# Press Release

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2024
Contact: Natural Resources Department – Aquatic Invasive Species Program
Phone: (775) 574-1050 ext. 22

***POPCORN ROCK BOAT ACCESS CLOSED***

*The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council APPROVED the request from the Aquatic Invasive Species Program to close Popcorn Beach to public boat launches due to the Golden Mussel outbreak in California and potential impacts near the delta of the Truckee River.*

December 18, 2024 – Popcorn Rock – Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation

The invasive golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) was recently discovered in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta and O'Neill Forebay in Merced County and is the first known occurrence of golden mussels in North America. The golden mussel is a brackish water bivalve native to China and Southeast Asia with a wide range of environmental tolerances allowing it to establish in salinities up to 23 parts per thousand with freshwater pulses, a pH range of 5 - 10, and is not limited by calcium like the quagga and zebra mussels. Due to the golden mussels' wide range of environmental tolerances, Pyramid Lake is considered at high risk for invasion, specifically the mixing zone near the delta of the Truckee River where the water chemistry is within the known tolerances for golden mussel survival.

Pyramid Lake is a negative water and has no aquatic invasive species and the golden mussel poses a significant threat to Pyramid Lake and can adversely impact the environment and recreation if it were to become established. Invasive mussels are filter feeders removing plankton and nutrients from the water and when invasive mussels are established in high densities, can cause the collapse of the food web, impacting the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, endangered cui-ui, and other native fish species. Filter feeding also increases water clarity, which has increased the intensity and frequency of harmful algae blooms in mussel infested waters. Invasive mussels can also turn sandy beaches into dense odiferous shells within two years and because they can adhere to surfaces, can clog water intakes causing watercraft motors to overheat and impact steering components.

**As a result of this new invasion to the waters of California and the threat they pose to Pyramid Lake, effective immediately, Popcorn Rock beach is *closed* to public boat launch access due to its proximity to the most vulnerable area of the Pyramid Lake. Protecting the Lake for future generations is the priority.**

The Aquatic Invasive Species Program reminds everyone to Clean, Drain, and Dry watercraft and equipment every time it is removed from a waterbody for 30-days or receive a professional decontamination at the Sutcliffe, NV Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Station at the junction of Sutcliffe Drive and State Route 445. Appointments can be made by calling (775) 574 – 1050 ext. 22.

After every waterbody: CLEAN off all debris, mud, plants, and animals from every part of the watercraft, trailer, and equipment, DRAIN all water from the motor, bilge, ballast tanks, live well, baitwell, and any raw water systems, and DRY all compartments, equipment, storage areas, anchor locker, lines, etc.

For more information on aquatic invasive species and prevention efforts, visit www.pyramidlakeais.org or visit the Facebook page @Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

-###-