



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 14, 2025

Crow Wing County

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Crow Wing County Purchases over 3,000 acres of former Potlatch Lands from The Conservation Fund

The Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners recently approved the purchase of 3,140 acres of property located in Mission Township. In 2020, The Conservation Fund purchased 72,440 acres of forest land from PotlatchDeltic Corporation to provide time for the development and implementation of permanent conservation strategies with local partners. Most of the 72,440 acres have transitioned statewide into County and State ownerships and this 3,000+ acre acquisition by the County represents some of the last remaining property owned by The Conservation Fund in Crow Wing County.

The \$1.6 million to fund the acquisition comes from the sale of timber and the sale of land from existing county administered properties in 2025. The county will manage this 3,140-acre property according to the Forest Resources Plan and proceeds from the sale of timber will be utilized to fund parks, trails and public water access maintenance and improvements. Crow Wing County manages 6 County Parks, 13 non-motorized hunter/hiker trails, 8 OHV trails, 5 cross country ski trails, 2 mountain bike trails and hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails.

"This strategic investment reflects the County's commitment to responsible land management, responsible management of taxpayer dollars, rural economic development, and the preservation of natural landscapes for future generations of Minnesotans," said Tom Strack, Environmental Services Supervisor.

"Many of the trees on this land are mature and ready to be sustainably harvested by Crow Wing County," said Kim Berns-Melhus, Minnesota state director at The Conservation Fund. "That means for generations to come, this forest will yield good revenue for county services alongside continued hunting, hiking and snowmobiling opportunities for county residents and visitors. This is precisely the kind of outcome we had in mind when The Conservation Fund and its partners prioritized protecting the Mississippi headwaters. Crow Wing County should be proud of what has been achieved here."

Crow Wing County Land Services manages 105,000 acres of forest land for timber production and diverse recreational opportunities for multiple users. The sale of timber at public auctions during the year funds the county's management of these lands, while providing revenues to local communities. County forest lands are managed to strict environmental standards established by both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® and the Minnesota Forest Resources Council.

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.