



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
933 E. Court Street, Seguin, TX 78155
www.gbra.org

GBRA will treat Gonzales-Area lakes to control Waterhyacinth

For More Information

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LaMarriol Smith, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, (830) 379-5822 or email lsmith@gbra.org

SEGUIN- Beginning the week of April 19, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will initiate the 2010 vegetation management program to control waterhyacinth at Lake Gonzales (H-4) and Lake Wood (H-5). The treatment will be the first phase of a program that will extend through the spring and early summer to control or remove excessive vegetation and improve navigation on these lakes. Weather allowing, the first phase of treatment of both lakes should be concluded within a week. The lakes will be surveyed approximately every three weeks to follow up the initial phase with additional treatments as necessary.

The lakes will be treated with aquatic herbicide. "Aquamaster" whose active ingredient is glyphosate, is approved for aquatic use by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency," said GBRA director of water quality services, Debbie Magin. "It will be used on waterhyacinth infesting both Lake Gonzales and Lake Wood. Use restrictions are not required with this herbicide."

The Gonzales County Water Supply Corporation is located near the dam on Lake Wood. According to the water system's general manager, Barry Miller, the surface water treatment facility is currently off line.

The application of this herbicide complies with policy guidelines adopted by GBRA's Board of Directors governing the treatment of nuisance aquatic vegetation in lakes and reservoirs operated by GBRA. "The policy creates the general framework necessary to manage nuisance aquatic vegetation to protect water access, quality, and public health and safety while balancing the needs of a healthy aquatic ecosystem," said Magin. The treatment proposals have been submitted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and approved, in compliance with the Statewide Vegetation Management Plan.

Additional information about the Gonzales area treatments and the Statewide Vegetation Management Plan are available at the GBRA General Office, 933 East Court Street in Seguin. For specific information about the project or the aquatic herbicides, contact Magin at (830)379-5822.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio counties.