

# Panhandle Lake RC&D, Inc.



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## EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL CONTROL IN THE INLAND EMPIRE

### BACKGROUND

In 1997, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), a submerged, non-native aquatic plant, was identified in approximately 600 acres of Hayden Lake, a prime recreational lake in Kootenai County, Idaho. A concerted effort was made to research, monitor and gain funding for EWM control. Treatment measures were started 1999 by the Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control Department with the help of cost-share funds from the Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture (ISDA) and contributions from landowners around the lake.

In subsequent years, EWM has been found in other water bodies including certain Coeur d'Alene River chain lakes, the Harrison Slough and St Maries River.

From 2006 through 2008, the State of Idaho Legislature appropriated funds for EWM control throughout the State. These funds have been distributed as grants through the ISDA/EWM Control Program. The 2009 EWM Control Project was funded and administered as a Phase IV grant from the ISDA. The project also received matching funds from Kootenai County and from private contributions.

### 2009 PROJECT RESULTS

The IECWMA control efforts focus on an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to weed management. During the 2009 season, the activities completed were:

#### Diver Dredging and Barrier Placement

A combination of underwater survey and plant removal was achieved over 22.0 acres. 15,300 lbs. (7.6 tons) of aquatic plant material were collected. Barriers (10) were placed covering 1,000 sq. ft.

#### Survey/Mapping

Approximately 1605.0 acres were surveyed with 355 acres found with infestations.

#### Herbicide Treatment

Herbicides were used to treat 98 acres.

#### Education and Awareness Activity

Education efforts about Eurasian watermilfoil and its affect on the environment Included presentations, newsletters and website [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com). The web-site allows the public to track the treatment activities and restriction notices during each project. A dedicated phone line was used during the project with pre-recorded, daily updates about water-use restrictions during herbicide applications. Total Education Contacts 4,108

### Benefits of EWM control

1. Healthy aquatic wildlife habitat
2. Safe recreating environment for the public
3. Improved water quality

### Accomplishments/ contributions leveraged

1. Invasive Species Managed/Treated= 370 ac.
2. Fish Habitat Improved= 370 ac.
3. Water bodies Improved= 3
4. Dollars leveraged= \$163,717

### Role of Panhandle Lakes RC&D

1. Member of IECWMA Steering Committee
2. Website development and maintenance
3. Fiscal sponsor

