



Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Division of Plant Industries
P.O. Box 7249 • Boise, Idaho 83707
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BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR
CHANEL TEWALT, DIRECTOR

September 11, 2025

The Honorable Brandon D. Woolf
State Controller
Idaho State Board of Examiners
700 W. State Street, 5th Floor
Boise, Idaho 83720-0011

Dear Controller Woolf,

Please accept the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's request for deficiency warrant spending approval as authorized under the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008, Section 22-1912, Idaho Code, for the treatment of quagga mussels in the Snake River near Twin Falls.

Since 2009, the State of Idaho has invested significantly in the effort to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species such as quagga or zebra mussels. Established quagga mussel populations pose serious threats to water delivery and hydropower infrastructure, recreation, and native species. Because of Idaho's active statewide monitoring, ISDA detected quagga mussels and launched an immediate response in 2023. To our knowledge, that treatment plan was the first of its type and scale undertaken in the United States.

In 2023 and 2024, ISDA treated the Snake River's infested area with chelated copper, both treatments reduced the quagga mussel population. Potholes (Ephemeral ponds) outside the river were also treated with potassium chloride (Potash) in early 2025. Sampling data shows a 51% reduction in the quagga mussel-impacted area, now at 3.5 miles compared to 7.2 miles in 2024. Sampling efforts doubled in 2024 compared to 2023, and in 2025 alone, ISDA collected more than 450 samples in the infested stretch. A mandatory inspection and decontamination zone from watercraft remains in place along the Snake River from Broken Bridge to Hansen Bridge to prevent the spread. Together, these treatments, monitoring efforts, and containment measures have not only kept the infestation contained but has significantly reduced the impacted area.

This treatment plan has been developed to address survey data showing a concentrated population of Quagga Mussel from Sageview to Shoshone Falls. Focus continues to be on maintaining an effective treatment concentration of 1 ppm of copper through the treatment area over a 200-hour period, followed by dissipation of copper to background levels downstream. The plan also accounts for river depth, freshwater inputs and variable flows to ensure treatment effectiveness across the complex river system.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has been an important partner in understanding potential impacts of treatments on fish populations. During the 2023 and 2024 treatments, IDFG performed pre-treatment surveys throughout the treatment area, and addressed fish mortality during and post-treatment. IDFG will continue to be the lead agency on monitoring fish populations.

ISDA benefits from continued partnership and cooperation from state and federal agency partners, Idaho Power, the Twin Falls and Northside Canal Companies, the Twin Falls County, local leaders and our contractor partners of SePRO and Clean Lakes.



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After the initial detection of Quagga Mussel Veligers in the Mid-Snake River late in the season of 2025, ISDA implemented an aggressive delimit plan to sample on a more intensive grid of 250 sample locations from below the Milner Dam downstream to Bliss. The samples collected have been sent to two different labs, as a cross check, to confirm the findings of the original samples. This sampling, paired with our routine monitoring, confirmed no presence of quagga mussels upstream of Twin Falls Reservoir. The delimit sampling also confirmed no downstream movement of quagga below Shoshone Falls. The delimit points help to direct control efforts to ensure all active infestation areas are targeted. Of the 250 delimit sample locations, only those in the Twin Falls Reservoir downstream to Shoshone Falls showed active quagga populations. ISDA has no other positive detections through microscopy or environmental DNA.

Proposed Budget (based off 2024 actual expenses and 2025 estimates)

Contracted Applicator & Chemical Treatment	Acres	Rate	Total
Application Rate Watercraft	227.404	\$218.02	\$49,578.62
Application Rate Tote		\$272.53	\$61,974.41
Mobilization Fee			\$89,622.91
Molluscicide	Gallons	Rate	
Natrix	71,225	\$40.67	\$2,896,720.75
Operating – Services & Supplies			\$150,000.00
Estimated Total Cost		\$3,247.896.69	

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Thompson, Administrator, Division of Plant Industries at (208) 332-8620.

Sincerely,

Chanel Tewalt
Director

cc: Lloyd Knight, Deputy Director
Stevie Harris, Deputy Director - Operations
Andrea Thompson, Administrator
Kelly Nielsen, Administrator



Idaho Statutes

Idaho Statutes are updated to the website July 1 following the legislative session.

TITLE 22

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

CHAPTER 19

THE IDAHO INVASIVE SPECIES ACT OF 2008

22-1912. CONTROL AND ERADICATION COSTS — DEFICIENCY WARRANTS — COOPERATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES AND CITIZENS. Whenever the director determines that there exists the threat of an infestation of an invasive species on state-owned land or water, private, forested, range or agricultural land or water, and that the infestation is of such a character as to be a menace to state, private, range, forest or agricultural land or water, the director shall cause the infestation to be controlled and eradicated, using such moneys as have been appropriated or may hereafter be made available for such purposes. Provided however, that whenever the cost of control and eradication exceeds the moneys appropriated or otherwise available for that purpose, the state board of examiners may authorize the issuance of deficiency warrants against the general fund for up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in any one (1) year for such control and eradication. Control and eradication costs may include, but are not limited to, costs for survey, detection, inspection, enforcement, diagnosis, treatment and disposal of infected or infested materials, cleaning and disinfecting of infected premises or vessels and indemnity paid to owners for infected or infested materials destroyed by order of the director. The director, in executing the provisions of this chapter insofar as it relates to control and eradication, shall have the authority to cooperate with federal, state, county and municipal agencies and private citizens in control and eradication efforts; provided, that in the case of joint federal/state programs, state moneys shall only be used to pay the state's share of the cost of the control and eradication efforts. Such moneys for which the state shall thus become liable shall be paid as a part of the expenses of the Idaho state department of agriculture out of appropriations that shall be made by the legislature for that purpose from the general fund of the state. In all appropriations hereafter made for expenses of the department, account shall be taken of and provision made for this item of expense.

History:

[22-1912, added 2008, ch. 387, sec. 1, p. 1065.]

How current is this law?