

Joan M. Dukes
Chair
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure
Montana

James A. Yost
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho



Rhonda Whiting
Vice-Chair
Montana

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

June 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee members

FROM: Jim Ruff – Manager, Mainstem Passage and River Operations
Raquel Crosier – Policy Analyst, WA Council staff
Amy Ferriter – Idaho Dept. of Agriculture AIS Coordinator

SUBJECT: Update on Quagga Mussel Prevention Efforts

The purpose of this briefing will be to update Fish and Wildlife Committee members on recent Quagga-Zebra mussel prevention efforts based on information provided at the June 6, 2012, 100th Meridian Initiative-Columbia Basin Team meeting held in Portland, Oregon. Amy Ferriter of ISDA will participate with Ms. Crosier and me in this briefing.

UPDATE on the Request for \$2M for Northwest States Q/Z Mussel Prevention Efforts

If you recall, in March the Council sent a letter to our Congressional delegates requesting \$2 million for the four Northwest states to support additional watercraft inspection and decontamination stations strategically located throughout the region. In addition, the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER), Washington and Idaho's Invasive Species Councils' also sent a letters in support of this funding request.

Council staff has fielded several calls from Congressional offices, but they were primarily clarifying questions from staffers. Presently we don't have a clear sense of whether this request is being considered or not for FY 2013 funding. However, Sen. Murray (WA) has included report language in FY13 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill encouraging "the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the BPA, to continue its efforts to develop invasive mussel vulnerability assessments for federally-owned hydropower projects in the Northwest." The language also "urges the Corps, where appropriate, to assist the States in their efforts to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to Federal projects in the region."

UPDATE on the Department of Interior \$1 Million Appropriation for FY 2012:

Intent: The FY 2012 Interior Appropriation bill included clear and direct language to the U.S. Department of Interior:

*“This bill includes \$1,000,000 towards the implementation of **mandatory operational inspection and decontamination stations at Federally-managed or interjurisdictional water bodies considered to be of highest risk**, as called for in the February 2010 **Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters.**”*

The USFWS’ plan for allocating this \$1 million in funding, as described by David Britton of USFWS-Southwest Region includes:

Funding to Lake Mead NRA specifically for quagga mussel prevention efforts:

- One Z/Q Coordinator (\$88K)
- Education and Outreach (\$46.8K)
- Repair and maintenance of existing decontamination stations (\$58.5K)
- Finalize two new decontamination stations (\$117K)
- Watercraft inspection training, specifically to PSMFC for WIT2 training (\$30K)

To the Southwest states for:

- Education and outreach for AZ and NV (\$59K)
- Development of a boat check-in/check-out database (\$11.7K)

To NPS and New Mexico for quagga mussel prevention at uninfested water bodies:

- Interdiction Rangers for Glen Canyon NRA at Lake Powell (\$117K)
- Inspection/decontamination program at Navajo Reservoir, run by NM F&G (\$100K)

What this \$1 million in funding will NOT accomplish:

- It will not include funding for law enforcement efforts at Lake Mead NRA. USFWS has decided since there is no federal law that makes transport of quagga mussels illegal they don’t have the authority to require “mandatory” watercraft inspections, i.e., quagga mussels are presently not listed as an “injurious species” under the federal Lacey Act, but only as a species of concern. Moreover, the USFWS indicated they would not prosecute a quagga mussel enforcement case unless state(s) law enforcement prosecutes first under state AIS law, the case shows mussel viability and the state requests federal assistance.
- Accordingly, the USFWS indicated it plans to allocate \$200K of these funds to various western states for state law enforcement efforts. Arizona, Nevada and Utah would receive the most funding (\$40K) for law enforcement efforts, with other western states (CA, ID, OR and WA) also receiving \$20K for law enforcement. However, on June 15th the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) indicated to USFWS that it “will neither apply for nor accept funding for Law Enforcement that was clearly prioritized by Congress for the high risk federally-managed water bodies on the Lower Colorado River.” While the NW states do want additional funding to support their enforcement

efforts in securing borders, this is not what the appropriation was meant for and is not an appropriate use of the funds.

- While the USFWS' funding plan includes provisions to pay for repair and/or maintenance of decontamination units at Lake Mead (see above), no funding is identified for staffing and/or operating these decontamination units effectively. Several decontamination units at Lake Mead National Recreation Area have remained idle and unused in recent years due to maintenance issues and lack of personnel to operate the equipment. Staff is concerned these decontamination units may get repaired but will still not be used regularly.

In summary, our major concern is that, while some of the actions proposed to be undertaken with 2012 funding have merit, some of the actions proposed above for funding will not provide for **mandatory boat inspections** at Lake Mead and at other federally-managed, infested water bodies in Southwest, which was the intent of the Interior appropriations bill. The Council, and others in Northwest, identified similar concerns in our May 22, 2012, letter to the USFWS.

