



FOUNDATION FOR OUR WORK

Our Background

The UC³ was created in the 2017 legislative session by House Bill 622. This commission was established to foster close cooperation and coordination between international, federal, regional, state, tribal, and local water resource managers to develop and implement comprehensive Upper Columbia River Basin prevention and management measures to prevent the introduction and/or further establishment of AIS.

Our Mission

The mission of the UC³ is to protect the aquatic environment in Montana tributaries to the Columbia River from the threat of AIS in order to protect water resources, downstream interests, and the economic and ecological vitality of the region.



Four Ingredients for a Successful Commission

GREAT LEADERSHIP

We have strong leadership in our executive committee, dedicated commission members, and excellent staff support.

APPROPRIATE TOOLS

We have access to technology and communications tools that allow us to work efficiently and effectively.

A TRUSTED REPUTATION

We have worked hard to be civic minded, share our knowledge widely, and acknowledge and engage all entities addressing AIS.

DEDICATED PARTNERS

The list of organizations working with UC³ is long and diverse including academia, researchers, scientists, agencies, policymakers, and community stakeholders. We continue to engage existing partners and encourage new partnerships to share in our efforts to combat AIS in the Montana portion of the Upper Columbia Basin.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Education & Outreach

- Maintain and utilize three-year Education & Outreach Strategy (per statutory duties)
- Develop annual media plan for UC³ E&O
- Conduct annual industry outreach project
- Provide leadership and support on public, youth and stakeholder engagement
- Assess partner E&O efforts in basin
- Explore options/need for conducting AIS program assessment via online survey biennially
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of UC³'s work, role and responsibilities
- Encourage active engagement of E&O Committee

Monitoring & Citizen Science

- Develop annual monitoring plan (per statutory duties)
- Monitor the aquatic resources of the Columbia River Basin
- Ensure continuity of Upper Columbia Lake Network (UCLN)
- Provide support and information on how to report suspected AIS

Coordination & Collaboration

- Strive to be a source of reliable information on status of AIS in the Upper Columbia Basin
- Connect with partners and stakeholders beyond the basin
- Encourage close cooperation in AIS work among partners throughout the Columbia River Basin
- Emphasize appreciation and recognize exemplary efforts
- Provide support and assistance to state's AIS program
- Provide cooperative, inclusive and open environment to promote coordination
- Explore options for research that adds value to AIS programs

Programmatic Policy & Legislation

- Provide input, feedback and recommendations to the governor and to federal and state agency directors and staff, tribal, provincial, regional and local agencies for reducing the threats from AIS
- Explore and seek to address AIS gaps and challenges for the enhancement of AIS prevention and management in the Upper Columbia Basin and/or Montana

Business & Administration

- Develop annual monitoring plan (per statutory duties)
- Provide accounting and budgeting services
- Follow all applicable agency and board rules and requirements
- Explore options for additional funding