



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

As you know, Quagga mussels were first detected in the western United States at Lake Mead in January 2007. In two short years, this destructive invasive species spread throughout Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and your home state of Colorado. Western states now face implementing multimillion-dollar control and mitigation programs to protect water infrastructure.

If quagga mussels and zebra mussels make their way into Idaho waters, the impacts of these species throughout our state will be extreme – affecting fishing, drinking water, irrigation pipes for agriculture and residential communities, and recreational pursuits such as boating. Additionally, the economic, social and recreational pursuits of all Idahoans who are influenced by hydropower and other dams will be impacted, as well as golf courses, hatcheries and the aquaculture industry. The consequence of introducing these aquatic invasive species in Idaho waterways would be devastating. It has been estimated that the fouling mussels could cost Idaho taxpayers \$100 million annually.

For these reasons the State of Idaho decided to act before such problems are upon us, launching a comprehensive program for preventing introduction of these species in Idaho. Motorized and non-motorized vessels are the primary agents by which these species are transported from one body of water to another. We are establishing inspection and decontamination stations at our Idaho borders.

Of immediate concern are the vessels leaving mussel-infested water bodies such as Lake Mead. The vessel "Hello" recently was the subject of a multi-state search after a concerned citizen reported the fouled boat traveling toward Idaho on Interstate 15 in Utah. The vessel originated at Lake Mead, where it was allowed to leave the National Recreational Area without proper decontamination. Thankfully, and with the assistance of the State of Washington, this vessel was found and decontaminated in Spokane.

Mr. Secretary, please seriously consider instituting within all U.S. Department of Interior agencies, including the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a mandatory decontamination requirement for ALL vessels leaving mussel-infested waters, such as Lake Mead. Additionally, I ask that Interior use its Lacey Act authority to enforce restrictions on interstate transport of zebra mussels.

The State of Idaho will do its part in this fight, but we need your help in protecting the waters of the West. Thank you for your positive consideration of these concerns and requests.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

November 17, 2010

Superintendent William K. Dickinson  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
National Park Service  
601 Nevada Way  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Superintendent Dickinson,

Quagga and zebra mussels pose a serious threat to the water resources of the West. In response to this threat, the State of Idaho enacted a comprehensive Invasive Species Law in 2008. In 2009, the state initiated an aggressive prevention program, funded by a boater user fee. Motorized and non-motorized vessels are the primary pathway for these species to move from one body of water to another, and Idaho established watercraft inspection and decontamination stations throughout the state. Boats that have recently been in infested waters, such as the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) are considered "High Risk."

In a letter dated November 3, 2009, my staff requested that the National Park Service (NPS) notify the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) of relevant departing Idaho boat information. In a response letter dated April 30, 2010, you cited the Privacy Act and indicated that the subject information could not be released to the State of Idaho. That letter also indicated that your Solicitor would be conducting a further review of the Privacy Act, specifically as it relates to legally collecting and sharing information between the federal government and states.

The State of Idaho has taken the opportunity to review the key provisions of the Privacy Act which you cited in your April 30, 2010. There are several exceptions to the general prohibition to releasing records under the Privacy Act, one of which I would like to bring to your attention. Documents may be disclosed to:

another government agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if the head of the agency or instrumentality has made a written request to the agency which maintains the record specifying the particular portion desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought; . . .

5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(7). The Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 authorizes the ISDA to levy civil penalties for violations of the act, and specifically states:

Any person who violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter or any rules promulgated hereunder may be assessed a civil penalty by the department or its duly authorized agent of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each offense and shall be liable for reasonable attorney's fees. . . .

Idaho Code § 22-1913(2). Additionally, the ISDA has the authority to issue hold orders, another form of civil law enforcement activity. *See* Idaho Code § 22-1910. By this letter, I am requesting that the NPS provide ISDA with all information related to Idaho registered boat or boats which will be traveling to or through the state of Idaho that have launched or will launch a vessel within the LMNRA. This information includes, but is not limited to, the description of the boat or vessel, boat or vessel registration number, trailer license plate information, hauling vehicle description, hauling vehicle license plate information, boat or vessel owner and contact information.

The Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 prohibits, among other things, the possession and transport of invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels, into or through the State of Idaho. *See* Idaho Code § 22-1905. It is my duty to enforce this law within Idaho, and the information in your possession will greatly enhance my ability to do so.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this request. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Celia R. Gould  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture

cc: Chairman Tim Corder  
Bonnie Butler, Office of the Governor  
John Revier, Office of Representative Simpson  
Tom Schwarz, Office of Representative Minnick  
Layne Bangerter, Office of Senator Crapo  
Matt Ellsworth, Office of Senator Risch



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

December 27, 2010

Superintendent William K. Dickinson  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area  
National Park Service  
601 Nevada Way  
Boulder City, NV 89005

Superintendent Dickinson,

In a letter dated November 17, 2010, I requested information from the National Park Service related to Idaho-registered/bound vessels at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA). I am seeking this information to ensure that boats leaving the quagga mussel-infested LMNRA will be inspected and decontaminated before they launch into Idaho's waters.

The 2011 boating season is quickly approaching in Idaho, and your attention to this important issue is greatly appreciated. Please advise me of the status of this request, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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

Celia Gould, Director  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture

cc: Bonnie Butler, Office of the Governor  
John Revier, Office of Representative Simpson  
Layne Bangertter, Office of Senator Crapo  
Matt Ellsworth, Office of Senator Risch



CELIA R. GOULD  
DIRECTOR



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR



VIRGIL MOORE  
DIRECTOR

---

STATE OF IDAHO

August 2, 2011

Director Janette Kaiser  
Rangeland Management, Mailstop 1103  
U.S. Forest Service, USDA, 1400  
Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20250-1103

Re: **National Forest System Invasive Species Management Policy, RIN 0596-AC77**

Dear Director Kaiser,

This letter is in response to the proposed National Forest System Invasive Species Management Policy, which would establish internal directives for dealing with invasive species issues. It aims to better describe the roles and responsibilities of various levels of agency staff and leadership to more effectively address the invasive species threats impacting the National Forests. The directive articulates broad objectives, policies, responsibilities and definitions for U.S. Forest Service employees and partners.

The USFS is an important partner in the noxious weed and invasive species issue in Idaho. The proposed objectives and goals (Prevention, EDRR, Control and Management, and Restoration and Organizational Collaboration) closely mirror the goals and objectives outlined in the Idaho Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds (2005) and the Idaho Invasive Species Action Plan (2005).

There are some specific recommendations that would promote organizational collaboration and bolster ongoing work in Idaho related to weeds and invasive species in both the terrestrial and aquatic environments.

1. The USFS manages a number of boat launches in Idaho. In an effort to "integrate visitor use strategies with invasive species management activities" and "promote cooperative efforts with internal and external partners," it would be beneficial to the Idaho invasive species program if all USFS-managed boat launches within Idaho had invasive species signage alerting visitors of Idaho state law.
2. The policy should give clear guidance on the role of the USFS as it relates to fish and wildlife management and State agencies use of what may be defined as invasive species to support on-going or future management activities.

Director Janette Kaiser  
August 2, 2011  
Page 3 of 3

The Idaho Invasive Species Council appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed National Forest System Invasive Species Management Policy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [celia.gould@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:celia.gould@agri.idaho.gov) or [virgil.moore@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:virgil.moore@idfg.idaho.gov). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Celia R. Gould". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Celia Gould

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virgil Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Virgil Moore



# STATE OF IDAHO

---

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR  
CELIA R. GOULD  
DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

As you know, quagga mussels were first detected in the western United States at Lake Mead in January 2007. In a short period of time, this destructive invasive species spread throughout Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and your home state of Colorado. Western states now face implementing multimillion-dollar control and mitigation programs to protect water infrastructure.

If quagga mussels and zebra mussels make their way into Pacific Northwest waters, the impacts of these species throughout our region will be extreme – affecting fishing, drinking water, irrigation pipes for agriculture and residential communities, and recreational pursuits such as boating. Additionally, the economic, social and recreational pursuits influenced by hydropower and other dams will be impacted, as well as golf courses, hatcheries and the aquaculture industry. The consequence of introducing these aquatic invasive species to Pacific Northwest waterways would be devastating.

