NORTH ST. LOUIS SWCD

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Find us on Facebook

2017 Annual Activity Report

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program

In 2017, the District operated watercraft inspection and decontamination stations designed to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species on Burntside, Fall, Shagawa and Lake Vermilion.

- 20,008 watercraft inspections
- Employed over 40 seasonal workers
- 13,050 watercraft inspector hours
- 594 watercraft decontaminations at Country Store, Cook at Y Store, Tower on Burntside & Shagawa Lakes
- Inspected watercraft at 3 lakes leading into the BWCAW
- Pilot project with resorts resulted in 3,107 inspections at private accesses!
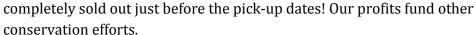
Forestry Services

In 2017, the District Forester wrote 4 Forest Stewardship Plans for private landowners covering a total of 198 acres of land. If you have wooded acreage, contact us, we'll take a walk through it and help you develop ideas for how to manage it for wildlife, harvest and/or forest health based on your use.

Annual Tree Sale

Orders take place the beginning of January each year, with pickup dates in May. In 2017, we offered over 20 types of trees and shrubs – and completely sold out just before the pick-up dates! Our profits fund other conservation efforts.

Civic Engagement & Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

Rainy River Headwaters, Vermilion River, & St. Louis River Watersheds:

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

- Engaged citizens in water quality monitoring, biostressor monitoring and trained on a cyanobacteria monitoring app
- Surface water quality data collection at 6 sites in the Vermilion River Watershed
- Completed this multi-year project in conjuction with Koochiching & Lake County SWCDs

Civic Engagement & Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Cloquet, Vermilion and Rainy Rivers-Headwaters Watersheds:

- Promotion efforts to engage citizens in water quality monitoring. Staffed a Secchi disk display booth at the St. Louis County Fair to promote the MPCA's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
- Surface water quality data collection at 2 sites in the Vermilion River Watershed and at 8 sites in the Rainy River Headwaters Watershed
- Two public meetings were held in the Vermilion River Watershed to discuss WRAPS development and to provide an update on Minnesota's impaired waters list

DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Act – St Louis River Conifer Enhancement

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A habitat restoration project to increase thermal cover in primary wintering areas, and as a result increase the winter survival of whitetail deer populations. To allow for increased regeneration and a faster growth rate of conifers, over 47 acres on 6 sites received brush sawing to release conifers that were planted previously, and over 20,000 white spruce and 2,000 red oak were planted over 33 acres. Primary wintering habitats are imperative to the survival of whitetail deer in these harsh winter areas of northeastern Minnesota.

State Cost-Share Program

Each year funding administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is available to help landowners implement projects that reduce erosion. These funds are available on a first come-first serve basis and may cover up to 75% of the project cost. Landowner contribution can be cash or in-kind work. Below are before and after photos of a recent shoreline stabilization project on Birch Point of Lake Vermilion.

Severe erosion on shoreline before project

Stabilized shoreline after project