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FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR REMOVAL OF EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL FROM IDAHO WATERWAYS

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced today it is accepting applications from those interested in receiving funds aimed at eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil from Idaho's lakes and rivers.

Applications will be received at ISDA in Boise from January 16 to March 16, 2007. Information regarding this program and applications for funds are available at <http://www.idahoag.us>.

Projects funded through this solicitation will continue the response the Idaho State Legislature initiated in 2006 when \$4 million was set aside for ISDA to begin eradication and control of Eurasian watermilfoil in Idaho.

Eurasian watermilfoil is an aggressive noxious weed that quickly roots itself in Idaho's lakes and rivers, spoiling the state's scenery, impairing wildlife and fish habitat and posing a danger to swimmers. The weed has the potential to form large blooms, eventually turning into ugly brown mats that sit on the water's surface. The blooms can easily entangle swimmers and boat props. The blooms are harmful to fish habitat, as they can starve the water of much-needed oxygen. Once disturbed and broken apart, the weed can quickly re-root and start a new infestation.

Successful applicants will be notified in April of award funding, and will be required to complete the project and then submit a final report to ISDA no later than November 30, 2007.