

2024 MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT

Uniting to Protect Montana

Assessing Montana's priority invasive species issues and collaborating to protect our lands, waters, cultural assets, and native species.



HOSTED BY:
Montana Invasive Species Council
Delta Hotel | Helena, MT
November 14th, 2024

7:30 - 8:30**CHECK-IN & BREAKFAST****8:30 - 8:45****WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Steve Wanderaas (Chair) & Liz Lodman, MISC

8:45 - 11:00**STATUS OF INVASIVES IN MONTANA**

Moderator: Liz Lodman, MISC

- Rush Skeleton Weed: Josh Wagoner, MT Dept Agriculture
- Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp: Noelle Orloff, MSU
- Ventenata & Medusahead: Jane Mangold, MSU
- Woody Invasives: Sara Ricklefs, Invasive Species Action Network & Josh Wagoner, MT Dept Agriculture
- Japanese Beetle: Carson Thomas, MT Dept Agriculture
- Feral Swine: Dr. Heidi Hildahl, MT Dept of Livestock
- Tree Pests: Amy Gannon, MT DNRC
- Dreissenid Mussels and other AIS: Craig McLane, MT FWP
- Eastern & Roman Snails: Carson Thomas, MT Dept Agriculture

11:00 - 11:45**WORK SESSION #1 ACTIONS TO ADDRESS INVASIVE SPECIES**

Moderators: Emilie Henry & Casey Lewis, WMCC

- **Question:** *What actions are needed to address the gaps or needs of invasive species of concern?*

11:45 - 12:00**PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF IN AQUATIC PLANT ERADICATION**

Speaker: Craig McLane, FWP

12:00 - 1:00**LUNCH****1:00 - 1:30****CHANGING CLIMATE AND RANGE EXPANSION**

Moderator: Russ Hartzell, MISC

- Donovan Bell, Fisheries Biometrician, MT FWP
- Bruce Maxell, Professor Emeritus, Department of Land Resources & Environmental Sciences, MSU

1:30 - 2:15**COMMUNITY SCIENCE AND REPORTING APPS**

Moderator: Tom Woolf, MT FWP

Community Science at Work in Montana

- Upper Columbia Lakes Network / Northwest Lakes Monitoring Network: Durae Belcer, Whitefish Lake Institute
- Pull Your Share: Dan Wilkins

Reporting Apps for the Public

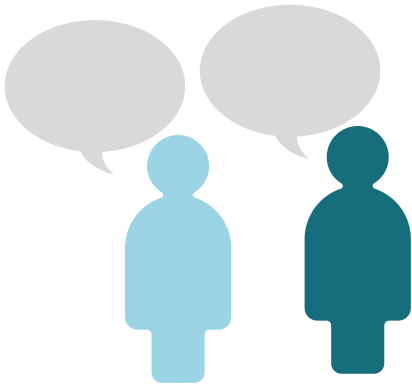
- Bryce Maxell, MT Natural Heritage Program

2:15 - 2:30	BREAK
2:30 - 3:15	<p>INVASIVE SPECIES COMMUNICATION Moderator: Stephanie Murphy, WMCC</p> <p><i>Community-Based Social Marketing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Murphy, WMCC <p><i>Campaigns to Educate the Public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play.Clean.Go. & Adopt a Trailhead: Samantha Yonan, MT Dept Agriculture • Don't Move Firewood: Amy Gannon, MT DNRC • Clean.Drain.Dry. & Protect Our Waters: Nick Danielson, MT FWP • Don't Let it Loose: Sara Ricklefs, Invasive Species Action Network • Don't Pack a Pest & Hungry Pests: Gary Adams, USDA-APHIS • Squeal on Pigs: Liz Lodman, MISC
3:15 - 4:00	<p>WORK SESSION #2 ACTIONS TO IMPROVE INVASIVE SPECIES COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC Moderators: Emilie Henry & Casey Lewis, WMCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: <i>How can you encourage the public to be more engaged regarding invasive species?</i> • Question: <i>What actions are needed to improve invasive species communication?</i>
4:00 - 4:45	<p>RAPID FIRE INVASIVE SPECIES SUCCESS STORIES, NEW COLLABORATIONS, & GOOD NEWS Moderator: Sara Ricklefs, Invasive Species Action Network</p>
4:45 - 5:00	CLOSING REMARKS

