



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Aquatic Invasive Species Decontamination Stations

The Crow Wing County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) decontamination stations are open for the season. Decontaminations are available to boaters free of charge.

The County has a permanent decontamination unit located at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility off Highway 3 at 13870 Whipple Drive. This location is fully staffed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday.

Two mobile decontamination units will be located at different public accesses throughout the county. They will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. To get the locations of all decontamination stations call (218) 824-1055 or text CWCDECON to 1-833-258-7509.

Under DNR guidelines boaters will be referred for decontamination when:

- AIS or other unknown items or materials are discovered.
- The watercraft has been in the water for more than 24 hours.
- The watercraft is being transported to a new water body within 24 hours.
- If undrainable or unverifiable water is present.

Watercraft decontamination consists of a very hot water rinse used to kill zebra mussels and if needed a high-pressure spray to remove material from boats, motors, trailers, and personal gear. No soaps, bleaches, or chemicals are used during the process. The station is operated by DNR-trained and certified inspectors who ensure the process effectively and safely removes or kills AIS.

"The decontamination stations provide a useful service to boaters," stated Jessica Shea, Crow Wing County Operations Manager. "The entire process takes a short time and is a valuable tool for limiting the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers". Information about Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts can be found at 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.