State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources

~~Wildlife Area Stewardship~~ Wetland Habitat AIS Ed

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant Application

Form 8700-307 (12/11)

Notice: Use of this form is required by the DNR for any application filed pursuant to ch. NR 198, Wis. Adm. Code. Personal information collected on this form, including such data as your name, address, phone number, etc., will be used for management and enforcement of DNR programs, and is not intended to be used for any other purpose. Information may be made accessible to requesters under Wisconsin's Open Records laws (s. 19.32-19.39, Wis. Stats.) and requirements.

Section I: Application Type

Check one:

☒ Education, Prevention & Planning ☐ Early Detection & Response ☐ Established Infestation Control

Legislative District Numbers	
Senate	Assembly
24, 29	70, 86

To determine your legislative district, go to http://165.189.139.210/WAML//
Type in complete address, next screen shows information.

Section II: Applicant Information

Applicant: George W. Mead Wildlife Area

Waterbody Name: Wetlands/Little Eau Pleine River

Project County/Township/Section/Range: Marathon (See Attached) Wood and Portage

Type of Eligible Applicants:
☐ County ☐ Tribe ☐ Other Gov't Unit ☐ Federal
☐ City ☐ Sanitary Dist. ☐ Nonprofit Org. ☒ State
☐ Village ☐ Dist. ☐ College, School, etc. ☐ Other
☐ Town ☐ Assoc.

Authorized Representative Named by Resolution	Project Contact Name
Brian Peters	Patrice Eyers
Authorized Representative Title	**Project Contact Title**
Property Supervisor	Wildlife Technician
Address	**Address**
S2148 Cty Hwy S	S2148 Cty Hwy S
City / State / ZIP Code	**City / State / ZIP Code**
Milladore / WI / 54454	Milladore / WI / 54454
Daytime Phone (area code)	**Daytime Phone (area code)**
(715) 457-6771	(715) 457-6771
Evening Phone (area code)	**Evening Phone (area code)**
	(715) 574-8973
E-mail Address	**E-Mail Address**
brian.peters@wisconsin.gov	patrice.eyers@wisconsin.gov

Mail Check to: (if different from applicant)

Name and Title	Address
Organization	**City / State / ZIP Code**

For DNR Use Only

Application Type	Date Received	Date Reviewed (AIS/LC/RC)	AIS/Lake /River Coordinator Approval /Date
	E-mailed 1/30/14	2-20-14	

Waterbody ID#	Adequate Public Access	Environmental Grants Specialist Approval / Date	
	☒ Yes ☐ No		
Eligible Project	**Eligible Applicant**	**Project Priority Rank**	**Research / Demo Project**
☒ Yes ☐ No	☒ Yes ☐ No		☐ Yes ☐ No
Prior Grant Award(s)	**Fiscal Year(s)**	**Amount Received To Date**	**Project Awarded**
☐ Yes ☒ No		$	☐ Yes ☐ No

Section III: Project Information

Project Title	Proposed Ending Date
AIS Awareness for Waterfowl Hunters	09/01/14

Other Management Units	Letter of Support	Other Management Units	Letter of Support
1. Not Applicable	☐	4.	☐
2.	☐	5.	☐
3.	☐	6.	☐

Section IV: Public Access

Number of Public Vehicle Trailer Parking Spaces Available at Public Access Sites: 50

Number of Public Access Sites Including Boat Launches and Walk-ins: 85

Section V: Cost Estimate and Grant Request

Section V must be completed or application will be returned. Details in support of Section V are welcome.	Project Costs		
	Column 1 Cash Costs	**Column 2 Donated Value**	***DNR Use Only***
1. Salaries, wages and employee benefits			
2. Consulting services			
3. Purchased services--printing and mailing			
4. Other purchased services (specify):			
5. Plant material			
6. Supplies (specify) Special signs printed - Aluminium	680.00		4,000
7. Depreciation on equipment			
8. Hourly equipment use charges			
9. State Lab of Hygiene (SLOH) Costs			
10. Non-SLOH Lab Costs			
11. Other (specify)			
12. **Subtotals** (sum each column)	680.00		4,000
13. **Total Project Cost Estimate** (sum of **column 1 plus** sum of **column 2**)	680.00		4,000
14. **State Share Requested (up to 75% of total costs may be requested)**	510.00		3,000

Subject to the following maximum grant amounts:

- Education, Prevention and Planning Projects--up to $150,000
- Early Detection and Response Projects--up to $20,000
- Established Infestation Control Projects--up to $200,000

per email update BM

Use of Federal funding as match: (check box below if applicable)

☐ We are using or planning to apply for Federal funds to be used as match.