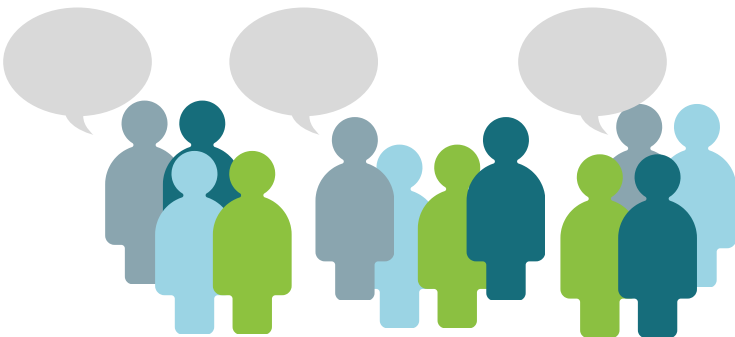
1-2-ALL



Silent Reflection



**Generate ideas in pairs,
building on ideas from
self reflection**



**Each group shares
important ideas with their
table and prepares to
report out.**

MONTANA'S INVASIVE SPECIES TO WATCH

Invasive species are plants, animals and diseases that are non-native to Montana and cause harm to our natural, cultural and economic resources. This list is not ranked in any order and does not encompass all the invasive species of concern to Montana.



BULLFROG ● Widespread Consequences

While native to the Central and Eastern US, bullfrogs are an invasive species in Montana. Bullfrogs are voracious predators of our native wildlife. They can carry the chytrid fungus that affects frogs and amphibians and contribute to the dwindling population of native frogs. A bullfrog removal project is underway in western Montana.

Accelerating Impacts ● **EASTERN HEATH SNAIL**

A small land-dwelling snail that feeds on a wide range of crops and will climb vegetation and fenceposts to escape high ground temperatures. It can contaminate hay and crops, clog harvest and processing equipment, and transmit plant and animal diseases. While most agricultural and plant-pests are insects or pathogens/diseases, this mollusk pest highlights the need for additional taxa to be considered for national plant pest priorities. This snail is found in Cascade and Judith Basin counties.



EMERALD ASH BORER* ● Preventable

This beetle threatens ash trees in Montana's urban communities, shelterbelts, and woody draws. The larvae feed on tissue underneath the bark, killing the tree. Emerald ash borer is one of many tree-killing beetles that can travel long distances in firewood. Preventing the transport of firewood from out of state into Montana can slow the spread of this and other tree pests. Emerald ash borer has infested 35 eastern states but was recently discovered in Oregon.



Preventable ● **FERAL SWINE**

This species will impact agriculture producers through damage to crops, predation on livestock, and as a vector to spread diseases. Their destructive behaviors affect wildlife, habitat, and water resources. Feral swine are rampant in southern US states with no chance of eradication and Canadian populations continue to expand unchecked. Stopping the intentional movement of feral swine and responding to sightings are measures that keep this species out of Montana.



FLOWERING RUSH ● Accelerating Impacts

Invasive aquatic plants degrade aquatic habitats, impede water-based recreation and obstruct irrigation canals. Flowering rush has infested Flathead Lake and downstream to the Clark Fork River. Preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants through cleaning watercraft and preventing aquarium and ornamental pond releases is an important part of protecting Montana's waters.





RUSH SKELETONWEED ○ Accelerating Impacts

A deep-rooted perennial noxious weed that is very drought resistant and can easily spread from rangeland to cropland. Impacts in rangeland include loss of forage and biodiversity. In croplands like cereal grains and potatoes, rush skeletonweed can reduce production, quality, and hamper harvest machinery with sticky latex sap. Rush skeletonweed is very difficult to identify in the field and management can be laborious. It is found mostly in western Montana.

Accelerating Impacts ○ SALT CEDAR

This tall woody shrub establishes in riparian areas and replaces large stands of native cottonwood and willows, reduces wildlife access, increases soil salinity, and has the potential to take up significant amounts of water through a deep tap root. Saltcedar is a drought tolerant species that spreads easily by wildlife and water. When it develops dense stands, it can alter stream channels and floodplains. Saltcedar is found along the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers and tributaries.

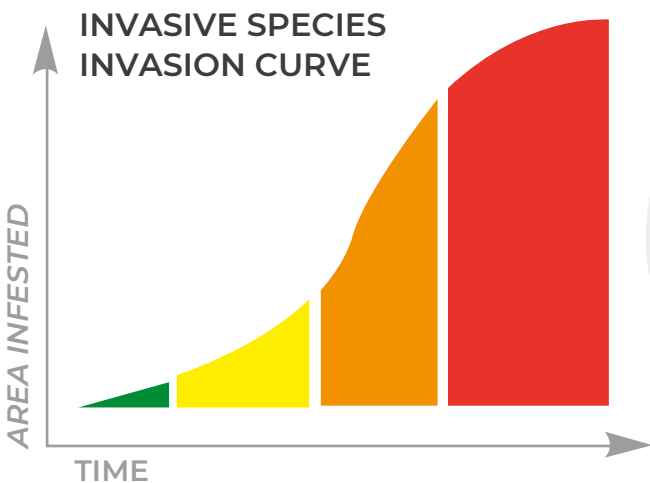


ZEBRA MUSSELS ● Preventable

Invasive mussels can have major impacts on Montana's waters. They disrupt the food chain and impact recreational boating and fishing. Mussels can cause significant damage to infrastructure by clogging pipes used for hydropower, irrigation, and water treatment plants. Zebra mussels are established in the Dakotas and other eastern states. Preventing the spread of invasive mussels by cleaning watercraft and equipment is a top regional priority.

