

AIS Subcommittee - Lake Chelan Collaborative

MARCH 11, 2026 MEETING MATERIALS

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Lake Chelan Collaborative
Aquatic Invasive Species Subcommittee
MARCH 11, 2026 10:00 AM – 12:10 PM
CHELAN FIRE STATION, 232 E WAPATO AVENUE + CALL-IN OPTION

1 Overview

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is working alongside the Lake Chelan Collaborative (LCC) to identify key data gaps and issues within the Lake Chelan Watershed and make recommendations on how to best address them. These recommendations will culminate in an updated Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan and Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. A key component of the LCC's deliverables are the Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and Aquatic Invasive Species Detection Program Plan, which will originate within the AIS Subcommittee before being finalized with the larger LCC.

Meeting Schedule

- AIS Inspection Program Plan Open Houses (Chelan, Manson) – Open to public (April and May, dates TBD)
- Next AIS Subcommittee Meeting: Wednesday June 3, 2026, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Field trip: Thursday June 4, 2026, Lake Chelan Inspection Station at the Lakeshore Marina

2 Meeting #2 Objectives

- Present updated AIS Subcommittee workplan/schedule
- Learn from out-of-basin organizations on their respective AIS management programs to facilitate group discussions and inform the AIS Watercraft Inspection Program Plan.
- Learn about the Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board and their ongoing work related to riparian and wetland noxious weed management within the Lake Chelan Watershed.
- Discuss goals for June field trip and April/May open houses.

3 Meeting Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Notes
10:00 AM 20 mins	Welcome and Agenda Overview Workplan and Key Dates	Nate Hough-Snee, Meadow Run
10:20 AM 45 mins	AIS Perspectives from Chelan County and Whatcom County (Invited Speakers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS Perspectives and projects from the Lake Chelan Basin • Whatcom County AIS Prevention Program Overview and Lessons Learned • Group Questions and Discussion 	Adam Pfleeger, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board Chloe Dodd, Whatcom County AIS Prevention Program
11:05 AM 45 mins	PUD Perspectives on AIS (Invited Speakers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from the Skagit Hydroelectric Project • Invasive QZM detection, eradication, and ongoing prevention • Group Questions and Discussion 	Leska Fore, Seattle City Light Michael Stephenson, Idaho Power
11:50 AM 10 mins	Next Steps and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIS Inspection Program Outreach and Open Houses • AIS Mandatory Inspection Program Draft (via email) • June AIS Subcommittee meeting focus: AIS Mandatory Inspection Program Plan and AIS Management Plan 	Stephen Lesky, CCNRD Nate Hough-Snee, Meadow Run

Lake Chelan Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Inspection Program: Scoping and Feasibility Study 2026

Draft Outline (March 2026)

Detecting and Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species in Lake Chelan

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Definition of aquatic invasive species and noxious weeds under RCW
- 1.2. Discussion of jurisdiction and land ownership within the Lake Chelan Watershed
- 1.3. Existing stakeholders and land managers with weed and AIS management responsibility
- 1.4. Purpose and objectives of the Lake Chelan Voluntary Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) boat inspection program (2023-2025)
- 1.5. Rationale for a feasibility study on a mandatory inspection program

2. Program Scope

- 2.1. Aquatic invasive species prevention – targets and goals
- 2.2. Legally defined aquatic invasive species and noxious weeds
- 2.3. Probable species from within the Columbia Basin
- 2.4. Existing invasive species within the Lake Chelan Basin

3. Locations

- 3.1. Lake Chelan boat launch facilities
- 3.2. Chelan County Natural Resources inspection facilities (2023-2026)
- 3.3. Proposed inspection locations (2027 and beyond)
 - 3.3.1. Highway 971 Navarre Coulee
 - 3.3.2. Highway 97A - Southbound
- 3.4. Location Alternatives

3.4.1. Beebe Springs Natural Area

3.5. Prioritization of inspection sites

3.5.1. Proximity to existing inspection locations

3.5.2. WDFW sites

3.5.3. Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Canada inspection sites

4. Inspection Procedures

4.1. Pre-inspection requirements (training, equipment)

4.2. Step-by-step inspection protocol

4.3. Documentation and reporting process

5. AIS Detections

5.1. Communication and outreach

5.2. Incident Command Systems (ICS)

5.3. Reporting and Response

6. Prevention and Control Measures

6.1. Decontamination procedures

6.2. Public education and outreach strategies

7. Compliance and Enforcement

7.1.1. Regulatory framework

7.1.2. Penalties for non-compliance

7.1.3. Reporting violations

8. Budget and Resource Allocation

8.1.1. Staffing and equipment overview

8.1.2. Staffing matrix for full implementation, partial implementation

8.1.3. Equipment acquisition and upkeep

9. Funding sources (ongoing)

1. Federal
2. State
3. Local

10. Program Review and Revision

- 10.1. Periodic evaluation and adaptive management schedule
- 10.2. Stakeholder feedback (pre-implementation, post-implementation)
 - 10.2.1. Public Feedback
 - 10.2.2. Funders and land managers
 - 10.2.3. Internal Review CCNRD Staff

