

# Fallen Leaf Aquatic Invasive Species ( AIS ) Inspector Program gets underway

There are plans by the TRPA to put AIS inspection stations around Lake Tahoe in order to inspect all watercraft coming into the Lake Tahoe Basin, for example, at the “bug station” in Meyers, and at the intersection of HWY 28 and the Mt Rose highway in Nevada. These stations, however, **will not stop** paddlers from simply going **between** Lake Tahoe and FLL.

The major critical problem is that the USFS does not have the resources to inspect the many day user paddlers who are now entering Fallen Leaf Lake with non motorized watercraft, i.e. (kayaks, canoes, fishing boats, etc). Many times these boaters are coming from nearby Lake Tahoe which is already infested by AIS.

Tahoe RCD is a regional conservation district which receives funding from governmental grants and other sources and uses those funds to promote conservation and improvement of the Tahoe Basin’s soil, water, and related natural resources for the benefit of the public.

FLLPA is a non profit 501©(3) organization established for the purpose of protecting Fallen Leaf Lake and its surroundings for the benefit of Fallen Leaf homeowners and members of the public alike who enjoy its clarity and natural beauty.

Among other services which Tahoe RCD provides is a service to hire, train, and oversee inspectors whose duties are to inspect watercraft prior to launch and to discourage, and wherever possible prevent, the launch of watercraft, both motorized and non motorized, which are suspected to be contaminated by Aquatic Invasive Species ( AIS ), in whatever form, including microscopic mussel velagers. Tahoe RCD, using funds being provided by FLLPA, has agreed to hire an inspector **dedicated to Fallen Leaf Lake**, and particularly to cover its north and west shores where access to the lake is readily accessible and where inspection and control has been lacking. FLLPA is currently raising the funds needed to fund this inspector for the period May 1 to October 31 this year.

1. Tahoe RCD has recruited, hired, trained, and is managing an inspector (Mr. Aaron Fox) who commenced work on May 28<sup>th</sup> to inspect and prevent the launch of watercraft (both motorized and non motorized) into Fallen Leaf Lake from the trailhead at the Fallen Leaf campground and from such other places on the north and west sides of Fallen Leaf Lake as the inspector and/or the TRCD or FLLPA shall, from time to time, determine are vulnerable;

2. The inspector's enforcement tools and authority are in accordance with standard procedures currently available to Tahoe RCD and as they may be augmented and modified over time.

3. The inspector commenced the work of inspection and enforcement on May 28, 2010 and will be continuously on site from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM five days a week from Thursday through Monday. (If FLLPA can raise additional funding, the parties agree that it is a goal to provide a uniformed presence from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM seven days a week). Although the Fallen Leaf campground trailhead is the most obviously vulnerable site, the inspector also roams along the north and west sides of Fallen Leaf Lake on both a random basis and also in response to communications received via the telephone number :**(530) 544 boat**. When the inspector leaves the trailhead, he posts his estimated time to return, and alerts the USFS campground concessionaire to his intended absence.

The inspector, at all times while on duty, wears clothing, including shirt, hat, name tag and such other markers as that make him or her readily identifiable as an authorized agent of Tahoe RCD and/or such other agency as Tahoe RCD may decide has the most suitable enforcement power and authority.

**This Pilot project will help prevent AIS from being introduced into FLL by both motorized and non motorized watercraft until a more permanent solution is determined and implemented by governmental agencies, hopefully next year.**

**The FLLPA needs your help so please send a tax deductible donation to:**

**FLLPA  
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