



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Water Recreation Program

**Expenditures: \$1,000,000 FY 2012 / \$1,000,000 FY 2013**

**(Natural Resources Fund – Water Recreation Account)**

#### **It is needed because**

Minnesota ranks third in the nation in number of licensed boats (816,000) and first in boats per capita, with one for every six people. Public water access facilities are essential for Minnesotans to access public waters, serving the varied needs of the state's boaters, anglers, hunters, lakeshore owners, and resorts. The total economic impact of watercraft and boat trip spending in Minnesota is \$4 billion annually, which includes spending on lodging and trip supplies.

The spread of aquatic invasive species is one of the top conservation challenges facing Minnesota today—and the unintentional transport on trailered watercraft and water-related equipment is believed to be a primary means of spread. This initiative will enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop and implement best management practices (BMPs) for public and private water accesses to meet current aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention needs.

DNR worked with stakeholders to develop strategies that would increase DNR's overall efforts to control the spread of aquatic invasive species through efforts such as improving water access sites to better accommodate aquatic invasive species prevention methods. This initiative provides funding from the water recreation account to improve water accesses to address AIS prevention needs.

#### **Major program elements**

Components of the proposed strategies and BMPs under consideration for public water access sites:

- Create designated areas for stopping and completing AIS checklist or inspection;
- Incorporate storm water practices to provide site friendly boat drainage areas;
- Provide aquatic vegetation disposal areas;
- Provide shoreline buffer zones to further filter water from boats;

- Create improved signs;
- Develop instructions on modifying existing sites with cost estimates for all water access providers;
- Promote public awareness around the use of the new AIS prevention area;
- Focus on boater stewardship through partnerships; and
- Demonstration boat wash sites.

#### **Priority-setting**

The first priority for this funding will be at public accesses sites on lakes infested with zebra mussels. Busy sites on lakes infested with other AIS are the secondary priority. Eventually all public access sites will benefit from the BMPs.

#### **Project locations**

Projects are located statewide at public water accesses.

#### **Key measures and outcomes**

- Create and distribute BMP instructions;
- Implement BMPs at 30 to 50 DNR public access sites on lakes with AIS; and
- Publicize BMPs using a variety of methods.

#### **Financial Implications**

The FY 2011 budget for this activity is \$9.6 million. The requested annual appropriation increase of \$1,000,000 is a 10% increase to the FY 2010-11 base.

#### **For further information contact:**

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