

# Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2020

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CARVER COUNTY WMO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 28, 2020

# Background

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- County AIS Program

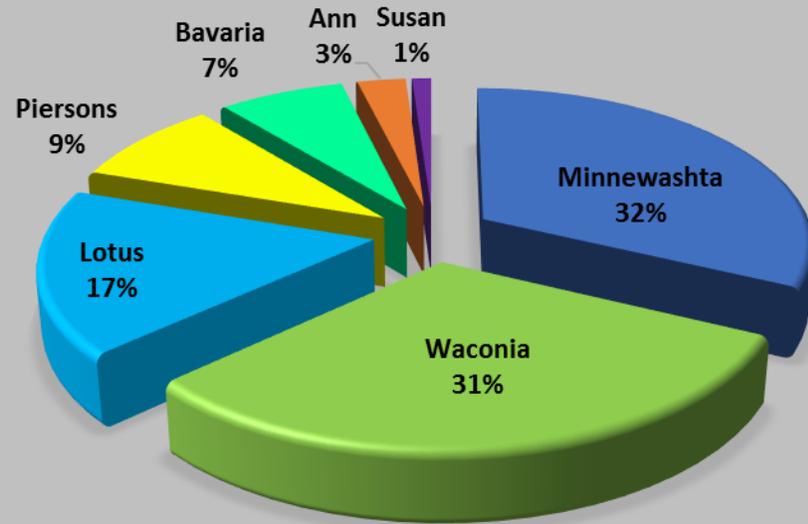
- Began 2012
  - Watercraft Inspections main strategy
- Evolving Program
  - AIS Early Detection Monitoring & Rapid Response (EDRR)
  - Education & Outreach
  - Management Projects

# Background

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- State provides county prevention aid
  - 2014 tax bill
  - \$10 million/year to counties to support AIS prevention programs
  - Carver County Apx. \$130,000/year
  - Partner with other agencies