For these reasons, the state of Idaho decided to be proactive, launching a state-funded program to prevent introduction of these species to our waters. Motorized and non-motorized vessels are the primary agents by which these species are transported from one body of water to another. The state of Idaho established watercraft inspection and decontamination stations to intercept high risk and mussel-fouled boats before they launch in our uninfested waters.

Of immediate concern are the high risk vessels leaving mussel-infested federal water bodies such as Lake Mead. More than a dozen fouled boats have been intercepted by the Idaho program that came directly from federally managed waters on the Lower Colorado. The majority of these boats originated from the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

This is extremely concerning, and the Pacific Northwest states have repeatedly requested that the National Park Service notify destination states when potentially fouled watercraft leave Lake Mead. The state invasive species coordinators of Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Montana would like to use these notifications to arrange for inspections of these high risk



boats before they launch in Pacific Northwest waters. Unfortunately, the National Park Service has not provided these notifications to state coordinators.

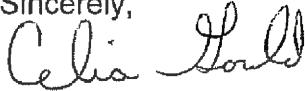
The Department of Interior's FY 2012 budget has been allocated \$1 million in funding, which is specified in the Interior Appropriations bill to go to "the implementation of mandatory operational inspection and decontamination-stations at federally-managed or interjurisdictional water bodies considered to be of highest risk."

From our perspective, a good use of these funds would be for on-the-ground actions to inspect and decontaminate boats leaving the Lake Mead National Recreational Area (LMRNA). If an effective mussel containment program could be implemented at LMNRA in the near term, this action would greatly reduce the number of contaminated boats entering Idaho's waters. It is critical that this program be put in place immediately, as seasonal boats will begin returning to Pacific Northwest waters in early Spring.

Mr. Secretary, please seriously consider instituting within all U.S. Department of Interior agencies, including the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a mandatory decontamination requirement for ALL vessels leaving mussel-infested federal waters, such as Lake Mead. Additionally, I ask that Interior use its Lacey Act authority to enforce restrictions on interstate transport of these mussels on watercraft.

The State of Idaho will do its part in this fight, but we need your help in protecting the waters of the West. I have attached some recommendations for you to consider. Please feel free to contact my staff if you have questions. Thank you for your positive consideration of these concerns and requests.

Sincerely,



Celia Gould

Director Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Chair, Idaho Invasive Species Council

Cc: Idaho Congressmen Simpson, Risch, Crapo, Labrador  
Bonnie Butler, Senior Special Assistant to Governor Otter  
Craig Martin, USFW



# Recommendations to the Department of Interior on containing Quagga Mussel at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) within the Context of QZAP

## Action Items:

QZAP Action Item B.1.: Implement Mandatory Inspection and Decontamination at Infested Waters (highest priority action item).

### **1. Decontamination and Exit Process:**

- A. When a boat leaves an NPS concessionaire's marina it should be required to be decontaminated at the owner's expense. The boat is "sealed" and the owner is given paperwork to document the procedure. The paperwork is forwarded (via email from the NPS) to all western state coordinators.
- B. The boat owner should not be allowed to determine the length of a decontamination. This should be done by a professional contractor and should not be negotiable.
- C. When boater exits the LMNRA at one of 6 inspection stations on the perimeter of the Recreation Area, he is asked if he had a decontamination (show seal, paperwork). If the boat has left without a decontamination (again, look for seal and paperwork), then the boat is inspected and decontaminated.
- D. These exit stations should be operated at roadsides, together with the entrance stations (see below), with the same hours of operation. Idaho data shows that Feb-July are the key seasonal times for extended hours at these stations.
  - Boulder Beach
  - East Lake Mead Blvd.
  - Lake Mead Parkway
  - Cottonwood Cove
  - Temple Bar
  - Katherine Landing

## **2. Website:**

A. It is a challenge to find any information about quagga mussels on the LMNRA website. At a minimum, the following areas of the website should include obvious educational information (about the problem, about legal responsibilities, penalties, etc.) for visitors:

- Plan Your Visit-Things to Know Before You Come
- Fees and Reservations
- Things to Do-Lake Mead NRA Marinas

## **3. At Entrance Stations (6) and NPS-Managed Marinas:**

A. A LMNRA-focused brochure should be developed handed out at all entrance stations. It should also be distributed to moorage customers when they launch the boat at the NPS-managed marina. This brochure should explain the problem and notify boat owners of state and federal laws.