Fouled Watercraft Tracking and Alert System

At the 100th Meridian Initiative meeting, a discussion occurred about ways to improve how Northwest states work together to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), as well as how to improve coordination with Southwest states. A spreadsheet has been developed under the WEST 911 alert system to enable tracking of fouled boats throughout the West, but it will need to be used and updated on a regular basis for it to be most effective and useful. Terms and conditions also need to be developed for the WEST 911 system.

Update on Watercraft Inspection Station Siting Strategy

Stephen Phillips of PSMFC indicated there are about 75 different state and local agencies throughout the West that are currently operating boat inspection and decontamination stations. PSMFC has developed a map of the West showing the location of all these boat inspection and decontamination stations. This map could be used as a springboard for Northwest states' coordination efforts and for prioritizing a strategic network of regional watercraft inspection stations. Council staff has been working with the four Northwest states to develop a similar boat inspection map. It was agreed that Council staff would continue to work with PSMFC staff to coordinate on the development of a regional watercraft inspection map.

2012 State Watercraft Inspection Station Reports

Presently, no surface waters within the Pacific Northwest region have tested positive for the presence of either quagga or zebra (Q/Z) mussels. Monitoring for the presence of Q/Z mussels in Columbia River Basin water bodies will continue throughout 2012. The states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington have concentrated watercraft inspection stations along major transportation routes near their borders and established roving inspection teams to intercept fouled boats entering the region. State agencies in the Pacific Northwest remain concerned about the continued migration of watercraft from areas severely infested with these invasive mussels (e.g., Great Lakes, lower Colorado River, Arizona, southern California, etc.) and seek to control the migration of contaminated watercraft from these "source" areas.

To date, the State of **Idaho** had inspected about 9000 boats and has intercepted 45 fouled boats-18 of them from Lake Mead alone, which works out to finding one fouled boat for every 200

boats inspected. Idaho has 15 roadside watercraft inspection stations plus 11 port of entry stations. The Idaho boat inspection stations are open over 8 months this year (February through September), 7 days per week from 7 am until 7 pm.

The State of **Montana** has hired a new AIS coordinator. Montana has 50 AIS inspectors working throughout the state, which is double the number of inspectors employed in 2011. The majority of inspectors are stationed on border crossings and major highway routes. However, there are also 5 roving inspection crews that move around to various busy boat access and fishing sites. Montana's roadside boat inspection stations have been open since mid-May and will be operated through October. The state expects to conduct about 16,000 watercraft inspections this year. Montana has found 4 mussel-infested boats so far this year, although some of these boats may have first been intercepted in Idaho.

The State of **Oregon** currently has four roadside boat inspection stations operating from Tuesday through Saturday on I-5 near Ashland and at I-84 near Baker City in eastern Oregon. Two other roadside inspection stations are located on major highway routes in southeastern Oregon. Motorists hauling boats in Oregon are now required to stop at these inspection stations to have their watercraft inspected for AIS under a 2011 law. To date, Oregon inspectors have found invasive mussels on 3 boats, and have inspected about 500 boats. This works out to finding a fouled boat for every 170 boats inspected.

The State of **Washington** has established AIS watercraft inspection stations at various locations around the state but continues to depend on mobile units for intercepting the large majority of high-risk boats passing through the state. WDFW has been leveraging their funding for inspection and decontamination by training other entities to conduct some boat inspections. Accordingly, other inspection stations have been established at some lake districts. To date, Washington inspectors have found and decontaminated 7 mussel-fouled boats, although some of these boats may have first been intercepted in other states.

Western Legal and Law Enforcement Workshop on Invasive Mussels

A workshop, sponsored by the Western Regional Panel and National Sea Grant, will be held on August 22nd and 23rd in Phoenix, Arizona to discuss legal and regulatory authorities with regard to watercraft inspections and invasive mussels. The purpose of this meeting, which is intended for state legislators, AIS coordinators, state law enforcement supervisors, staff from state Attorney General offices and others, is to educate the legal and enforcement community about invasive mussels and their ecological and economic impacts.

Update on 2012 Invasive Mussel Prevention Efforts in Columbia River Basin



F&WL Committee Meeting
July 10, 2012
Boise, Idaho

Presentation Outline

- Update on status of \$1 M DOI appropriation
- Report on 2012 NW state boat inspection efforts
- Discuss next steps for NW state invasive mussel prevention efforts

Update on USFWS Plan for \$1M DOI Appropriation

- \$455K inspections, decontamination and outreach at LMNRA
- \$60K inspection/decontamination training
- \$12K for a boater check-in/out data base
- \$40K each to AZ, NV & UT for law enforcement
- \$20K each to CA, OR & WA for law enforcement
- \$30K for USFWS-Region 2 administration