## 2019 WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

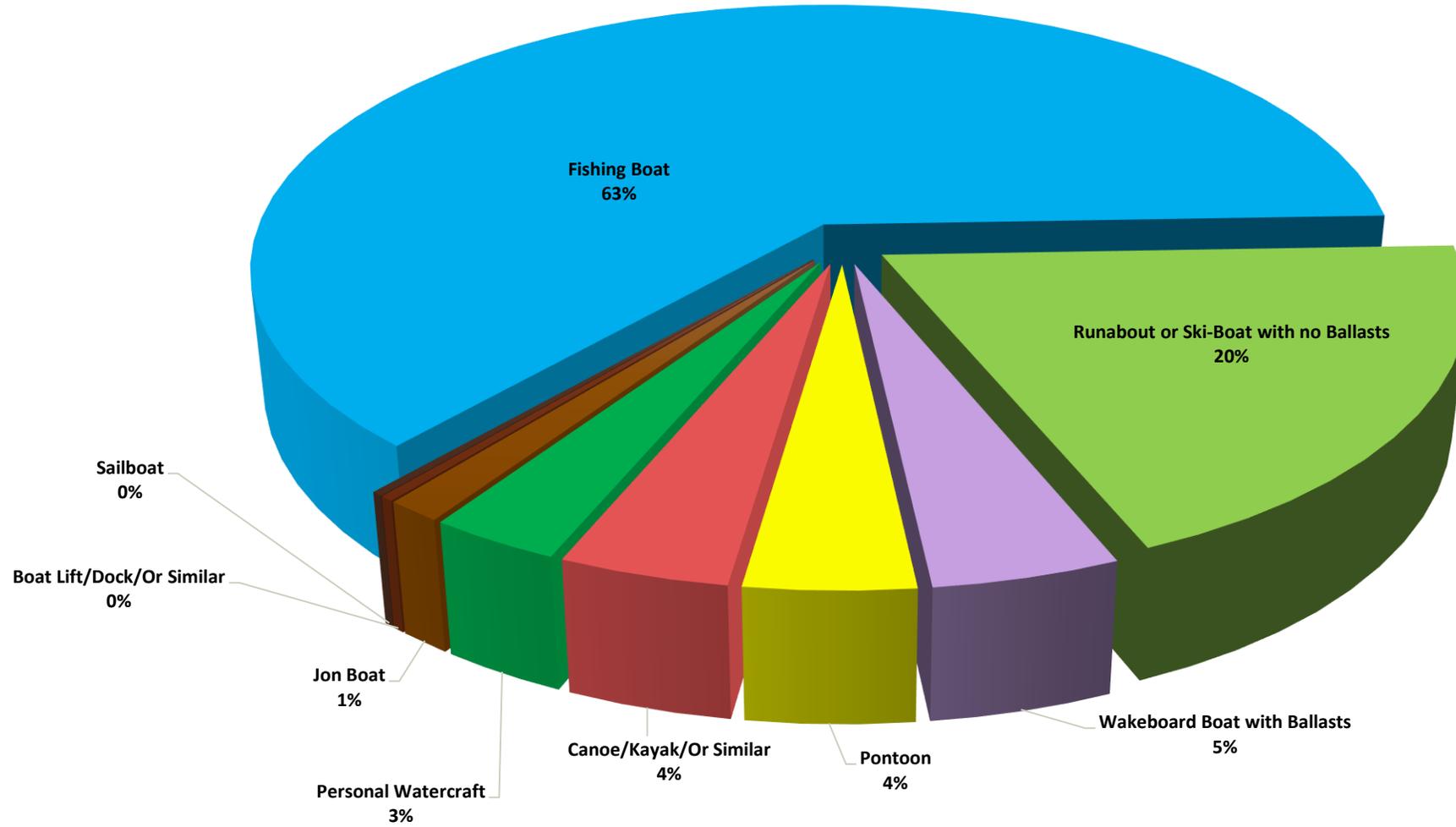


**Table 1: 2019 AIS Program Totals**

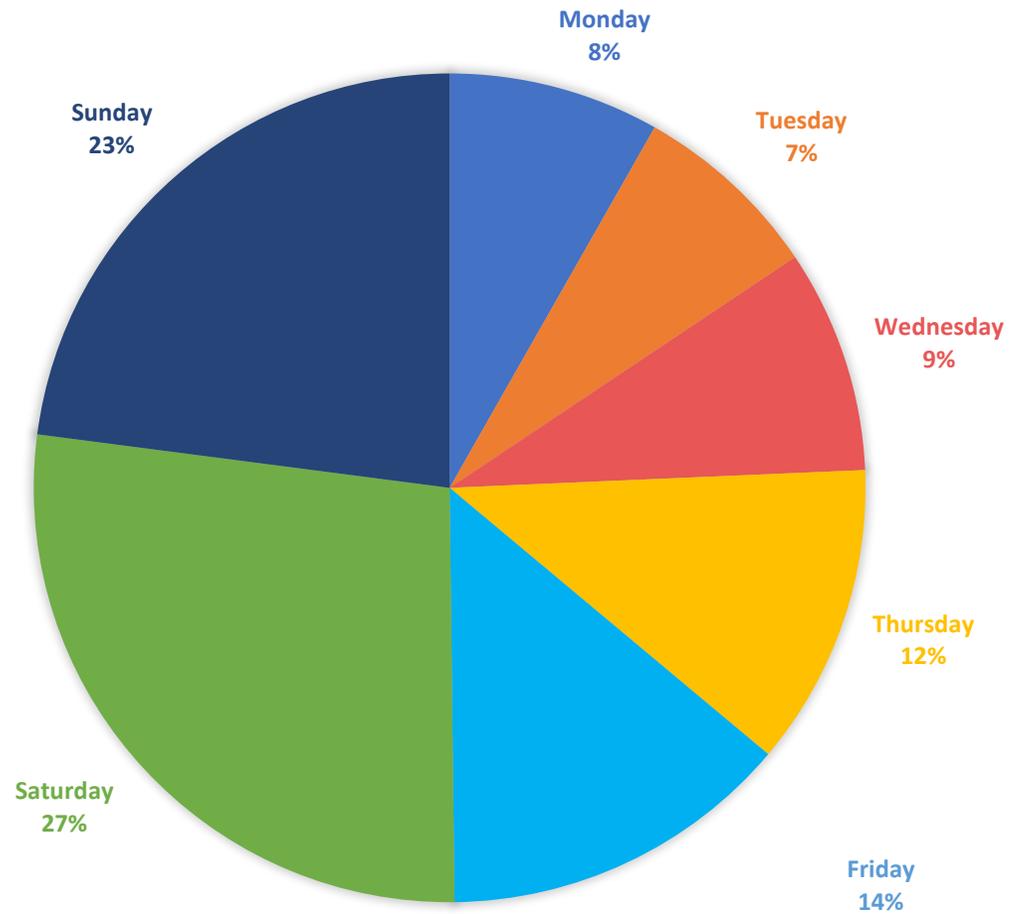
Lake Name	Number of Inspections
Ann	449
Bavaria	1,159
Lotus	2,760
Minnewashta	5,214
Pierson	1,430
Susan	177
Waconia	5,064
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,253</b>

