

Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Report

Lake: **Sturgeon (DOW# 58006700)**

Inspection Date: **07/16/2026**

County: **Pine**

Surveyors: **Rich Rezanka, Camden Droppo**

Water Temp (*F): **76.0**

Report Author: **Rich Rezanka**

Inspection Times: 0800 - **1530**

Report Date: **07/17/2026**

Minnesota DNR Aquatic Invasive Species program staff inspected Sturgeon Lake for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) on 07/02/2024. Eurasian watermilfoil was documented in only a few sites near the public access. Management activities may occur but will be minimal in 2025.



Photo 1: A view of the smokey public access on Sturgeon Lake from July 16, 2026.

Weather was sunny, smokey and hot with negligible wind from the north and northeast. Air temperature was 85 degrees; surface water temperature was 76 degrees. Water clarity in the lake was high (15 feet). Visual sampling was possible in shallow sites with depths less than six feet.

Delineation methods involved both visual methods and the use of a two-sided plant rake. The boat was driven from shallow water into deep water in a slow meandering pattern (figure 1). Special attention was paid to areas in the lake where favorable EWM growing conditions were present.

Eurasian watermilfoil was found at depths ranging from 4.0 - 9.0 feet. The significant reduction in EWM was again observed on Sturgeon Lake in 2026 following the herbicide work done in 2024. Small patches with more than a few plants were located occasionally around the lake and could be considered for treatment in 2026 (figure 2).



Photo 2: Eurasian watermilfoil present in Sturgeon Lake on 16 July2026.

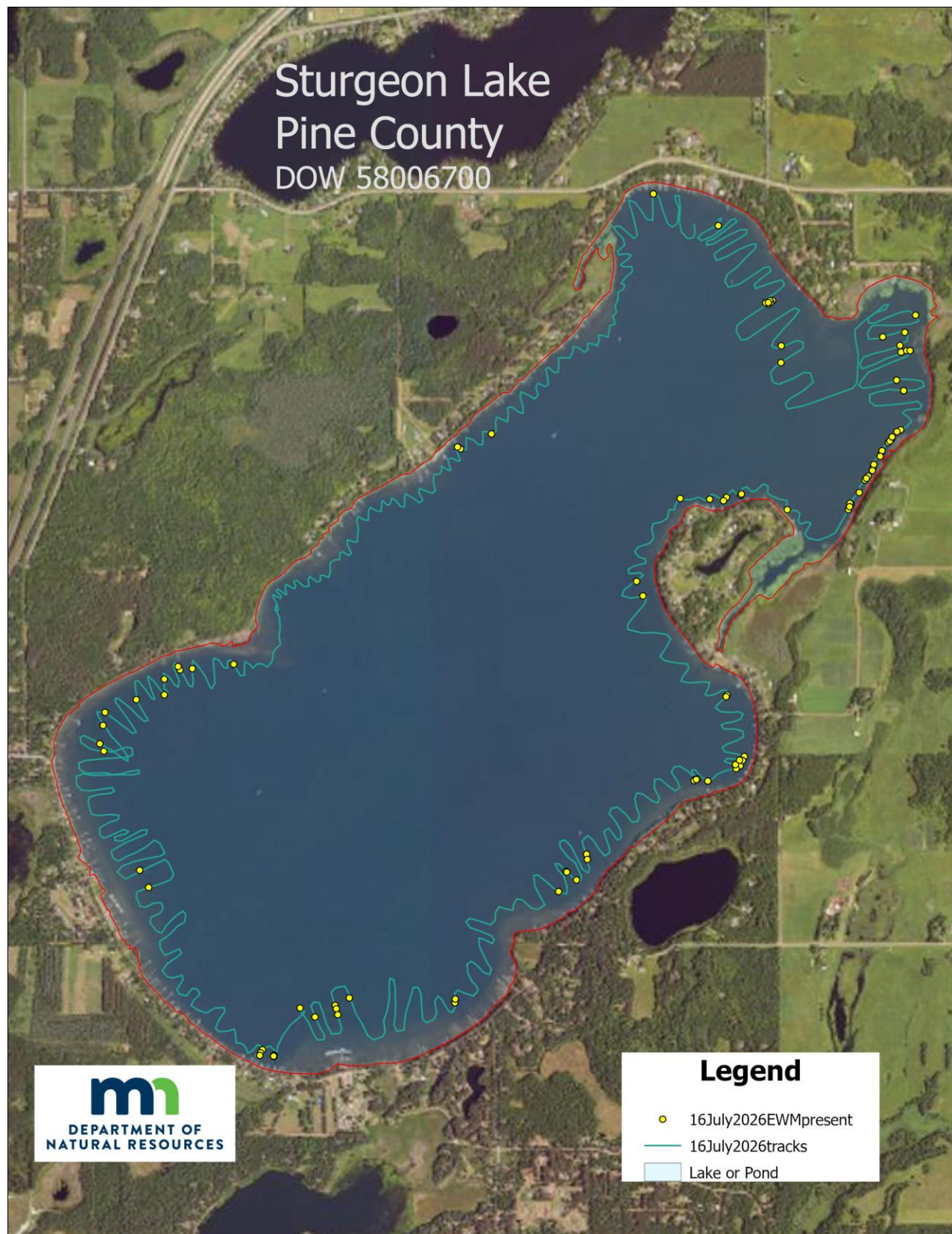
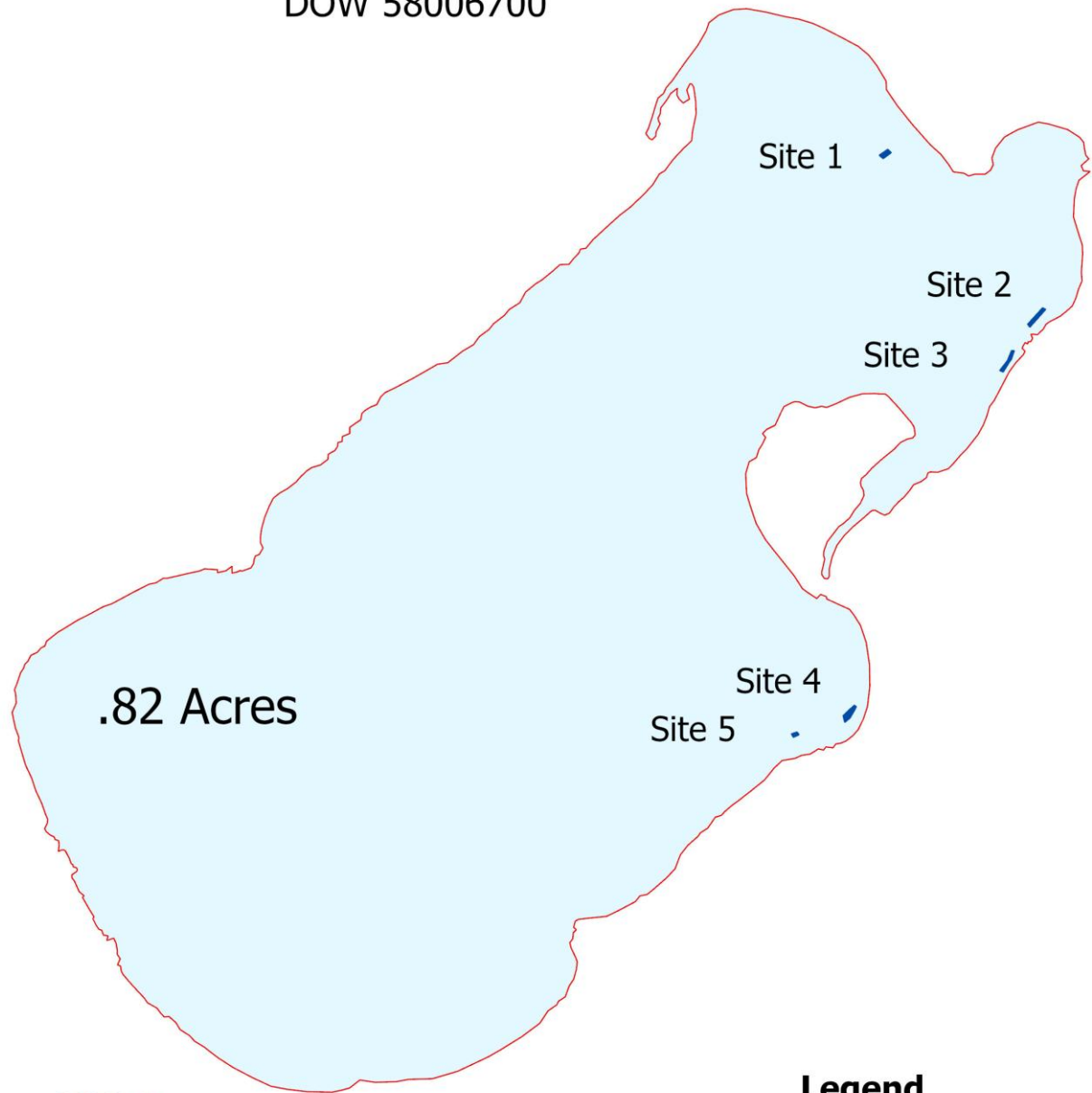


Figure 1. A survey map of Sturgeon Lake showing EWM locations and survey tracks from 16 July 2026.

Sturgeon Lake
Pine County
DOW 58006700



Legend

 16July2026EWMacres

Figure 2. Map indicates potential treatment area of Eurasian watermilfoil in 2026.

Site	Acres	Observations	Treatment recommendation
1	0.13	10 to 15 stems	treatment optional and not necessary in 2026
2	0.22	20 to 30 stems in a narrow strip	use caution avoid emergent native plants
3	0.18	20 to 30 stems in a narrow strip	use caution avoid emergent native plants
4	0.23	30 to 50 stems widely spaced	treat to remove new start-up plants
5	0.05	Thin patch in a long narrow band	treatment optional and not necessary in 2026
Total			
0.82			

Table 1. Site descriptions of five possible treatment sites on Sturgeon Lake in 2026.



Photo 3: A variety of native plants have replaced Eurasian watermilfoil in Sturgeon Lake on 16 July 2026.