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 11.1. Data collection and analysis
- 11.2. Program performance metrics
- 11.3. Continuous improvement process

12. References

13. Appendix 1 AIS Communication Tools

14. Appendix 2 Outreach Materials

Lake Chelan Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan

Detecting, Preventing, and Managing Aquatic Invasive Species in the
Lake Chelan Watershed

Draft Outline (March 2026)

1. AIS Subcommittee

1.1. Participants

2. Executive Summary

2.1. Plan Overview

2.1.1. Goals and Objectives

3. Introduction

3.1. Rationale for a stand-alone AIS Management Plan

3.2. Watershed and Planning Context

3.2.1. Lake Chelan Collaborative,

3.2.2. Lake Chelan Watershed Plan (2012)

3.2.3. Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Plan

3.3. Definition of aquatic invasive species and noxious weeds under RCW

3.4. Discussion of affected parties, noxious weed / invasive species jurisdiction, and
land ownership within the Lake Chelan Watershed

3.5. Existing stakeholders and land managers with weed and AIS management
responsibility

3.5.1. Current known invasions (Lake Chelan)

3.5.2. History of AIS studies on Lake Chelan

4. Lake Chelan: State of the Lake and AIS

4.1. State of the Science

4.1.1. Known AIS surveys

4.1.2. AIS Planning and Prevention

4.1.2.1. Historic Documents

4.1.2.2. CCNRD Programs

4.1.2.2.1. Lake Chelan Watershed Plan

4.1.2.2.2. AIS Voluntary Inspection Program

4.2. Aquatic Invasive Species

4.2.1. Taxa present in Lake Chelan

4.2.1.1. Animals

4.2.1.2. Plants

4.2.2. Taxa present in the Snake – Columbia hydrosystem

4.2.2.1. Animals

4.2.2.2. Plants

5. Potential Impacts of emerging and Columbia Basin priority AIS on Lake Chelan Ecology and Water Quality

5.1.1. Invasive Quagga, Zebra, Golden Mussels

5.1.2. Flowering Rush

5.1.3. Northern Pike

5.1.4. Other Emerging Species (North America)

6. AIS Prevention and Detection

6.1. Boat Inspection Programs

6.1.1. WDFW Inspection Program

6.1.2. Chelan County Voluntary Inspection Program

6.1.3. Chelan County Mandatory Inspection Program

6.2. Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)

6.2.1. Importance of Early Detection

6.2.2. Species and water-body specific plans

6.2.3. Columbia River Watershed and Statewide Coordination

7. AIS Mapping and Inventory

7.1. The Importance of Mapping and Inventory

7.2. Existing Lake Chelan Mapping and Inventory

7.2.1. Eurasian Watermilfoil

7.2.2. Curlyleaf Pondweed

7.3. Priority Tributary Inventories

7.3.1. Stehekin River Watershed

7.3.2. Domke Lake/Creek

7.3.3. Roses Lake/Stink Creek

7.4. AIS Mapping and Inventory Plan

7.4.1. Recurring Inventory

7.4.2. Invasive Plants

7.4.2.1. Aerial monitoring

7.4.2.1.1. Aircraft and UAV-based

7.4.2.1.2. Satellite-based

7.4.2.2. Boat-based monitoring

7.4.2.3. Citizen science/Public monitoring

7.4.3. Invasive fishes

7.4.3.1. eDNA

7.4.3.2. Citizen science/public monitoring

7.4.4. Invasive mussels and clams

7.4.4.1. eDNA

7.4.4.2. Citizen science/public monitoring

8. AIS Restoration

8.1. Fishes

8.1.1. Northern Pike

8.2. Plants

8.2.1. Removal of plant biomass

8.2.1.1. Aquatic Weed Harvesters

8.2.1.2. Diver assisted suction harvesting

8.2.1.3. Lake water level management

8.3. Invasive Mussels and Clams

8.3.1. Eradication and containment limitations

9. Implementation and Adaptive Management

9.1. Recommended Projects

9.2. Funding Opportunities

9.3. AIS Management Plan updates

9.3.1. New species invasions

9.3.2. Invasion EDRR

10. References

11. Appendices

11.1. AIS Mandatory Inspection Program Feasibility Study

11.2. WDFW AIS Management Plans (as applicable)

11.3. Additional Relevant External Documents as necessary