If known, indicate source of funding:

Section VI: Attachments (check all that are included)

A. For all applicants: *(Refer to instructions for applicability.)*

- [x] 1. Authorizing resolution
- [ ] 2. Letters of support
- [x] 3. Map of project location and boundaries
- [x] 4. Lake map or river segment with public access sites identified (per Section IV of this application and page 20 of the guidelines)
- [x] 5. Itemized breakdown of expenses
- [ ] 6. For projects that entail sending samples to the State Laboratory of Hygiene (SLOH) only: a completed SLOH Projected Cost Form
- [x] 7. Project scope/description:
  - [x] a. Description of project area
  - [x] b. Description of problem to be addressed by project
  - [x] c. Discussion of project goals and objectives
  - [x] d. Description of methods and activities
  - [ ] e. Description of project products or deliverables
  - [ ] f. Description of data to be collected, if applicable
  - [ ] g. Description of existing and proposed partnerships
  - [ ] h. Discussion of role of project in planning and/or management of lake
  - [x] i. Timetable for implementation of key activities
  - [x] j. Plan for sharing project results
  - [ ] k. Other information in support of project not described above

B. For applicants that are Lake Management Organizations (LMOs), River Management Organizations (RMOs) or Qualified Non-profit Organizations:

- [ ] 1. For first time applicant LMOs/RMOs only: A completed Form 8700-226 (Lake Association Organizational Application) or 8700-287 (River Management Organization Application)
- [ ] 2. For first time applicant Qualified Nonprofit Organizations only: Copy of IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter and copies of your Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- [ ] 3. List of national and/or statewide organizations with which you are affiliated
- [ ] 4. List of board members' names, including municipality and county of residence. Designate officers
- [ ] 5. Documentation of current financial status
- [ ] 6. Brochures, newsletters, annual reports or other information about your organization

C. Education, Prevention and Planning Projects: *(No additional attachments required.)*

D. Early Detection and Response Projects:

- [ ] 1. APM Permit application

E. Established Infestation Control Projects:

- [ ] 1. Management Plan
- [ ] 2. APM Permit application

Section VII: Certification

I certify that information in this application and all its attachments are true and correct and in conformity with applicable Wis. Statutes.

Print/Type Name of Authorized Representative	Title of Authorized Representative
Brian Peters	Property Supervisor
Signature of Authorized Representative	**Date Signed**
Brian Peters	1-30-14

Updated Waterfowl Hunter AIS Outreach Proposal

This project is intended to provide invasive species awareness targeting waterfowl hunters using both the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Areas. Together, the properties encompass approximately 40,000 acres of which over 15,000 acres are wetlands. These two properties are located in Central WI and are two of the most heavily hunted waterfowl properties in the state. In addition to traditional access both properties are accessible via the Little Eau Pleine River and the Mead Wildlife Area has boundaries adjacent the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir. The Mead Wildlife Area is also the home of the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center. The facility offers a wide array of environmental education programs and sees over 10,000 visitors annually.

It is our goal to bring attention to the threat and spread of aquatic invasive species to a group of users that often are over-looked. Waterfowl hunters spend numerous hours in our state's rivers, lakes and wetlands. They travel around WI as well as other states. The equipment they use is almost entirely aquatic, from decoys, blinds, boats, and waders – to the water loving Labrador. The possibility of spreading invasive species is plentiful.

In an effort to create an effective AIS outreach campaign targeting waterfowl hunters we first need to gather audience information on behaviors, movement, existing knowledge of AIS laws, willingness to take the prevention steps, motivators, and preferred outreach methods. This proposal includes the development of an AIS Waterfowl Survey that will be distributed to waterfowl hunters at conferences, meetings, and as part of existing opening weekend activities near access points already planned at Mead Wildlife area. In addition, we will create an on-line electronic survey to share with the WI Waterfowl Hunters Association. Several partners who have already started targeting this audience with AIS messages will assist in survey development and distribution.

Signage near water access areas has proven a successful way to reach boaters with the AIS message (DNR AIS Survey 2013) and AIS boat landing signs have already been installed on the main landings within the property. Although this signage does a good job describing steps hunters are required to take to clean their boat, it does not address the variety of equipment waterfowl hunters use and which could be a vector to spreading AIS to other waters. In addition, many waterfowl hunters do not use the primary launches, rather they cart their personal watercraft down wetland impoundment dikes to small flowages located within the interior of the property and therefore miss the sign completely. To try and better communicate the impacts of invasive species and encouraged cleaning methods specific to waterfowl hunter equipment (decoys, blinds, waders, dogs, etc.) this project proposes design and construction of five removable interpretive signs to be stationed at the main parking lots that serve as arteries to property. These signs will use attractive photos taken by waterfowl hunters that use the area in an attempt to draw hunters in. The signs will also include a brochure holder to distribute additional information targeted at this audience. Use and effectiveness of these signs will be evaluated through the daily waterfowl surveys already being conducted by staff and surveys on opening weekend.

It is our goal to share information and tools developed as part of this project with partners and other wildlife areas across the state. A summary of the data gathered and outreach tools developed will be made available for partners to replicate or customize in their efforts to reach waterfowl hunters with the AIS message in their area.

Timeline and Budget (April- March 2014)

-Survey Development (April- June 2014)

-Print survey **-$100** (June 2014)

-Distribute surveys – (June-October 2014) will work with partners to distribute

-Design interpretative signage and modify Wildlife Forever brochure to meet WI laws (June-July 2014)

-Five interpretive signs (BSI) **$2500** (July- early August 2014)

-Print brochures- **$1000** (July 2014)

-Purchase 400 boot brushes to hand out as incentive for hunters to take survey at conferences/meetings- $400 (July 2014)

-Place interpretative signage on Mead and McMillan Wildlife areas (August 2014)

-Analyze survey results (November- December 2014)

-Use results of survey to work with partners and other wildlife area staff (Horicon Marsh, etc.) to develop a model AIS Outreach Plan targeting waterfowl hunters on state wildlife properties. Include tools such as media templates, PSAs, publications, and outreach tool designs (signs, etc.) others can customize and replicate on state/local properties. (December-March 2014)