# 2019 Inspection Stats

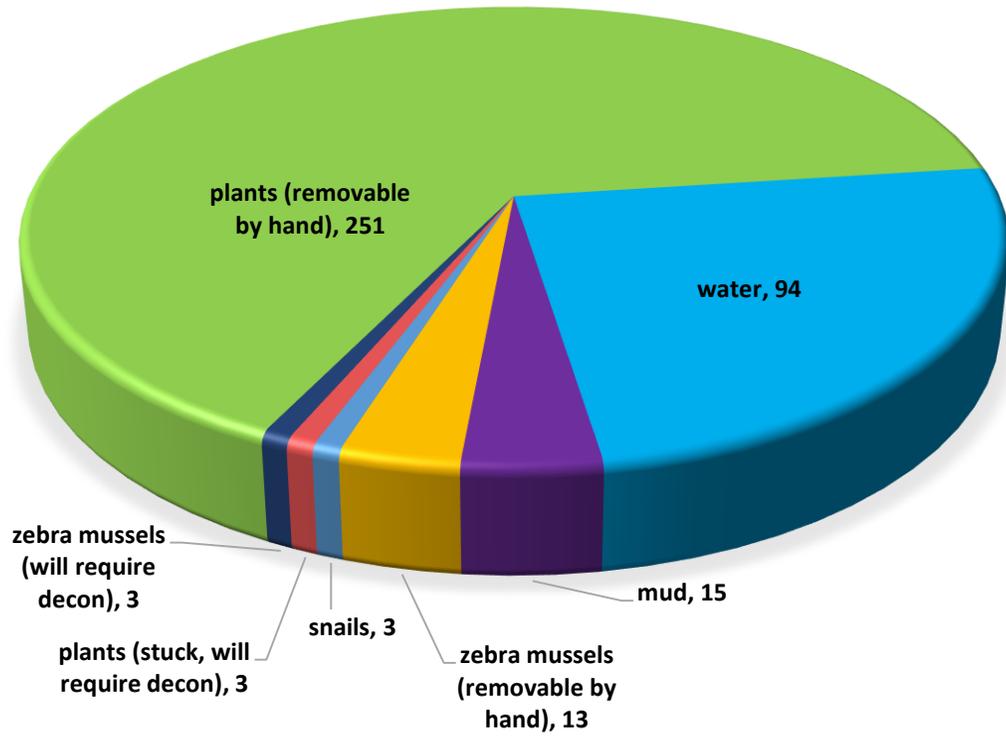
# TYPE OF WATERCRAFT INSPECTED



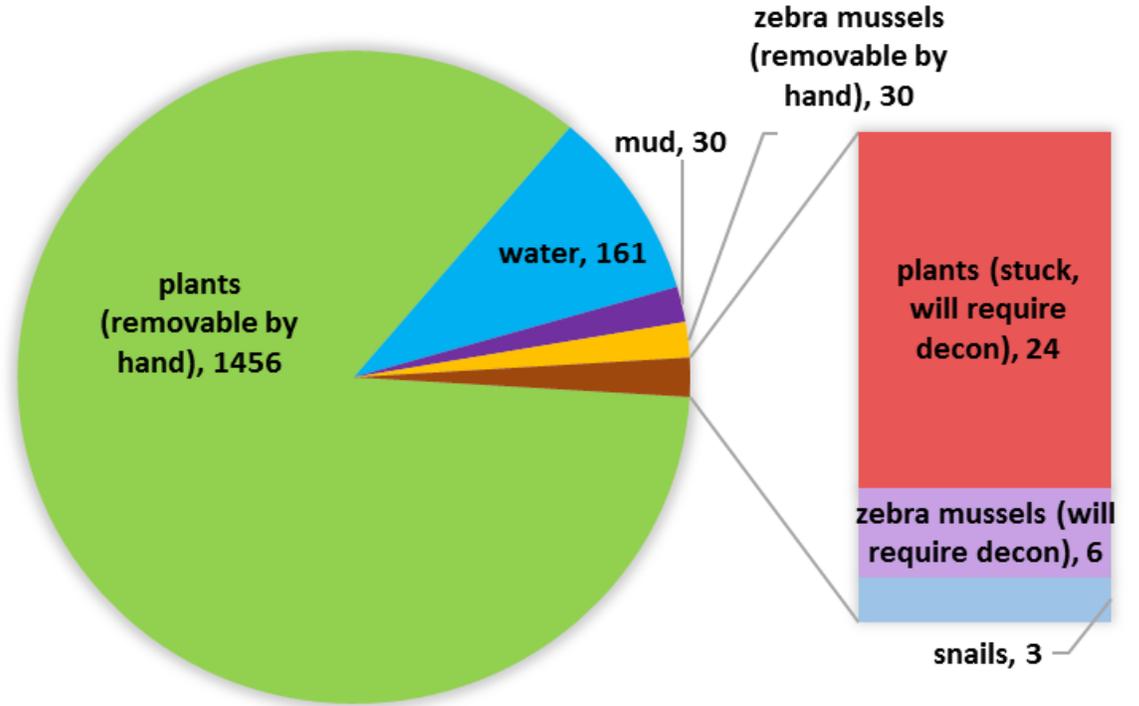
# INSPECTIONS BY DAY OF WEEK



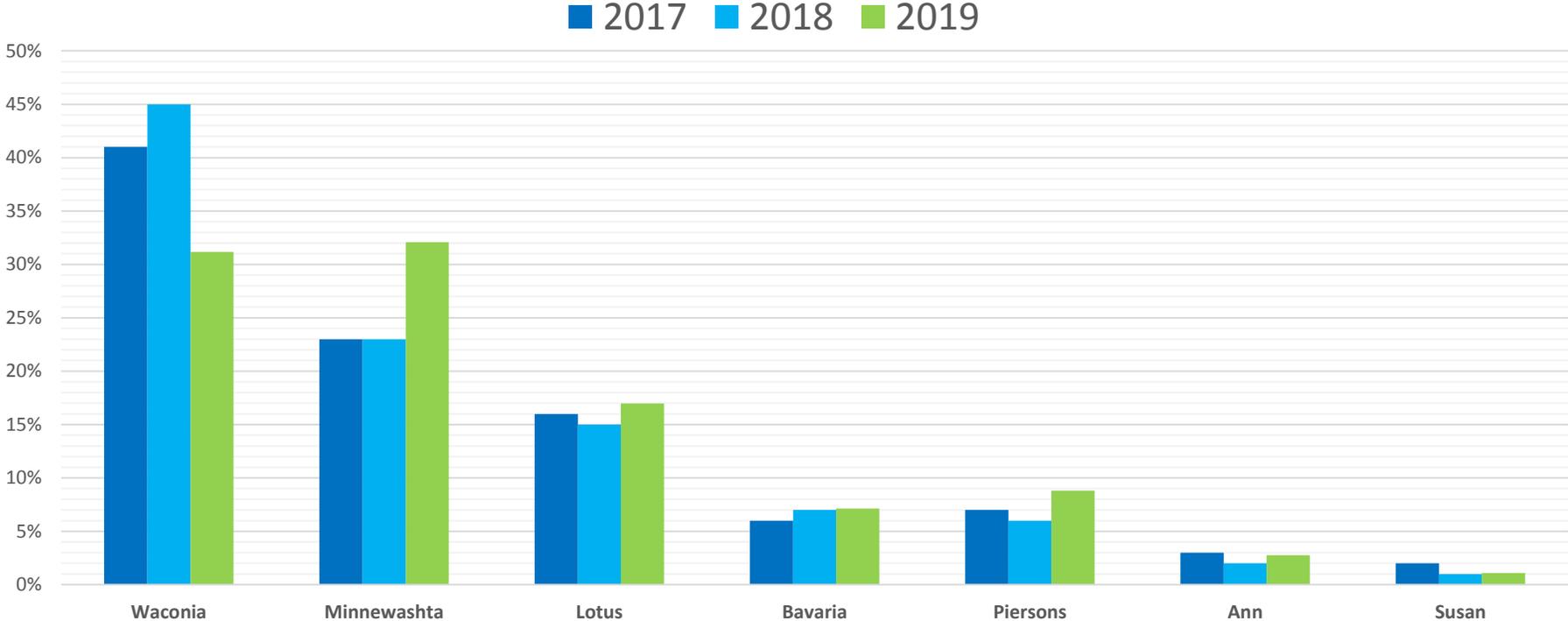
### FINDINGS AT ENTRANCE



### FINDINGS AT EXIT



PERCENT OF ALL INSPECTIONS BY LAKE

