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OMAHA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
FORT PECK PROJECT OFFICE  
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CENWO-OD-FP

6 April 2011

FORT PECK PROJECT OFFICE POLICY LETTER 11-19

SUBJECT: Policy and Procedures for Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

This policy applies to all employees working in aquatic environments. This policy has been written in response to the recent discovery of Eurasian Watermilfoil (a category III noxious weed in Montana) found in the Dredge Cuts below Fort Peck Dam and Fort Peck Lake.

1. Aquatic invasive species are a threat to aquatic resources. Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-leaf Pondweed, Whirling disease, New Zealand mud snails, and zebra mussels are just a few of the destructive and aggressive invader species that threaten waterways. People and equipment that come in contact with aquatic systems can easily transport these harmful species. This letter provides specific guidance for implementation of these procedures at the Fort Peck Project.

2. All personnel working in an aquatic environment shall adhere to this policy to ensure that field workers are not transferring aquatic nuisance and invasive species into new sites. Particular attention should be paid to inspecting, cleaning and disinfecting equipment after working in areas known to be infested with an aquatic invasive species. All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before using it in a different location.

a. Boats, trailers and other equipment that enters the water:

- Before leaving any body of water remove all sediment, vegetation and aquatic animals from boat, trailer and other equipment (i.e. heavy equipment used to move docks, oil spill barrier, and anchors).
- Drain all water from boat, including from the motor, live well and bilge. Do not transfer any water from one body of water into another.
- Disinfect boat with a 20% commercial bleach solution and rinse boat and trailer with water. Pressure washing with hot water is preferred, when possible.
- If high pressure, hot water (<140°) is used, no soap, detergents or chemicals are necessary. It is recommended to leave equipment outside in the sun, after opening and exposing compartments and wet locations. Towel dry areas that tend to remain wet.

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FORT PECK PROJECT OFFICE POLICY LETTER 11-19 (cont.)

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b. Waders, nets and all other field equipment used in the water:

- Separate all individual components such as insoles, socks, booties, ankle guards and laces. Wash all components separately.
- Remove all sediment, vegetation and aquatic animals from all equipment. Pay particular attention to the soles of waders.
- Disinfect all equipment in a 20% commercial bleach solution for 10 minutes or a 5% bleach solution for 1 hour.
- If chlorine disinfection is not used, an alternative is to ensure all equipment is thoroughly cleaned with hot water such as in a bucket or bathtub and allowed to soak for sufficient time to allow components to reach water temperature, and allowed to dry completely for as long as possible between visits to different sites.
- Always work from upstream to downstream when possible.



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CF: All Fort Peck Project Natural Resource and Maintenance Employees  
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