## **4. The NPS Concessionaires:**

- A. NPS should review all moorage agreements and amend all moorage concessionaire contracts to include notification of departing boat requirements.
- B. All NPS-managed moorage agreements should include language similar to the Idaho state moorage facility language whereby the owner acknowledges that he/she understands the requirement to decontaminate at exit.

## **5. Signage:**

- A. NPS should review all signage and develop a standard for where signs are placed to assure the best visibility to boaters.
- B. Develop new signage at all launches and moorage facilities. The signage should clearly communicate the issue and the boater's responsibilities.



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

APR 6 2012

RECEIVED  
APR 13 2012  
AG ADMIN

Ms. Celia Gould  
Director, Idaho State Department  
of Agriculture  
Boise, Idaho 83701

Dear Director Gould:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 2012, to Secretary Ken Salazar, concerning aquatic invasive species prevention. The Secretary has asked me to respond on his behalf. The Department of the Interior understands that the State of Idaho is concerned about the risk posed by fouled watercraft coming from quagga mussel-infested waters, especially in the lower Colorado River. This is an issue which affects many resources in the United States and is a priority for the Department.

To that end, the Fiscal Year 2012 Appropriations Bill directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to spend \$1 million toward "the implementation of mandatory operational inspection and decontamination stations at federally-managed or interjurisdictional water bodies considered to be of highest risk." While USFWS was charged with this task, it is only through state and Federal agency partnerships that we can address these issues.

The Department agrees with the assessment that due to the high volume of boat traffic and proximity of the lower Colorado River, this area has a high potential to serve as a source for mussel transfer to the Pacific Northwest. In partnership with other Federal and state parties, the National Park Service and USFWS, including representatives from the Lake Mead National Recreational Area, will develop a plan to address the specific issues you mentioned with implementation to begin this spring. Potential actions include improving the current mandatory cleaning procedures for moored vessels and increasing outreach and education to all boaters in the basin through updates to websites and signage at launches and marinas. The group will also explore if there are opportunities to improve the reporting rate for boats that have been inspected and cleaned. With these actions, the Department hopes to significantly decrease the spread of invasive species coming from the lower Colorado River.

This is a highly complex issue, especially in interjurisdictional waters where various state and Federal laws and policies apply. Additionally, with limited funding and logistical issues, there is no guarantee that all boats leaving the lower Colorado River will be mussel-free. However, the Department agrees that the spread of invasive species, particularly quagga mussels, is a major threat which we all share responsibility to prevent and all parties must increase efforts to manage this threat. If you have further questions, please contact USFWS Southwest Regional Director Benjamin Tuggle at (505) 248-6282.

Sincerely,

Rhea Suh  
Assistant Secretary  
Policy, Management and Budget

cc: Jonathan Jarvis, Director, National Park Service  
Daniel Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Robert Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management  
Idaho Congressmen Simpson, Risch, Crapo, Labrador  
Bonnie Butler, Senior Special Assistant to Idaho Governor Otter



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

May 16, 2012

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
2312 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Simpson:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

Thank you for your continued support of Idaho's invasive species program. The work that you have done to encourage federal agencies and provide the tools necessary to address the spread of aquatic invasive species is appreciated. Specifically, you worked to add the following language in your committee's FY12 Interior Appropriation bill:

**"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."**

Such direction is an excellent and important step in assuring that boats that leave infested federal waters are properly inspected and decontaminated before they arrive in uninfested states, like Idaho. To date, we intercepted over 70 infested watercraft at our inspection stations since the program's inception in 2009. A majority of the infested watercraft originated at Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River system.