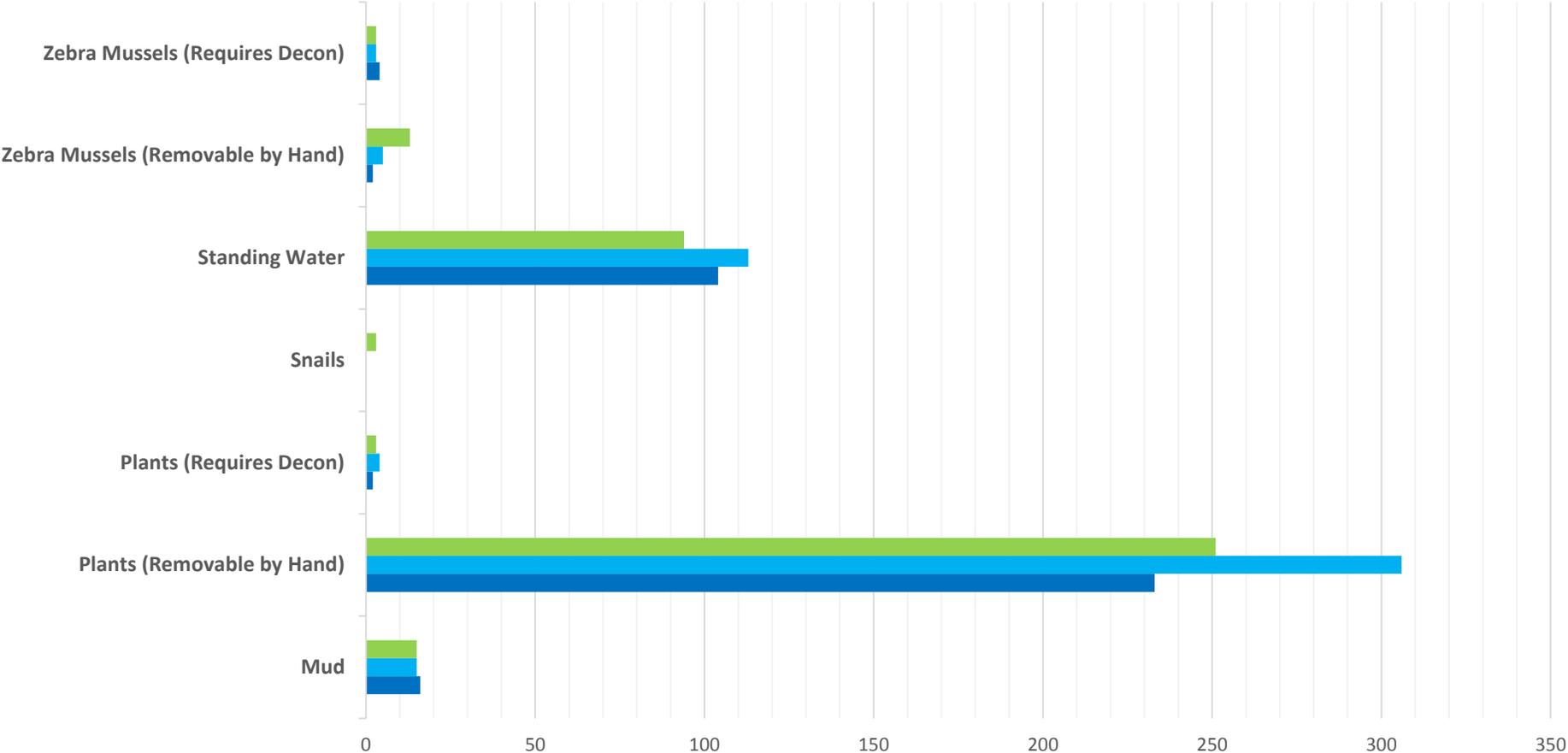


# Trends

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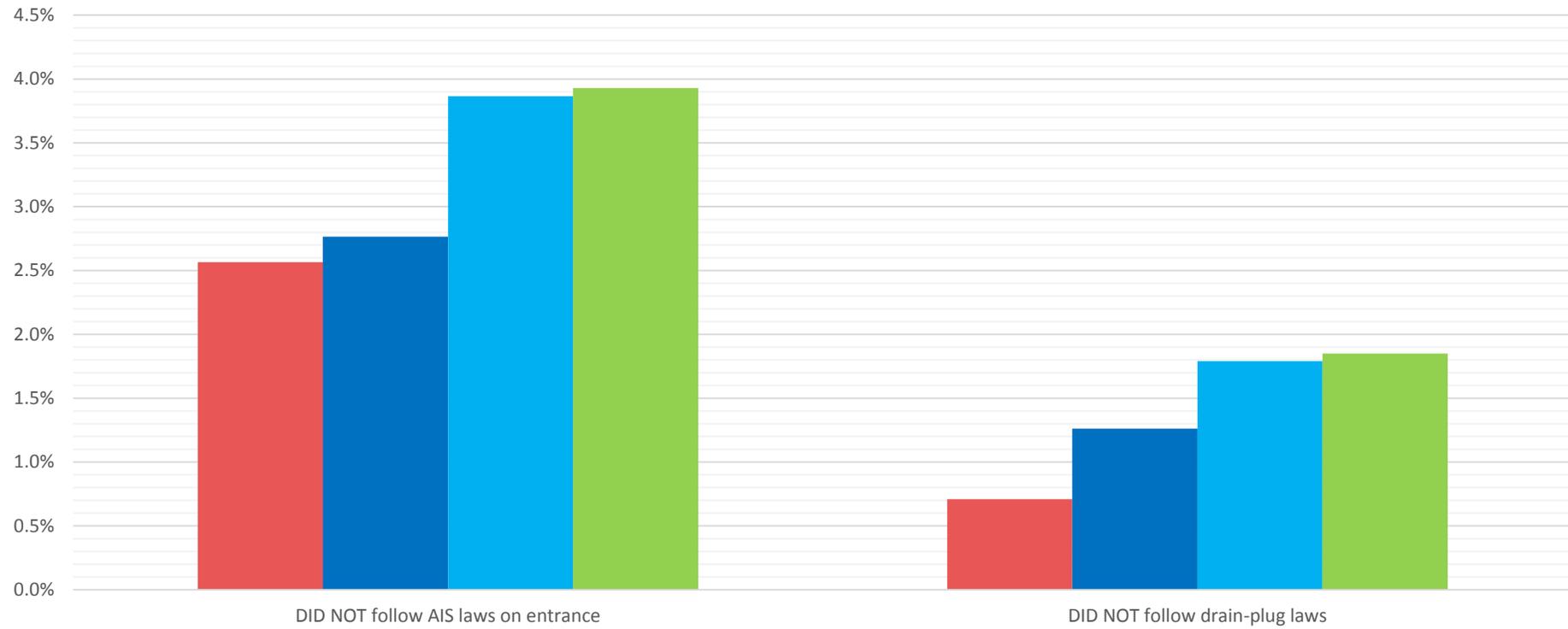
# NUMBER OF FINDINGS AT ENTRANCE

2019 2018 2017



## PERCENT VIOLATIONS AT ENTRANCE

2016 2017 2018 2019





2020

# Proposed AIS Program

Funding and Strategies

# Strategies

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- Watercraft Inspections & Decontamination
- Monitoring & Rapid Response
- Education & Outreach
- Projects & Grants

