

NEWS



Land Services Department
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CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

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County Land Services Sets Gypsy Moth Traps

Crow Wing County Land Services is participating in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's, 2013 Gypsy Moth Section Trapping Survey. The gypsy moth is an invasive species that, as a caterpillar, is a serious defoliator of over 300 tree and woody shrub species. It is invading the State of Minnesota by spreading its population naturally from the head of the invasion front in nearby Wisconsin and by being carried in as a hitchhiker by unsuspecting tourists and visitors to Minnesota, who have been in infested areas to the east.

In July, County Natural Resource Managers set 25 gypsy moth traps on county managed public lands. "Gypsy moths eat the leaves of many trees and shrubs, but favor oak, poplar and birch" said Ryan Simonson, Crow Wing County Natural Resource Manager. "The tent shaped cardboard trap contains a pheromone which acts as a lure or attractant and once inside the trap, the moths will stick to the interior surface," Simonson added.

The traps will be collected and survey results reported to the state in late October. There are two simple steps to prevent the spread of gypsy moths. The first is to not transport firewood and the second is to check your vehicles campers, tents for the moths' fuzzy, buff-colored egg masses. More information can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth or www.hungrypests.org.

The County manages 105,000 acres of forest land for timber production and diverse recreational opportunities for multiple users. The sale of timber at public auctions during the year funds the county's management of these lands, while providing revenues to local communities. County forest lands are managed to strict environmental standards established by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council certification standards.

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