



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kirk Titus

Phone: 218-824-1114

Email: kirk.titus@crowwing.us

County Land Services to Survey Gypsy Moth Traps

Crow Wing County Land Services is participating in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's, 2014 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. As part of the survey 25 gypsy moth traps have been placed on County managed public lands. The traps will be collected and survey results reported to the state in late October. This is the second year the County has participated in this project. No gypsy moths were found in County traps in 2013.

According to Crow Wing County Natural Resource Manager Ryan Simonson, "Gypsy moths eat the leaves of many trees and shrubs, but favor oak, poplar and birch. These tent shaped cardboard traps 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 that landowners should remove and destroy any egg masses found on their property to help control population spread.

Gypsy moths are invading Minnesota from infested areas to our east, and are spread through population expansion and transport by people visiting from affected areas such as Wisconsin. The rapid spread of gypsy moths can be prevented by following two simple steps. First, firewood should not be transported from infected areas, and secondly people should inspect and remove from vehicles, campers and tents fuzzy buff-colored egg masses. More information on gypsy moths can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth.

Crow Wing County Land Services 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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**Mark Liedl, Director
Land Services Department**

322 Laurel Street, Ste. 14
Brainerd, MN 56401

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

Office: (218) 824-1125

Fax: (218) 824-XXXX

www.crowwing.us