# Monitoring & Rapid Response

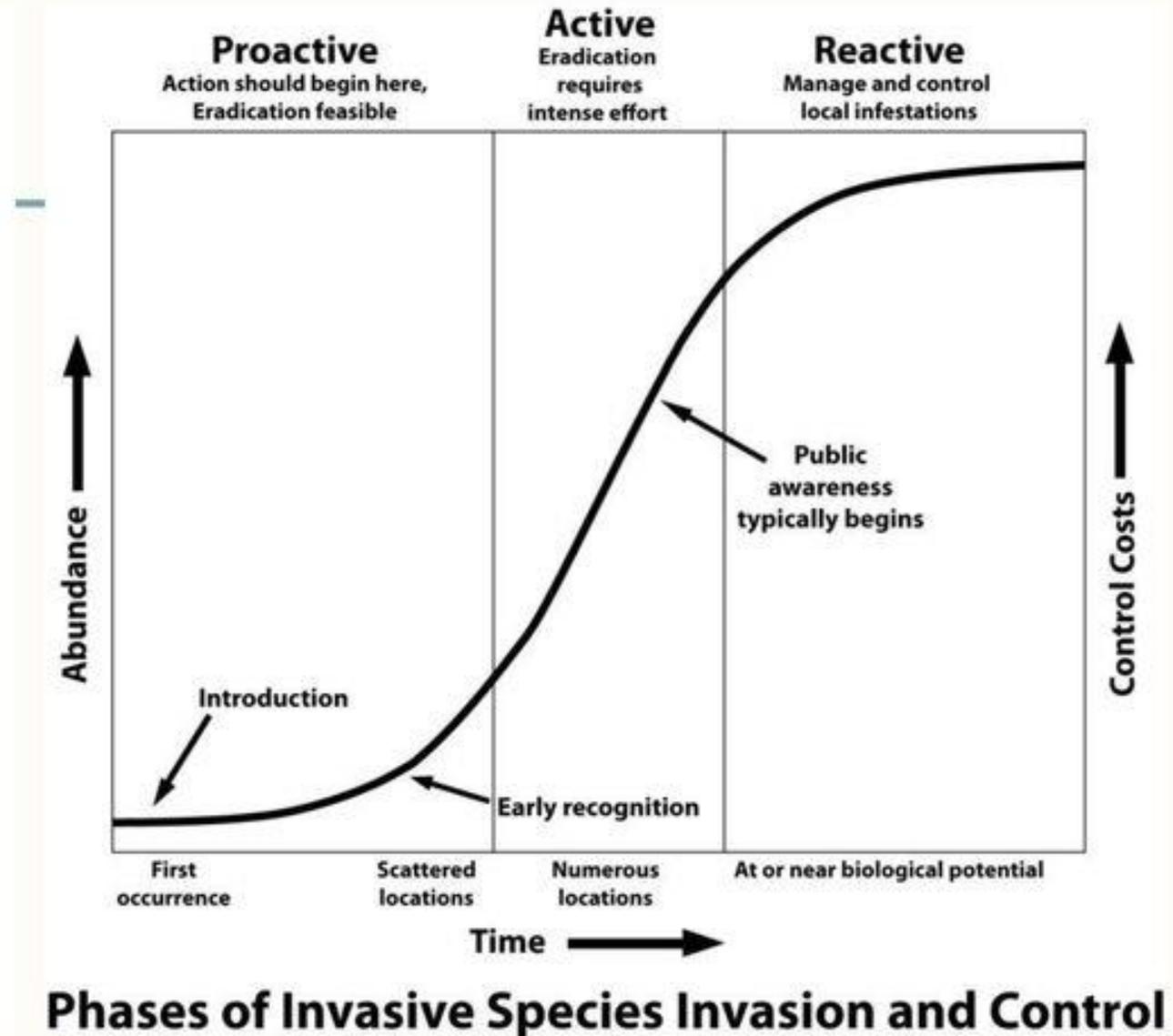
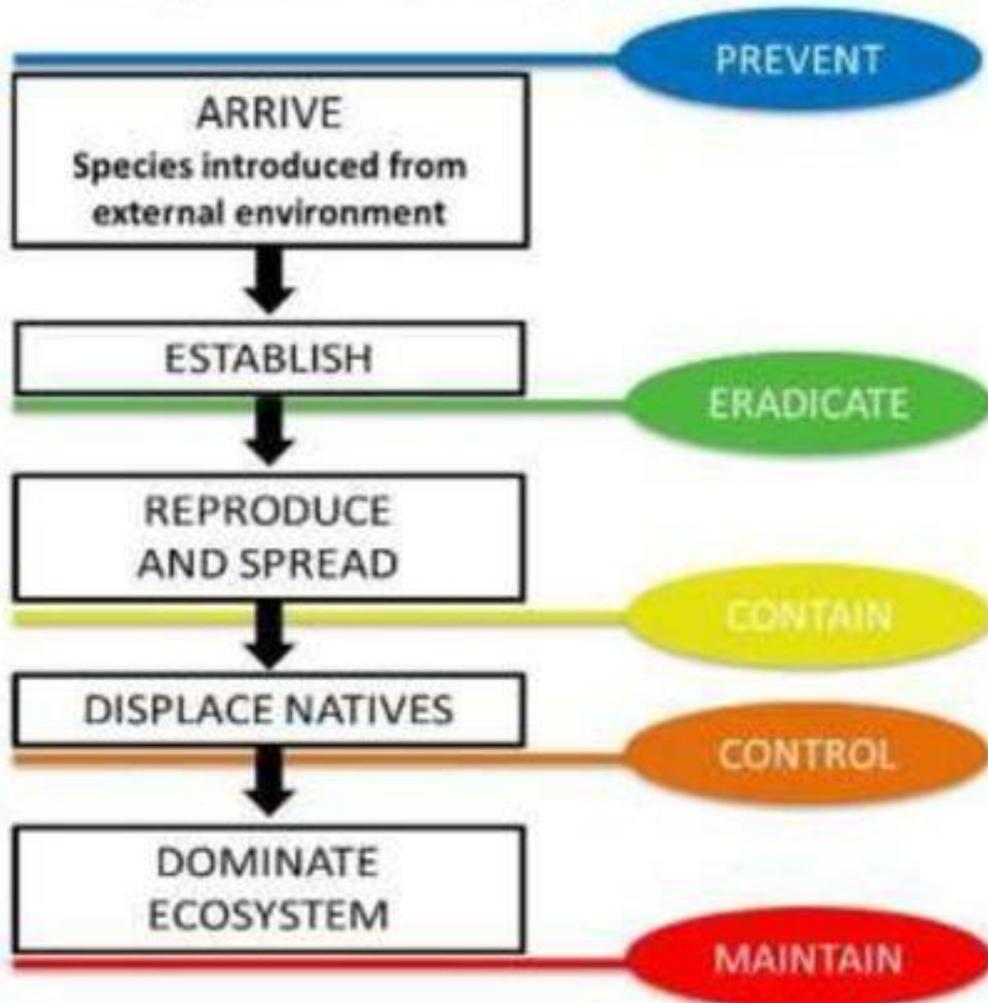
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Early detection monitoring helps enable cost-effective AIS management.

