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Truckee Watercraft Inspection Program Prepares for another Successful Boating Season

Truckee, CA – The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) will once again manage the Truckee Area Watercraft Inspection Program for 2011. Entering its second season, Truckee area inspections and boater education on aquatic invasive species (AIS) will take place at Donner Lake and Boca, Prosser, and Stampede reservoirs from April 30 through September 30. Current funding for Truckee Area watercraft inspections and outreach has been provided by the Truckee River Fund.

“We are very happy with the results of the watercraft inspection program from 2010,” said David Kean, Program Coordinator for the Truckee Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (TRAISPP). “Watercraft inspections are the front line to prevent the introduction of AIS, and Tahoe RCD has learned a great deal from operating the Lake Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Program over the past few years. Boaters are encouraged to ‘Clean, Drain and Dry’ their watercraft, including motorboats, kayaks and canoes, prior to launching into new waterbodies.”

Inspections are voluntary but highly recommended to avoid the spread of AIS, such as Quagga and Zebra mussels, New Zealand mudsnails and aquatic invasive plants, which pose a significant threat to Truckee/Tahoe area waterbodies and the local economy. Free decontaminations will be available for high risk vessels wishing to launch at Truckee area waterbodies at the Alpine Meadows Transportation Station parking lot, off Highway 89 and Northstar-at-Tahoe Castle Peak parking lot, off Highway 267.

During 2010, Tahoe RCD inspectors logged over 7,400 Truckee area boater interactions, including both inspections and opportunities for boater education on AIS. Boater surveys completed during 2010 inspections indicated that 85% agree that inspections are an important component in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species.

According to Kim Boyd, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager at Tahoe RCD, “Goals for this year’s inspection program include establishing a stronger presence at Truckee area waterbodies for inspections and education, analyzing the risk of invasive species establishment, developing management alternatives to combat AIS and identifying a sustainable funding structure to enable continued protection of these outstanding waterbodies for future enjoyment.”

To better serve the Truckee area and facilitate AIS prevention efforts, Tahoe RCD has opened a new office in the Tin Can Building in Truckee, located at 10116 Jibboom Street. TRAISPP also holds regular stakeholder meetings to solicit input and

recommendations, and the public is encouraged to attend. For more information, program updates and announcements visit TruckeeBoatInspections.com or contact David Kean at 530.587.4911.

About Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD)

Tahoe RCD's mission is to promote the conservation and improvement of the Lake Tahoe Basin's soil, water, and related natural resources by providing leadership, information, programs, and technical assistance to all land managers, owners, organizations, and residents. Tahoe RCD is a non-regulatory, grant funded, public agency that works with a variety of partner agencies to implement programs and outreach, which currently focus on erosion control, runoff infiltration, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species control, and conservation landscaping.

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