

Plans under way to remove milfoil in Tahoe Vista

This winter the Tahoe Resource Conservation District plans to tackle a new infestation of Eurasian milfoil at the Tahoe Vista boat launch.

This year TRCD treated 4.5 acres at Lakeside Marina and Beach, Crystal Shores marinas, Fleur du Lac's outer harbor and in the Truckee River.

Treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil is important for water quality because the invasive plant raises pH, decreases oxygen, and increases water temperature, all of which alter the ecosystem and negatively impact recreation and public safety.

In 2010, TRCD, in collaboration with the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program, began treatment of approximately 6 acres of aquatic invasive plants in the near shore by Vikingsholm. The control methods included bottom barriers, which kill plants by eliminating light, and diver-assisted suction removal, which physically removes plants and roots. After four years of comprehensive treatment, Emerald Bay remains free of aquatic invasive plants.

"While bottom barriers and diver-assisted suction removal have proven to be successful, there is a need to identify other techniques that could help us get ahead of the battle, particularly with persistent plant species such as curlyleaf pondweed," TRCD District Manager Kim Boyd said in a press release.

Ultra-violet light is a potential solution, especially in low water years and in tight spaces within marinas. TRCD will

continue to work with partners this winter to finalize environmental documentation and permitting so UV light can be tested in Lake Tahoe in 2017.

Funding for these projects has been provided by Truckee River Fund, Tahoe Fund, Rotary Club of Tahoe City, California Tahoe Conservancy, and Nevada Division of State Lands.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report