



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CROW WING COUNTY AIS DECONTAMINATION HOTLINE

There's a new one-stop telephone number for information about locations and availability of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) decontamination stations in the Brainerd Lakes Area: 218-824-1055. 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. Stations are operated by DNR-trained and certified inspectors who ensure the process effectively and safely removes or kills AIS.

There are 4 decontamination stations located in the Brainerd Lakes Area including Crosslake, Gull Lake, Ruth Lake (Emily area), and coming soon, Breezy Point at the Pelican Square convenience store. The Minnesota DNR also has portable units at several area lakes. Check out their website at mndnr.gov/decon for more information.

“Decontamination stations provide a useful service to boaters,” stated Chris Pence, Division Manager, Environmental Services. “The entire process takes a short time and will be a valuable tool for limiting the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers,” he added.

Decontaminations are available to boaters free of charge. 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, or if undrainable or unverifiable water is present.

Information about Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts, including interactive maps to search for the status of area lakes can be found on the web at www.crowwing.us, and search for “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 land.services@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

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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.