



# August Newsletter

*It's time to get into the weeds. Literally. And not the fun kind.  
Learn more about watermilfoil infestations and what you can do about it.*

Recognize this guy? Here is a photo example of Eurasian watermilfoil. Cleaning off any plants, including milfoil, from watercraft and gear is important to stop the spread of these invasive plants. Nobody wants to step on this as they're entering the lake.



## What's the Deal with Milfoil?

**Eurasian watermilfoil** (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an invasive aquatic plant that is native to Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa. It was first reported in North America in 1942 and has since spread to 45 states and 3 Canadian provinces. Eurasian watermilfoil is present in Lake Chelan and occurs primarily in the Wapato subbasin at the southern end of the Lake, with a few patches reported in the upper Lucerne Basin.

Eurasian watermilfoil has feather-like leaves and can reproduce rapidly, forming dense mats along the surface of the water that can have significant negative effects on water quality and native aquatic ecosystems. A fingernail-sized piece of Eurasian watermilfoil is all it takes to start a new patch of milfoil, but like other submersed aquatic plants, they are unable to spread on land.



Lakefront homeowners who are battling an infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil can reach out to the [Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board](#) for assistance in developing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system to combat this weed. In Washington State, traveling with aquatic plants on your equipment, boat or trailer on any public roadways is a misdemeanor (*RCW 77.15.290*). All plants and fragments must be removed whenever you leave a waterbody and can be disposed of on site in a dry-land location away from the water.

## New Invasive Species Survey

Starting in mid-August Four Peaks Environmental Solutions and Data Solutions will begin a month-long survey of invasive species in Lake Chelan. This effort is funded by private donations to the Lake Chelan Research Institute and by the Chelan County PUD via the Chelan County Natural Resources Department. This is only the second such survey in Lake Chelan (the previous one was in 2014).

This survey will provide key information on growth of milfoil and other invasive species in the lake, helping us decide if we need to actively remove milfoil from Lake Chelan. The survey is managed by Lake Chelan Research Institute, Chelan County Natural Resources, Chelan PUD, and the Chelan County Weed Board. Stay tuned for results and special thanks to the private donors and the PUD!

## Spotlight on Volunteers

**Dwayne Van Epps** is now retired from his tenure as the *Director of Public Works* for the *City of Chelan* but continues to support Lake Chelan through volunteering his services with *Lake Chelan Research Institute*. Through his contribution, he has developed the device pictured here, which will give us the capability of monitoring temperature and specific conductivity from any boat traveling up and down the Lake! These data provide key insights into how water quality may vary between the Lucerne and Wapato subbasins.

