

# Rainbow Lake weed war resumes July 9

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**Rainbow Lake weed war resumes July 9** David Roberts - The Independent | 0 comments

LAKESIDE Rainbow Lake will be undergoing another weed treatment, this time July 9, and, if needed, 10.

The 2010 treatment for the invasive Eurasian milfoil weeds (myriophyllum) has proven largely successful, but requires some follow-up, which was anticipated in the original contract.

In addition, ceratophyllum, also known as hornworts or coontail, are taking over large areas of the banks.

The latter was not anticipated in the original contract with Aquatechnex of Bellingham, Wash., but there is enough money remaining from the original funds to treat them this year.

The contract was to specify 60 acres at \$200 per acre, but it could require as little as 46 acres of treatment, depending on water table and what else Ian Cormican of Aquatechnex finds when he gets here.

The latter is expected to be a recurring problem.

The Coontail is a floating plant with no established root system, but the weed harvester used by The Shores homeowners association can't keep up with the growth.

"It's like trying to paint the Golden Gate Bridge," explained Cormican.

David Newlin of the Little Colorado River Plateau Resource Conservation and Development, LLC (LCRC&D), which serves as a clearing house for the funds to clean the lake, brought the parties together for a June 22 meeting in Lakeside to set the process in motion.

He explained that the ad hoc lake group still retains \$13,500 from last year's initial effort, to which The Shores contributed most of the seed money. That group budgets around \$15,000 annually for lake upkeep, and it could take close to that much every year to keep the coontail at bay.

Ethan Ellsworth of Show Low Irrigation said that the July 9 timing of the application was good for his company. He said they could shut off flow from the lake for as much as five or six days if needed.

Cormican said the Solera Herbicide, a trade name for diquat dibromide, is a quick-bonding and fast acting herbicide in use since 1955, which should leave the water safe for irrigation after as little as 24 hours, but he asked for a 48-hour shut-down to be safe. He also said with perfect conditions he could have the lake treated as soon as 4 p.m. July 9, but the group collectively said they feel blocking out Saturday and Sunday would be safer.

That would open the lake back up for irrigation purposes Tuesday evening, July 12.

Asked what would happen to the dead weeds, Cormican explained that they would sink to the bottom, decay and increase the nutrients in the lake.

Because that would promote even more algae growth, the Solera will be mixed with chelated copper, or copper that has been mixed with an organic molecule, such as triethanolamine. The copper solution is used for algae suppression.

The R. M. Newman of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Minnesota indicates that the (native) milfoil weevil may be an effective biological weapon in controlling Eurasian milfoil, since it seems to prefer the Eurasian variety to native milfoils. However, he cautions that effectiveness of the weevils is unpredictable.

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