



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Invasive Species

**\$958,000 FY16/\$958,000 FY17**

**[Invasive Species Account]**

#### **It Is Needed Because**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have the potential to cause serious problems in Minnesota. These nonnative species disrupt economic activity and degrade the quality of recreation. Their spread is a threat to the state's natural resources.

Prevention efforts reduce the spread of invasive species and buy critical time needed for research and management that may provide long-term control solutions. The DNR's AIS strategies identify fundamental steps needed to respond to this pressing issue, among others.

One-time funding of \$400,000 for county assistance will expire at the end of fiscal year 2015 and the balance in the Invasive Species Account is declining.

#### **Major Program Elements**

- Meet the growing needs of the Invasive Species Program, which is funded primarily from the Invasive Species Account through surcharges on watercraft and non-resident fishing licenses.
- Provide funding to support counties' Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) activities and to restore habitat and native species that have been degraded by AIS. Counties are requesting guidance and support from the DNR.

#### **Key Measures and Outcomes**

- DNR AIS watercraft inspectors will be stationed at priority access sites.
- AIS prevention plans will be developed and implemented with counties and other local governments. In 2013, the DNR entered into 25 delegation agreements with local units of government for authorized inspectors. The number of delegation agreements and requests

for assistance with planning has increased with the new \$10 million in county aid.

- Provide training for local watercraft inspectors. In 2013, the DNR trained 298 local watercraft inspectors and this number is expected to increase substantially with the new local aid coming to the counties.
- Support County AIS efforts with increased enforcement.
- Restore habitat and native species that have been degraded by AIS.

#### **Fiscal Impacts**

Increase the watercraft surcharge from \$5 to \$10 to increase receipts to the Invasive Species Account by \$1,002,000 in the first year and \$1,336,000 in subsequent years.

Increase the appropriation to the Division from the Invasive Species Account by \$958,000 to support 8.4 FTE to carry out existing and increasing AIS prevention efforts.

#### **For Further Information, Please Contact:**

Luke Skinner, Division Director  
Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5106

[Luke.Skinner@state.mn.us](mailto:Luke.Skinner@state.mn.us)