Regional 3 - Central

New infestations:
- Zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Minnetonka in July. Surveys confirmed established populations in multiple locations.
- Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in eight new lakes in the central region.

Prevention activities:
- In response to the Lake Minnetonka zebra mussel infestation, targeted enforcement efforts were carried out around the lake. New signs were posted, and public meetings were held to inform citizens about impacts to the lake and what precautions are required to minimize impacts to users and prevent their spread.
- Held lake service provider training.
- Eurasian watermilfoil was treated in 17 harbors and early season mapping.
- Point intercept plant surveys, early season mapping, and full tournament surveys were conducted on early-leaf postive pilot project grant lakes including Lower Mississaugua Lake, Lower Cubbed Lake (Crow Wing County), and Dixon Lake (Haco County).
- Eurasian watermilfoil was treated in harbors and water accesses on Mille Lacs Lake.

Region 4 - South

New infestations:
- 4 lakes received grants for control of Eurasian watermilfoil and/or curly-leaf pondweed.
- Citizen Lake Monitoring training was provided to 17 lakes infested with either Eurasian watermilfoil and/or curly-leaf pondweed.
- Worked at local fairs and events including Kids Day Fishing and Cannon River Festival.
- A total of $82,000 was awarded to 14 groups to initiate new or continue current public awareness projects and an additional $70,000 was awarded for 6,000 hours of watercraft inspections to 37 groups at the local level.

Management activities:
- Clear Lake in Mower County completed its fifth year in the pilot program to control curly-leaf pondweed on a lake-wide basis. The program has been successful in reducing curly-leaf pondweed biomass.
- Technical assistance, plant surveys, and information were provided to 17 lakes infested with either Eurasian watermilfoil and/or curly-leaf pondweed.
- Citizen Lake Monitoring training was provided to interested lake associations at various times of the season.
- 4 lakes received grants for control of Eurasian watermilfoil and/or curly-leaf pondweed.

In addition, the Invasive Species Program received federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service for a variety of research projects.

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY FOR 2010

Management activities:
- Plant surveys and technical assistance were provided to numerous lake associations and lake improvement districts planning management activities. This included lakes infested with curly-leaf pondweed and four lakes with Eurasian watermilfoil.
- Point intercept plant surveys, early season mapping, and full tournament surveys were conducted on early-leaf positive pilot project grant lakes including Lower Mississaugua Lake, Lower Cubbed Lake (Crow Wing County), and Dixon Lake (Haco County).
- Eurasian watermilfoil was treated in harbors and water accesses on Mille Lacs Lake.

Regional 3 - Central

New infestations:
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- Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in eight new lakes in the central region.

Prevention activities:
- Enforcement was increased around infested waters. Watercraft inspections increased from 4,930 in 2009 to 6,200 in 2010.
- Worked at local fairs and events including Kids Day Fishing and Cannon River Festival.
- A total of $82,000 was awarded to 14 groups to initiate new or continue current public awareness projects and an additional $70,000 was awarded for 6,000 hours of watercraft inspections to 37 groups at the local level.

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To address the problems caused by invasive species, the 1991 Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish the Invasive Species Program and to implement actions to monitor and manage invasive species of aquatic plants and wild animals. In 2010, the DNR continued to work closely with the University of Minnesota, local government, and university researchers to find ways to minimize the impacts of flowering watermilfoil. Washburn, Townline, and Union lakes (Crow Wing County) were included in the pilot program to evaluate lake-wide treatment of curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil. Washburn, Townline, and Union lakes were all chemically treated for Eurasian watermilfoil. The DNR continued to work with the Pelican River Watershed district, the St. Louis River Watershed, Lake Victoria, and other local lakes to control nuisance populations of Eurasian watermilfoil and foraging fish. The DNR also was offered significant new funding from the state to assist local lake organizations with the development of new management of aquatic invasive species. New infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil were found on Lake Leech, Lake Clay, and the Crow Wing River downstream of First Crow Wing Bridge. New infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil were confirmed in Cass Lake and Waskish.

Prevention activities included the distribution of aquatic hitchhiker signage to multiple lake groups with curly-leaf pondweed and/or Eurasian watermilfoil infestations. In addition, more than 1,200 hours of watercraft inspections doubled from 7,954 in 2009 to 15,910 in 2010.

Waters in Minnesota as of November 2010.

The RESPONSE To address the problems caused by invasive species, the 1991 Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish the Invasive Species Program and to implement actions to monitor and manage invasive species of aquatic plants and wild animals.

Invasive species have the potential to cause serious problems in Minnesota. They are currently found in 19 mainland lakes, isolated areas of Lake Superior, and 35 islands in Lake Superior. New additions to the list are being discovered each year, and new sites in 2010, bringing the total number of known infestations to 2,406.

Invasive species prevention efforts.

DNR and Minnesota Waters staff met with stakeholder groups to discuss the problem. Stakeholders expressed concern that new infestations would occur in 759 lakes in 70 Minnesota counties.

New infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil were discovered in 12 Purple loosestrife was not found in Minnesota bodies is 246.

The Watercraft Inspection Program also worked with 42 associations and citizens to increase inspection hours in their areas. These groups found additional sites on their properties at their access points and often matched them with DNR. The DNR provided training, operation, and supervision.

Enforcement Conservation officers spent more than 12,800 hours enforcing invasive species laws and rules. A 2,454 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff was increased from 600 in 1995 to 876 in 2009.

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Training was provided to private dock removal contractors and other lake professionals on proper cleaning and movement of equipment.

Grants were also awarded to area associations for local prevention and awareness education. A prevention, awareness, and education plan was initiated with the Lake Minnetonka and Lake of the Isles. The Conservation officers stationed state cars at the location to provide assistance and education to people entering from the Fourth of July weekend targeted recreationalists through education and the word out on the new drain plug law.

3. Reduce the impacts caused by invasive species

Grants were provided to 27 watercraft inspection programs to purchase watercraft inspection equipment, training, and program expenses. Stakesholders expressed concern about the impact Eurasian watermilfoil, and Asian carp may have on the ecosystem. A “Can you take hold or acquire invasive species (ASL)” will continue to spread. Many states that do not have the proper resources are able to meet the current needs. A recommended list of actions was developed for the Legislature, DNR, local government, and organizations to consider.

Watercraft inspections Ninety watercraft inspectors worked through the summer to check boats

and provide information to the public. Inspections began in May and continued through mid-October, with 52,000 inspections conducted.

Figure 1: Faucet small infested rivers and lakes in Minnesota as of November 2010.

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Some watercraft inspection programs were provided with new funding programs to inform stakeholders, and the DNR Small-scale efforts such as hand removal, harvesting, and chemical applications are being funded by local entities at the city level and other properties on Detroit and Carleton waterways.

Regional updates continued

REGION 1 - NORTHWEST

- Zebra mussels were discovered near Sand Lake in Lake Victoria
- Faucet small infestation was discovered in Mississippi River downstream of Lake Winnibigoshish, Little Winnibigoshish, and the Crow Wing River downstream of First Crow Wing Bridge in Crow Wing County.

Enemies were increased around the infested lakes, watercraft inspections doubled from 359 in 2007 to 15,910 in 2010.

- Training was provided to private dock removal companies and other lake professionals on proper cleaning and movement of equipment.

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- Eurasian watermilfoil was confirmed in Cass Lake and Waskish.

- Spring waterfowl inspection was confirmed in Burntside Lake (St. Louis County).

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