

NEWS



Land Services Department
Environmental Services
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CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

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CROW WING COUNTY TO CONDUCT WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS ON PELICAN LAKE AND WHITEFISH CHAIN OF LAKES IN 2012

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department, in partnership with the Whitefish Area Property Owners Association and the Pelican Lakes Association, received a \$7,750 Watercraft Inspection Grant from the Department of Natural Resources to inspect watercraft at public landings for Aquatic Invasive Species.

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.

Last summer, County watercraft inspectors successfully prevented a boat carrying Eurasian Water Milfoil from entering Lower Hay Lake on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes. This summer, in addition to the Whitefish Chain, the Land Services Department will also provide inspectors for the County owned Jones Bay Public Access on the west side of Pelican Lake. "Crow Wing County is committed to doing our part to prevent the spread of AIS by monitoring one of our most heavily used public landings," stated Water Protection Specialist Mitch Brinks.

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 approximately May 9, 2012 through September 3, 2012. 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 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 land use and water protection activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at www.co-crow-wing.mn.us.

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