



Aquatic Invasives

Information Sheet



Spraying down a boat before entering the water.



Didymo aka "Rock Snot"



AQUATIC INVASIVES: DON'T TAKE THEM WITH YOU!

Aquatic Invasives are a serious concern in the Northern Forest. Aquatic Invasives compromise the natural integrity of an aquatic ecosystem by choking out naturally occurring species and running wild.

They spread by catching rides with those of us that are out there enjoying the waters. Not taking them with us sounds simple, but it's not. Some aquatic invasives are microscopic, making it very difficult to tell if they are attached to us or our paddling gear. All they need is a moist environment to survive; it could be in our clothing or a clump of mud on our shoes. Stopping the spread boils down to; attentiveness, routine, and a few basic guidelines. It all starts just after we get out of a water body.

To help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive you should take up the following habits:

- **Visually inspect your craft.** Check the outside and inside of the canoe and paddles for any mud, water, or plant life. Remove anything you find and dispose on dry land before leaving.
- **Eliminate water from all equipment.** Lay out everything on the shore. Tip over your water craft and drain any water that has found its way inside. Wring out wet clothing and gear.
- **Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water.** If you have time to allow gear and clothing to completely dry before entering the next water body, do so. If not put anything wet in a dry bag and do not remove until you can let it all dry out completely before coming in contact with water again. Aquatic life cannot survive without moisture.
- **Alternating shoes.** If you go from one water body to another during the course of your trip, bring an extra pair of quickly drying shoes with you, particularly if you're paddling in a water body known to have didymo. The pair of shoes you exit a water body with should be allowed to completely dry out before you use them again. Put on a new pair of dry shoes before entering a new water body.
- **Re-inspect your craft before putting it into a new waterbody**

