

Crow Wing County AIS Program Newsletter

Nicole Erickson is an Environmental Services Specialist for Crow Wing County, focusing on Crow Wing County's AIS prevention efforts. This is Nicole's third year coordinating the AIS program. Nicole was raised in a small town in Northern Minnesota where she developed a passion for the great outdoors. She enjoys fishing, hunting, and horseback riding. She spends most of her time relaxing with her family, kayaking with her puppy, and exploring trails with her horse. Nicole has a broad background in Natural Resources with experience in a lot of different fields including forestry, wildland firefighting, water and soil testing, water quality monitoring, and of course Aquatic Invasive Species! She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Water Resource Management from University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

Brett Lyczewski will be our program's first Lead inspector. Brett comes to us this year with many years of experience in wildlife management, search and rescue, wildland fire fighting, and EMT work. He graduated in 2012 with a Wildland/Wildlife Law Enforcement degree from Vermillion Community College. He has worked at Voyageurs National Park as a Law Enforcement Ranger on Rainy Lake and was assigned to two firefighting details out west. Brett has also worked with resource management. He grew up in Crookston, MN and has a strong passion for anything outdoors. Brett enjoys hunting, fishing, and boating with friends and family. Brett is excited to get back into a field so closely related to his passions and previous experience.



Jessica Shea is the Business Manager for Crow Wing County Land Services and supervises the AIS program. She has been involved with the AIS program since 2018 and played a large role in bringing the program in house. She started her career at Crow Wing County in 2015 in the Finance department processing payroll and was promoted to her current position in November 2017. Being the business manager Jessica gets to be a part of many areas of the Land Services department. She does the budgeting for the entire department, including the landfill/solid waste program, many miscellaneous reporting requirements, human resources liaison, and of course the AIS program. "I enjoy the variety of my position. There is never a time where I'm short on work, and I'm always learning something new!"



Nicole

Brett

Jessica

The Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection program is covering 42 lake access throughout Crow Wing County in 2021. We will allocate 17,040 watercraft inspection hours across these 42 landings as well as staffing expanded coverage requests from lake associations as we are able to. In 2020, Crow Wing County inspectors in cooperation with local lake associations performed 64,119 inspections which is a record number of inspections for our program!

It takes everyone working together to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Our natural resources can be harmed by AIS, including zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, spiny water fleas, starry stonewort, and many others. New forms of AIS could also be spread within the state if residents, businesses, and guests do not follow the proper steps to contain them.

AIS can be transported on anything that touches the water. Thoroughly clean boats, motors, gear, trailers, docks, lifts, kayaks, canoes, paddles, stand-up paddle boards, water toys – basically anything that touches the water can be a potential risk to our waterbodies.

Our Mission

"To provide leadership in preventing the introduction and limiting the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Crow Wing County by coordinating inspection, decontamination, targeted treatment, and education efforts."



Crow Wing County Land Services

322 Laurel St, Ste 15

Brainerd, MN 56401

218-824-1010

www.crowwing.us/ais

Nicole Erickson



218-824-1142



Nicole.Erickson@crowwing.us

Brett Lyczewski



218-821-2158



Brett.Lyczewski@crowwing.us

Jessica Shea



218-824-1123



Jessica.Shea@crowwing.us

