

2013 Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Forest Lake

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Introduction:

The watercraft inspection program's goal is to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species into and around the state. To accomplish this we conducted watercraft inspections and decontaminations at public water accesses throughout the state, worked with citizen groups concerned about AIS, and educated the public at events such as the state fair.

In January of 2008 the MN DNR Invasive Species Unit created a grant program to allow citizen groups to increase the number of hours of inspection at water accesses important to them. This was done as a way to increase watercraft inspections throughout the state, and satisfy requests from citizen groups for more hours of inspections at accesses important to them.

Inspection Process:

The inspection process involves the watercraft inspector visually and tactilely searching for aquatic invasive species or anything else that could potentially spread aquatic invasive species such as water, mud, plants or other debris. Watercraft inspectors also complete a survey while educating boaters about the issues surrounding aquatic invasive species. Survey questions focus on boater knowledge and behavior with information given on the impacts of aquatic invasive species and what can be done to prevent their spread.

Inspectors are trained to observe and document when watercraft enter a public water access with any violations, including boats with attached vegetation as well as watercraft whose drain plugs have not been removed. Information gathered by DNR and LGU authorized inspectors can help show potential risk of transporting AIS. During the inspection process watercraft users are asked to voluntarily disclose the last water body visited, as well as the location of the next planned trip. This information can be used in the future to gauge potential risks if multiple boaters report zebra mussel infested water bodies as their last visited lake.

Inspection Results:

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District received a prevention grant from the MN DNR in April of 2013 for 380 hours of inspection time during the 2013 watercraft inspection season, split evenly between the Hagberg and Lakeside Park accesses. The contract dates were May 15th through November 15th of 2013. Five watercraft inspectors were hired in the Chisago/Washington County area with one intern was primarily assigned to work in Chisago County to help accomplish 415 hours (380 grant and 35 DNR) at Forest Lake. The other four interns supplemented these hours as available/needed.

The following figures and tables show the results of the inspection program at Forest Lake for the 2013 season.

DNR Hour Totals by Month (West)

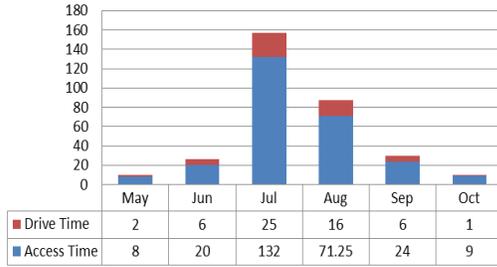


Figure 2: MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 320.25 hours (264.25 hours of access time and 56 hours of drive time) at the Lakeside Park access.

DNR Hour Totals by Month (Central)

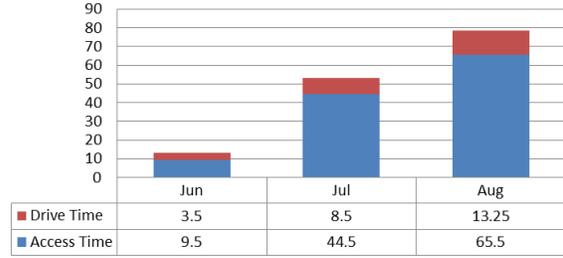


Figure 1: MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 144.75 hours (119.5 hours of access time and 25.25 hours of drive time) at the Willow Point access.

DNR Inspections per Hour (West)

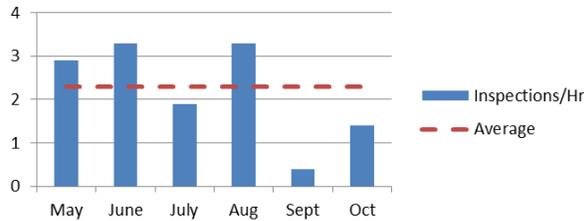


Figure 3: Inspections per hour per month as seen by DNR Inspectors at the Lakeside Park access.

DNR Inspections per Hour (Central)

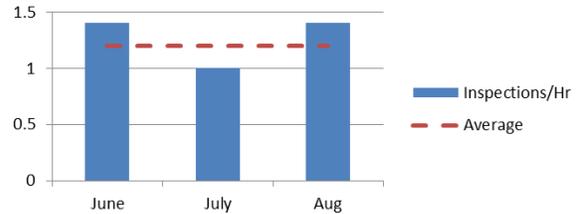


Figure 3: Inspections per hour per month as seen by DNR Inspectors at the Willow Point access.

Forest Lake Inspections By Month

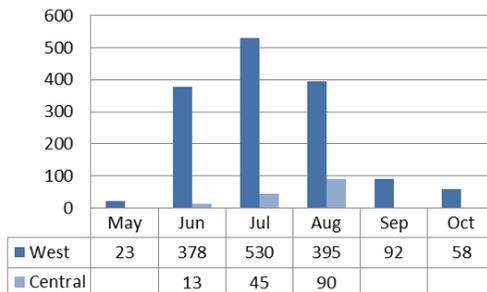


Figure 2: During the 2013 season 1624 inspections were conducted by the DNR at Forest Lake.

