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DNR proposes adding Beck Lake to Elodea eradication effort on Kenai Peninsula

(Palmer, AK) - The Department of Natural Resources is seeking public input on a preliminary supplemental environmental assessment that recommends including Beck Lake in the ongoing multi-agency project to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant Elodea from Kenai Peninsula lakes. In 2013, prior to the discovery of an Elodea infestation in Beck Lake, DNR had approved an environmental assessment for Elodea eradication in Stormy and Daniels Lake.

Adding Beck Lake to the ongoing project will support the multi-agency goal of eradicating Elodea from all Kenai Peninsula waterways where it has been discovered, and thereby protecting the ecological integrity of those waterways. Eradication efforts for the specified lakes include use of herbicides as a part of an Integrated Pest Management Plan.

A copy of the preliminary supplemental assessment and the 2013 environmental assessment are available at: <http://plants.alaska.gov/invasives/index.htm>. In addition to recommending the addition of Beck Lake to the eradication project, the supplemental assessment includes a "no action" alternative. The deadline for public comments is May 29.

To submit a comment or ask questions, please contact Brianne Blackburn by phone at 907-745-8785, by fax at 907-746-1568, by e-mail at brianne.blackburn@alaska.gov, or by mail at Attention: Brianne Blackburn, Stormy and Daniels Lake Elodea Project: Environmental Assessment, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Plant Materials Center, 4310 S. Bodenbug Spur Rd., Palmer, AK 99645.

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