Quagga Mussel Update

 (D. Jayne, 4-26-24)

The introduction of quagga mussels to the Snake River near Twin Falls last fall poses a major threat to Idaho. This invasive species can quickly spread and clog pipes that deliver water for drinking, energy, agriculture, recreation, and a variety of other uses. The mussels are highly competitive, persistent, and can create monocultures that will eliminate Idaho's diverse biological landscape. A quagga mussel infestation has the potential to cost Idaho hundreds of millions of dollars in actual and indirect costs.

The only place in Idaho where the mussels have been found is in the Snake River. The river was treated with a copper chemical last fall that the Department of Agriculture (DOA) believes killed all adult mussels and larvae. Any live mussels will not be reproducing until this spring when the water temperature reaches 57 degrees Fahrenheit. Sampling will begin again when that occurs. Sampling of Twin Lakes for the mussels will begin this spring and throughout the summer twice a month. TLIA will continue to monitor DOA and report any spread of the mussels in Idaho.

To avoid the spread of Invasive Animals or Plants CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY ALL WATERCRAFT AND ITEMS THAT GO IN THE WATER – This situation is reminder to anyone who has watercraft or items you put in the water to be vigilant in practicing the steps of CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY before putting your watercraft or item back in the water. This includes boats, kayaks, paddleboards, canoes, oars, waders, boots, lifejackets, fishing gear, buckets, nets, and other items.