



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
CELIA R. GOULD
Director

Memorandum

To: Members of the Idaho Legislature

From: Celia Gould, Director
Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Date: July 24, 2009

Subject: Invasive Species Program Update

As we are at the mid-point of the summer season, I want to take an opportunity to provide you with an update of our operations related to the Idaho Invasive Species Program. Since the end of the 2009 Legislative Session, ISDA has developed a comprehensive program that is designed to educate boaters about aquatic invasive species, monitor Idaho water bodies for possible introduction of those species, and inspect and decontaminate (as necessary) watercraft that travel to and through Idaho.

In order to adequately implement the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 and the Rules Governing Invasive Species, ISDA has been the beneficiary of cooperating with local, state, and federal agencies. ISDA has worked with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation in the promotion and distribution of the Idaho Invasive Species Fund Sticker while local law enforcement agencies, the Idaho State Police, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game have all been helpful in addressing enforcement issues. The Idaho Department of Transportation has provided essential assistance in identifying inspection site locations and ensuring that those locations have adequate signage and are safe. The Department of Environmental Quality has ensured that decontamination protocols are in compliance with state and federal environmental standards.

Funding for the program is from two primary sources. First, the Idaho Invasive Species Fund (IISF) is funded through the sales of the watercraft stickers put in place by HB 213. Secondly, I exercised my authority to declare an emergency under the Idaho Invasive Species Act, and ISDA has been approved to utilize funding through the Invasive Species deficiency warrant until the fund balance in the IISF is sufficient to support operations. This is in response to the recognition of an emergency as outlined in SCR 109. Obviously, we are very aware of the current fiscal situation and are constantly keeping an eye toward developing a program that can be effective while still fiscally sustainable.

Finally, you can learn more about the Idaho Invasive Species Program by visiting www.invasivespecies.idaho.gov. On our site, you will find a short informational video in addition to other details about the program that include locations for boat sticker purchases, frequently asked questions, a map of the inspection/decontamination sites, and an example of the IISF sticker. Please feel free to contact either myself at 332-8503 or Lloyd Knight, Administrator of the Division of Plant Industries at 332-8664 (lloyd.knight@agri.idaho.gov).



Summary of Operations:

Highway Signage – Signage to warn incoming vessel owners about the threat, penalties, and contact information for obtaining free inspections were made by Correctional Industries. The 37 highway signs will be erected at the state line by ITD.

Boat Launch Signage – All public boat launches (370) will be posted with “Clean, Drain and Dry” message.

Billboards - 10 billboards are posted at or near the state line throughout the boating season.

Outreach activities, including live read radio and spot radio began running in the Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Spokane and Logan markets during the July 4th weekend. Utility staffers, posters, brochures and other outreach materials are being distributed statewide.

Inspection and Decontamination services

- Inspection and decontamination services provided to ISDA by an Idaho-based contractor during boating season at the following 10 locations:
 - Old Town Roving Weigh Station Highway 2; Milepost 2
 - Farragut State Park East RV Dump
 - Heutter Rest Area I-90; Milepost 8.5
 - Post Falls Cabela's
 - Lewiston US 12; Milepost 12.5
 - Weiser Roving Weigh Station US 95; Milepost 85
 - Marsing (Old Port Site) ID 55/US 95 Junction
 - Rogerson US 93; Milepost 9.5
 - Juniper Rest Area I-84; Milepost 269
 - Malad Rest Area I-15; Milepost 7

- Public-private partnerships provide inspection and decontamination services at the following 7 locations:
 - Cocolalla Lake Public Boat Ramp
 - Red Fish Lake Information Center
 - Bear Lake US 89/North Shore Road
 - Montpelier Downtown
 - Henry's Lake Wildrose RV Park
 - Henry's Lake County Boat Dock
 - Henry's Lake Henry's Lake State Park

Monitoring - Early detection will be key to the potential for eradication in Idaho. Waterbodies are prioritized based on calcium levels and use by recreational boaters. Ninety “Critical” and “Very High” risk waterbodies will be sampled periodically throughout the season as veliger (the microscopic immature stage of the mussels) densities fluctuate significantly and can be easily missed.