



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: May 24th, 2021**

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## **County Opens AIS Decontamination Stations**

The Crow Wing County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) decontamination stations open for the season this Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, to help stop the spread of AIS. The County has a permanent decontamination unit located at the Crosslake Joint Highway Maintenance Facility off Highway 3 at 13870 Whipple Drive. This location is fully staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.

A mobile decontamination unit will be located at different public accesses throughout the county. It will be open and fully staffed, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. To get the location of our mobile until call (218) 824-1055 or text CWCDECON to 72345.

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.

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.

“The decontamination stations provide a useful service to boaters,” stated Jessica Shea, Crow Wing County Business Manager. “The entire process takes a short time and is a valuable tool for limiting the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers,” she added. Information about Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts can be found at [www.crowwing.us/AIS](http://www.crowwing.us/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 [landservices@crowwing.us](mailto:landservices@crowwing.us) to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

**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.