Rapid Response Plan: Respond to AIS introduction quickly and effectively.

# Invasion Curve

## Stages of Biological Invasion



# Monitoring Strategies

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Early Detection Surveys

Zebra mussel sampler  
plates and veliger tows

Bathymetric &  
Vegetation mapping

e-DNA

Volunteers

Interns – *NEW 2019*

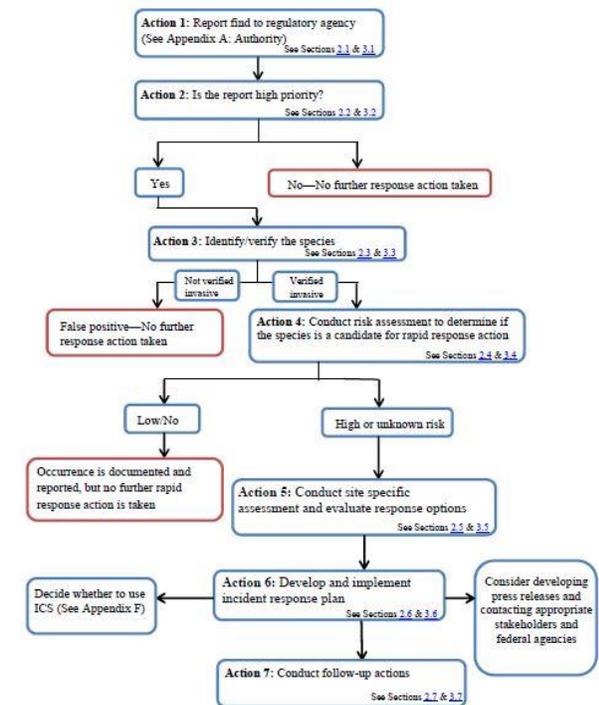
# Rapid Response Plan

.. Or New Infestation Response Plan

Decision support tool with action steps if prevention measures fail.

Coordinated and structured response to new infestations.

Every response is unique.



# Education & Outreach

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Develop and use existing outreach initiatives to raise awareness of AIS.

Efforts involve addressing potential mechanisms of introduction, including boaters, aquarium pets, and water gardening.

Community Based Social Marketing. *New 2020*



**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES  
IN YOUR TRACKS.**

[PlayCleanGo.org](http://PlayCleanGo.org)

## Help Prevent The Spread Of Invasive Plants And Animals.

- Arrive with clean gear.
- Burn local or certified firewood.
- Use local or weed-free hay.
- Stay on the trails.
- Before leaving, remove mud and seeds.

PlayCleanGo is currently sponsored by State of Minnesota and USDA Forest Service, equal opportunity employers.



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

## CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT



motor prop. bilge. thru-hull. sink. anchor. trailer. battery. fuel. fuel filter. fuel tank. fuel nozzle. anchor. prop.

# Projects & Grants

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## Past Initiative Foundation Grants

Carver County AIS Prevention Enhancement Grant (Decontamination Program)

