



PRESS RELEASE

**Mark B. Liedl, Director
Land Services Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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30 County Lakes Confirmed Free of Zebra Mussels

Crow Wing County Land Services has released test results confirming 30 area lakes remain free from Zebra mussels. Partnering with local lake associations to collect water samples, testing was conducted on many lakes within the county for veligers, larval-state Zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species (AIS). No veligers were detected in any lake tested.

“These results show boaters are all doing their part to prevent the spread of Zebra mussels,” stated Mark Liedl, Land Services Director. “Boaters are meeting the challenge and committing to doing the right thing to limit the spread of AIS in county waters.”

Veliger testing is the best method of early detection for the possible presence of zebra mussels in a body of water. Samples were collected during late June through August, when the concentration of veligers in the water column is the highest. The presence of veligers was not detected in any lake sampled, including popular lakes such as Bay, Hubert, Kimball, Horseshoe, Edward, Clearwater, Crooked/Portage, Upper & Lower South Long, Upper & Lower Mission, Crow Wing, Platte, Rabbit, and East/West Fox. Land Services plans to complete testing on additional lakes before the end of the summer.

Information about county AIS prevention efforts, including a complete list of lakes tested, interactive maps to search for the status of area lakes, and a map showing the location of the County’s AIS decontamination station in Crosslake can be found on the web by visiting www.crowwing.us, and searching for “AIS.”

Draining all water and cleaning all visible weeds and zebra mussels from watercraft before leaving a lake and transporting to another are the most important steps boaters can take to prevent the spread of AIS. 21 days of drying time is needed when purchasing used docks, lifts, or swim rafts before locating them in a different water body.

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 Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.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.