

2015 Kerr Reservoir AVMP Action Plan

Date: April 2015

Current Status of Invasive Aquatic Vegetation: The 2014 aquatic vegetation survey estimates that there are 1,274 acres of hydrilla in the lake, which is an increase of 159 acres from 2013. Brittle naiad (*Najas minor*) continues to be present in several locations. Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) was identified for the first time in two locations.

All actions are subject to the availability of funding.

A. Chemical Control – herbicide treatments

Objective: Target herbicide treatments of hydrilla in high use and high threat areas.

2014 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
 - a. No USACE areas treated with herbicides.
 - b. Four commercial herbicide applicators received authorization – completed 54.36 acres of treatment by commercial applicators contracted by Shoreline Permit holders.
- 2) NCDPR
 - a. 36.45 acres herbicide treatment for hydrilla

2015 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Treat hydrilla in USACE managed areas as needed, subject to available funding.
 - b. Continue to review applicator permit applications, pre-treatment requests, and post treatment reports
- 2) NCDPR
 - a. Treatment of 35 acres of hydrilla in Kerr Lake State Recreation Area – cost share with NCDWR Aquatic Weed Control Program

B. Biological Control - stocking of triploid grass carp

Objective: Decrease acreage of hydrilla throughout the reservoir with emphasis on Nutbush and Little Nutbush Creek

2014 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Purchased of 4000 triploid grass carp. Fish were stocked at 2 locations during May 2014.
- 2) VDGIF
 - a. Made stocking recommendations and issued stocking permit

b. Annual fish monitoring

3) NCWRC

- a. Made stocking recommendations and issued stocking permit
- b. Developed grass carp stocking model

2015 Proposed Actions:

1) USACE

- a. Supplemental stocking of 4000 triploid grass carp.

2) VDGIF

- a. Stocking recommendations and stocking permit
- b. Annual fish monitoring

3) NCWRC

- a. Stocking recommendations and stocking permit

C. Hand Removal

Objective: Temporarily open areas congested with hydrilla and remove plants in small areas, concentrating on high use and high threat areas

2014 Actions Completed:

1) USACE

- a. No requests received

2015 Proposed Actions:

1) USACE

- a. Review requests for hand removal

D. Native Aquatic Vegetation

Objectives: Promote native aquatic vegetation in areas where invasive plants have been removed and suitable areas that have not been colonized by native vegetation

2014 Action Completed

1) USACE

- a. Identified potential sites for pilot planting in consultation with USACE Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility staff

2015 Proposed Actions:

1) USACE

- a. Identify Partners/Volunteers to assist with plantings
- b. Draft plans for planting pilot project

- c. Identify suitable sources for native plants

E. Survey and Monitoring

Objectives: Assess effectiveness of control measures and population of aquatic vegetation

2014 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Funded 2014 NCSU contract to complete Kerr Lake Aquatic Vegetation Survey
- 2) NCSU
 - a. Completed aquatic vegetation survey contract
 - b. Provided management recommendations

2015 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Fund NCSU contract to complete Kerr Lake Aquatic Vegetation Survey.
 - b. Install exclusion cages in hydrilla infested areas to determine effectiveness of grazing by grass carp.
- 2) NCSU
 - a. Aquatic vegetation survey contract
 - b. Provided management recommendations

F. Public Education

Objective: Inform the public and stake holders about how to identify native and invasive aquatic vegetation, report occurrences of invasive species, avoid spreading invasive vegetation, participate and/or contribute to aquatic vegetation management activities, and report unauthorized treatment and illegal transport or dispersal of invasive plants.

2014 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Maintained public information on Corps' web page
 - b. Included printed information on aquatic vegetation in shoreline permit holder mailings
- 2) NC Agricultural Extension Service
 - a. Provided information and updates to public and interested stake holders via "kerrhydrilla" mailing list
- 3) NCSU
 - a. Maintain NCSU aquatic vegetation management site

2015 Proposed Actions:

- 1) All Managing Agencies - continue to maintain invasive aquatic species/hydrilla information signs at access points
- 2) USACE
 - a. Continue to maintain AVMP web page and providing printed information on aquatic vegetation in shoreline permit mailings

G. Enforcement

Objective: Ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations pertaining to aquatic weeds, herbicide application, fish stocking, and planting of aquatic vegetation

2014 Actions Completed:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Enacted invasive species posted restriction policy including requirement to clean visible mud, plants, and animals from boats, trailers and other equipment to avoid spread of invasive species

2015 Proposed Actions:

- 1) USACE
 - a. Continue to enforce rules and regulations