

Appendix A – Progress Report

Project Number AEPP-131-08
Florence Countywide AIS Programming
04/2008-12/2008 Progress Report

Project Activities:

- 1.) Recruit volunteers and implement a CBCW program at the Florence County boat landings

Watercraft Inspection Coordinator, Katie Malinowski conducted Clean Boat, Clean Water (CBCW) trainings, organized volunteer efforts, and entered watercraft inspection data into SWIMS.

On June 14, Watercraft Inspection Coordinator, Katie Malinowski, conducted a CBCW training at the Water Protection Workshop. Thirty two individuals attended. On July 2, Katie conducted a training and three individuals attended. On August 26, Katie conducted a training and two individuals attended.

Clean Boat, Clean Water volunteers donated a total of 477 in-kind hours at boat landings. Volunteer hours were concentrated at high traffic landings on Memorial, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekends, with the remaining hours on miscellaneous weekends.

Volunteers contacted 830 boaters and 347 watercrafts. 367 hours were reported in SWIMS.

- 2.) Hire an Invasive Species Program Manager and a CBCW Program Coordinator.

The positions were advertised in the Florence Mining newspaper. Watercraft Inspection Coordinator, Katie Malinowski, and Invasive Species Program Manager, Maureen Ferry, were hired in June.

- 3.) Conduct AIS citizen lake monitoring following Dept/UW Ext guidelines.

Maureen Ferry and Conservation On the Land Intern, Dane Gagnon, divvied up 43 publicly accessible lakes and 9 publicly accessible river sites. They were accompanied by a volunteer and the volunteer's watercraft at each location and conducted water quality and AIS monitoring. Parameters examined were general weather conditions, boat landing signage, presence/absence of invasive species, Secchi visibility, temperature at intermittent depths, and dissolved oxygen, pH, phosphorus, and nitrate at 1 meter below the surface. Forms 3200-124 and 3200-130 were completed and entered in the SWIMS database.

- 4.) Disseminate AIS information at boat landings, public areas, resorts, businesses, tournaments, and news articles.

The Watercraft Inspection Coordinator provided AIS materials to CBCW volunteers, boaters, at the Fourth of July Keyes Lake boat parade. CBCW volunteers and AIS signage provided AIS information and brochures at boat landings.

The Invasive Species Program Manager submitted an article about purple loosestrife to the Florence Mining News on July 30. LCD staff submitted an article about the forming “weed” cooperative to the Florence Mining News on July 30. The Invasive Species Program Manager submitted four articles to the December issue of the Florence County Connections newsletter.; *Proposed Invasive Species Ruling*, *Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative*, *Florence County Aquatic Invasive Species Program*, and *Boater Efforts are Containing VHS*.

LCD staff presented AIS information at Florence County Lakes and Rivers Association (FCLARA) monthly meetings, monthly Wild Rivers Invasive Species Cooperative meetings, the Water Protection Workshop on June 14, the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association annual picnic on July 19, the Keyes Lake Association annual picnic on July 26, FCLARA’s annual picnic on August 16, the Florence County Fair August 22-24, Wild Rivers Advisory Committee fall meeting on September 26, visited with the new Fay Lake Resort owners on October 27, and at all three fall sessions of the Natural Resource Education program for Florence County High School and Forest Park High School students.

5.) Develop/distribute a healthy shoreland living packet.

The Land Conservation Department and UW-Extension are refining an existing healthy shoreland living packet. The Invasive Species Program Manager will distribute the packets in 2009.