

Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council

www.dnrc.mt.gov/misac

The Invasive Species Bulletin provides you with all the latest news on invasive species in Montana and the region. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, contributions, questions, corrections, or comments.

Email: shester@mt.gov

Montana News

- **Montana Invasive Species Strategic Framework Released**

The Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council was proactively created by the Montana Governor's office in 2015 and tasked with identifying priority invasive species issues and making recommendations to improve invasive species management.

The Council completed a Statewide Assessment of the individuals, groups and agencies working on invasive species, their management priorities, and an estimate of their expenditures in March of 2016. Following this Assessment, MISAC hosted a Summit attended by 175 representatives from across the state in April 2016 to prioritize the invasive species management challenges faced by a state with many habitats, borders, and partners.

From those discussions along with four public listening sessions held in September and October 2016 located in Miles City, Wolf Point, Great Falls, and Pablo, the [Montana Invasive Species Strategic Framework](#) was developed to include all partners and stakeholders in managing invasive species including federal, tribal, state, county, non-profit, private companies, landowners, and the people of Montana. The Framework includes over 90 coordinated actions that would better protect Montana from invasive species, 5 key areas highlighted for improvements are listed below:

- 1) Coordination: Respond to invasive species as a shared responsibility and a common priority across the state by integrating and strengthening Montana's management.
- 2) Prevention: Reduce the transport of invasive species into and within Montana by fully engaging existing entities and resources.

3) Detection: Identify invasive species and responsibly share the locations of high priority invasive species across jurisdictions in Montana to focus and improve management

4) Rapid Response: Develop a generalized rapid response plan for emerging invasive species.

5) Control: Grow both capacity and expertise in managing invasive species in Montana to improve program effectiveness.

[Montana Invasive Species Strategic Framework](#)

- **Invasive mussel response team lays out recommendations with \$5M annual cost**

New aquatic invasive species detection and containment program recommendations would cost more than \$5.1 million annually and include mandatory inspection of out-of-state watercraft at double the number of inspection stations. The state of Montana's Mussel Response Team testified before the Joint Committee on Long Range Planning Monday, telling lawmakers that vital changes in recreation are necessary after the first detection of invasive aquatic mussel larvae last year...[read more.](#)

[Mussel Response Team Recommendations](#)

- **Montana AIS Grants--Call for Applications**

DNRC is currently accepting grant applications to fund high-priority invasive mussel related projects. Applications are due **March 1, 2017, by 5 p.m.**

Additional information about the grant program can be found at the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation ([DNRC website](#)) or by contacting DNRC. Also refer to musselresponse.mt.gov for additional information on Montana's Mussel Response.

- **MSU-Extension January Weed Post**

[Schutter Diagnostic Lab: 2015 Plant Identification Summary](#)

Regional and National News

- **Invasive Species Could Cost Washington Businesses, Agencies \$1.3 Billion**

OLYMPIA – A new report released today pegs the economic impact of 23 of the most damaging invasive species in Washington at \$1.3 billion a year and a loss of 8,000 jobs, if there's no prevention, according to the Washington Invasive Species Council.

“Invasive species are plants and animals not native to Washington, and once they land here, they out-compete existing wildlife,” said Justin Bush, executive coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council. “They can wipe out crops, clog waterways, damage pipes and dams and completely change the landscape and the wildlife that live there. Left unchecked, invasive species can ring up huge costs for control, kill jobs and harm our economy.”...[read more.](#)

- **Invasive Mussel Detection Project**

In a pilot test, four dogs identified 100% of the watercraft containing mussels, while human inspectors found only 75%. ...[read more.](#)

Other

- **Next MISAC Meeting**

Date: January 31, 2017

Time: 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Location: Montana Historical Society Auditorium, Helena

- **Save the Date: Invasive Species Day in the Capitol Rotunda**

MISAC will be hosting an invasive species educational event in the State Capitol Rotunda on April 3, 2017. Mark your calendars!

- **USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine Summer Field Opportunities**

USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine is looking to hire field employees with official duty stations in Billings and Helena, Montana for the 2017 summer season(Mid-May – Mid-August). If you know of anyone who is looking for summer employment we would appreciate it if you would forward this email to them and if you could post the announcement in appropriate areas. The work will likely consist of:

- Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket surveys (possible grasshopper suppression activities)
- Noxious weed bio-control (collection/redistribution/monitoring of permitted bio-control insects)
- Surveys for various pests not known to be established in Montana and/or the U.S.

Contact Lori Witham for more information at Lori.M.Witham@aphis.usda.gov