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Boaters were surveyed before entering the lake to aid in identifying threatening boats.

HENRYS LAKE PROTECTION: AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Inspecting and washing boats to protect our valuable lake.

Eastern Idaho: In August 2007 the Fremont County Weed Control partnered with the Idaho Fish and Game and High Country RC&D to create a prevention program for Henry's Lake. Their project was awarded a \$160,000 grant from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The project continued into 2009 with another grant from the Idaho Department of Agriculture.

An introduction of any aquatic nuisance species (ANS) would devastate the lake's ecology. The lake annually produces enormous amounts of aquatic vegetation creating a habitat that results in its incredible fisheries. In addition, Henry's Lake is used for irrigation water south of the sub basin St. Anthony area. The potential impacts of ANS in Eastern Idaho could result in a severe impact to the environmental and economic values of this area.

Prevention is the most economical and safe way to protect our lakes and rivers. If the project continues to thwart ANS from entering Eastern Idaho, we can avoid increased boat repair and maintenance costs, declined native plant diversity, depressed real estate values, and inhibited water circulation.

There were 10,000 brochures, 500 signs, 10,000 boat tags, and multiple press releases created to help remind boaters of what to look for and how to prevent an invasion. Furthermore, there were meetings and booths set up about the dangers and prevention techniques that follow ANS.

To prevent invasive species from incoming boats there are free boat washes and inspections offered daily by project staff from 7a.m. to 7p.m. at the Henry's Lake State Park, Wild Rose Dock and Bill Frome Park on the Lake. These boat washes were purchased with project funds; they are self contained and can reach 140°F to remove and kill any possible invaders. There are an additional four high pressure washers provided for private and public use if boats and pontoons that enter from another point on the lake.

Surveys of the Lake were taken throughout the summer and so far, the lake has proven clean. A workshop was also held to train county employees and project employees on surveying and Identifying ANS for Henrys and surrounding lakes.

During, 2009, there were 520 boater surveys collected and analyzed. In addition, one boat was quarantined and chemically scrubbed during the season for possible mussels. Overall, the project has proven to be a huge success with many risky boats being cleaned and uninformed boaters being educated. There are plans to continue this project for 2010 using its aggressive prevention techniques.



Channel 6 News interviews County Weed Superintendent about Henrys Lake Project.



A multi county workshop was held to train employees to survey for ANS.



All boats that enter Henrys Lake are inspected, then washed with a self contained boat wash.

Project Funding:

- \$160,000 Idaho Department of Ag (FY 2008)
- \$138,000 Idaho Department of Ag (FY 2009)

In-kind match:

- \$27,842 Fremont County (FY 2008)
- \$76,588 Fremont County (FY 2009)

Project Partners: High Country RC&D, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Parks and Recreation, Fremont County, Idaho Fish and Game, and the Henrys Lake Foundation.