



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor  
CELIA R. GOULD  
Director

March 4, 2009

Wayne L. Hammon, DFM Administrator  
Division of Financial Management  
700 West State Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0032

Dear Wayne:

We are requesting funding for three projects from the Governor's stimulus funding. These three projects include funding for invasive species start up costs, funding for the Eurasian milfoil program and funding for the joint project between Agriculture and the University of Idaho for the new Animal Lab/Research building in eastern Idaho.

The funding for the invasive species is requested to provide protection and a forward thinking approach to the potential threat of quagga mussels in the state of Idaho. Attached is the detail plan of our request. The total request for this one time project is \$5.7 million.

The funding for the Eurasian milfoil would be to replenish our existing program that was held back by legislature this session. This request is for \$2.3 million for milfoil eradication projects throughout the state.

The third project will be funded through the University of Idaho request. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture would benefit from this project through the building of an animal/dairy research lab and facility.

These three projects would all be one-time in nature and would provide an immediate positive impact to Idaho. If you need any further information, please call me at 332-8503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Celia Gould".

Celia Gould, Director

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

cc: Kelly Nielsen, Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Lloyd Knight, Division of Financial Administration

# **Quagga and Zebra Mussel Plan**

## **State of Idaho**

2-27-09

### **Background**

- First discovered in North America in 1988. Came into the Great Lakes on ballast water from the Baltic Sea.
- In 5 years, the entire Great Lakes region and most of the Mississippi River was infested.
- They are major fouling organisms, causing millions of dollars of damage to infrastructure annually.
- First discovered in the Western US in January 2007 (Lake Mead, NV.).
- In 1 year, the majority of the lower Colorado River Basin was infested.
- Mussels are now in NV, CA, AZ, CO and UT.
- Western water managers in CA, AZ, CO, and NV are facing dramatic increases in maintenance costs due to fouling. Lake closures in California are having impacts on fishing, recreation and local businesses.
- The Utah populations are now less than 180 miles from the Idaho border.
- Extensive boat traffic comes to Idaho from these infested states.

### **What is Idaho doing?**

- Idaho is in an Early Detection Rapid Response phase.
- Statewide monitoring (substrate and veliger) is ongoing and expanding. Waterbodies are being prioritized based on calcium and use patterns. The goal is to have all high priority waterbodies monitored in Summer, 2009. Early detection of this species is crucial.
- Staff is working to develop treatment plans for various waterbody scenarios statewide. Control technologies in natural systems are poorly understood and unproven. It will be important to have treatment options ready in the event a population is discovered in Idaho. Early treatment is the only hope for eradication.
- Staff is developing a list of Idaho-based vendors that provide heated pressure washing services that can be used for decontamination programs.
- Interagency outreach activities ("Don't Move a Mussel") target Idaho's boating public and agency personnel.
- Idaho has signed onto the Columbia River Basin Rapid Response Plan. A "quagga drill" will be held at Lucky Peak at the end of April to test the multi-stakeholder rapid response plan.

- The Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 established ISDA as the lead agency in invasive species. Negotiated rulemaking is in process to list invasive species (including zebra and quagga mussel), outline inspection and decontamination procedures and establish cooperative agreements.

## **Program Needs:**

### **1) Prevention**

It is generally agreed that one of the most effective means for stopping the spread of aquatic nuisance species is by mandatory inspection and decontamination. The state of Idaho is exploring ways to launch such a program in the state, but a program of this scope is extremely costly and beyond the means of any single agency (or state). The Idaho Invasive Species Council is focusing educational efforts on distributing information through print and electronic public service advertisements, boater registration notices, videos and public presentations. These efforts are targeted at user groups, industries and agency field personnel most likely to come into contact with watercraft. The incoming zebra and quagga mussel threat to Idaho now comes from both the Great Lakes to the east and the Lower Colorado River Basin to the south. Interceptions of contaminated watercraft in the West now occur on a consistent basis, and it is imperative that prevention activities target pathways into Idaho.

Signage is needed to warn incoming vessel owners about the threat of invasive species, the penalties associated with transporting invasive species in Idaho, and contact information for obtaining a free inspection. Additionally, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Ports of Entry and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) fee booths could be used as vessel inspection stations.

Decontamination services will be essential in the event that a fouled vessel is intercepted in the state. This work is being coordinated with the State of Utah in the shared Bear Lake area. The use of private industry in performing decontamination services would provide flexibility to agency staff and support Idaho-based businesses. Idaho-based businesses have been contacted and can support a segment of the decontamination work. Additional decontamination equipment will need to be purchased to cover areas where private industry is unavailable. Idaho-based companies have indicated that they would be willing to manufacture these units in Idaho, using Idaho labor and materials.