The USFWS was charged with allocating your committee's FY12 \$1 million appropriation. The attached "*List of priority actions proposed for 2012 QZAP funding targeting containment of quagga mussels in the Lower Colorado River with an emphasis on Lake Mead National Recreation Area*" has been provided to my agency by the USFWS for review purposes. In reviewing the attached proposed actions from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), we are disappointed that the proposed actions of the agency are not consistent with this direction. While some of the identified actions may have merit in educating the general public, increasing communication among partner agencies, and researching and monitoring quagga mussel populations, the actions outlined here do not provide for mandatory, operational inspection stations as is clearly stated in the appropriation language of your committee.

A few points to consider:

### LMNRA Improvements

The actions listed here include the purchase of a new wash station for the LMNRA (\$117,000) and the maintenance and repair of existing concessionaire-owned equipment at the LMNRA (\$58,000). Without operational funding for "on the ground" inspections, it is unclear how these stations will be operated once purchased and/or repaired. It is our understanding that the NPS purchased four specialized decontamination units in 2008, and the units were not deployed and are not currently operational. Our concern is that the new and repaired equipment will meet the same fate as there does not seem to be an operational work plan for the use of the decontamination systems.

Instead, we recommend that wash units be strategically located at each of the four entry/exit points for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. (see attached map)

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
May 16, 2012  
Page 2

The 'LMNRA Improvements' actions also include funding for two "Quagga Mussel Coordinators" (\$175,000). These FTEs would focus on outreach, monitoring and research. There is an existing NPS "Quagga Mussel Coordinator" at LMNRA. It is unclear how these positions will support operational mandatory inspections and decontaminations. Additionally, it was our understanding that this funding was not intended to pay for existing NPS staff at LMNRA.

**Rapid Response Database**

The Rapid Response database (\$29,250) outlined in the plan already exists, and my staff is willing to provide this information to the federal agencies (free of charge). In the current absence of action by the federal agencies, our staff has compiled all the necessary state and federal agency contacts and has been notifying these contacts when our agency is aware of the movement of infested watercraft or watercraft originating from infested waterbodies.

**Interdiction Rangers**

It is important to note that Lake Powell is not an infested waterbody. This line item (\$117,000) would fund rangers at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. While we agree that the Glen Canyon NRA prevention program is exemplary, the appropriation is clearly intended for inspection and decontamination at infested waterbodies.

**Inspection/Decontamination at Navajo Reservoir**

Similarly, the Navajo Reservoir is not infested. This funding (\$100,000) would be provided to the New Mexico Game and Fish or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Navajo Reservoir on the Colorado/New Mexico border. This does not seem consistent with the committee's appropriation language.

Again, thank you for your leadership at the national level. We were extremely encouraged by the FY12 appropriation and the work of your committee and your staff to help make it a reality. This issue is vitally important to Idaho and the West. While there certainly are other infested waterbodies in the West, Lake Mead National Recreation Area poses the highest risk and offers the greatest opportunity for an effective containment strategy. Utilizing our experience in operating inspection and decontamination stations across Idaho, my staff could work with the National Park Service to develop an operational inspection station strategy for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. We look forward to working together to develop an effective and comprehensive strategy to protect Idaho and the Pacific Northwest from aquatic invasive species.

Sincerely,



Celia R. Gould  
Director

Cc: Senator Risch  
Senator Crapo  
Congressman Labrador  
Governor Otter  
Secretary Salazar, Interior  
Jon Jarvis, NPS  
Craig Martin, USFWS

# **List of priority actions proposed for 2012 QZAP funding targeting containment of quagga mussels in the Lower Colorado River with an emphasis on Lake Mead National Recreation Area**

Thursday, May 10, 2012

## **LMNRA Improvements**

\$397,800 to the National Park Service for Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) to support the following projects

1. Finalize a new wash station near Lake Mead Marina and Las Vegas Boat Harbor Marina (Cost is approximately \$117,000)
2. Repair and maintain existing (three permanent and two mobile) wash stations at LMNRA (Cost is approximately \$58,500)
3. Two quagga mussel coordinators at LMNRA for one year. One would focus on education and outreach and work directly with the concessionaires. The other would focus on monitoring and research. (Cost is approximately \$175,500)
4. Outreach/Education Materials at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, promoting the National Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Campaign. (Cost is approximately \$46,800)

## **Rapid Response Database**

\$29,250 for finalizing the Rapid Response Database as called for in QZAP.

