

We are now in our fifth year of projects associated with limiting the number of carp in Circle Lake to improve the overall water quality. Carp are detrimental to our lake in several ways as they destroy vital lake vegetation that helps clean the water and provide cover for game fish. They also greatly increase the biomass of the lake which increases algae levels. Our project has an aggressive four prong approach:

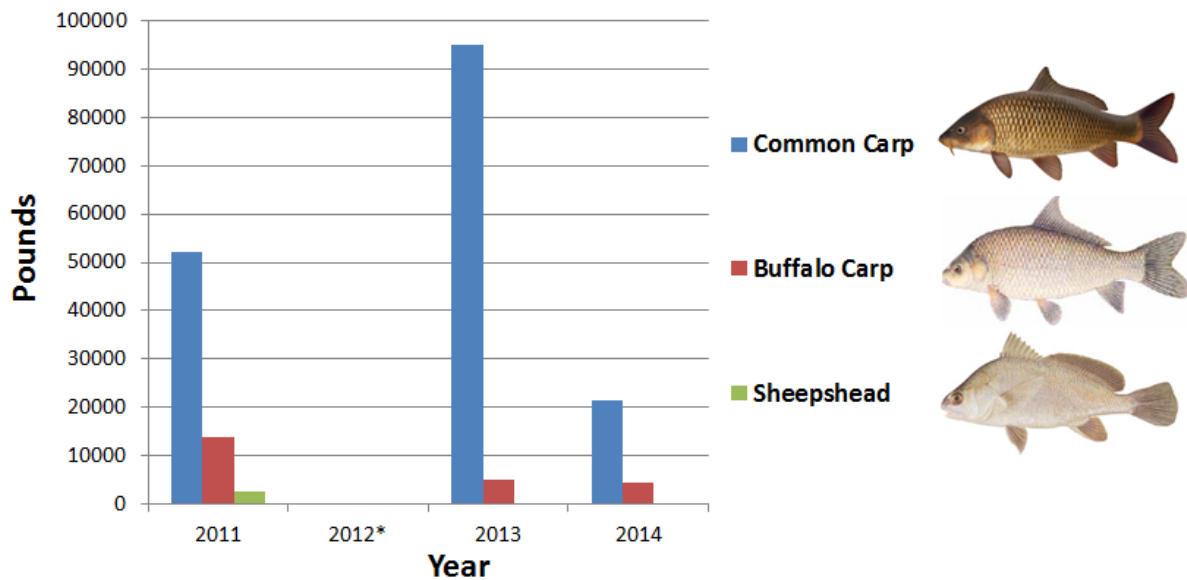
- Reestablish a rough fish barrier at Wolf Creek to help prevent carp from entering the lake from the Cannon River.
- Limit spawning locations for carp around Circle Lake.
- Increase numbers of game fish that feed on carp eggs.
- Remove adult carp from Circle Lake through seining.



Figure 1: Fish Fitted With Radio Transmitter

With the first three initiatives complete or underway, in 2014 our team began focusing on the fourth initiative of removing adult carp from the lake. The Circle Lake Association Board approved the first phase of an aggressive carp monitoring and removal project in late 2014. This project involves fitting a group of carp with radio transmitters to better understand their spawning and winter aggregation locations. Figure 1 shows an example of a fish fitted with a radio transmitter. This data will be used to track the carp throughout 2015 and 2016, with the goal of large scale removal in the winter of 2016. The radio telemetry will be used to further limit access to carp spawning locations and to locate the aggregated groups during the removal operation. The radio tagging of the carp in Circle Lake is currently scheduled to occur during a seining event in February of 2015, which is dependent on ice conditions.

Limited ice conditions in late 2014 prevented seining, so the statistics in Figure 2 only reflect one seining event in early 2014. The next seining event is scheduled for February of 2015.



\* Ice conditions in 2012 did not allow for fish seining

Figure 2 - Circle Lake Rough Fish Removal Statistics