-Seek funding to implement outreach plan at Mead and McMillan Wildlife area (and others) if needed. (December-March 2014)

Budget

Survey printing - $100

5 Interpretative Signs for Mead/McMillan Wildlife areas- $2500

Printing of Waterfowl Hunter Brochure (4000)- $1000

Boot brushes (400)- $400

TOTAL REQUESTED: $4,000

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant

RESOLUTION OF GEORGE W. MEAD WILDLIFE AREA
Counties of Marathon, Wood, and Portage

WHEREAS, the wetlands of the Mead and McMillan Wildlife Area and the Little Eau Pleine River are an important resource used by the public for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty; and
WHEREAS, public use and enjoyment of the Mead/McMillan Wildlife Areas and Little Eau Pleine River is best served by protection of these resources from infestation of aquatic invasive species; and
WHEREAS, we recognize the need to provide information and education about aquatic invasive species; and
WHEREAS, we are qualified to carry out the responsibilities of an aquatic invasive species control project.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the George W. Mead Wildlife Area requests grant funding and assistance available from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the "Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program" and hereby authorizes the property supervisor to act on behalf of George W. Mead Wildlife Area to:

- submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for financial aid for aquatic invasive species control purposes;
- sign documents;
- take necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete an approved aquatic invasive species control grant; and
- submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within six months of project completion date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the George W. Mead Wildlife Area will meet the obligations of the aquatic invasive species control project including timely publication of the results and meet the financial obligations of an aquatic invasive species grant, including the prompt payment of our 25% commitment to aquatic invasive species control project costs.

Adopted this day 30th of January, 2014

BY: 

Invasive species can harm WATERFOWL and damage habitat!

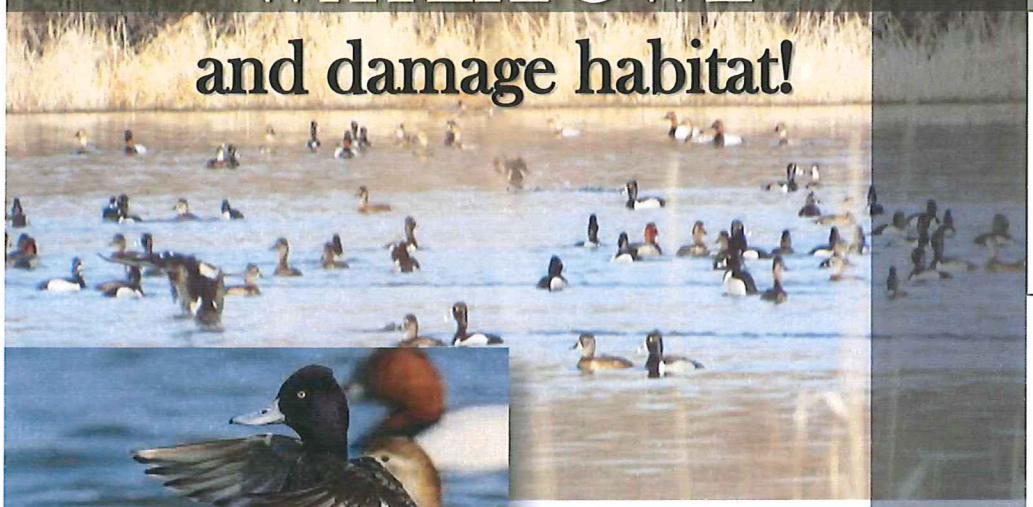


Photo by: Patrice Eyers

Scaup

Size: ½ inch

Faucet Snail

The faucet snail is an intermediate host for three intestinal trematodes. When waterfowl consume the infected snails, the parasites attack the internal organs and cause lesions and hemorrhage.
Infected birds appear lethargic and have difficulty diving and flying before eventually dying. The trematodes have contributed to the deaths of about 9,000 scaup and coots in 2007 and 2008 on Lake Winnibigoshish.

Status: Faucet snail populations have established in Minnesota waters at Lake Winnibigoshish and in border waters of the Mississippi River near LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

Means of spread: They can spread by attaching to aquatic plants, boats, anchors, decoy anchors, other recreational gear and equipment placed in the water. Some movement by waterbirds may also spread this invasive to new waters.

Invasive plants and animals outcompete native species for resources, destroying waterfowl habitat

Most invasive plants and animals are not suitable waterfowl forage; waterfowl will leave infested areas in search of better habitat

*Invasive species can be spread by wind, water, boats, vehicles, wildlife, dogs, and **YOU**!*

HOW CAN HUNTERS HELP?

- Learn how to identify invasive plants and animals

- Clean boats, vehicles, dogs, blinds, decoys, trailers, and paddles before leaving your hunting location

- Check your clothing, waders, boots, and all other equipment

Invasive species can harm WATERFOWL and damage habitat!