- This system would promote rapid communication among jurisdictions and could serve as a central repository for documents related to boat interdictions and could assist coordination among law enforcement entities.
- Portland State University and the University of Texas at Arlington have already made progress toward developing a western-wide database.
- Funding would likely go to PSU

## **State Education/Outreach Campaigns**

\$58,500 to Nevada Department of Wildlife and Arizona Game and Fish Department for outreach materials.

- We could expand the scope of existing cooperative agreements between the USFWS and these agencies.
- Outreach materials in Arizona would expand their existing campaign.
- Outreach materials in Nevada would help develop a campaign consistent with AZ and the federal Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Campaign.
- Emphasis should be on state laws and what is expected of boaters.
- This could include billboards and signs.

### **Check-in/Check-out Database**

\$11,700 to the University of Texas at Arlington to develop a Check-in/Checkout database

- We could expand the scope of an existing cooperative agreement
- This system would record all boats moored in LMNRA.
- It would also record all decontaminations.
- An online system would allow law enforcement to query the database by boat number to see if and when the boat was in Lake Mead or Mohave, and to see if and when it was decontaminated.
- This information could be used by interdiction personnel to help decide how to process a boat entering their jurisdiction.
- This system could be expanded to all infested waters with marinas.

### **Interdiction Rangers**

\$117,000 to the National Park Service for interdiction rangers at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Lake Powell)

- Lake Powell is one of the top destinations for boats leaving Lake Mead.
- Federal interdiction staff could help assess and monitor the effectiveness of decontamination at LMNRA while simultaneously protecting the second-most popular water body in the western United States.
- If Lake Powell is not protected from invasion, it could serve as another stepping stone for further invasions into the West.
- Glen Canyon's Aquatic Invasive Species Program is exemplary and, as such, should be encouraged as a model for other NPS parks and recreational areas.

### **Inspection/Decontamination at Navajo Reservoir**

\$100,000 to New Mexico Game and Fish or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to inspect and decontaminate boats at Navajo Reservoir on the Colorado/New Mexico border.

- This reservoir is upstream of Lake Powell, and, if allowed to become infested with quagga or zebra mussels, would jeopardize down-river reservoirs, including Lake Powell.
- Protecting this reservoir also protects Lake Powell, and subsequently prevents the second-most popular water body in the western United States from becoming a source for invasive mussels to spread further into the West.

### **Increased Law Enforcement at LMNRA**

\$250,000 for law enforcement activities at Lake Mead National Recreation Area

- Proposed are two USFWS Special Agents to monitor activities at LMNRA and other waters on the lower Colorado River.
- State law enforcement officers, as an alternative, have been proposed, but there is a concern that such officers would not be able to focus their duties on AIS.



This list comprises approximately \$964,250. The amounts for each category may have to be adjusted, depending on actual costs and whether or not specific actions are funded or not. In case of a conflict, containment at LMNRA will take priority over prevention at other locations.

**Additional actions considered are**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Adding a wash station at Lake Havasu   | \$292,500 |
| 2. Adding a wash station at Lake Pleasant | \$292,500 |
| 3. 100th Meridian Team, CO River Basin    | \$35,100  |
| 4. State LE Spot Checks at LMNRA          | \$93,600  |
| 5. Upgrade wash stations at Lake Powell   | \$310,050 |
| 6. Night closure gates at Lake Powell     | \$321,750 |
| 7. Adding outreach staff at Lake Powell   | \$245,700 |
| 8. Add Additional Interdiction Rangers    | \$58,500  |

