



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: September 9th, 2021

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Aquatic Invasive Species Recently Confirmed in County Lakes

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Horseshoe and Lower South Long Lakes, and faucet snails in Lower South Long Lake in Crow Wing County.

A Crow Wing County watercraft inspector found adult zebra mussels attached to an aquatic plant that was removed from a boat and trailer at the Horseshoe Lake public access. DNR AIS specialists found adult zebra mussels at opposite ends of the west bay of Horseshoe Lake during a follow-up search.

A lake property owner found adult zebra mussels while fishing on the east side of Lower South Long Lake. DNR staff confirmed a broad distribution of zebra mussels in the lake. They found no zebra mussels upstream or downstream of the lake and will continue to monitor waters connected to the lake. DNR AIS specialist also confirmed faucet snails in Lower South Long Lake downstream of the fishing pier at the County's wayside park. This is the first time faucet snails have been introduced to Crow Wing County waterbodies.

You can help protect our lakes and stop the spread of aquatic invasive species by following these steps:

1. **Leave the water at the lake** - Drain water from boat, motor, live wells, bilge, and bait bucket before leaving the lake.
2. **Clean up your rig** - Remove plants, mud, and other debris from your boat, trailer, fishing lines, and downrigger cables.
3. **Dry it out** - Do not move docks and lifts from one body of water to another without sufficient time to dry. It's a good idea to dry boats and gear for at least 5 days, lifts and docks for at least 21 days.
4. **Spread the word, not the species** - Unless it came from that body of water, don't put it in there. This includes anything from your aquarium. Dispose of unwanted live bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash.

View Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts and the 2021 AIS prevention plan by visiting www.crowwing.us/AIS. 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

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Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

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natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.us to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

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