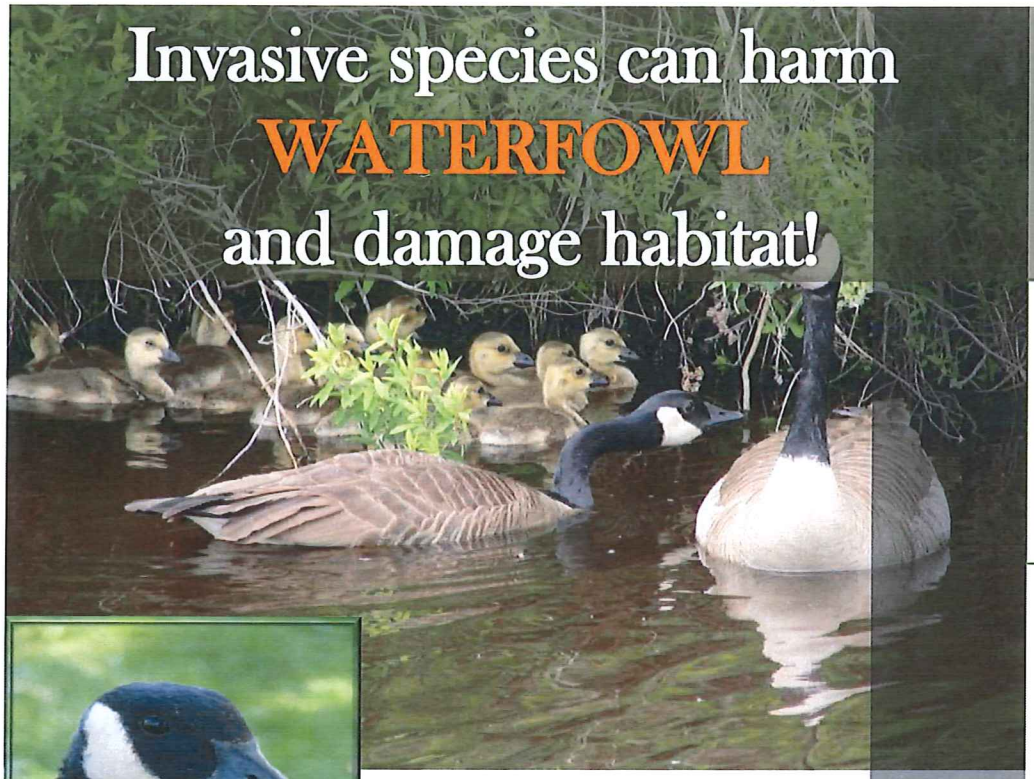


Photo by: Tony Geiger

Canada Goose

Curly Leaf Pondweed

- Invades freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and in slightly brackish waters. Can become dominant and invasive due to its tolerance for low light and low water temperatures.
- May outcompete other underwater plants and become dominant, which causes problems due to the formation of dense mats that interfere with recreational activities.
- Also causes an increase in phosphorus concentrations, causing an increase in algae blooms and a pile up of dying Curly Leaf Pondweed along the shore.
- No nutritional value to waterfowl or other wildlife.

Invasive plants and animals outcompete native species for resources, destroying waterfowl habitat

Most invasive plants and animals are not suitable waterfowl forage; waterfowl will leave infested areas in search of better habitat

*Invasive species can be spread by wind, water, boats, vehicles, wildlife, dogs, and **YOU!***

HOW CAN HUNTERS HELP?

- Learn how to identify invasive plants and animals
- Clean boats, vehicles, dogs, blinds, decoys, trailers, and paddles before leaving your hunting location
- Check your clothing, waders, boots, and all other equipment

Invasive species can harm WATERFOWL and damage habitat!

Photo by: Perry Stewart

Pintail Duck

Eurasian Milfoil

•Invades lakes, rivers, and other water bodies ranging from fresh to brackish; thrives in areas that have been subjected to various kinds of natural and manmade disturbance.

•Can form large, floating mats of vegetation on the surface of water bodies, preventing light penetration for native aquatic plants and impeding water traffic.

•Winter-hardy, able to overwinter in frozen lakes and ponds in northern states and Canada; also able to grow in shallow, over-heated bays such as Chassahowitzka Bay in FL.

•No nutritional value to waterfowl or other wildlife.

Invasive plants and animals outcompete native species for resources, destroying waterfowl habitat

Most invasive plants and animals are not suitable waterfowl forage; waterfowl will leave infested areas in search of better habitat

*Invasive species can be spread by wind, water, boats, vehicles, wildlife, dogs, and **YOU!***

HOW CAN HUNTERS HELP?

• Learn how to identify invasive plants and animals

•Clean boats, vehicles, dogs, blinds, decoys, trailers, and paddles before leaving your hunting location

•Check your clothing, waders, boots, and all other equipment

Invasive species can harm WATERFOWL and damage habitat!

Photo by: Patrice Eyers

Northern Shoveler

Purple Loosestrife

Purple loosestrife invades marshes and lakeshores, replacing cattails and other wetland plants. The plant can form dense, impenetrable stands which are unsuitable as cover, food, or nesting sites for a wide range of native wetland animals including ducks, geese, rails, bitterns, muskrats, frogs, toads, and turtles. Many rare and endangered wetland plants and animals are also at risk.

Invasive plants and animals outcompete native species for resources, destroying waterfowl habitat

Most invasive plants and animals are not suitable waterfowl forage; waterfowl will leave infested areas in search of better habitat

*Invasive species can be spread by wind, water, boats, vehicles, wildlife, dogs, and **YOU!***

HOW CAN HUNTERS HELP?

