

SNAKE RIVER QUAGGA MUSSEL TREATMENT

On October 3, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will begin implementing a copper-based treatment to eradicate quagga mussels in the Mid-Snake River area. For more information on quagga mussels, visit Idaho.gov/quagga.

ISDA is utilizing a comprehensive treatment strategy, which has been developed with the review and assistance of many agencies and groups:

- Governor's Office
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Office of Species Conservation
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Water Resources
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Power
- Canal companies
- Idaho Water Users Association
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

We appreciate the continued assistance and cooperation of the Twin Falls and Jerome County Commissioners, the City of Twin Falls, and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management.

Notifications:

The ISDA has worked to notify members of the public in the Magic Valley area of the treatment that will be in the Mid-Snake River through in several ways:

Legal Notification

- The ISDA is following notification requirements on the treatment product's label.
- Worker Protection Standard bilingual warning signage is posted along the river in the impacted treatment area.

Additional Notification

- State and federal land managers with property along the river are assisting with notification to impacted stakeholders.
- Reader boards are stationed at all main public access points to the treatment area.
- Paid advertisements (radio, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor)
- Public Treatment Town Hall Briefing before the treatment start-date.

- Coordination with HOAs with private docks.
- ISDA staff will be door-knocking to stakeholders with water-front access October 1st and 2nd before the treatment.

What is the treatment?

Natrix is a copper-based product that is labeled and approved by EPA for these kinds of aquatic applications. Similar copper-based products are used in Idaho and other states for mussel, fish, algae, and plant control.

Timeline - ISDA will begin treatment on Tuesday, October 3, using a comprehensive strategy. The treatment will occur in two phases over the course of 10 days. The treatment is being applied at a rate that will eradicate mussels but is below the drinking water standard for humans.

Application - The product will be slowly metered into the water to achieve 1 ppm and will be maintained at the level by close monitoring by ISDA staff. After 96 hours of the first treatment, a second identical treatment will occur.

Treatment will begin to dissipate immediately outside of the application area (Twin Falls Dam to Centennial Park). The product is expected to dissipate by 70% within a 16 mile stretch downriver of Centennial Park. Within this 16-mile dissipation area, product will be present in the water for approximately three days after the final treatment application. The treatment is expected to finish on October 13. The ISDA will post the final treatment day on our website and in our stakeholder update email.

Impact

Quagga Mussels - The treatment application will occur across a six-mile section – less than one percent – of the Snake River and is intended to eradicate quagga mussels at all life stages.

Drinking Water - The treatment is not expected to impact any drinking water sources. The application rate of Natrix at the immediate application site is lower than the drinking water standard. There are no public drinking water intakes near this treatment area of the Snake River.

Aquatic Species – The treatment will cause mortality in aquatic plants and algae within the treatment area of the river.

Fish – To prepare for the treatment impacts, Idaho Department of Fish and Game has conducted a fish assessment of the Mid-Snake River Area. The treatment will cause significant mortality of fish in the 6-mile reach from the Twin Falls pool above Shoshone Falls downstream to Auger Falls. Fish mortality is expected to decline rapidly as the treatment is diluted downstream.

IDFG has established a benchmark on current fish populations that will help guide future fish restoration efforts and options to rebuild the fishery after the treatment. For more information on the impacts to fish in the area, contact Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Other Wildlife – The Idaho Department of Fish and Game expects no anticipated population impacts to mammal or birds within the treatment area based on the proposed treatment plan.

What can you do to help?

Stay of the water – While the response and treatment are implemented, access to the Mid-Snake River from Twin Falls Dam to Niagara Falls is CLOSED. To minimize any exposure to the treatment and to prevent the movement of mussel larvae, any persons, watercraft, pets, decoys, and fishing tackle are temporarily prohibited from accessing the water. For current closure information, visit idaho.gov/quagga.