

SOUTH OKANAGAN

U.S. puts herbicide in Osoyoos Lake

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Photo: Wayne Moore - Castanet File Photo

How two governments deal with milfoil in Osoyoos Lake is a big topic of conversation during the final day of the Water Science Forum in Osoyoos.

With the lake being shared by both Osoyoos and Oroville, Washington, both sides have different ideas on how best to deal with Eurasian Milfoil.

On the Canadian side, a harvester and rototiller are being used to chop the milfoil out of the lake.

"Our focus right now is to use those rototillers and those harvesters to maximize our potential during the season and during the work windows that are available to us," says Dave Caswell with the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

"We try to keep those rototillers working as much as we can during the coldest time of the year and then the harvesters are out there doing clean up work, basically mowing off the weeds in the summertime."

The machines are not allowed to cross the border, so the Washington Department of Ecology has started putting herbicides on the U.S. side to get rid of the milfoil.

It's something Osoyoos Mayor, Stu Wells says he isn't comfortable with.

"I understand the use of herbicide down there but when we share this body of water, I just think that if they are going to present that and they were going to okay herbicide use that they should have asked for a program," says Wells.

"What's the long term effect of herbicide use on the lake?"

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