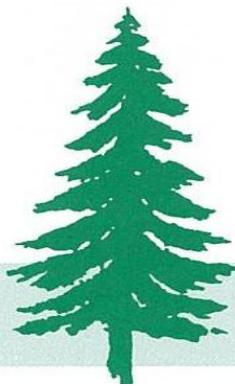


NEWS



Land Services Department
Environmental Services
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14
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CROW WING COUNTY

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA 56401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 21, 2013

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ZEBRA MUSSELS KEPT OUT OF LAKE HUBERT

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department reminds boat owners to properly clean boats after leaving a water body. County inspectors found a zebra mussel in a livewell on a boat launching into Lake Hubert during the recent Memorial Day weekend. The boat was sent to Government Point on Gull Lake, the nearest decontamination unit, to properly clean the boat before being launched into Lake Hubert.

“This is an example of the county being proactive to keep aquatic invasive species (AIS) out of our lakes” stated Water Protection Specialist Mitch Brinks. “Our lakes and rivers are our most precious resources and we need to help prevent and curb the spread of AIS.”

Crow Wing first started the aquatic invasive species (AIS) boat inspection program in 2011 on the Whitefish Chain. In 2012, the county provided inspection services to the Whitefish Chain, Pelican Lake, North Long Lake and Bay Lake. The program was expanded in 2013 for the following lakes:

- Whitefish Chain (accesses at Clamshell, Lower Hay, Upper Whitefish, Big Trout, Crosslake)
- North Long (accesses at the 371 Bay and Merrifield Bay)
- Bay Lake
- Kimble Lake
- Mitchell Lake
- Kego Lake
- East/West Fox Lake
- Horseshoe Lake
- Lower South Long
- Upper South Long
- Hubert
- Bass

The AIS program is a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources and area lake association volunteers conducting inspections at boat accesses.

Minnesota State Statutes require that boaters must remove all plants, mud and debris from watercraft, trailers and water related equipment before leaving a water access. In addition, water must be drained from all water related equipment including boats, portable bait containers and motors and also drain bilges, livewells and baitwells by removing drain plugs. Drain plugs must be kept out while transporting watercraft. All unused bait such as minnows, leaches and worms must be disposed off in the trash and cannot be released into a water body. To transport live bait to another lake, the bait container must be emptied and replaced with bottled or tap water. Current fines for violation of the law range from \$100-\$500.

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 Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or to visit the Crow Wing County Web Site www.crowwing.us for more information.

END