

Truckee Regional AIS Prevention Program Executive Summary

The Truckee River watershed is at risk of aquatic invasive species (AIS) introduction and establishment through the threat of advancing nearby infested water bodies. Aquatic invasive species including plants (Eurasian watermilfoil, hydrilla, water hyacinth) warm water fish (smallmouth and largemouth bass, bluegill and green sunfish) and invertebrates (Asian clam, New Zealand mudsnail) have all established in nearby waters. These species are known to be environmentally destructive, irreversibly alter aquatic ecosystems and destroy the recreational and ecologically important salmonid species currently found in the Truckee area.

Most recently however, and of great concern, is the detection of the larval stage of quagga mussels in Lahontan and Rye Patch Reservoirs. If these mussels are transported to Truckee area waters, they could, not only negatively impact Truckee waters, but also spread throughout the entire region, east into Northern Nevada and west into Central California. Boater survey data from the 2011 boating season recorded 85 boaters coming to Truckee waters from Lahontan Reservoir in one week alone. Of the 85 boats from this known infested water body, only 6 volunteered to receive a free decontamination. All other boats were launched into Truckee area water bodies due to the absence of a regulated prevention program.

A mandatory prevention program in the Truckee area is a crucial element in preventing the introduction of AIS. The Truckee River watershed finds itself in a unique geographic position; surrounded on all sides by waters infested with various unwanted and destructive aquatic species. The voluntary prevention program currently underway in Truckee is doing an adequate job of identifying these problem vessels, however due to the program's voluntary nature, and the distance to Tahoe decontamination sites, inspectors have been unable to persuade many boaters originating from infested water bodies, such as Lahontan Reservoir, to receive the free decontaminations they have available to them. Most of these vessels have simply launched without taking further action to limit their potential impact to the Truckee watershed.

Of additional concern, Boca, Stampede and Prosser Reservoirs can be accessed prior to reaching the Food and Agricultural inspection station by vessels originating at potentially infested sites within Nevada. With no mandatory inspection program in place in the Truckee area, it can be concluded that potentially infested vessels will continue to access Truckee waters exposing them to the potential for introduction and establishment of quagga mussels or other invasive species.

Through a stakeholder-driven process, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and Truckee River Watershed Council have gauged community support and identified the programmatic steps for implementation of a mandatory prevention program in the Truckee region. Two milestones are needed to achieve this direction. First a governing body, such as a Joint Powers Authority, must be formed to provide for the administration and policies guiding a mandatory program. Secondly, an ordinance adopted by the governing body needs to be established to provide the foundation on which the program will rely. Achieving these two milestones, executing a fundamental education and outreach effort, deploying roving watercraft inspectors and identifying centralized inspection and decontamination locations will be the primary focus in 2012. Implementation in years 2-5 of the program will include administration of a fee structure, securing 1-2 centralized inspection/decontamination locations, pursuing additional funding opportunities and performing on-going program management. Table 1 summarizes the proposed program schedule and Table 2 summarizes projected funding needs and Table 3 summarizes current and potential funding sources.

Table 1: Proposed Program Implementation Schedule

Program Characteristics	Year 1 (2012)	Year 2-5 (2013-2016)
Regulatory Authority/Administration		
JPA Formation	X	
Ordinance adoption	X	
Annual Inspection Fee		X
Fines & Enforcement		X
Restricted Access (gates, hours, etc.)		X
Inspections		
Roving Inspectors	X	
Centralized Inspections		X
Complimentary Stickers	X	
Fee Stickers		X
Banding		X
Inspection Hours/Restricted Access		X
Non-motorized subject to inspection	X	X
Decontaminations		
Privatized (local business)	X	X
Coordinate with Tahoe Program	X	X
Coordinate Regional Decontaminations		X
Enforcement		
County Sheriff		X
Town of Truckee Sheriff		X
Truckee Ranger District		X
Certified Program Staff		X

Table 2: Annual Program Funding Projections

Program Characteristic	Cost Estimate
Centralized Inspections (per centralized location) Staff only, 6 months, 12 hrs/7days/week	\$74,000
Banding at launch ramps (per ramp location) Staff only, 6 months, 15hrs/7days/week	\$42,000
Program Management	\$75,000
Program Operations (rent, supplies, etc.)	\$25,000
Education and Outreach (per year)	\$5,000
Early Detection & Monitoring (per year)	\$30,000
Total	\$251,000.00**
** does not include centralized location site costs	

Table 3: Current and Potential Funding Sources

Funding Source	2012 Committed	2013 Pending	2014 – beyond, Unsecured
Truckee River Fund	\$267,627	\$150,000	
Bureau of Reclamation		\$70,000	
Program Fees (estimated)		\$150,000	\$150,000