

# Dept. of Natural Resources: Protect your favorite waterfowl hunting areas

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**MADISON, Wis.** – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is asking waterfowl hunters to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species this fall.

Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals and diseases that cause great ecological, environmental or economic harm. Some have already been found in Wisconsin, while others pose a large risk of surviving and causing problems if they are introduced and become established here.

Just a few minutes of preventative action can help preserve and protect hunting lands for generations to come. Before launching into and leaving a waterbody, waterfowl hunters should:

- **Inspect** waders, boats, trailers, motors and hunting equipment, including boots, blinds and dogs
- **Remove** all plants, animals and mud to the best of their ability
- **Drain** all water from decoys, boats, motors, livewells and other hunting equipment
- **Remove** all seed heads and roots when using vegetation for duck blinds
- **Never move** plants or live animals, such as snails, away from a water body

In addition, the DNR and UW Madison Extension AIS Program often team up with the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited and other partners to place boot brush stations at access points near lake and river launches as well as some walk-in sites. If you are an organization interested in building and setting up your own boot brush stations, please contact [DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov) for more information.

Thank you to every hunter who follows the recommended prevention steps. Doing so before you leave the boat launch is keeping your favorite hunting spot safe and accessible for years to come.

[For more information about aquatic invasive species, including where they are prohibited and restricted in Wisconsin, visit this DNR webpage.](#)