

# Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council  
[www.dnrc.mt.gov/misac](http://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, or comments. Email: [shester@mt.gov](mailto:shester@mt.gov)

## Montana News

- **NEW RESEARCH on [Introduced American Bullfrog Fall and Winter Habitat Use](#)**

In this research note, USGS used radio telemetry techniques to identify fall and winter habitat for introduced American bullfrogs at a pond at the Audubon Conservation Education Center in Billings. We found that bullfrog locations were distributed across a 15,384 m<sup>2</sup> area during the active season, but contracted to a 130 m<sup>2</sup> area in the east cove of the pond by the time the study site froze over. Our research provides evidence that managers in northern latitude regions like Montana may be able to use the long, cold winters to their advantage because the site-specific distributions of introduced bullfrogs contracted as temperatures decreased.

- **MONTANA'S 10-Year South Fork Conservation Project—[Purging Non-Native Fish—Proves Successful](#)**

It's been more than a decade since Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks rolled out a proposal to purge non-native fish from alpine lakes above the South Fork Flathead River drainage, for the purpose of restoring and protecting native westslope cutthroat trout populations for the long haul, and now it has the markings of a significant success story....

- **MONTANA ADOPTS UNPRECEDENTED [Mandatory Kill Rule for Walleye in Flathead Basin's Swan Lake, Swan River](#)**

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission on Thursday unanimously approved a regulation that will require anglers to kill and keep any walleye that are caught on Swan Lake, the Swan River and its tributaries in the northwest region of the state.

## Regional and National News

- **\$4 MILLION ALLOCATED to prevention of invasive mussels for [watercraft inspection stations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana](#).**

AIS Items of interest in the omnibus are as follows:

**Division D-Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (WRRDA /USACE):** See page 21 [HERE](#), where the report language says the following

Aquatic Plant Control Program.-Of the funding provided for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$4,000,000 shall be for nationwide research and development to address invasive aquatic plants; within this funding, the Corps is encouraged to support cost shared aquatic plant management programs. Of the funding provided for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$4,000,000 shall be for watercraft inspection stations, as authorized by section 1039 of the WRRDA.

**Division G-Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (USFWS):** See report language on pages 21 and 16 [HERE](#) --

Page 21: adds funding (~doubles) to [state ANS management plan](#) grants (from ANS Task Force/USFWS) ...

Page 16 -- Quagga and Zebra Mussel Control.-The Committees remain concerned about the spread of quagga and zebra mussels in the West and, consistent with fiscal year 2015, have provided \$2,000,000 for continued containment, prevention, and enforcement *efforts*. Further, the Committees direct the Service to provide, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, a progress report on steps taken in recent years to address this pervasive threat to western watersheds.

- **PREVENTING THE SPREAD of [Invasive Species in the Columbia River](#)**

At its December meeting, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council was briefed on the region's efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into the Columbia River Basin. Steven Bollens of Washington State University's School of the Environment and Tim Counihan of the U.S. Geological Survey Columbia River Research Laboratory presented recent research on Asian copepods in the Columbia River and reviewed a Bonneville Power Administration cost-shared project to enhance the region's ability to detect, and prevent the spread of, invasive quagga and zebra mussels. Asian copepods, small plankton-like crustaceans, have already invaded parts of the basin's waters. They can affect the health of the food web in such a way that makes future invasions, perhaps by mussels, more likely.....

- **WYOMING STILL FREE of Invasive Mussels as [AIS Prevention Program Catches Three Boats Carrying the Invaders](#)**

Cheyenne - If they ever take hold in Wyoming's waters they will harm native species, municipal water supplies and agricultural activities. The Wyoming Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program established in 2010 by the State Legislature is aimed at preventing new species from invading Wyoming's waters. ....

- **GYPSY MOTHS ALL OVA DA PLACE [YouTube Video](#)**

## Funding Opportunities

- **AIS GRANT PROGRAM CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**--The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is offering grants to local governments for the prevention, control, and management of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Applications are due March 15, 2016. Visit [dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species](http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species) for more information and for application materials.

## Training Opportunities

- **SPRING 2016: Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training**

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and its 100th Meridian Initiative partners are announcing and sponsoring Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Trainings for Winter/Spring 2016 for the following dates

|   |                 |             |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| * | 2/16-2/17, 2016 | Lake Mead   |
| * | 3/1-3/2         | Lake Powell |
| * | 3/15-3/16       | Lake Mead   |
| * | 4/26-4/27       | Lake Mead   |

Trainer: "Quagga D" Davis ([quaggadee@cox.net](mailto:quaggadee@cox.net))

To register and for further information go to: <http://www.westernais.org/upcoming-classes>

- **CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-NATIVE FISH**

During this course, attendees will explore efforts to understand, control and manage invasive fish through early detection and assessment, with emphasis on control and management methods. This is critical as invasive species threaten the biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems worldwide and are considered the second greatest threat to biodiversity loss in North America. Exotic species introductions (illegal and intentional) were a factor in 68% of fish extinctions in North America, and the rates of introductions have increased dramatically in the last 50 years impacting nearly every major watershed in the United States. Fisheries management programs have transplanted popular sportfish to provide recreational opportunities and many other aquatic organisms have been planted to enhance fish growth. Habitat loss and degradation, climate change and urbanization have also contributed to the establishment and spread of non-native fish. Regardless of the cause of species introductions, the establishment and proliferation of invasive species often results in the decline and potential extinction of native species, with invasive predators having the most dramatic effects. Controlling and managing non-native invasive fish is critical to the survival of freshwater fish in North America, and attendees of this course will gain an increased understanding of what can be done to minimize the negative impacts of invasive species. **Date(s): March 9, 2016: 8:30am - 4:30pm; Location:** University of Phoenix-Portland Area 13221 SW 68th Parkway, Ste. 500 Tigard, OR; Instructor: Joe Maroney; Tuition: \$345 / \$295\* \$295 / \$245\* (Before February 6, 2016).

## Other

- **CLEAN ANGLING NEWS updates:** Clean Angling News has switched over to Facebook as its primary method of getting out information about invasive species. They have four different Facebook pages dealing with invasive species issues. **You do not need to be a Facebook member to view pages. Just bookmark the following pages and check them regularly to keep up to date on the latest invasive species news.**

On our [Invasive Species Action Network Facebook page](#) we post all types of invasive species news including stories about all types of invaders, policy issues and other items of interest. This is our primary page and we post here more than on the other pages. If you are interested in all aspects of invasion this is the one place you should follow.

Our [Clean Angling Facebook page](#) is where we post links that deal with fish, fishing, cleaning, boat inspections, and other issues of interest to anglers. If your main interest is in fishing or boating this is the site for you.

The [Don't Let It Loose Facebook page](#) is our newest page. Here we report on the issues surrounding pets that become invasives. Many invasives are introduced

when unwanted pets are released and this page thoroughly investigates the problem.

Our [\*\*Forest Pest Fly Tying Project Facebook page\*\*](#) provides information for anyone concerned about the spread of forest pest insects. Visit the page and join the conversation about the problem and our unique fly tying program.

- **ND GAME & FISH Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator Job Opportunity.** [Click here for posting](#)

*For more information about MISAC and to access archives of this e-newsletter go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/MISAC>*

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