



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNTY WATERCRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAM STARTS SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department's 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program begins Saturday, May 11th to coincide with this year's fishing opener. Watercraft inspectors will be active on boat landings within the county beginning fishing opener weekend. Almost 16,000 inspections hours on 43 public landings are scheduled for the 2024 season.

The 2024 AIS plan focuses on the top priorities identified by area lake associations, citizens, and business interests. It includes boat landing inspections, watercraft decontaminations, education, and awareness. Invasive species are a serious threat to local economies and recreationists accessing public waters. Preventing and managing the spread of harmful invasive species is up to everyone.

"Crow Wing County is home to some of Minnesota's best fishing and boating waters. We remind everyone to do their part and clean their watercraft when exiting a body of water to protect our beautiful natural resources in this County," stated Jessica Shea, Operations Manager. "With our 2024 AIS plan, Crow Wing County is leading Minnesota counties in the effort to prevent the spread of AIS with a very robust inspection program."

Draining all water, removing plants, mud, debris, and inspecting trailers and watercraft as you move from lake to lake can minimize the risk of spreading AIS. Additionally, 21 days of drying time is needed before relocating docks, lifts, or swim rafts into a different water body. For more information, please visit www.crowwing.gov/ais

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.gov to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.