



**Gary Griffin, Director
Land Services Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Ryan Simonson

Phone: (218) 824-1010

CROW WING COUNTY RELEASES 2018 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION PLAN

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department is requesting public comment on the proposed 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan. The 2018 AIS plan can be viewed on the County website at www.crowwing.us by clicking on “Crow Wing County Listens”. Written comments on the plan will be accepted until Thursday, December 21st 2017 at 5:00pm and may be submitted to Crow Wing County at landservices@crowwing.us or mailed to 322 Laurel Street, Suite 15 Brainerd, MN 56401.

The County Board will review the proposed 2018 AIS Prevention Plan at a regularly scheduled meeting in early 2018. The meeting will be held in the County Board Room on the third floor of the Historic Courthouse at 326 Laurel Street Brainerd, MN 56401.

Crow Wing County has been allocated \$442,755 by the State legislature to assist in the prevention of the spread of aquatic invasive species within County lakes and rivers in 2018. The AIS plan proposes to accomplish this through several approaches, including:

- Boat landing inspections
 - Each of the nearly 200 public and private boat ramps has been assigned a risk classification. The classification is based on the use, location, and infested status of each landing and ranges from low to very high risk. Approximately 16,600 hours of inspection will be conducted on 51 landings in Crow Wing County in 2018. Since 2014, over \$1 million has been allocated to cover the cost of boat landing inspections.
- Decontamination units
 - The County plans to operate the AIS decontamination station at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility that will be open daily to the public, free of charge. 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.
- Treatment of Eurasian water milfoil
 - Crow Wing County has 10 lakes that are infested with milfoil that also have a public access. As in previous years, funds will be allocated for chemical or biological treatment of milfoil in these lakes.
- Education & Awareness
 - Since 2014, Crow Wing County has allocated over \$26,500 directly to lake associations to conduct an education outreach campaign to their members. Over 30 lakes have participated. In 2018, the County plans to again offer this program. In addition, the County plans to use targeted signage, print media, news releases as well

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Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

as radio, TV, and other advertising. Since 2014, approximately \$113,000 has been allocated to covering the costs of AIS related education and awareness programs.

- Innovation / Special Projects
 - The County plans to continue to work with area lake associations and an environmental lab to conduct veliger testing in 2018.

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 Department at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

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