---

**\$1,649,700**

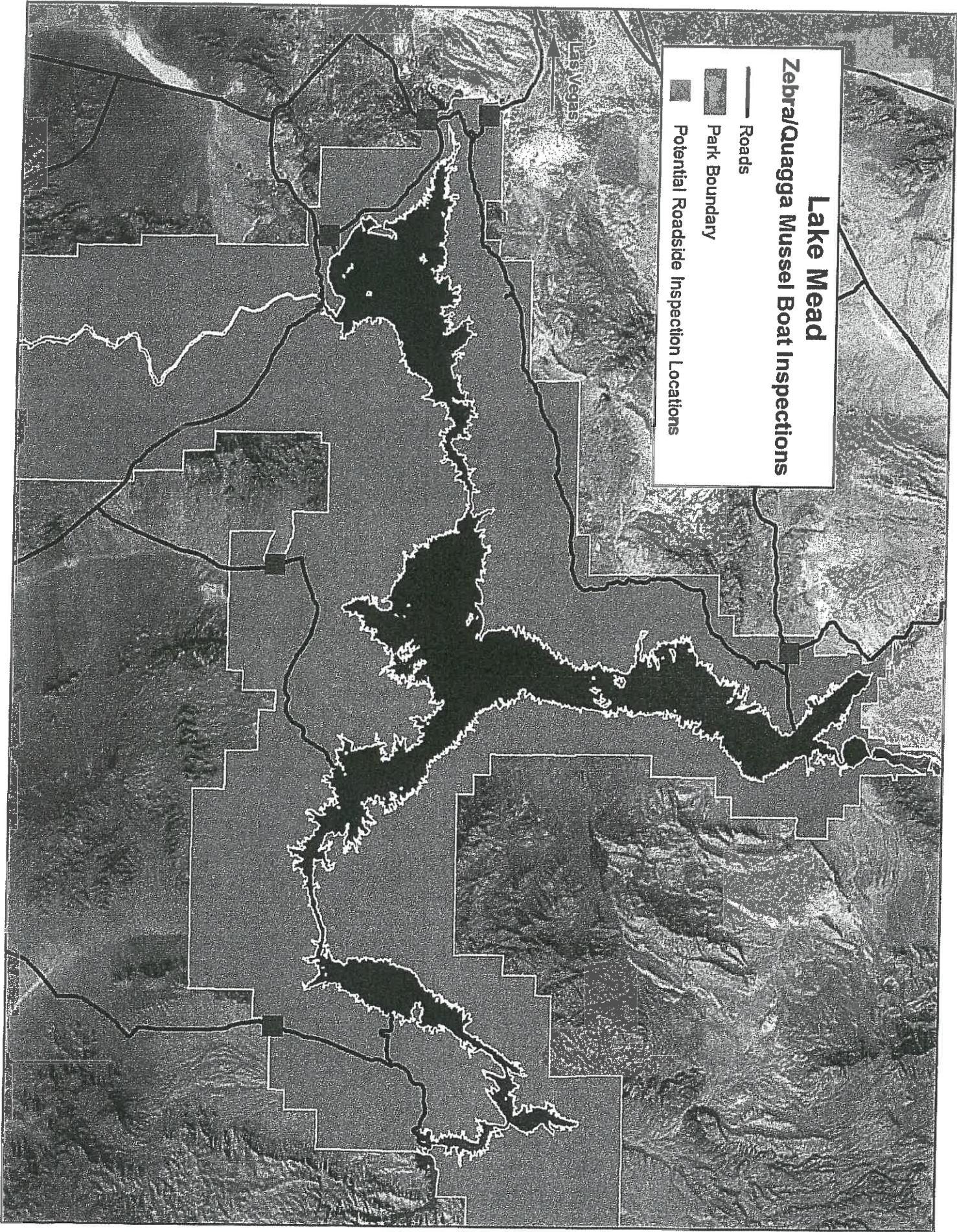
Future funding, if available, could be used to include these additional actions to address specific priorities listed in QZAP.



# Lake Mead Zebra/Quagga Mussel Boat Inspections

- Roads
- ▭ Park Boundary
- ▣ Potential Roadside Inspection Locations

Las Vegas





## Lloyd Knight

---

**From:** Celia R. Gould  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2012 12:02 PM  
**To:** Lloyd Knight  
**Cc:** Chanel Tewalt  
**Subject:** Re: Invasive Species Funding

Lloyd-  
We need to keep a copy of this correspondence on file. thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 15, 2012, at 5:01 PM, "Lloyd Knight" <[Lloyd.Knight@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:Lloyd.Knight@agri.idaho.gov)> wrote:

Dave, Craig, Vicki, and Paul –

I wanted to drop you all a line regarding some of the funding opportunities within your agency that are currently being promoted to the states. Currently, we know of available funding for State Plan and Law Enforcement work.

