

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## **Crow Wing County Hosts Aquatic Invasive Species Education Session**

Crow Wing County is hosting an Aquatic Invasive species (AIS) education session for the public at the Nisswa Lake Park on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm, immediately following the turtle races. The battle against AIS continues across the lakes area and this is a great opportunity to learn about AIS and help stop the spread of these invaders.

What are Aquatic Invasive Species? AIS are non-native plants or animals that live primarily in water and invade areas outside of their natural, historic range. Their establishment can cause environmental damage by displacing of native species, disrupting or changing habitat, and degrading of water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes.

Protect our beautiful lakes so that you and future generations can enjoy them for years to come! You can help do this by learning about how non-native plants, animals, and other organisms impact the quality of our lakes. Help prevent the spread of AIS and share our vision of being Minnesota's favorite place. The County encourages those who are interested in seeing these species in person and learning valuable tools to prevent these invaders to participate in this great educational opportunity on July 21st.

View Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts and the 2021 AIS prevention plan by visiting <a href="https://www.crowwing.us/AIS">www.crowwing.us/AIS</a>. The 2021 AIS Prevention Plan includes funding for watercraft inspections at approximately 42 boat landings throughout the Crow Wing County. AIS funding is allocated by the state legislature as part of the program aid given to Minnesota counties.

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 <a href="mailto:landservices@crowwing.us">landservices@crowwing.us</a> 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.