



Kinnikinnick Chapter of The Idaho Native Plant Society

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Kalispell Boat Launch CE

Dear Dale,

While Bonner County may have the controlling authority for milfoil treatment in Bonner County, their work is done frequently in partnership with other authorities and organizations. Prevention hopefully means treatment is unneeded - and is everyone's responsibility. Former Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth included the spread of noxious weeds as one of the four main threats facing land management. Clearly he intended the Forest Service respond to that threat in all possible ways. Prevention is the most effective way to fight weeds.

Issuing a permit to enlarge a boat ramp provides an important opportunity to address and mitigate the potential threats that a project poses. Bonner County will need the support of all agencies and organizations in educating the boating public and preventing the introduction of aquatic weeds. Because weeds, terrestrial and aquatic, are the greatest threat to native plants and their habitats, they are a conservation priority for Kinnikinnick Chapter. We therefore recommend:

1. Highest priority be placed on installing and operating a boat wash onsite at the Kalispell Boat Launch as a condition of its expansion and further permitting. The visitors' center is not a required stop for boats launching or pulling out of Priest Lake; it is therefore a relatively ineffective location for boat washing.
2. An aquatic botanic survey of the area within 200' of the Kalispell Boat Launch be carried out prior to its expansion and again two years later to determine whether milfoil is present and spreading at the location. If Milfoil is present:
 - a. Boat washing (in and out) at this location should be mandatory and enforced.
 - b. Require the boat launch operator to submit a milfoil control plan and carry it out at his expense with Forest Service and county supervision.
3. Educational signage and brochures be installed and maintained at the Kalispell Boat Launch prior to completion of the enlargement.
4. Terrestrial weed control, ongoing, be required as part of the permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to have our concerns incorporated in your process.

Sincerely,

Carol Jenkins, President