- Learn how to identify invasive plants and animals

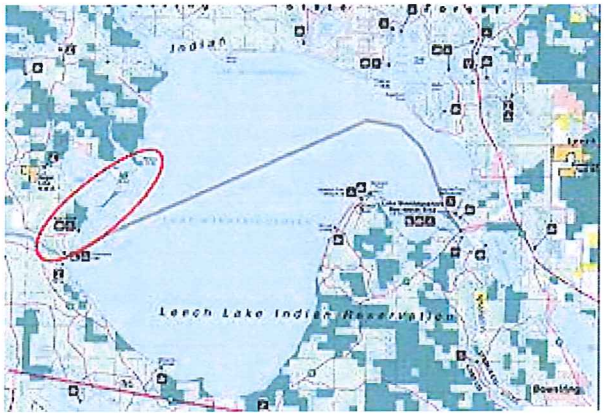
- Clean boats, vehicles, dogs, blinds, decoys, trailers, and paddles before leaving your hunting location

- Check your clothing, waders, boots, and all other equipment

Scaup and Coot Die-offs in Northern Minnesota

Background

Large scale waterbird losses due to trematodes were first reported in Minnesota on the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in 2002. Since 2007, reports of bird losses and discovery of the trematodes and their essential host, the invasive faucet snail, have occurred at several other locations in northern Minnesota.



The largest losses of waterbirds (several thousand scaup and coots) in northern Minnesota have occurred at Winnibigoshish, Bowstring, and Round lakes during the fall and spring migration periods. These lakes are located roughly between the towns of Bemidji, Northome and Deer River. The largest die-off occurred in the fall of 2007 when 6,000-7,000 lesser scaup and 200 coots died in Lake Winnibigoshish. That year there were unconfirmed reports of dead scaup being found on Bowstring Lake, located 6 miles northeast of Lake Winnibigoshish.

These three lakes have been monitored by DNR wildlife staff during the spring and fall migration periods to document any additional die-offs. In 2008, an estimated 2,000 scaup and 200 coots died on Lake Winnibigoshish. In 2009, an estimated 200 scaup and 200 coots died on Lake Winnibigoshish and 200 scaup died on Bowstring Lake. In 2010, an estimated 1,200 scaup died on Bowstring Lake and <100 sick scaup were observed on Round Lake. While a few sick and a few dead birds were observed on Lake Winnibigoshish, few scaup were observed at Winnibigoshish in the fall of 2010. In the spring of 2011, hundreds of scaup were sick and many likely died at Lake Winnibigoshish during spring migration. During the fall of 2011, a few hundred scaup died on Winnibigoshish, a few hundred sick and several dead scaup were observed at Bowstring Lake, and a few sick and a few dead scaup were found on Round Lake. In spring 2012, several hundred sick birds were documented on Lake Winnibigoshish. During the fall of 2012, approximately 25 sick and >20 dead scaup were reported on Winnibigoshish, >100 scaup were suspected of being sick on Bowstring, and <100 scaup were sick on Round Lake. Changes in numbers of birds dying may be more reflective of reductions in bird numbers on these areas rather than a change in susceptibility of the birds to the trematodes.

The largest die-offs of lesser scaup on Lake Winnibigoshish appear to have been along the west shore from where the Mississippi River flows into the lake to the Third River Flowage. Most of

the dead coots on Winnie have been found in Rabbit Flowage and around Mallard Point at the mouth of the Third River Flowage.

Lesser Scaup and American coots are the most common species lost in these die-offs in north-central Minnesota. We have recorded losses of some greater scaup and a few other species including redhead, white-winged scoter, mallards and ring-necked duck. This reflects feeding habits (scaup tend to feed more on snails) and distribution of waterbirds and snails in northern Minnesota, as losses of numbers of other waterfowl species have been reported elsewhere.

Wildlife staff have searched for the invasive faucet snail, the initial host for the three species of trematodes that kill the waterfowl, since the summer of 2008. Faucet snails were immediately found in Lake Winnibigoshish and were well distributed throughout the lake. The presence of faucet snails in Bowstring Lake was verified in the fall of 2012. Both lakes are designated as infested waters. The search for faucet snails continues in Round Lake but their presence has not been verified.

The Cause

The scaup and coot deaths were caused by small trematodes (*Sphaeridiotrema spp.*, *Cyathocotyle bushiensis*, and *Leyogonimus polyoon*) that develop in the bird intestinal tracts.

These trematodes have a complex life history and require two intermediate hosts for the parasites to develop. The invasive faucet snail, *Bythinia tentaculata* is the only known 1st intermediate host of the parasites in the Upper Midwest. The second intermediate host of *Sphaeridiotrema* spp. and *C. bushiensis* is a snail, whereas, an aquatic insect is the second intermediate host for *L. polyoon*. When waterbirds consume the second intermediate host, the trematodes attach to the intestinal wall and feed on blood of the birds. Heavily infected birds appear lethargic and have difficulty diving and flying before eventually dying due to blood loss.

What is the risk to humans?

- Avian trematodes are not known to be a health risk to humans but the DNR continues to recommend that hunters not consume sick waterfowl and use standard precautions, such as wearing rubber gloves and thoroughly washing hands when cleaning waterfowl. Waterfowl should be thoroughly cooked prior to consumption.

Why does the DNR not clean up all the birds or take other actions to stop the die-off?

