

Preventing the Spread of New Zealand Mud Snails

Whereas the New Zealand Mud Snail, indigenous to New Zealand, was spread to cold water trout streams in the Western United States; and

Whereas the NZ Mud Snail is about the size of a grain of sand (less than six millimeters), but can congregate in numbers up to 500,000 snails per square meter; and

Whereas, the NZ Mud Snail can outcompete native aquatic species such as mayflies, caddis flies and chironomids which are an important food source for trout and other cold water species but are not valuable food sources themselves; and

Whereas, the NZ Mud Snail has been found in Black Earth Creek, a very high quality trout stream in Dane County; and

Whereas, the NZ Mud Snail can become attached to soles of shoes and fishing waders and other gear used by trappers, hunters, anglers and hikers and thereby spread to other waterways.

Whereas, the following measures, if taken, can be used to prevent the spread of the NZ Mud Snail to other waterways:

- Inspecting and removing all mud and debris that might harbor snails on boots, waders, boats and other gear with a stiff brush. If possible, rinsing all equipment with tap water before leaving the stream.
- If possible, letting gear freeze for 6-8 hours or completely dry for five days since the mud snails can live out of water in a damp environment for up to five days.
- Draining water from boat, motor, bilge, decoys and other water containing devices before leaving water access
- Using a second, clean pair of waders or boots if it is impractical to clean one's waders when moving from one stream to another.

Now therefore the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at its 2014 Annual Meeting on April 11-12, 2014, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, resolves to publicize to its members and other sportsmen and women the need to use the above preventive measures when hunting, trapping, angling or hiking in and near waterways to prevent the spread of the New Zealand Mud Snail to other waterways in Wisconsin and beyond.

Submitted by Gordy Merz, Chair WWF Fisheries Committee

