

Milfoil rinse station to be unveiled

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Staff writer

City of Hauser to celebrate 60 years

HAUSER -- The unveiling of Idaho's first stationary watercraft rinse station to prevent Eurasian milfoil will be held Saturday in conjunction with the city of Hauser's 60th birthday celebration.

The rinse station dedication starts at 11 a.m. behind the Hauser Lake fire station, 10728 Hauser Lake Rd., followed by the birthday barbecue at noon.

"The rinse station will be a boilerplate for the rest of the state to follow," said Jim Wallace of the Hauser Lake Watershed Coalition.

The station was funded with a \$17,000 Idaho Department of Agriculture grant.

Rep. Eric Anderson, R-Priest River, the sponsor of the effort to obtain the state funds, will receive the coalition's first merit award for "making a difference."

Reps. Frank Henderson, R-Post Falls, Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene, and Sen. Jim Hammond, R-Post Falls, will be recognized for assisting with the project.

The first watercraft to be used at the rinse station will be the coalition's pontoon boat shown by James and Jabet Wheeler.

The Lakeland A Cappella choir will perform and the Lakeland Junior Miss court will be on the watercraft.

Hauser Lake does not have milfoil, an invasive weed that has spread to many Idaho lakes.

"The rinse station is expected to not only prevent the noxious weed from establishing itself in Hauser Lake, but also to eliminate the need to take other eradication action," said John Wallis, coalition president.

Motorists will simply tow their watercraft into the rinse station and spray them with water to rinse off weeds and other materials that remained on the craft after the last outing.

Coalition members will hand out educational materials at the station this summer. The city of Hauser will then take over oversight of the station, which is at the lake's lone boat launch.

"The rinse station is a major accomplishment for the (coalition) and a true asset to any lake community, let alone one the size of Hauser," Wallis said.

Wallis said the city's involvement helped make the grant application attractive to the state.

Local businesses and groups kept the project under budget and provided upgrades to the station, Wallis said. Those assisting included the Lions Club, Central Pre-Mix, Cedar Creek Builders, Harsh Construction, Ferguson Enterprises, Consolidated Supply, Poe Asphalt, Coeur d'Alene Paving, Panhandle Concrete Products and Sawhorse Ranch.

The birthday celebration will feature a barbecue, cake and music by the local bluegrass band Spur of the Moment. Hauser Mayor Ed Peone will speak. Both events are free and open to the public.

Hauser, which has about 700 residents, was incorporated in May 1947.

Information: Wallis, 777-6967