The State Plan monies have represented approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 annually for states (including Idaho) that have been made available for the implementation of the QZAP Plan. We have traditionally utilized these funds for a small portion of our outreach and education efforts related to our overall invasive species program. However, we continue to see a lack of coordinated enforcement and communication related to watercraft leaving federal impoundments on the Lower Colorado River that presents a clear and present danger to natural resources and infrastructure in Idaho and the Columbia River Basin. Those resources affected would include salmon, to whose recovery hundreds of millions in funding and resources have been dedicated. It would appear to be a better use of your agency's limited resources to focus on the concerns that we continue to communicate to your agency. **The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will neither apply for nor accept funding for QZAP implementation. We will continue to engage and coordinate with our state and federal partners, but believe the funding could be better utilized elsewhere.**

The Law Enforcement funding that was recently made available to Idaho and other states is part of the \$1,000,000 that Congress prioritized for your agency. The FY 2012 Interior Appropriation bill clearly stated: *"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."* Sending Idaho a portion of that funding – identified to be \$75,000 to \$100,000 – would clearly be outside the intent of Congress.

The waterbodies presenting the highest risk to Idaho and the Pacific Northwest are commonly visited by boaters prior to their arrival in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. They include Lake Mead, Lake Havasu, and Lake Mohave, among others. Common sense would dictate that it is far easier to inspect and decontaminate these watercraft at the source of their fouling, rather than try to catch them on the numerous entry points to our state and region. **The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will neither apply for nor accept funding for Law Enforcement that was clearly prioritized by Congress for the high risk federally managed waterbodies on the Lower Colorado River.**

We continue to implement and refine our state funded program to protect Idaho and the Pacific Northwest from the threats posed by infested waterbodies in the Lower Colorado River and across the country. As the lead agency for implementation of the Idaho Invasive Species Act, ISDA take seriously our responsibility to preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species into our state and region. We continue to spend appropriated state funding for this purpose. While that state funding is not infinite, it is sufficient enough that we do not see a need to accept federal funding that should clearly be prioritized elsewhere.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Lloyd B. Knight, Administrator  
Division of Plant Industries  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Office: (208) 332-8664

September 6, 2012

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Robyn Thorson, Regional Director Pacific Region USFWS

**FROM:** Bonnie Butler, Lloyd Knight (Idaho Department of Agriculture)

**SUBJECT:** **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

We continue to see an important role for the USFWS Pacific Region to play in highlighting the importance of limiting movement of watercraft from AIS infested waters from the Great Lakes and Lower Colorado River to the clean waters of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.

Congress directed USFWS to dedicate \$1 million to AIS enforcement, inspection, and decontamination at federally managed infested water bodies in the lower Colorado. We are disappointed that all of the monies have not been targeted specific to these defined efforts.

There has been a great deal of discussion about watercraft leaving Lake Mead National Recreation Area without inspection, decontamination, or hot washes. Idaho needs the USFWS help to encourage the National Park Service to regulate the movement of these boats from their facilities and also to communicate to destination states that these boats have left Lake Mead. This applies to watercraft registered in Idaho or another destination state.

Of the 58 mussel fouled boats, Idaho intercepted in 2012, 36 came from the Lower Colorado. Of those, 30 came from Lake Mead.

USFWS needs to make adding quagga mussels and all dreissina species to the injurious wildlife list a priority. We understand that the absence of this listing is one of the limiting factors in getting law enforcement support from USFWS, and such enforcement support regarding interstate movement of fouled watercraft is much needed.

Because of the significant harm that could be done to Idaho's efforts regarding endangered or threatened native aquatic species, Idaho needs the Pacific Region office to be an advocate for our region within Interior. States are trying to change the focus and direction of the National Parks Service and individual parks, and we have far too much at stake for our State to be left to accomplish this alone. Clearly, USFWS has a vested interest in protecting endangered or threatened species. Idaho's interest goes beyond species into concerns with infrastructure, irrigation, power generation, etc., but we have invested far too much in salmon recovery, for example, not to push further and to request your assistance.