



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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Lakes Gonzales and Wood Lowered To Freeze Invasive Plants

For More Information

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GONZALES COUNTY - Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority work crews are lowering the levels of Lake Gonzales (H-4) and Lake Wood (H-5) approximately 1 foot tonight in an effort to control invasive waterhyacinths on those lakes.

GBRA officials are employing a natural and less expensive method than chemical treatments to kill off some of the plants by allowing nature to freeze the plants' root systems. "Because water tends to protect the root ball of the plants from freezing, lowering the lake levels will expose the root systems to the freeze, killing the hyacinth," explained Debbie Magin, GBRA's director of Water Quality.

The National Weather Service forecasts the coldest air of the season to arrive in the area this week after an arctic cold front pushes through early Tuesday. Windy and very cold conditions will persist behind the front going into Wednesday. Wind chill values will dip down to near zero across the hill country Tuesday night into early Wednesday...with single digits elsewhere. A storm system will approach from the west late in the week as a cold arctic air mass remains over south central Texas to include Hays, Travis, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Caldwell, Gonzales and DeWitt counties. The result will be chances for snow Thursday night into Friday as the storm system moves over Central Texas.

GBRA officials advise anyone using the lakes for recreational purposes during this time to exercise caution. Lower lake levels may expose debris and other potential hazards that are normally underwater.

Questions about the freeze treatment on waterhyacinths may be directed to Magin at GBRA (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.