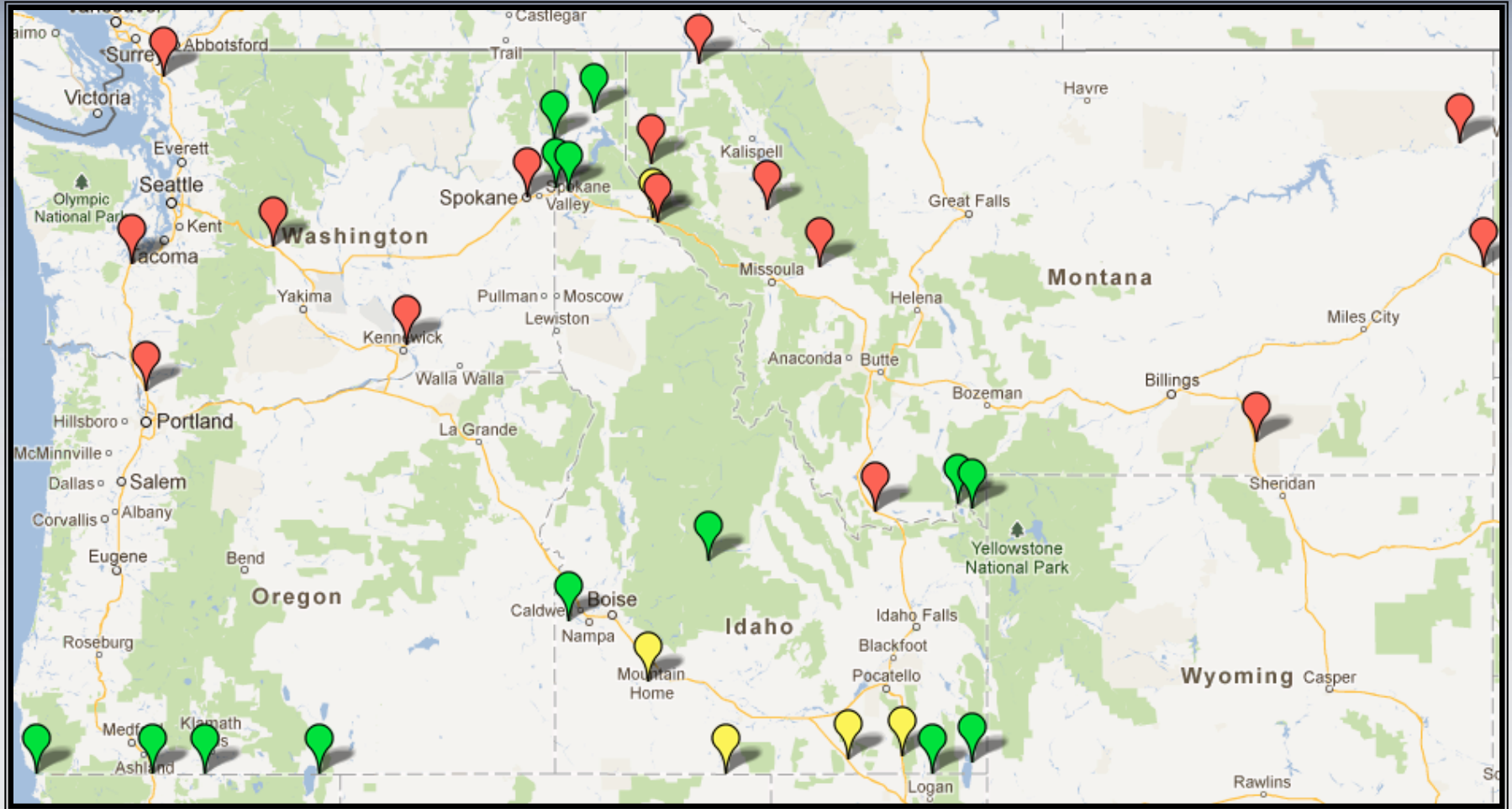
Update on USFWS Plan for \$1M DOI Appropriation-cont'd.

- \$100K to Lake Powell for interdiction
- \$100K to Navaho Lake for interdiction
- \$60K to AZ & NV for public outreach
- Note: State of Idaho did not accept any funding for law enforcement

State Inspection Programs

State	# Boats Inspected	# Boats Intercepted	Origin
MT	4,567	2	1-Great Lakes 1-Lake Mead
OR	1,300	3	2-Lake Mead 1-other sources
WA	~1,000	27	All from Lake Mead
ID	14,400	47	20- Lake Mead 17- Great Lakes 4- Lake Pleasant 4- Lake Havasu 2- Undetermined

Z/Q Mapping Tool



Next Steps

- Continued work on mapping tool
- FOIA request for Lake Mead moorage records?
- Remind state AG's offices of August workshop on zebra and quagga mussels

Questions?

Amy Ferriter, Invasive Species Coordinator, ISDA

Jim Ruff, Mainstem Passage/ River Ops, NPCC

Raquel Crosier, Washington State Staff, NPCC, WISC