

**Proclamation Naming July 17-25, 2010
St. Croix River Awareness and Cleanup Week**

The St. Croix River watershed or “basin” encompasses 7,760 square miles, over two-dozen major subwatersheds, and hundreds of smaller direct tributaries straddling the Minnesota-Wisconsin border.

Millions of tourists visit annually and support a thriving tourist industry. Hundreds of thousands of boaters, anglers and quiet sports enthusiasts enjoy the water.

Three million people thrive in or near the basin and claim that the St. Croix valley is central to their quality of life.

The basin is at the intersection of three biomes, the Northern Boreal Forest, the Prairie and the Deciduous Forest. It is home to at least forty species of native mussels.

It is a major migration corridor for hundreds of species of waterfowl and other birds.

It is the historical border of the Lakota and Ojibway nations and the location of many historical sites and structures.

The Upper St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers are among the first eight named to the United States Wild and Scenic River system.

Lake St. Croix was named an impaired water for excess phosphorus in 2008. Two major tributaries, the Sunrise and Willow were similarly designated. American Rivers calls it one of the ten most endangered.

Without volunteer efforts the St. Croix River basin will degrade.

For these and other reasons, I hereby proclaim July 17-25, St. Croix River Awareness and Cleanup Week and encourage everyone to celebrate and to engage in voluntary clean-up of river bank litter.

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Minnesota

Name, Title, Jurisdiction, State

July 13, 2010