- Based upon information from the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center, cleaning up the birds will not stop the spread of this disease or reduce the magnitude of the die-off.
- Hazing, or chasing the scaup elsewhere, would not be effective at reducing the losses and may move the sick birds to other lakes.
- The parasites are not a concern for other species such as bald eagles and raccoons that are scavenging the carcasses.

What can you do?

- Please let us know if you find 5 or more dead or sick waterfowl or other birds. Contact your local DNR Wildlife Office. Contact information can be obtained at mndnr.gov/contact/locator.html or by calling 1-888-MinnDNR (1-888-646-6367).
- Help prevent the spread of invasive faucet snails. Drain all water and remove all mud, aquatic plants and snails from your watercraft or other water equipment before leaving any lake or body of water. More information about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species can be found at mndnr.gov/aquatic.

Research

In addition to monitoring losses, two research projects are underway in northern Minnesota to better understand how these parasites interact with both the snail and avian hosts.

DNR Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group

Dr. Charlotte Roy began a study in the fall of 2010 to examine distribution and prevalence of trematodes within the faucet snail relative to habitat conditions (water depth, substrate, temperature, etc.) and diving duck distribution. This research has been conducted with sampling in the spring, summer, and fall and will be completed in fall 2013. In addition to sampling at Winnibigoshish, Round, and Bowstring lakes, other sampling sites were added to the study as the faucet snail was detected in new locations. These faucet snail-infested sites include Upper and Lower Twin lakes and the Shell River in Hubbard and Wadena counties, First and Second Crow Wing Lake and the Crow Wing River in Hubbard County, and five ponds on the White Earth Nation in Becker County.

For more information on this research see report beginning on Page 139: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/wildlife/research2011/wetlands.pdf

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Holly Bloom, a MSU-Mankato graduate student, is conducting research on waterbirds collected at Lake Winnibigoshish. The birds are being examined for the presence and abundance of gastrointestinal parasites, particularly *Sphaeridiotrema pseudoglobulus* and *Cyathocotyle bushiensis*. This research is being conducted to determine which waterbird species are naturally capable of harboring these parasites and to assess their potential to transport these parasites to

new sites. Ten species of waterbirds, including dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and coots, are being collected and examined to determine their levels of parasitism. Preliminary collections were made in the fall of 2012 (60 birds) and subsequent collections will be made in the spring of 2013. This work should better our understanding of the transmission dynamics of *S. pseudoglobulus* and *C. bushiensis* parasites between lakes harboring faucet snails (*Bithynia tentaculata*).

For more information

DNR Invasive Species Program Information:

- Faucet Snail
- List of Infested Waters

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Die-Off

- http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1065/pdf/ofr_20071065.pdf

USGS National Wildlife Health Center Parasitic Diseases

- http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/field_manual/chapter_35.pdf

Verminous Hemorrhagic Ulcerative Enteritis Fact Sheet (Michigan DNR)

- http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12150_12220-27317--,00.html

DNR Contacts

- Perry Loegering, Area Manager, Grand Rapids, 218-999-7939
- Dr. Charlotte Roy, Grand Rapids, 218-327-4132
- Steve Cordts, Waterfowl Specialist, Bemidji, 218-308-2281
- Jeff Lawrence, Wetland Wildlife Group Leader, Bemidji, 218-308-2284

Faucet snails found on Lake Winnibigoshish in August, 2008.

Dead scaup on Lake Winnibigoshish, November 4, 2008.

DNR Enforcement Aircraft on low-level search for scaup.

Waterfowl hunters can carry invasive species

News Release Published: October 28, 2013 by the Northeast Region

Contact(s): Darren Kuhn, marine warden, 920- 615-6075; Ed Culhane, DNR communications, 715-781-1683

GREEN BAY - Conservation wardens with the state Department of Natural Resources will be contacting waterfowl hunters off the shores of Brown and Oconto counties this weekend as part of the effort to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Duck hunters are even more likely than recreational boaters to encounter and pick up invasive species, wardens said. Their smaller craft are more likely to take on water, and they often conceal themselves in vegetation. Their dogs enter the water to retrieve ducks.

Also, waterfowl hunters are very mobile.

"It is very possible for a duck hunter to be out on the bay of Green Bay on Saturday and to be hunting on Shawano Lake on Sunday," said marine warden Darren Kuhn.

The wardens working the lakeshore will be focused on education rather than enforcement, but as always will use their discretion based on the nature of individual contacts.

DNR advises waterfowl hunters to avoid spreading invasive species

(Released September 27, 2013)

Now that hunting season is underway, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) warns waterfowl hunters it's against the law to transport aquatic invasive species (AIS).

DNR conservation officers routinely inspect equipment during the hunting season and enforce state regulations related to invasive species.

Many people only associate the threat of spreading AIS with summertime activities, but hunters are also at risk of moving aquatic invaders from one waterbody to another. Without proper precautions, invasive plants and animals such as purple loosestrife, faucet snails, Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels could be transported on duck boats, blind material and hunting gear.

"Hunters are legally required to drain all water and remove visible plants from boats and equipment before leaving the water access," said Allison Gamble, DNR AIS specialist. "Waterfowl hunters should also remove all mud and check everything that could harbor aquatic invaders – even hunting dogs – to avoid carrying unwanted hitchhikers."

