



# Memo

To: Mayor and Hayden City Council

From: Abbi Sanchez, City Clerk

Date: April 14, 2026

**Agenda Item: Proposal for Lake Host at the Honeysuckle Beach Facility**

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## **Agenda Item Location**

New Business

## **Recommended Action or Motion**

Provide staff direction regarding the proposal

## **Background/Functional Impact of Authorizing**

The Hayden Lake Watershed Association (HLWA) and Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District (HLWID) are proposing a cost-shared partnership with the city to create a seasonal Watercraft Monitor internship at the Honeysuckle Beach boat launch.

The proposed paid internship would serve as a lake-host and monitoring position focused on protecting water quality and gathering operational data. Key responsibilities include verifying invasive species permits on out-of-state watercraft, conducting voluntary boat inspections and public education on invasive species prevention and shoreline protection, and promoting “Clean, Drain, Dry” practices. The position would also track launch usage, collect data on in-state vs. out-of-state traffic, and monitor compliance with city permits and payment requirements.

The partners emphasize the proposal as a low-cost, high-impact initiative that would improve environmental protection while providing valuable usage and compliance data to support city planning, maintenance budgeting, and future grant opportunities. A visible presence at the launch is also expected to improve voluntary compliance with local regulations.

## **Functional Impact of Not Authorizing**

Not approving the proposal would not immediately change daily operations but could have long-term environmental and planning impacts due to less monitoring, education, and data collection support.

## **Fiscal Impact**

Unknown at this time, however, this specific position was not budgeted for in the FY2026 adopted budget.

**Budget Funding Source / Transfer Request**

Unknown at this time.

**Attachment**

Proposal Letter from Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District and Hayden Lake Watershed Association

April 10, 2026

**Suzanne Cano**, Director  
City of Hayden Recreation and Community Events

Dear Suzanne,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today about our proposal for a Lake Host at Honeysuckle Beach. As suggested, please forward this to **Alan Soderling**, Public Works Director, as well as **Ty Kovatch**, Public Works Deputy. I appreciate your help!

**RE: Collaborative Watercraft Monitoring Internship at Honeysuckle Launch**

On behalf of the **Hayden Lake Watershed Association (HLWA)** and the **Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District (HLWID)**, we are writing to propose a collaborative initiative to monitor the Honeysuckle boat launch and protect Hayden Lake.

We are interested in **partnering with the City to establish a seasonal Watercraft Monitor** position. To demonstrate our commitment to this effort, we are prepared to share the costs with the City of Hayden.

**Position Overview & Purpose**

We envision a paid internship for a student with a strong background in lake management to provide an accurate "snapshot" of ramp activity. Key responsibilities include:

**Environmental Safeguards:** Verify that out-of-state watercraft display the required Idaho Invasive Species sticker, a critical step in preventing the introduction of quagga/zebra/golden mussels and other aquatic invasive species

**Lake Host:** Provide complimentary boat inspections; Capture aquatic invasive species that try to sneak into our lake on boats, trailers, and gear

**Educational Outreach:** Teach boaters the *Clean, Drain, and Dry* method; Provide educational materials for our no-wake zones and shoreline erosion

**Usage Metrics:** Maintain a precise log of the number of daily launches to track peak usage periods

**Geographic Data:** Track the numbers of in-state and out-of-state vehicles and trailers to identify locations/quantities of visitors

**Payment Compliance:** Observe and record whether vehicles display the required City permits or daily payment receipts

**A Low-Cost, High-Impact Partnership**

We believe we can keep the financial burden low while gaining high-value prevention and usage data, which will prove instrumental for the City's future planning, maintenance budgeting, and grant applications. Furthermore, a visible presence at the ramp often encourages voluntary compliance with city ordinances and environmental regulations.

The HLWA and the HLWID are eager to discuss the logistics and estimated costs of this partnership. We believe that by working together, we can help protect the long-term health of Hayden Lake for all residents.

**We request**

1. to be added to the City Council meeting agenda on April 14 for a brief introduction to our proposal,
2. the opportunity to facilitate a presentation by Idaho State Department of Agriculture to the City Parks & Rec commission at their meeting on April 15, and
3. to be added to the City Council meeting agenda on April 28 for further discussion and/or a decision.

We look forward to discussing how we can move this proposal forward.

Best regards,

**Jan Wilkins, President**  
Hayden Lake Watershed Association

**Kristine Regele Bartz, Director**  
Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District