



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

PROGRAM UPDATE

- Over the past two years the Department working with New Mexico State Parks Division (NMSPD), the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has tested all major reservoirs in the State for Aquatic Invasive species.
- All test results, except one from Sumner Lake, have been determined to be free of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- The Department, working with NMSPD has trained most field staff to conduct AIS inspections. Additionally, key staff in each region of the State have been trained to decontaminate any boats suspected of or know to have AIS.
- The Department working with NMSPD has conducted outreach/education efforts throughout the State.
 - Mailed postcard to all New Mexico registered boat owners (approx. 34,000) reminding them to Clean, Drain, Dry.
 - Placed billboards at key locations entering and leaving BOR lakes around the State.
 - Conducted public meetings with bass clubs and community groups in Logan and Farmington as well as other communities
 - Operated inspection stations on major holiday weekends at popular lakes to both inspect boats and to inform the public of risks and need for care.
 - NMSPD hired summer interns under a BOR grant to conduct daily inspections and provide outreach at BOR Lakes (Heron, Navajo, Sumner, Elephant Butte and Caballo Lakes)
- Sumner Lake
 - Two samples tested positive for AIS by BOR lab. DNA from BOR lab tested at private lab also determined to be positive.
 - Subsequent weekly samples have all been negative
 - Results from BOR lab may be suspect



- Department in concert with NMSPD took prudent action to close lake to protect other New Mexico resources upon BOR and confirmatory findings. All boats on lake at time were decontaminated.
 - Lake was reopened with limited entry and hours of operation
 - Upon a full season of sample results (October) a final decision on the status of Sumner Lake will be made.
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- Department working with NMSPD has developed draft management plans for Navajo Lake and Elephant Butte Lake
 - Department is in the process of hiring an AIS Program Manager. To date the program has been an additional task placed on existing staff.
 - Department and NMSPD have worked to obtain federal grants to assist program as well as expending State funds.
 - Currently, Department and NMSPD are in discussions with the San Juan Water Commission for partial funding of a permanent decontamination station at Navajo Lake
 - Efforts need to focus on building understanding of potential impacts to all water users and funding preventive/containment measures.