Hunters are required by law to:

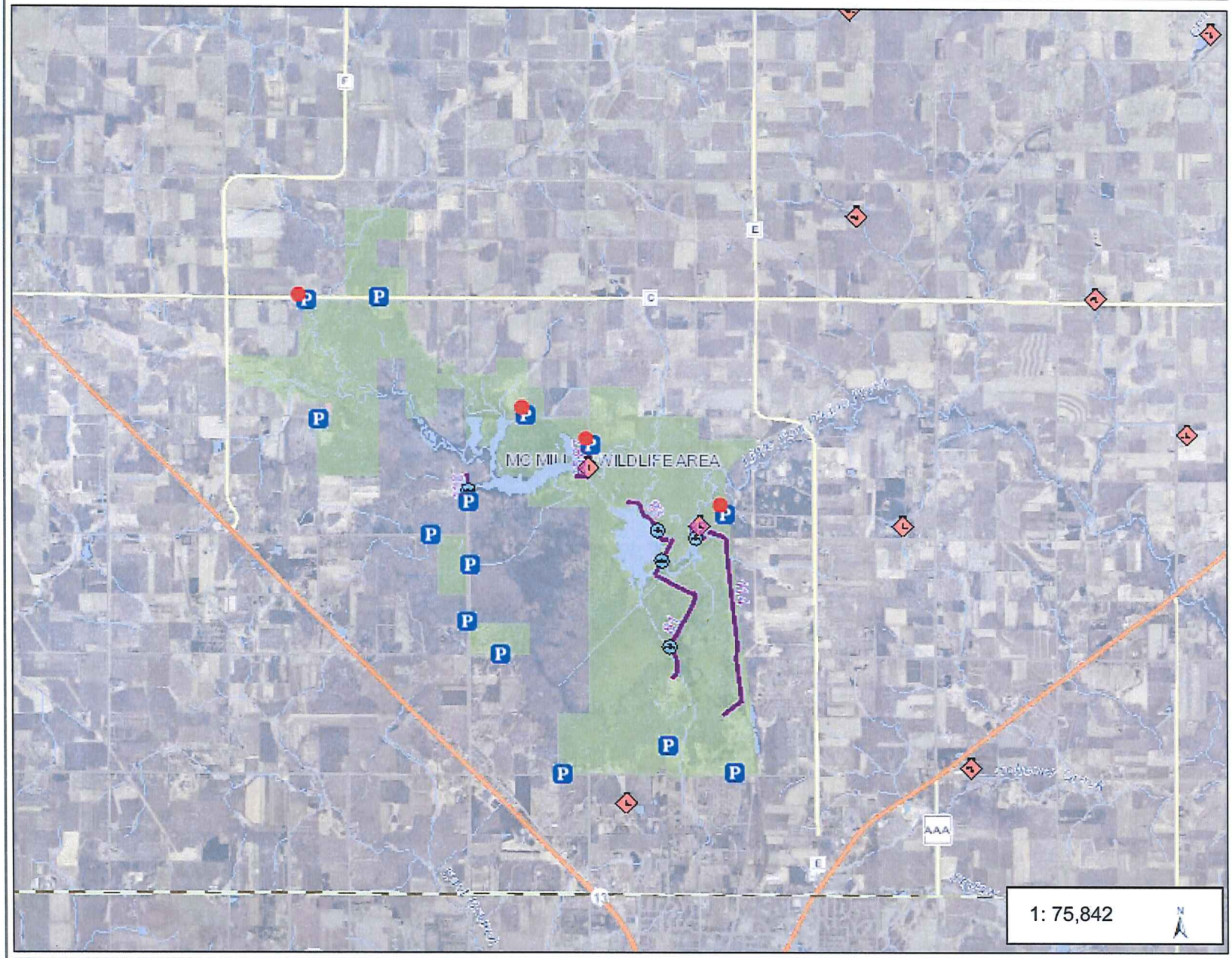
> Remove faucet snails and other prohibited invasive species from boats, waders, push poles, decoys, and decoy anchors before leaving the water access to avoid their spread.
>
> Cut cattails or other aquatic emergent plants above the waterline for blinds or camouflage. Thoroughly clean these materials before moving to another waterbody. When inspecting boats on infested waters, the DNR often finds zebra mussels attached to vegetation.

The DNR also recommends that waterfowl hunters switch to elliptical, bulb-shaped or strap decoy anchors that won't snag submerged aquatic plants as easily.

Invasive species can damage habitat for waterfowl, fish and other wildlife, and even cause die-offs of waterfowl. It only takes a fragment of Eurasian watermilfoil to spread into a new waterbody.

At early life stages, some invasive species such as young zebra mussels are difficult to see. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another water body: spray with high-pressure water, rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds) or dry for at least five days. Air drying may require additional days due to cool weather.