Accelerating Impacts ○ VENTENATA

A noxious winter annual grass which can impact Montana's native landscapes and degrade rangelands, pastures, and crops by decreasing agricultural production and increasing the risk of soil erosion. Ventenata has little to no forage value and its diminutive stature makes it difficult to identify. Ventenata is found from northwestern through southcentral and southeastern Montana.



- **Preventable:** Prevention and early detection programs are low-cost investments to protect Montana from invasive species impacts.
- **Eradication Possible:** With a coordinated and rapid response, eradication can be possible. Financial and programmatic resources must be available to meet the consistent challenges.
- **Accelerated Impacts:** Without swift action, invasive pest populations can grow exponentially and spread fast. Opportunities for eradication are lost when control options become more limited and costs quickly rise.
- **Widespread Consequences:** Once an invasive pest takes hold, it is costly and time intensive to manage the resulting impacts year after year.



WHAT WE DO

The Montana Invasive Species Council is a statewide partnership working to protect Montana's economy, natural resources and cultural resources, and public health through a coordinated approach to combat invasive species.

MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: A STRATEGY FOR MEETING OUR INVASIVE SPECIES CHALLENGES

Developed collaboratively with the public, stakeholders and partners, the Council finalized the Montana Invasive Species Strategic Framework in 2016. The Framework includes over 90 coordinated actions that would better protect Montana from invasive species, five key areas highlighted for improvements are listed below:

COORDINATION:

Respond to invasive species as a shared responsibility and a common priority across the state by integrating and strengthening Montana's management.

PREVENTION:

Reduce the transport of invasive species into and within Montana by fully engaging existing entities and resources.

DETECTION:

Identify invasive species and responsibly share the locations of high priority invasive species across jurisdictions in Montana to focus and improve management.

RAPID RESPONSE:

Develop a generalized rapid response plan for emerging invasive species.

CONTROL:

Grow both capacity and expertise in managing invasive species in Montana to improve program effectiveness.

WHO WE ARE - MISC COUNCIL

Steve Wanderaas, Chair

Conservation Districts, McCone County

Tom Woolf, Vice Chair

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, AIS Bureau

Jason Allen, Vice Chair

Department of Transportation, MDT Maintenance

Jasmine Chaffee

Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Program

Mike Bias

Fishing Representative, Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana

Martin Charlo

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, CSKT Secretary

Charles Headdress

Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribe, Tribal Vice Chairman

Dennis Longknife

Fort Belknap Indian Community, Climate Change Coordinator

Sara Ricklefs

Conservation Organization, Invasive Species Action Network

Paul Rossignol

Wildlife Representative, MT Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife

Andy Welch

Hydropower Utility Industry, Northwestern Energy

Sean Fritzler

Crow Nation

Jake Chadwell

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Tracy Tyner

Rocky Boy

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Montana State University Extension, Wildlife Specialist

Pam Schwend

Weed Districts, Carbon County

Jennifer Pelej

Department of Commerce, Brand MT Division

Dylan Brown

Agriculture Representative, Monture Creek Land Management

Federal Partners

Robert Thompson

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Gary Adams

U.S. Dept of Agriculture, APHIS

Jessica Zarate

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Michelle Cox

U.S. Forest Service

Monica Pokorny

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Services

Nadja Seymore

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Patricia Gilbert

U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers

Brenda Witkowski

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Open

National Parks

Council Coordinators

Liz Lodman

MISC Administrator

Anna Connerton

MISC Administrative Assistant

Russ Hartzell

MISC Program Coordinator



Promoting Responsible Pet Ownership

dontletitloose.com



Weeds destroy habitat. Pull for 5-15 minutes per outing.

pullyourshare.com



Growing Prosperity under the Big Sky

agr.mt.gov



Keep the Adventure, Leave the Invasive Species

playcleango.org



Protect Montana from Feral Swine

squealonthepigsmt.gov

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.



Don't Move Firewood

dontmovefirewood.org



It's up to each of us to stop hungry pests.

hungrypests.com



Can I Bring It?

dontpackapest.com

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.



Help Stop the Spread of AIS

fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species



mtweed.org



westernmtwaters.com