Drain Plug Status on Incoming Watercraft

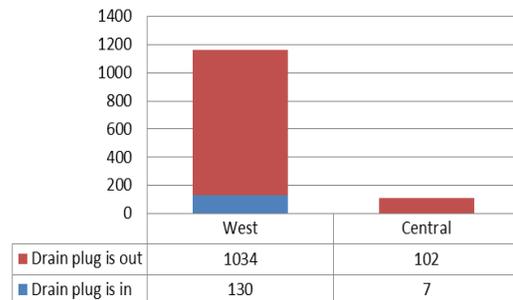


Figure 4: Number of incoming watercraft with drain plugs installed. These users were directed away from the access to pull their plugs and drain any standing water.

Watercraft To/From Other States

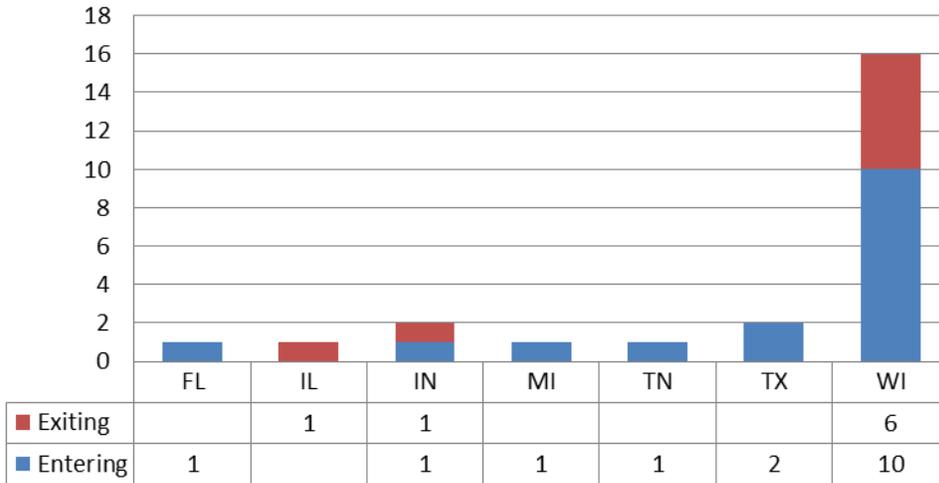
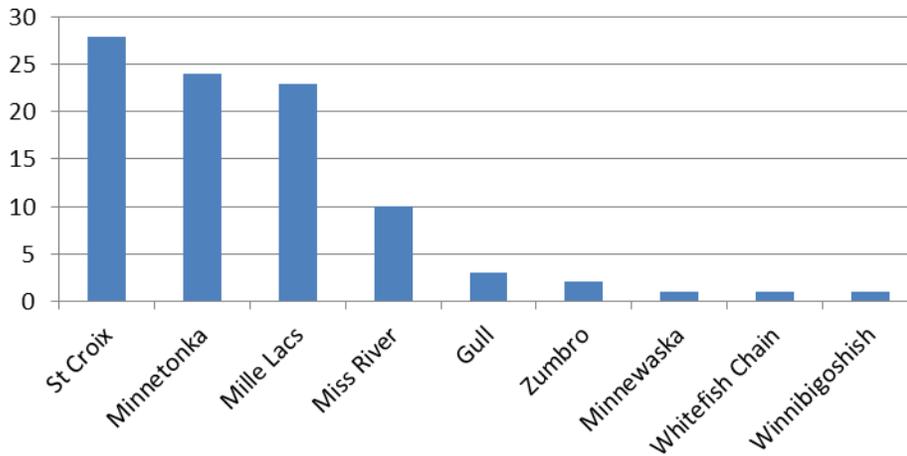


Figure 5: During the 2013 season 8 exiting watercraft inspected were from other states. There were 16 incoming watercraft from states other than MN.

Species Found: Of all the incoming watercraft there were 23 cases of an inspection resulting in the discovery of plants, mud, animals or other prohibited species.

Zebra Mussel Waters: The following graph shows previous waters for boaters coming to Forest Lake that are classified as infested with ZM.

Incoming Watercraft from ZM Waters



Conclusion:

Our goal was to accomplish 415 total hours, which includes both DNR (35) and Grant (380) hours at the Hagberg (190 hours) and Lakeside Park (225 hours) accesses. We accomplished 320.25 hours at the Lakeside Park access on Forest Lake. This exceeded our goal by 95.25 hours. This excess is due to shifting more available hours to the Lakeside Park access due to observations of high use. We accomplished 114.75 hours at the Willow Point access. It has been realized that the other half of the grant was for inspectors at the Hagberg access and not Willow Point. This error was due to a typing mistake when we published our tier list. I also did not compare the grant document close enough to my tier list to catch the mistake. This list tells me where to direct my watercraft inspectors during the summer. Unfortunately, the list identified the West and Central accesses as needing hours and omitted the East access.

DNR inspectors conducted 1624 inspections from May until October on Forest Lake. During these contacts, inspectors are trained to help educate users about aquatic invasive species, state statutes, and help identify areas on the individual's watercraft that may be likely to contain invasive species.