

2018 Crow Wing County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan

Mission:

To provide leadership in preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Crow Wing County by coordinating inspection, decontamination, targeted treatment, and education efforts.

Partners:

Crow Wing County has developed a network of public, private, state and local partners that enables a strategic use and prioritization of resources to combat the spread of AIS in our waters. This plan will continue to build upon this network to increase awareness of AIS and limit their spread.

Public Input:

This plan was developed with the input via a public comment period for concerned citizens and other stakeholders from November 22nd to December 2st, 2017.

Plan Activities & Budget:

The 2018 allocation of State AIS funds (~\$422,755 + \$45,000 carry over from 2017) is proposed as follows:

- **\$370,388 = Watercraft Inspections** using DNR trained Level I inspectors (provided by Brainerd's Employment Resource Center). The budget also includes monies for an AIS inspection program scheduler / lead, training inspectors, basic supplies (flags, tablets, etc.), and watercraft counter maintenance.

Crow Wing County has classified landings in the County with a risk classification, which was developed based on each access' overall usage, proximity to AIS infested waters, and infested status. Carry-in accesses are not identified in this plan. Local associations and others are charged with identifying and managing these landings.

The basis for establishing Level 1 inspection hours is through a modified access ranking system based on watercraft inspections per-hour (where data is available) and to a lesser extent whether or not the lake is designated infested with AIS. This is similar to the approach used by the Minnesota DNR's "Level 1 Watercraft Inspection Tier List".

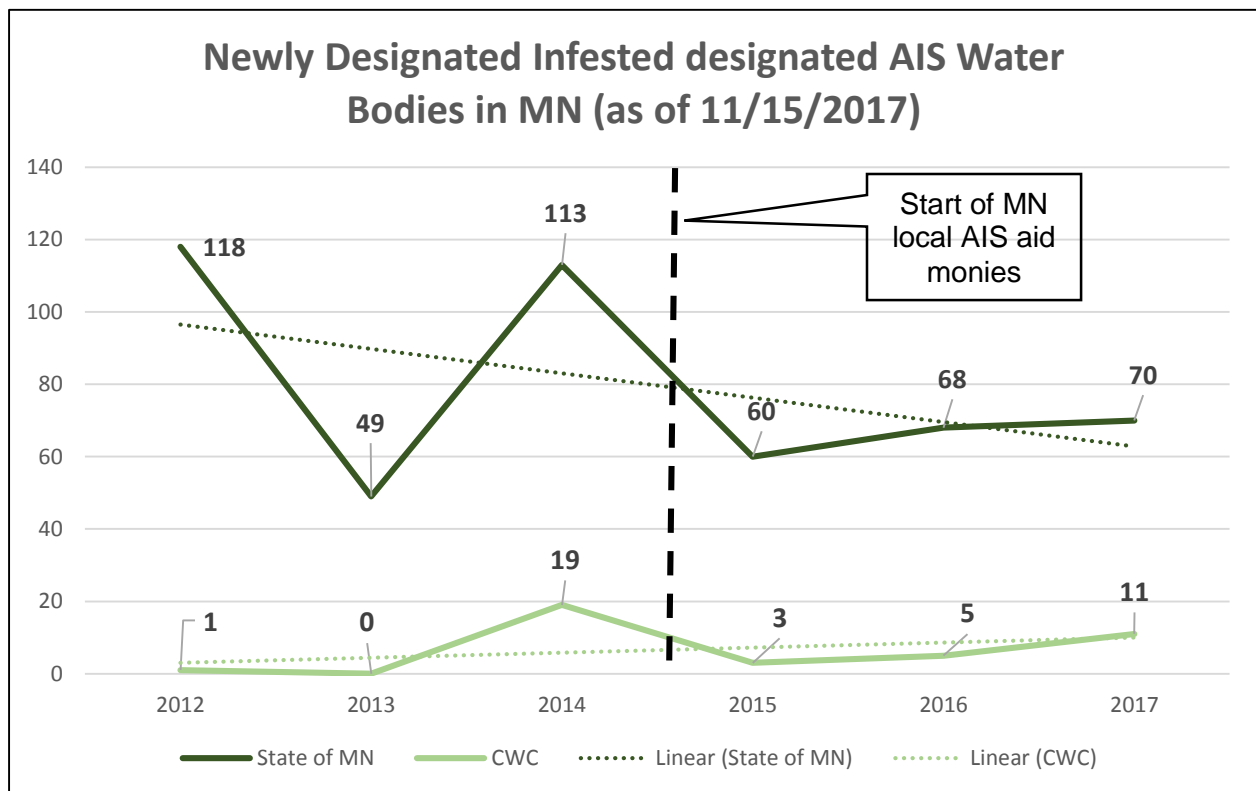
The process begins by selecting a "pool" of lakes that will be included in the ranking system. All public boat accesses in the "very high" and "high" risk classification and infested lakes classified as "moderate" were included. Next, the total number of hours available for all inspections was established based on budget allocation (in this case 16,600 hours). Then, points were allocated based on access use (watercraft inspections per-hour) and infestation status as follows:

