



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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### Land Services Department Emphasizes Need for Watercraft Decontamination and Thorough Cleaning of Docks & Equipment During Removal

With so many people enjoying the last weekend of summer and property owners working to remove water equipment, it is extremely important to remember three basic steps, CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY! The Crow Wing County Land Services Department wants to remind watercraft users and lake property owners of the importance of proper cleaning and checking all equipment for invasive species this fall.

Decontamination stations are located throughout Crow Wing County. To find a location visit: [www.crowwing.gov/ais](http://www.crowwing.gov/ais) or text CWCDECON to 1-833-258-7509. 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.

Property owners need to be vigilant while removing equipment for the season. Several zebra mussel confirmations in the last years have been attributed to vigilant lake property owners which lead to faster response plans.

A few other tips to remember this fall are:

- Keep docks and boat lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water. This is state law.
- Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that might have been submerged in water for an extended period.
- People should contact Land Services if they think they have discovered an invasive species that has not already been confirmed in their lake.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise decisions 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.gov](mailto:landservices@crowwing.gov) 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.