

May 8, 2026

Abbi Sanchez
City Clerk, City of Hayden

Please find attached our project proposal for *Lake Hosts on Hayden Lake*, discussed at the last city council meeting. It is loosely based on a lean start-up business plan. In addition, I will attach drawings of signs that we could place along Honeysuckle as a boater approaches the boat ramp.

I'd also like to provide an update on the status of our Lake Host Project and a request for funding from the City of Hayden.

Partnerships

After securing preliminary approval from the City Commission to place a seasonal Lake Host at Honeysuckle boat ramp this summer, we solidified support from the following partners:

Partner	Status: <i>Approved</i>
City of Hayden	Allow Lake Hosts to operate near the boat launch at Honeysuckle Beach; Allow signs; Allow distribution of educational materials. <i>Preliminary approval</i>
Kootenai – Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District	HR/Admin support: recruit, hire, schedule, and pay Lake Hosts; file payroll taxes. They will submit an invoice to HLWID for reimbursement. <i>Preliminary approval</i>
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Allow Lake Hosts to operate near the boat launch at Sportsman Access on Hayden Lake; Allow signage; Allow distribution of educational materials
Idaho Department of Agriculture – Invasive Species	Provide training to certify Lake Hosts; Provide tablet(s) and software to use on site; provide wrench
Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District	Facilitate Lake Host Program on Hayden Lake and identify and secure funding; recruit volunteers
Hayden Lake Watershed Association	Facilitate Lake Host Program on Hayden Lake and identify and secure funding; recruit volunteers

Partner	Status: <i>Local approval/Seeking Corporate Approval</i>
Hayden Lake Marina	Coordinate effort to recruit retirees who are interested in providing value in a part-time position and appreciate scheduling flexibility and opportunities to learn new skills. ID Department of Ag is willing to train a team of volunteers to full inspector and decontamination certification level if they desire.

We asked each of our partners to echo our “Clean. Drain. Dry.” messaging in their communications, education, and/or outreach. We offered to attend community events to answer questions about invasive mussels or clarify the program itself. The Idaho Department of Agriculture agreed to provide educational materials. Two requests are pending (Hayden Lake Marina and City of Dalton Gardens.)

Finances

We have secured \$17,600 of the \$25,600 goal that we set to fund inspectors from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, and we continue to seek funding from more stakeholders

Request for Funding

We hope that the City of Hayden will consider a contribution of \$5000 toward this project.

Through collaboration, we can help ensure the long-term health and accessibility of Hayden Lake for all residents. We truly believe that Lake Hosts will provide an added benefit: a visible presence at the ramp often encourages voluntary compliance, whether that be payment of launch fees, invasive species stickers, trailering with plugs removed, proper life jackets, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kristine Regele Bartz

Kristine Regele Bartz, Director
Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement

Project Proposal: Lake Hosts at Hayden Lake

<p>The Challenge: An Imminent Threat</p> <p>We are interested in preventing an infestation of aquatic invasive species (AIS) with particular emphasis on invasive mussels, including quagga, zebra, and a more recent intruder, the golden mussel. Once introduced, invasive mussels are nearly impossible to eradicate. They destroy ecosystems, foul beaches, clog infrastructure and restrict water intake, impede hydropower equipment and irrigation pipelines, and ruin boat engines. Tourism typically plummets because fisheries and beaches are destroyed. In addition, mussel infestations typically reduce property values and decimate tourism.</p>	<p>Our Solution</p> <p>Place a lake host at both public launch points on Hayden Lake: Honeysuckle Beach and Sportsman Park</p> <p>What is a Lake Host?</p> <p>Lake Hosts serve as our local line of defense in protecting Hayden Lake from invasive plants and animals. They primarily educate the public, but are certified to inspect and assist boaters in removing plants and animals from boats and gear.</p>
<p>Why Now and Why Us?</p> <p>Over the past 2 years, the State of Idaho has required state agencies to reduce spending by approximately 5%. Hourly wages for inspectors failed to keep pace, leading potential applicants to consider alternatives like Amazon. Lacking adequate staffing levels, inspection stations are faced with reducing the number of days/hours they are open. The opportunity to evade state-sponsored inspection is real, leaving our waterways vulnerable to invasive aquatic species like mussels.</p> <p>The primary vector for the introduction of mussels is through watercraft transport from one body of water to another. It is a man-made problem; therefore, it is preventable. The cost of this prevention strategy is a fraction of the millions of dollars required for long-term treatment and management.</p>	<p>Projected Expenses:</p> <p><i>Labor:</i></p> <p>Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend = 16 weeks. 40 hours per week \$20 per hour (includes actual pay + taxes+ work comp + admin) 16 x 40 x \$20 = \$12,800 GOAL: Two Hosts Total Anticipated Expenses \$25,600</p> <p><i>Materials & Equipment:</i></p> <p>Table, Shade tent, Hats, T-shirts, safety vests, flashlights, educational materials</p> <p>Revenue Streams</p> <p>Hayden Lake Watershed Improvement District \$8800 Hayden Lake Watershed Association \$8800 Others yet to be confirmed, including in-kind donations</p>
<p>Education Activities</p> <p>Guide boaters at the launch Inform boaters about invasive species Instruct boaters on Clean/Drain/Dry Distribute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State-approved educational materials - Informational brochures/flyers describing activities, fish species, lake rules, and a map of the Hayden Lake Watershed 	<p>Objectives and Milestones</p> <p>Detection of Aquatic Invasive Species Address non-compliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invasive species sticker - Out-of-state inspection <p>Raise public awareness about the dangers of AIS Provide input to State and City databases Help direct the efficient use of boat ramps</p>

Team Roles	
Kootenai – Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District	HR/Admin support: recruit, hire, schedule, pay, and submit invoice to HLWID for reimbursement
City of Hayden	Allow Lake Hosts to operate near the boat launch at Honeysuckle Beach; Allow signs; Allow distribution of educational materials
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Boat
Inspections
Available
Ahead

Don't
Move
a Mussel!

Remove
Bilge and Ballast Plugs
When Trailering
in Idaho

Idaho Requires
INVASIVE
SPECIES
STICKERS
on All Watercraft

Clean.
Drain.
Dry.

Lake Host Ahead

Keep
Hayden,
Hayden!