- < 0.9 inspections per-hour = 0 points (no inspections)
 - NOTE: designated AIS infested lakes with less than 0.9 inspections per-hour automatically receive inspections.
- 0.9 – 1.9 inspections per-hour = 1 point
- >1.9 inspections per-hour = 2 points

All scores were then totaled to determine the percentage of the total hours that each access would receive. Finally, in order to accommodate some inspection hours for moderate risk designated AIS infested lakes, the very high risk lake hours were reduced. The result of the modified-ranking is as follows:

- Very High risk lakes = 520 hours
- High risk lakes = 300 hours
- Moderate risk lakes designated AIS infested = 100 hours

Risk Level	# of Landings (suitable for boats)	General Risk Basis	2018 Plan
Very High	15	Large, heavily used landings on or very near infested waters	County-provided inspectors at 520 hours per landing
High	26	Well used landings on generally mid-sized lakes, further away from infested waters	County-provided inspectors at 300 hours per landing
Moderate	46	Public landings with sporadic use	County-provided inspectors at 100 hours per-landing or no county inspectors at all. Reliance on volunteers & education / awareness.
Low	95	Little used public or private landings	Education / awareness only; training offered for private landing operators

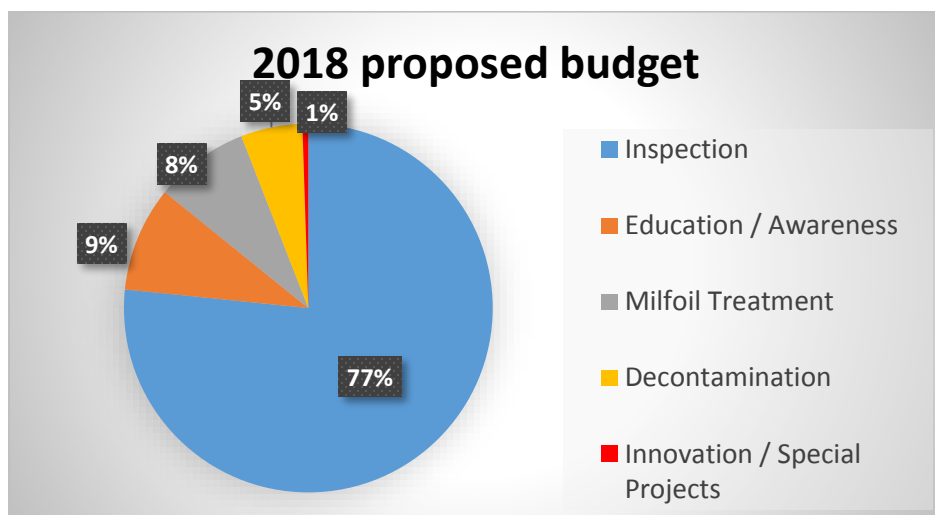


- \$26,100 = Decontaminations.** Located at the Joint Maintenance Highway Facilities in Crosslake, approximately 600 hours (+/-) to Remove AIS using DNR-trained Level II inspectors (provided by Brainerd Employment Resource Center). The decontamination station will be fully staffed Friday through Sunday, 9:00am to 7:00pm and on-call only Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm from late May through mid-late September.

This also includes DNR training, general supplies/maintenance, portable toilet rental, and subsidizing private party and local government unit (LGU) decontaminations by providing 200 hours of Level II inspections each for both the Pelican Square (Breezy Point) and Ruth Lake for DNR-approved, public decontaminations in Crow Wing County.

- **\$44,500 = Education & Awareness.** 50% of this budget will be for a regionally significant collaborative project with 7 surrounding counties in partnership with the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) for targeted social media utilizing “geofencing” around public access landings, monthly professionally written local print & video content, website advertising, and re-targeting efforts. Remaining funds will be spent on up to 18 lakes for lake association public awareness campaigns (\$250 per lake with a boat landing), print media (Rack cards, newspaper ads, stickers, posters, etc.), an annual AIS spring newsletter to all riparian landowners (apx. 15,000), and other targeted advertising (TV, theaters, online, billboards/outdoor signage, banner ads, and/or radio PSAs).
- **\$40,000 = Milfoil Treatment.** AIS monies will pay for one survey and all treatments for control of milfoil of up to \$4,000 total per-lake on 10 eligible infested lakes with a public access. Eligible lakes include Bay, Clearwater, Emily, Kimble, Lower Mission, Ossawinamakee, Pine (adjacent to Pine River, near Whitefish Chain), Ruth, Upper Mission, and White Sand Lake.
- **\$2,500 = Innovation / Special Projects.** Zebra mussel veliger sampling (CWC to pay for lab costs, lake associations to conduct sampling) in July for up to 31 lakes that are uninfested by designated AIS.

Proposed 2018 Budget:



2017 actual expenses:

