



## **A BSLA CHARITABLE FUND ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE**

Dear Big Sand Lakers,

Thank you to all who read the newsletter and responded to our annual appeal for donations to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund, which pays for DNR watercraft inspection at the public access for 2026.

**This spring, 47 donors made generous gifts to the Charitable Fund totaling 9,775 dollars. That is wonderful progress, but means we still need to raise 13,925 dollars towards our 23,700-dollar goal to fully fund 1400 inspection hours.**

Watercraft inspection at the public access is the most effective tool we have in the fight against aquatic invasive species infestation. Last year's discovery of Zebra Mussels in Big Sand Lake was deeply disappointing. We know from other Minnesota lakes that Zebra Mussels can damage equipment, interfere with recreation, and harm lake ecosystems. We still face the risk of additional AIS such Starry Stonewort or Eurasian Milfoil, which can form dense mats, impede boating and swimming, and are extremely difficult and costly to control once established.

**We need your help now! If you haven't already, please donate to the Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Help us protect our lake, our property values, and the quality of the time we spend on the water. Your support this year will let us know how many inspection hours we can budget in the future.**

Two ways to give:

- [Donate online](#) (Please select "General Spendable" in the "Make donation to" box.)
- Mail a check made out to The Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund to:  
Northwest Minnesota Foundation  
201 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW  
Bemidji, MN, 56601 (Please note "General Spendable" in the memo line.)

With appreciation for your ongoing support and your commitment to Big Sand Lake,

Your Big Sand Lake Charitable Fund Committee

Ann Hilger, Chris Hilger, Linda Daugherty