AIS Awareness - McMillan



Legend

- Observation Structure - 300K
- Boat Landing - 300K
- Building - 300K
- Dam - 300K
- Parking Lot - 300K
- Water Control Point - 300K
- Bridge - 300K
- Dike - 300K
- Major Roads
  - Interstates
  - US Highways
  - State Highways
- DOT WISLR County Roads
- Other Major Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- Great Lakes
- Open Water
- County Boundaries
- Airports
- State Natural Areas
- DNR Managed Lands
  - Fee
  - Easement
  - Lease
- County Forests
- National Forests
- DNR Managed Lands Labels

2.4 0 1.20 2.4 Miles

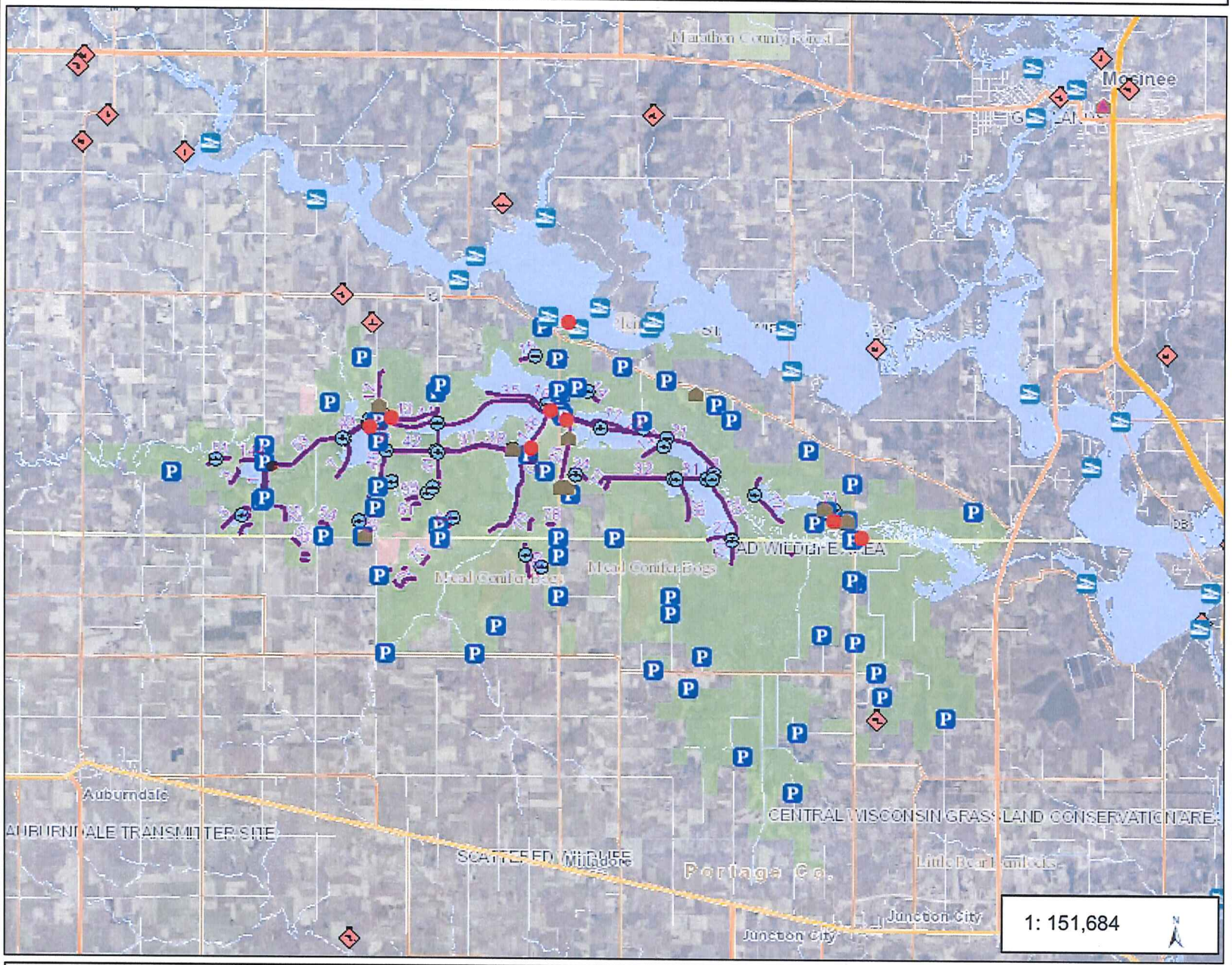
NAD_1983_HARN_Wisconsin_TM

● Proposed sites

DISCLAIMER: The information shown on these maps has been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. These maps are not intended to be used for navigation, nor are these maps an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made aregarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completemenss, or legality of the information depicted on this map. For more information, see the DNR Legal Notices web page: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/legal/

The conservation infrastructure information shown on this map has been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. Conservation infrastructure information may be represented incorrectly or might be missing all together. Conservation Infrastructure information can be updated in the Land Management System. Please do not use these maps for the purposes of navigation.

AIS Awareness - Mead



Legend

- Observation Structure - 300K
- Boat Landing - 300K
- Building - 300K
- Dam - 300K
- Parking Lot - 300K
- Water Control Point - 300K
- Bridge - 300K
- Dike - 300K
- Major Roads
  - Interstates
  - US Highways
  - State Highways
- Rivers and Streams
- Great Lakes
- Open Water
- County Boundaries
- Airports
- State Natural Areas
- DNR Managed Lands
  - Fee
  - Easement
  - Lease
- County Forests
- National Forests
- DNR Managed Lands Labels

The conservation infrastructure information shown on this map has been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. Conservation infrastructure information may be represented incorrectly or might be missing all together. Conservation Infrastructure information can be updated in the Land Management System. Please do not use these maps for the purposes of navigation.

4.8 0 2.39 4.8 Miles

NAD_1983_HARN_Wisconsin_TM

● Proposed sites