

NEWS



Land Services Department
Environmental Services
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CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ICE RIDGES ON AREA LAKES RAISE HAVOC ON LAKESHORE OWNERS

Crow Wing County is informing property owners that the winter that almost wasn't in the lakes area has not come and gone without leaving its natural mark along our area lakeshore landscapes. Land Service Specialists, while conducting routine property inspections throughout the County this winter, have noticed more activity in regards to new ice ridges along area shoreline.

There are two types of ice ridges; annual and historic. Annual ice ridges are a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice within a calendar year. Historic ice ridges are a linear mound of lakebed materials pushed up onto the lakeshore by the action of ice over a period of two or more years upon which well-established herbaceous and woody vegetation is growing.

Crow Wing County Land Use Ordinance Article 28 allows an annual ice ridge to be re-graded back to original grade as long as the work is done prior to September 1 of the year in which the ice ridge occurred. A historic ice ridge cannot be altered or re-graded except to remove a 15 foot wide area on residential lots and 25 feet on commercial lots to provide access to the lake. Both activities require a shoreland alteration permit from the Land Services Department.

"Permits are not required for re-grading of annual ice ridges that occur upon sand beach areas if the grading is conducted in the year of occurrence" stated Land Services Supervisor Chris Pence. "However, a shoreland alteration permit is required for regrading of annual ice ridges that occur upon shoreland areas that consist of topsoil, sod or have a root system."

The County jurisdiction regarding shoreland alterations only covers the area of the property landward of the Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL) of the lake. Depositing any sand or any alteration below the OHWL is subject to DNR public waters permit rules and may require approval from the MN Department of Natural Resources and/or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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@co.crow-wing.mn.us to discuss shoreland alterations or other land use questions before starting any construction projects. Information about land use in Crow Wing County can be found at www.co.crow-wing.mn.us.

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