Aquatic Invasive Species Letter Report

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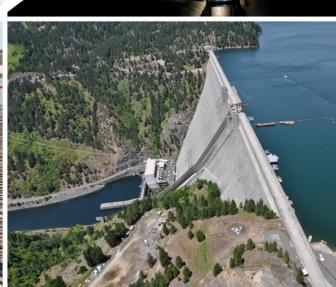
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Presentation Overview

- Summary of the Integrated Letter Report and Programmatic Environmental Assessment
- Authority
- Existing Watercraft Inspection Program
- Actions Considered in Report
- Environmental Compliance
- Recommendations
- Schedule





Integrated Report

 Integrated Report – combines the Letter Report and the Environmental Assessment.

- Letter Report:
 - ▶ What problems are addressed?
 - ▶ What actions are available?
 - ► Are the actions economically justified?
- Environmental Assessment:
 - ▶ Compliance of the proposed actions





WRRDA Authority

- Section 1039(d) of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act 2014
- Establish watercraft stations in the Columbia River
 Basin in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington
- Cost share 50/50 constructing, operating, and maintaining watercraft stations
- Coordination- States, Tribes, and other Federal Agencies
- Monitoring and contingency planning





Existing Program

- Regional Response
- Current Watercraft Inspection Program
 - ► Types, locations, duration, costs by state
 - ► Public outreach and education
- Monitoring Activities
- Contingency Planning and Response Planning
 - ► Rapid Response Plans





Actions Considered in the Report

- No Action (do nothing)
- Expansion of the Watercraft Inspection Program
 - ► Adding Locations
 - ► Extending Daylight Hours
 - ► Adding Nighttime Inspections
 - ► Site Improvements
 - ▶ Utility Connections
 - ► Canine Detection Capabilities
 - ► Improved Signage
- Inspection at Source Waters
- Monitoring to Identify Water Chemistry Parameters and Early Detection
- Contingency Planning and Rapid Response Plan





Economic Considerations

- Federal and Non-Federal Infrastructure Impacts
 - ► Hydropower Facilities
 - ► Navigation Locks
 - ► Fish Passage and Hatchery Facilities
 - ▶ Water Supply and Treatment Facilities
 - ▶ Boating and Marine Infrastructure
 - ► Recreation, Tourism, and Waterfront Property Values





Comparison of Costs

- Benefit to Cost ratio (B/C)
- The Benefits are defined as delaying the increased operation and maintenance costs due to an infestation
- The Costs are defined as the watercraft inspection program costs





Programmatic Environmental Assessment

- Existing Conditions
 - ► Environmental conditions in the study area
 - ► Resources in the study area
- Environmental Consequences
 - Compares the No action alternative (do nothing) and Proposed Expansion of the Program
 - ► What effects, if any, to the resources
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Coordination, consultation, public involvement





Recommendations

- Under WRRDA 2014 (inside CRB within PNW states): Develop partnerships with states to expand the program
- Additional Authority (outside CRB within PNW states) - develop partnerships with states to expand the program
- Containment at the source:
 - ▶ Utah, Nevada, and California should implement similar laws (Arizona Fish and Game Department Directors Order 3 R05/15)
 - Mandatory inspections at infested Federal Lakes
 - Regional inspections stations leaving Great Lakes traveling to CRB





Recommendations

- Monitoring:
 - ▶ Early Detection
 - Identify high risk areas with similar water characteristics
- Contingency Planning and Rapid Response Plans
- Public Awareness
 - ▶ Outreach, Education, Ad Campaigns
- Establishing Regional AIS Advisory Committee





Remaining Tasks

- Regional review
- USACE Technical and Policy review
- Submission to USACE HQ Late Jan 2017
- Drafting Agreements, Scope of Work
 - ► Watercraft Inspection Locations and Costs

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