



PRESS RELEASE

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Land Services Department Asks Lake Property Owners to Check All Docks & Equipment for Invasive Species When Removing

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department wants to remind lake property owners of the importance of proper cleaning and checking all water related equipment for invasive species this fall. Property owners need to be vigilant while removing equipment for the season. The MN DNR attributes several zebra mussel confirmations in the last years to vigilant lake property owners which have led to faster response plans.

With so many people working to remove water equipment, it is extremely important to remember three basic steps, CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY.

A few other tips to remember this fall are as follow:

- Keep docks and boat lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water. This is state law.
- Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that might have been submerged in water for an extended period.
- If hiring a lake service provider to install or remove boats, docks, lifts or other water-related equipment, check that they are on the [permitted lake service provider business list](#). These businesses have attended training on Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws, and many have experience identifying and removing invasive species.
- Equipment owners may need a no-cost transportation [permit](#) to transport equipment from an access or shoreline property if it cannot be completely cleaned of aquatic plants or prohibited invasive species before transport.
- People should contact Land Services if they think they have discovered an invasive species that has not already been confirmed in their lake.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise decisions 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.