

PARROTFEATHER MILFOIL

Myriophyllum aquaticum

Haloragaceae, the milfoil family

Category: Control

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Parrotfeather milfoil is a sub-tropical to warm-temperate submerged/emergent aquatic invasive that can quickly form dense monocultures in small bodies of water such as canals and streams.
- Provides ideal mosquito breeding habitat and has been observed to clog waterways and cause flooding.

Description

- Parrotfeather milfoil is bright green in color and have a feather-like appearance.
- Leaves are arranged in whorls of 4 to 6 around thick stems with 12 to 36 leaflet pairs.
- Rhizomes occur as dense mats under water's surface and in sediment.

Introduction and Movement

- Native to South America and first discovered in the U.S. as early as 1906 in Florida.
- Was likely introduced via the aquaria trade as an escaped/released aquarium and ornamental plant.
- Reproduction in North America is mostly vegetative and spread occurs rapidly via fragmentation and rhizomatous growth. Re-vegetative plant materials can be easily carried downstream to establish new infestations.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify parrotfeather milfoil and report any sightings.
- Always research aquatic ornamental plants before purchasing and don't plant anything on the noxious weed list.
- Never release aquarium contents or water garden species into surface waters and dispose of unwanted vegetation by burning, composting, or drying out completely.
- When boating, make sure to clean off any vegetative materials when leaving each waterbody, and before launching into another.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW**

DON'T LET IT LOOSE & CLEAN > DRAIN > DRY

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/34939>.
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



Kahla Montrose, ISDA

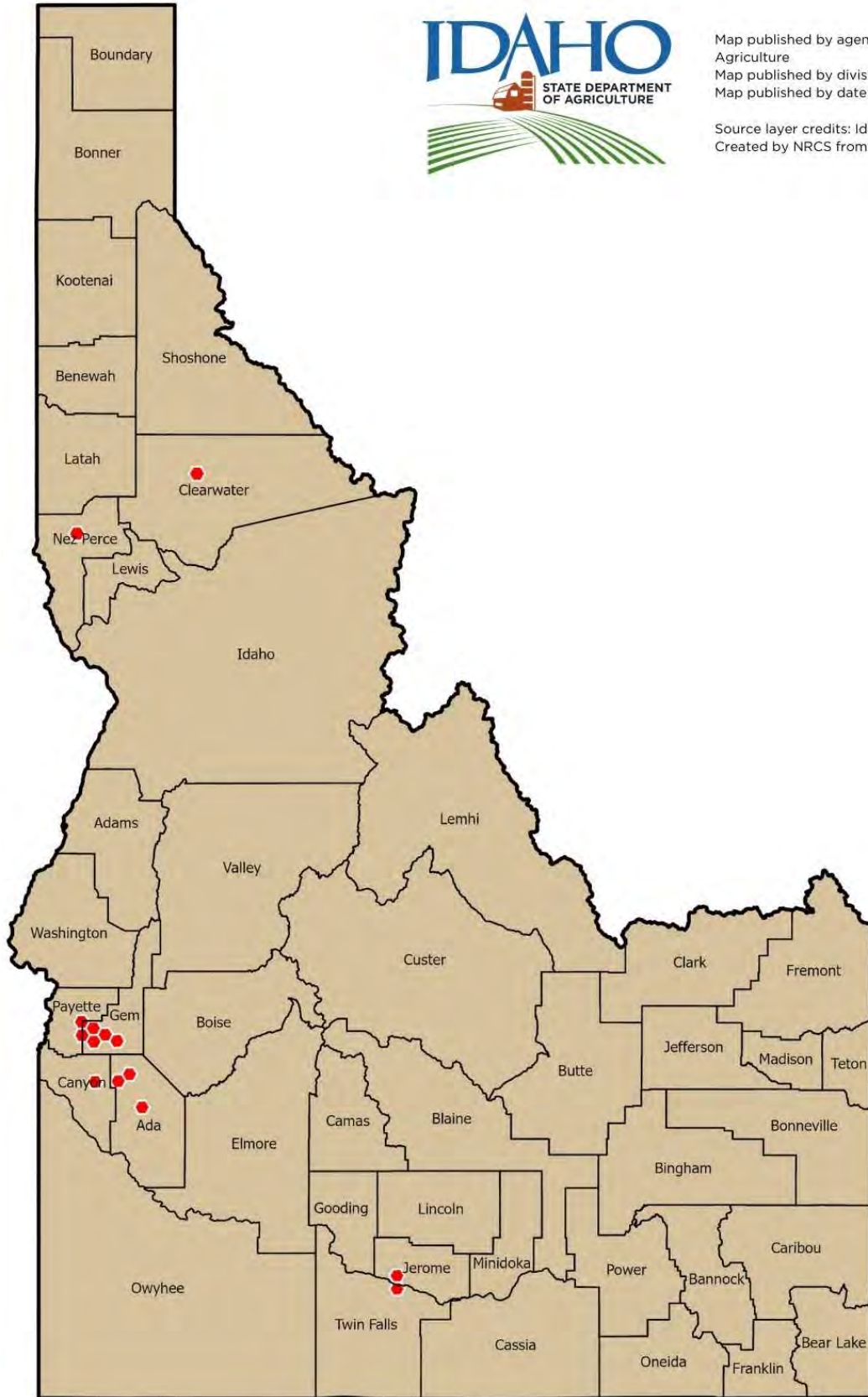


Kahla Montrose, ISDA



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PARROTFEATHER MILFOIL DISTRIBUTION MAP



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