

Felt Soled Wading Boots

Hi Bob and everyone.

I don't think that we should pursue this action. I firmly believe that we should educate our members/supporters in the the best way to sanitize our wading boots to eliminate potential parasites etc from our footwear. I wash/soak my feltboots in a bleach solution before I change regions. I have two pair of well warn felts so I can interchange their usage if needed.

When I help with studies, with SPU personel, on the Cedar River, they ask that I sanitize my boots and not use them for 10 days prior to participating as a precaution against the spreading of invasives. I also work with Canadian DFO scientists doing chinook tagging and monitoring studies. I soak the felts before I go north and when I return.

Many of our members only fish their home waters in which case the need to sanitize the boots is not really necessary. If folks fish a variety of regions, then they should sanitize the boots in a bleach solution as they move from region to region in pursuit of fish. Given all of the areas on/in a wading boot and waders which might hide the infectious critters, eliminating the felt soles is not a comprehensive cure. The "new" boots will still provide the potential habitat necessary to provide transport.

The other issue is that there really is not an adequate replacement for felt. Studs and cleats tear up a driftboat and your boots.

Anyways just some thoughts on the subject--Bill R