Vegetation Removal at Public Accesses as Prevention Measure

## Benton Lake Restoration Project

Addressing the existing invasive carp population

LCCMR Grant: 2019-20

BWSR Grant: not selected: 2020-21

## Grace Chain of Lakes Goldfish

Addressing the existing goldfish population

Investigating funding opportunities for 2020-23

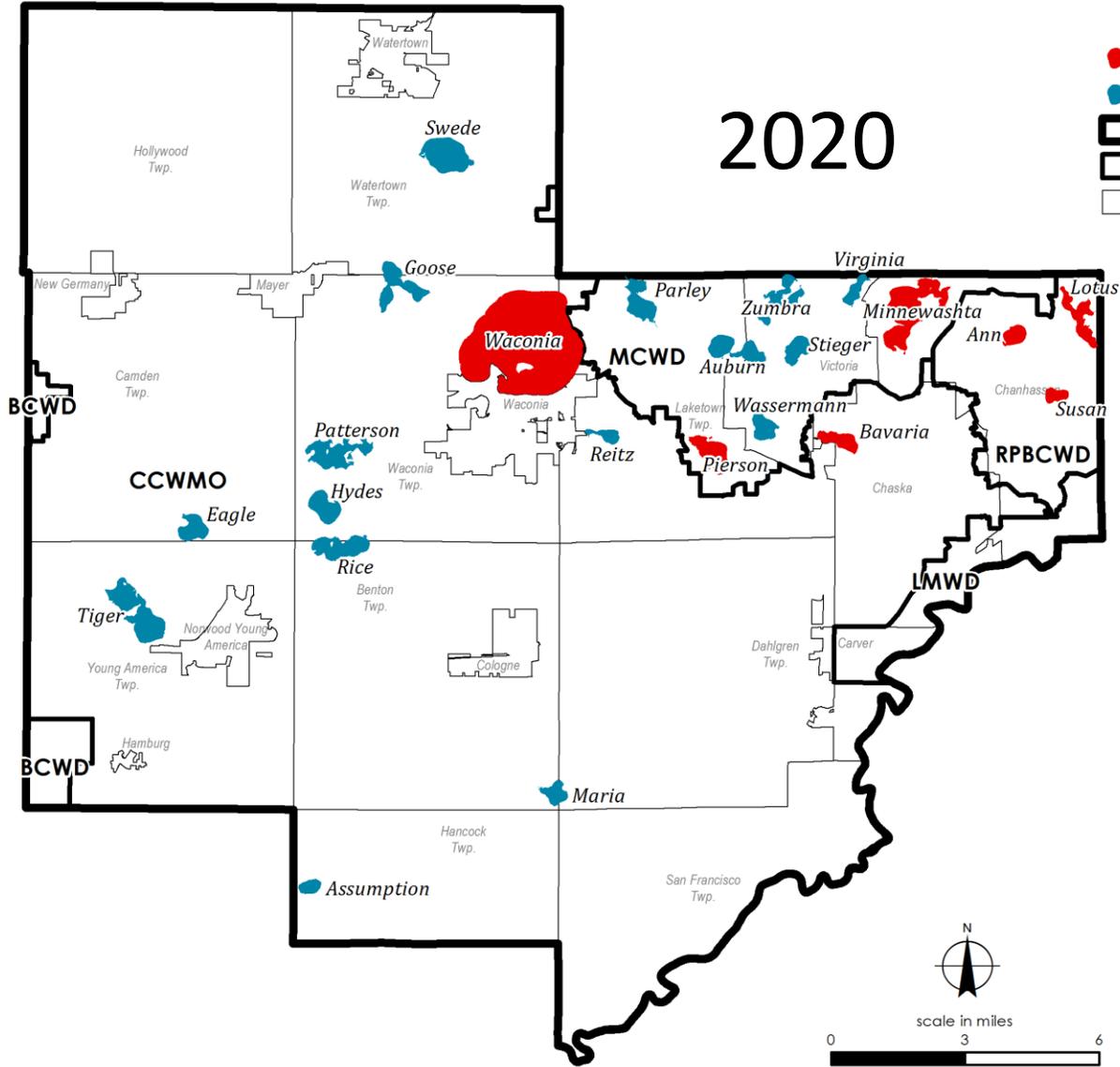


# Watercraft Inspections

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Partner with cities and watershed districts to provide varied levels of service based on priority need.

# 2020



### Legend

- Inspection & early detection lakes
- Early detection lakes
- County boundary
- Legal watershed boundaries
- City/Township boundaries

### AIS Lakes

Carver County Watershed Management Organization



This map was created using Carver County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS), it is a compilation of information and data from various City, County, State, and Federal offices. This map is not a surveyed or legally recorded map and is intended to be used as a reference. Carver County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

# Partners

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## **Chanhassen**

Includes funds from the City, RPBCWD, and Lotus Lake Conservation Alliance.

## **MCWD**

Cost-share agreement.

Watershed District match gradually decreasing.

## **WMO**

Funds from Carver County Water Management Organization.

# MCWD Lakes

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Gradual decrease in inspection funds.

## MCWD Share

**2016: \$57,600**

**2017: \$28,800**

**2018: \$18,800**

**2019: \$13,000**

**2020: \$13,000**

**2021: \$0**

# Review of Program Adjustments:

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2016 - 12 lakes, 15 accesses, dedicated service for all

2017 - 11 lakes, roving between Piersons and Wasserman

2018 - 11 lakes, roving between Piersons and Wasserman

2019 – 7 lakes, roving between Piersons and Wasserman, focused on ED monitoring for low priority lakes  
LMPA and Apple pay to keep inspections on Minnewashta and Piersons

2020 – 7 lakes, roving between Piersons and Wasserman, focus on ED monitoring for low priority lakes  
County commissioners contingency fund pays to keep inspections on Minnewashta and Piersons

# New Public Boat Launch Waconia

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- Parks adding new launch at Waconia Regional Park
- Unsure of timeline
  - Could be Fall 2020
- How to fund watercraft inspections in 2020 and after
- More State Aid funds (\$10K) but not until year after parks opens boat launch

# AIS Stakeholder Forum V

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## Stakeholder Questions/Ideas

- What is the value of watercraft inspections if three lakes with full time inspectors saw zebra mussel infestations?
  - Answer - “Invasion Curve”      Prevention costs < Control costs
- Can we have a permanent decontamination station in a more accessible area like right off Highway 5.
  - Answer – Yes, but...
    - Need to have onsite to require decontamination
    - Surveys show most people would not stop if not at lake access
- Can fines be increased for more compliance?
  - Answer – Fines are defined in Statute
- Are there possibilities for more funding/involvement for passionate lakeshore owners
  - Aquatic Plant Grants, LIDS, Volunteers
- Use information such as times when more violations are found, boating times, wind direction to schedule inspections. Could be more efficient with inspection hours.

Questions?

Comments?

Motion to recommend 2020 AIS Program to  
County Board