- Signage 136 roads entering Idaho at 2,000 each sign, installed \$262,000.
- Billboards – Idaho-based contractor to develop and place multiple highway billboards (13 yearlong, 13 for boating season, 40 one month @ rotating locations) \$300,000.
- Decontamination services – Idaho-based businesses to provide portable and/or stationary (truck stop) heated decontamination services during boating season (180 days @ \$1,000/day, 10 locations) \$1,800,000.
- Decontamination equipment – Idaho-based companies to manufacture and deliver 200 units (@\$14,000/each) for use at 195 access points (boat ramps) to “high priority” waterbodies and Ports of Entry statewide \$2,800,000.
- Outreach to Idahoans including PSAs and materials \$250,000

**Total Prevention: \$5,412,000**

## **2) Monitoring**

While prevention is seen as the “first line of defense,” early detection of quagga mussel will be key to the potential for eradication in Idaho. Monitoring for the species in the state began in 2007. ISDA, IDFG, Idaho Power and Northside Canal Company have deployed samplers or taken plankton tow samples on various waterbodies. The current monitoring network in Idaho is inadequate and laboratory results lag for an unacceptable amount of time. ISDA staff prioritized waterbodies based on calcium levels and use by recreational boaters. Fifty four waterbodies with boater access are thought to be at “high” risk for introduction in the state. These waterbodies need to be sampled periodically throughout the season as veliger (the microscopic immature stage of the mussels) densities fluctuate significantly, and can be easily missed.

- Total for veliger sampling and analysis for high priority waters (350 sampling points, 4 per year @ \$100/each): \$140,000

The traditional microscopy and PCR (genetic) methods require additional analysis time in the laboratory. A new technology called the “FlowCam” allows for realtime analysis for veligers on the waterbody. In addition to traditional sampling, high risk waterbodies in close proximity to known infestations – Bear Lake, for example - will be sampled using the FlowCam. This sampling is being coordinated with other Columbia River Basin states. The Bear Lake monitoring plan is being coordinated with the State of Utah.

- Estimated 10 weeks of Idaho-based FlowCam use \$60,000

**Total Monitoring: \$200,000**

## **3) Control Technologies**

Although the chances of eradicating a new population of these mussels is small, those chances depend directly on the ability to respond quickly and effectively once a population is detected. There is an urgent need to develop control technologies for quagga and zebra mussels in natural systems. To date, there are no known control technologies available for use outside of closed (infrastructure) systems. Research is needed to find new tools to eradicate or contain these species in a field response situation. Water managers in California are developing control technologies within water delivery infrastructure systems. A similar effort is needed for lakes, reservoirs and naturally flowing water systems.

- Applied research to develop control technologies for use in Idaho: \$75,000

**Total Control Technologies: \$75,000**

**Total Program Needs: \$5,687,000**



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Wayne L. Hammon, DFM Administrator  
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700 West State Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0032

Dear Wayne:

We are formally responding to your request for information related to stimulus funding that could be utilized by each agency. We are unaware of any direct funding to the Department at this time. We have been contacted by two Federal agencies that will be receiving stimulus funding directly and they have requested that we submit requests (similar to grants) to utilize this funding in Idaho. The two requests include funding through the USDA Forest Service for managing noxious weeds and invasive species in Benewah and Shoshone counties for \$2.5 million and funding for the aquaculture industry for 2008 feed costs (expected funding amount still unknown).

Both of these programs are being treated as grants to the State of Idaho through the Department of Agriculture. Because we have only applied for the funding at this time, we are unaware of any requirements including state match at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celia Gould".

Celia Gould, Director  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture

cc: Kelly Nielsen, Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Lloyd Knight, Division of Financial Administration



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009  
 USDA Forest Service  
 Project Description**

Date: February 25, 2009  
 R/S/A: Northern Region (R1)

