

Lake Tahoe Aquatic Species Working Group

Draft Meeting Notes

December 6, 2007

USFS Tahoe Basin Management Unit South Lake Tahoe, CA

Attending: Jenny Francis, Invasive Species Coordinator/TRCD; Nicole Cartwright, Americorps/TRCD; Alyssa Shook, Americorps/TRCD; Rita Whitney, TRPA; Dennis Zabagalo, TRPA; Lars Anderson, USDA-ARS; Sudeep Chandra, UNR; Ted Thayer, TRPA; John Warpeha, Washoe Tribes Environmental Protection Dept.; Richard Vacirca, USFWS-LTBMU, Denise Walther, USFWS;

Next Meeting

March 6, 2007

10am-1pm LTBWCG

2pm-5pm AIS working group

1. Introductions –Round robin

Action: Everyone should do a 1 page summary of their role in the AIS, include contact info due January 4th.

Action: Jenny will send out a current group contact list in Jan.

Action: TRCD will resend the Table of Contents out to everyone for review

Action: Everyone will send comments on the Table of Contents back to Jenny by January 4th.

2. Working group progress-

- Coordinator position is closed; interviews are January 8th at the USFWS in Reno. This coordinator will be housed at the TRPA and will work 70% on Tahoe topics and 30% on northern Nevada topics.
- A new subcommittee has been created to implement a watercraft inspection program will begin meeting in January (Dennis Z., Jenny F., and Marion Whitman)
Action: Jenny will send out a list of potential subcommittee needs. Please respond with your interest level for each by the end of Jan.
- Army Corps funding: Agreements are being drafted to finalize scope of works. An RFP is out and closes mid Dec. to begin the creation of an Integrated Management Plan.

3. 2008 workshops

- Science Symposium

Action: call for abstracts by January 6th

Action: Jenny will update abstract about the Working Group and send it out the group for review before it is submitted to Zach.

- Proceedings document will be finished in the next month to month and a half by Lars and Susie. It will include presentations, and the ranked data. A possible 2nd AIS workshop should be considered.

Action: Lars will send an email to the attendees to ask if their contact info can be included.

- Training Needs: Possible trainings could include the following:
Watercraft inspection training, veliger identification training, train the trainers to inspect/decontaminate watercrafts, boat electroshock certification, training for law enforcement, laws
Group discussed helping to fund the trainings for marinas.

- Aquatic Plant Management Workshop at Davis will be held in the fall of 2008
Action: Lars will send out information about event.

- Western Aquatic Plant Management Society will hold its conference on the North Shore March 3-5. Workshop hours may be used towards pesticide certification.
Action: The group should send Lars any papers or presentations for use at the conference.

- National Aquatic Plant Management Society will hold their conference in July in Charleston, SC

4. Invertebrates

- 100th Meridian Annual Meeting update: Ted and Jenny gave a well received presentation at this conference in Vegas. The 100th Meridian is recognizing Tahoe as another river/basin team. William Zook and Wynn Baldwin shared the new training DVD they are creating their hope is that it will be available by the end of Jan. Washington also presented at the conference with their impressive enforcement program. They have people available to do diver and law enforcement training

- Lake Mead Update

Plankton pulls have misidentified veligers. Contamination could have happened up to 7 years ago. It may be possible for people from Lake Mead to come and talk to the group. Mead originally did their monitoring too shallow because they were looking for Zebra mussel. Tahoe has long data record of past plankton pulls at the TERC center. Breeding cycles occur 6 times in Mead as opposed to the usual 2 times per year.

- Legislature

In CA and NV it is illegal to be in possession of Quagga and Zebra mussel. It is a felony to launch a watercraft knowing that it is contaminated. Group discussed possibly using a sticker that changes color or breaks when it is launched to show which boats have been inspected.

- Dog Sniffing

There are dogs in CA that can sniff for the mussels. They cost \$80,000.

- Ballast Water

EPA working on permitting program for ballast water. They are asking the public to help design program. Any information that could help should be sent to them within 45 days.

Action: Rita will research topic further and submit information if it is needed.

- Copepod

There is a new copepod in the lake (*Salmincola californiensis*). It attaches to rainbow trout and usually attacks hatchery fish.

5. Amphibians

- Bull frogs can be found in lagoons around the lake and have proven to be extremely hard to get rid of. It has also been found that they do well in habitats with blue gill. A 2004 assessment found that they had spread to Taylor Creek and have probably made it to Fallen Leaf. A method of control using dragonflies will be tried along with the Magnet school. The bull frogs are cannibalistic and can move up to 1200 meters. The FS would like to experiment with various control measures in Taylor Creek.

6. Fish

- NDOW helped Marcy with the final samples in the Keys. The report will be finished in a couple of months.

7. Aquatic weeds

- BOR Update

A monitoring protocol is being drafted by the end of February for monitoring and removal at Emerald Bay and Ski Run marina. It will include hydro-acoustic data from a company called Remetrix. This upcoming spring is when the full-scale removal will begin.

- LTBWCG Prioritization

LTBWCG discussed prioritization of Curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil.

Action: Lars recommended leaving Curlyleaf in group 1 and considering moving milfoil into group 1 after next season.

8. MOU

- The AIS Working Group MOU will be the same template and have the same language discussing the two group partnership/interface as the LTBWCG's (which should be out in Jan so we can adapt for AIS).

Action: Jenny will send it out to the group for approval once she receives it in January so that we can finalize in March.

9. EIP Number

- The TRPA is doing an audit of all education and outreach performed in the basin.

Action: A 1 page summary from each organization summarizing their outreach. A budget should be included. It is due by Dec.21st and should be sent to Jeff Cowen at the TRPA (jcowen@trpa.org)

10. 2008 Meeting Dates

- March 6th, June 5th, Sept 25th, Dec 4th at the Forest Service from 2-5pm

11. SNPLMA Prioritization Brainstorming

RD 8 Project Proposal

Integrated Eurasian Watermilfoil & Warm Water Fish Control Project in the Tahoe Keys Marina (16 votes received)

Watercraft Inspection Program (13 votes received)

Curly leaf pondweed Lake-wide Control Program (11 votes received)

Total RD 8 Project Budget:

Rd 9 Project Proposal (increased dollar amount based on what actually feel is needed with the hope that more funding will be available)

Integrated Eurasian Watermilfoil & Warm Water Fish Control Project in the Tahoe Keys Marina (16 votes received)

Watercraft Inspection Program (13 votes received)

Curly leaf pondweed Lake-wide Control Program (11 votes received)

Total Baseline Rd 9 Project Funding Request:

Additional Projects to Add in Rd 9 if Funding Allows

Purchase Boat Wash Station (10 votes received)

AIS Detection & Rapid Response Program (8 votes received)

Continued Removal of Eurasian Watermilfoil at Emerald Bay and Ski Run Marina (8 votes received)

Taylor Creek Demonstration Project for Invasive Amphibian, Warm Water Fish, and Aquatic Weed Control Techniques (6 votes received)

USFWS Coordinator (2 vote received)

Total with all proposed Rd 9 project items:

General Recommendations:

1) FS as federal sponsor for Rd 8

2) Fund highest ranked projects in both rounds at bare minimum

3) If funding allows for further projects to be added to Rd 9 proposal add highest ranked items

first

4) If funding for USFWS coordinator is needed incorporate into an additional Rd 9 project such as AIS Detection & Rapid Response do not list as a separate line item as traditionally SNPLMA requests for positions have not been granted.

5) Circulate all proposals through AIS Working Group Coordinator (Jenny Francis) to minimize duplication and maximize coordination/communication