

Aquatic Invasive Species Letter Report

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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