<b>Project Name:</b>		Benewah/ Shoshone County <b>Managing Noxious Weeds and Invasives Species</b>			
<b>State:</b>	Idaho	<b>County(s):</b>	Benewah and Shoshone		
<b>Proj. category:</b>	WFM	<b>Proj. Type:</b>	Hazardous Fuels/Ecosystem Restor S&PF	<b>Funding needs:</b>	2,528,573.00
<b>Method of delivery:</b> Grant to state					
<b>Timeframe for award:</b>				<b>Time frame for work to begin:</b>	30 days
<b>Number of jobs created:</b> Up to 70 temporary jobs, including 2 project managers and ISDA positions.		<b>Partners:</b> Idaho State Dept. of Ag, Benewah and Shoshone Counties		N/A	
<b>Description of the benefits that will come from putting people back to work:</b> <i>(infrastructure improvement, fire risk reduction, forest health improvement, energy benefits, community health, etc.) Limit to 150 words.</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment for long-term efforts in fuels reduction and rehabilitation of areas recently damaged by fire or areas where non-desirable plant communities have been removed and need replacement by desirable plant communities.</li> <li>• Employment for economically depressed areas and support for other local economic elements. Additional benefit is from fuels reduction and habitat improvement activities, such as removal of noxious weeds and reseeded of cleared areas.</li> <li>• From 2000 to 2007, Shoshone County experienced 479 forest fires. The project area is currently part of a fuels reduction program which targets residential communities by removing brush, trees, and invasive species. This project will emphasize fuels reduction efforts, safety of rural communities from catastrophic fire losses, and degraded air quality. It will positively impact and improve community health and quality of life.</li> <li>• General forest health will be improved by the removal of unwanted competitive vegetation from the forest stand. Additionally, desirable species replanted following removal of ladder fuels will benefit wildlife habitat and water quality. Both issues are important components of the recreation sector which is an integral economic engine for these counties.</li> </ul>					
<b>Geographic area benefiting:</b> <i>(county, counties, state, forest, or acreage in county, counties, state or forest)</i>		Shoshone County – 1,682,852 total acres with 1,202,197 of it Forest Service Land Benewah County – 503,460 total acres with 35,854 of it Forest Service Land.			



United States Forest  
Department of Service  
Agriculture

Region One

200 East Broadway  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807

**General activities conducting:**

Activities will be determining weed and vascular plant invasive species in relation to existing forest boundaries as well as removal of the noxious weed ladder fuels. Mapping, control, and revegetation efforts will be the priority for areas recently cleared of ladder fuels and fire damaged areas.



## AQUACONTRACTS MAIL GROUP NEWS

February 23, 2009



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law by President Obama on February 18, 2009, contains the following provision on aquaculture assistance. Please review the language below for specific details. Aquaculture producers who are eligible for benefits, or others in producer associations or extension programs, may wish to contact your State Department of Agriculture to learn the details on how and when grant funds will be distributed. It may take some time for grant funds to reach State Departments of Agriculture. Funds are required to be distributed to eligible aquaculture producers not later than 60 days after a State receives the federal grant funds.

Regards,  
Gary Jensen

(d) 2008 Aquaculture Assistance-

(1) DEFINITIONS- In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE AQUACULTURE PRODUCER- The term 'eligible aquaculture producer' means an aquaculture producer that during the 2008 calendar year, as determined by the Secretary--

- (i) produced an aquaculture species for which feed costs represented a substantial percentage of the input costs of the aquaculture operation; and
- (ii) experienced a substantial price increase of feed costs above the previous 5-year average.

(B) SECRETARY- The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) GRANT PROGRAM-

(A) IN GENERAL- Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use not more than \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010, to carry out a program of grants to States to assist eligible aquaculture producers for losses associated with high feed input costs during the 2008 calendar year.

(B) NOTIFICATION- Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall notify the State department of agriculture (or similar entity) in each State of the availability of funds to assist eligible aquaculture producers, including such terms as determined by the Secretary to be necessary for the equitable treatment of eligible aquaculture producers.

(C) PROVISION OF GRANTS-

(i) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall make grants to States under this subsection on a pro rata basis based on the amount of aquaculture feed used in each State during the 2007 calendar year, as determined by the Secretary.

(ii) TIMING- Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make grants to States to provide assistance under this subsection.

(D) REQUIREMENTS- The Secretary shall make grants under this subsection only to States that demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State will--

- (i) use grant funds to assist eligible aquaculture producers;
- (ii) provide assistance to eligible aquaculture producers not later than 60 days after the date on which the State receives grant funds; and
- (iii) not later than 30 days after the date on which the State provides assistance to eligible aquaculture producers, submit to the Secretary a report that describes--

- (I) the manner in which the State provided assistance;
- (II) the amounts of assistance provided per species of aquaculture; and
- (III) the process by which the State determined the levels of assistance to eligible aquaculture producers.

(3) REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS- An eligible aquaculture producer that receives assistance under this subsection shall not be eligible to receive any other assistance under the supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program established under section 531 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1531) and section 901 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2497) for any losses in 2008 relating to the same species of aquaculture.

(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS- Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that--

(A) describes in detail the manner in which this subsection has been carried out; and

(B) includes the information reported to the Secretary under paragraph (2)(D)(iii).

Sec. 103. For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, in the case of each program established or amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), other than by title I of such Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation--

(1) such funds shall be available for the purpose of covering salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

Sec. 104. In addition to other available funds, of the funds made available to the Rural Development mission area in this title, not more than 3 percent of the funds can be used for administrative costs to carry out loan, loan guarantee and grant activities funded in this title, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for 'Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses': Provided, That of this amount \$1,750,000 shall be committed to agency projects associated with maintaining the compliance, safety, and soundness of the portfolio of loans guaranteed through the section 502 guaranteed loan program.

Sec. 105.