

NEWS



Land Services Department
Environmental Services
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14
Brainerd, MN 56401

CROW WING COUNTY
BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2011

CONTACT: Mitch Brinks
218/824-1125

CROW WING COUNTY RECEIVES AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WATERCRAFT INSPECTION GRANT

Crow Wing County, in partnership with the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA), received a \$7,750 Watercraft Inspection Grant from the Department of Natural Resources to inspect watercraft at public landings for Aquatic Invasive Species on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are plants or animals that have been introduced into a body of water where they do not naturally occur. AIS are able to reproduce rapidly and out compete native species which can alter the ecological balance of the lake. Examples of AIS are Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, Spiny Water Fleas and Zebra Mussels. “It is virtually impossible to eradicate aquatic invasive species in a lake or stream once they are introduced” stated Water Protection Specialist Mitch Brinks of Crow Wing County. “That is why it is so important to be proactive by inspecting watercraft before they enter our lakes”.

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department will be accepting applications for two full time seasonal watercraft inspectors. Minimum requirements for the position are two years of post secondary training in a Natural Resources field. The positions will run from June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Mitch Brinks at (218) 824-1125.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect the extraordinary natural resources Crow Wing County is blessed with. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@co.crow-wing.mn.us to discuss land use questions before starting building projects. Information about land use in Crow Wing County can be found at www.co.crow-wing.mn.us.

###