



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: May 23, 2018**

**Contact: Jake Frie**

**Phone: 218-824-1010**

## COUNTY OPENS AIS DECONTAMINATION STATION IN CROSSLAKE

The Crow Wing County aquatic invasive species (AIS) decontamination station in Crosslake is open for the season beginning Memorial Day Weekend to help stop the spread AIS. The station is located at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility off Highway 3 at 13870 Whipple Drive. It is open and fully staffed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday through Sunday and available for on-call only from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Thursday. During on-call hours, boaters are asked to call 218-692-2689 to arrange for decontamination.

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.

“Working in partnership with the City of Crosslake, this decontamination station will provide a useful service to boaters,” stated Jake Frie, Crow Wing County Environmental Services Supervisor. “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, with priority given to boaters who have been referred for decontamination by watercraft inspectors or law enforcement present on area landings. 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.

There are also 3 other decontamination stations located in the Brainerd Lakes Area including Gull Lake, Ruth Lake (Emily area), and 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](http://mndnr.gov/decon) for more information.

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](http://www.crowwing.us), and search for “AIS.”

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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](mailto:land.services@crowwing.us) to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

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