

## Wrapping up a summer of successful events!

### Make the Cut! CRC's First Annual Invasive Lily Removal Competition



CRC's first annual lily removal competition was held on Saturday, August 15th on Salmon and Placid Lakes. The event was a great success — 23 participants clipped and bagged over 500 pounds of fragrant water lilies!

The fragrant water lily is a highly invasive plant that was likely introduced to this region as an ornamental. Its flowers are pretty, but the damage they cause is severe. Plants form dense mats, create boating and fishing hazards, and deplete oxygen for the native animals that call these lakes home.

CRC hopes to expand this event in future years, as many of the lakes in our watershed are infested with the invasive lily. Help us stop the spread by joining the fun next year— stay tuned on our social media accounts for more event details!



Lily event photos: Seeley Swan Pathfinder



### Macroinvertebrate Workshop

On July 24th CRC hosted over 20 participants at our macroinvertebrate workshop on the shores of Placid Lake. Attendees were excited to learn about macroinvertebrates and why they are important to healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Our workshop began with a presentation by CRC employee Heidi Sedivy, an educator and expert in macroinvertebrates and invasive species in Montana. She taught workshop participants about common aquatic critters in Montana, including both native and invasive species.

The afternoon provided a chance to get out and apply insights from the morning presentation. Participants were able to get hands-on experience in collection, sorting, and identification of various macroinvertebrate species. Join us for our next educational workshop!

# Clearwater

## NEWS

### Pike Detection Effort

On Saturday, July 25, 2020, a unique conservation effort was held at Placid Lake to protect the native fishery from the threat of invasive Northern Pike. Fish, Wildlife and Parks sponsored the event, in partnership with CRC and the Placid Lake Cabin Owners.



In the spring of 2020, Fish Wildlife and Parks, for the first time ever, detected a single Northern Pike in Placid Lake as part of its ongoing monitoring efforts. Given that Placid Lake was, up until that point, considered to be free of predaceous invasive fish species, and given the relatively intact native fishery that still exists in Placid Lake, this detection was of great concern.

To determine if the single female Pike was an anomaly or a harbinger of an invasion, the three groups agreed on a course of action including using the rest of the 2020 field season to better determine the extent, if any, of the Northern Pike invasion in Placid Lake. However, conventional monitoring efforts such as gill netting often do not provide FWP biologists with an accurate assessment of population numbers. To

address these limitations, a more innovative plan was agreed upon. “Snorkeling and spearing will allow us to collect information about Pike that our traditional methods often miss,” said Ladd Knotek, a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks fisheries biologist.

Fortunately, a group of conservation-minded spear fishers from Missoula agreed to assist with the population count. On Saturday, July 25, about a dozen highly experienced spear fishers snorkeled Placid Lake with an exacting mission: find and spear all Northern Pike detected. After five hours of searching, no one was able to spot the invasive species. Although this does not confirm that Placid Lake is free of Pike, it is good news in terms of the total number of Pike that likely reside in the lake.

CRC is dedicated to preventing the spread of invasive species like the Northern Pike through monitoring, education, and events like the spearfishing population count. These efforts are only possible with the support of community members dedicated to keeping our valley pristine. Join us in these efforts by participating in future events or helping out with one of our various monitoring programs!

### Fuels Mitigation Zoom Meeting

On June 30, CRC hosted an informational zoom meeting for interested stakeholders to learn more about our fuels program. If you missed the meeting and want to learn more, visit our website at [crcmt.org/fuels](https://www.crcmt.org/fuels) or view the meeting at the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LRpYMWu\\_oo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LRpYMWu_oo)



### Interested in getting involved?

Although we will be wrapping up our lake monitoring in the coming month, CRC is always looking for help! Contact us at [emily@crcmt.org](mailto:emily@crcmt.org) or 980-229-3855 if you would like to volunteer in the field or the office.

Our work is made possible by the help of many dedicated volunteers!

#### Follow us on social media!

We are always looking for fun photos of the region! If you have any photographs you would like to submit for consideration for posting on our social media or website pages, please do so here: [crcmt.org/photo-submissions](https://www.crcmt.org/photo-submissions)



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