in the provided envelope by April 30, 2024
- **PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. Late Fee**
  - o PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. will assess a \$40.00 late fee for any contract(s) and payment(s) received after April 30, 2024 without prior authorization.

**Changes:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

New Alt. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

New E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake House Color and Identifying Features: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.  
Midwest Region  
218-270-3338  
mnadmin@plmcorp.net

If you have any questions about the shoreline spraying program, please contact PLM direct. Our contact in the PLM Brainerd office is Kristy Hoge 218-270-7398 Email: [mnadmin@plmcorp.net](mailto:mnadmin@plmcorp.net)

**BLCA Mission statement: Remembering the Past - Improving the Future - Promoting the Care, Improvement, and General Welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain (Julia, Briggs, Rush and Big Elk) and adjoining and connecting watershed.**

