Idaho Invasive Species Council / Idaho Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 3, 2026 9:00 AM
ISDA Twin Falls Office (In Person and Virtual)

Attendees

- Michele Andersen, IDL
- Jason Ansay, ISDA
- Victor Azevedo, ISDA
- Tim Boyle, ISDA
- Bryce Fowler, Fremont County Weed Control
- Bob Gourley, USDA
- Mike Kish, Idaho State Police
- Bryce Larsen, ISDA
- Cole Morrison, ISDA
- Madi Patterson, ISDA
- Stephen Phillips, PSMFC
- Jenny Roman, ISDA
- Adam Schroeder, Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement
- Ben Scofield, Coeur d'Alene Tribe – Water Resources Program
- Eric Stark, IDFG
- Jeremey Varley, ISDA
- Nic Zurfluh, ISDA

The meeting was called to order with a welcome and introductions. The chair noted that the previous meeting had been held on December 16 and described the current meeting as the group's spring/summer update session. Participants were asked to provide their names and affiliations in the chat to assist with attendance records. Wendy Porter was designated to record attendance and meeting notes.

Program Updates and Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

Staff provided an overview of aquatic invasive plant management activities and treatment monitoring protocols. Discussion focused on post-treatment evaluations, water-use restrictions associated with aquatic herbicide applications, and follow-up inspections conducted after diver-assisted plant removals.

Divers conducting manual plant removals are required to properly dispose of removed vegetation to prevent fragments from re-entering the waterbody. Follow-up inspections are performed because sediment disturbance during removal operations can reduce visibility and increase the likelihood that some plants are missed. Treated areas are evaluated one year after treatment to assess effectiveness and determine changes in infestation levels.

Public Information and Outreach

Staff reviewed the public information resources available through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture website. The public can access annual treatment plans, treatment maps, survey dashboards, water-use notifications, and treatment status updates through online mapping tools.

The survey dashboard allows users to view survey activity by waterbody and species and track seasonal survey progress. The treatment map serves as a central clearinghouse for treatment information, including planned treatments, active treatments, completed treatments, contractor information, and water-right notification materials. Additional efforts are made to notify property owners and water users who may not possess formal water rights but still rely on water from affected areas.

Payette Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Management

Staff presented the Year 1 implementation plan for managing Eurasian watermilfoil in Payette Lake. Littoral zone surveys will begin once plant growth reaches approximately 8–12 inches in height. Survey crews will conduct snorkel and watercraft surveys throughout the lake to document plant distribution and density.

Three primary focus areas were identified based on previous survey data at Pilgrim Cove, Ponderosa State Park, and Wagon Wheel Bay.

These locations currently contain the highest known concentrations of Eurasian watermilfoil and represent the greatest risk for further spread through fragmentation. Updated survey data will be used to confirm infestation locations, evaluate changes in plant distribution, and support treatment planning decisions. Water depth and environmental conditions will also be reassessed because lower lake levels may affect plant growth patterns and treatment design.

Following the initial surveys, staff will repeat density and biomass assessments to establish baseline conditions and measure future changes. Data collected will be used to evaluate treatment effectiveness and guide future management actions. Staff noted that some increase in plant biomass may occur before management efforts begin due to seasonal growth patterns.

Staff reported that approximately 25–50 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil are anticipated to be managed during the first year of the program.

The proposed primary treatment tool is ProcellaCOR® aquatic herbicide.

In addition to herbicide treatments, diver-assisted removals are planned near boat ramps and other high-use access locations to reduce the risk of plant fragments being transported to new areas of the lake.

Survey work is expected to occur during July, with treatments anticipated in late July or early August depending on plant growth and environmental conditions. Final treatment locations will be determined after survey data are reviewed. Priority treatment areas remain Pilgrim Cove, Ponderosa State Park, and Wagon Wheel Bay.

A comprehensive monitoring program will accompany treatment activities.

Monitoring activities include:

- Three-day post-treatment water sampling to evaluate residual ProcellaCOR concentrations.
- Collection of sediment core samples at approximately 30 days, 90 days, and one year following treatment.
- Evaluation of herbicide degradation and movement through the aquatic system.
- Annual effectiveness monitoring to measure treatment success and determine future management needs.

Staff noted that ProcellaCOR typically dissipates from the water column within 48 hours; however, sampling will continue for three days to verify non-detectable levels before irrigation restrictions are lifted.

Public Notification

Staff outlined the public communication strategy associated with treatment activities.

Notification measures include:

- Advance notification to stakeholders, homeowner associations, and water users.
- Water-right holder notifications at least 14 days before treatment.
- Public notification for swimming areas at least 14 days before treatment.
- Posting of treatment-area signage and dock notices approximately 24 hours before treatment.
- Ongoing updates through the ISDA treatment website and mapping tools.

The objective is to ensure all affected users have access to treatment information and any applicable water-use restrictions before treatment begins.

Five-Year Management

Staff explained that Years 2–5 (2027–2030) will generally follow the same management framework established during Year 1. Annual surveys, treatment evaluations, monitoring activities, and public outreach efforts will continue while management strategies are adjusted based on results and emerging conditions.

Measuring Success

The working group discussed performance measures that will be used to evaluate program effectiveness. Success indicators include:

- Reduction in total infested acreage.
- Reduction in Eurasian watermilfoil biomass.
- Decreased plant density.
- Increased isolation of remaining infestations.
- Effective integration of herbicide treatments and diver-assisted removals.
- Transition from large-scale suppression efforts to localized maintenance activities.

Staff noted that management experience gained through previous treatment programs, including work conducted on Hayden Lake, provides a framework for evaluating progress and adapting future management actions.

Action Items

- Complete 2026 Payette Lake littoral zone surveys once target plant growth is reached.
- Finalize treatment areas based on survey results.
- Implement ProcellaCOR treatment and diver-assisted control activities.
- Conduct post-treatment water and sediment monitoring.
- Provide required stakeholder and public notifications prior to treatment.
- Continue public access to survey and treatment information through online mapping tools.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 12:30 PM following discussion of the Payette Lake management plan, monitoring protocols, public outreach efforts, and long-term success metrics.