

Aquatic Hitchhiker Fact Sheet for Lake Tahoe

Who are they?

Currently in Lake Tahoe

- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Curlyleaf pondweed

Potential invaders of Lake Tahoe

- Zebra Mussel
- Quagga Mussel
- New Zealand Mudsnail
- *Hydrilla sp.*



Why should you care?

Ecological Problems:

- Displace native plants.
- Reduce biodiversity.
- Alter normal ecological processes (e.g. nutrient cycling, water cycling) that help maintain functioning ecosystems.
- Decrease wildlife habitat.
- Damage water quality.



Quagga Mussel

Zebra Mussel

Economic Problems:

- Cost Millions of dollars each year in control efforts and lost revenues.
- Decrease property values.
- Reduce recreational values and uses and decrease tourism.

Why Boat Inspections?

All watercraft are potential vectors for spreading aquatic invasive species. Voluntary boat and trailer inspections, particularly by boaters such as yourselves, are an essential part of preventing the inadvertent transfer of alien species from one water body to another. Many kinds of aquatic pests, both plants and animals, are easily carried by watercraft.

Beginning this summer, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) is partnering with the Tahoe-Baikal Institute (TBI) and other local volunteer groups to conduct boater outreach and inspections. The TRCD is a local non-regulatory agency whose mission is to assist land owners and managers implement conservation practices on their property. The TBI is local non-profit organization that promotes ecological and cultural understanding through international exchange at Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal, Siberia. Both of these fresh water lakes share similar environmental attributes and pressures.