Montana Invasive Species Council

Meeting Materials Packet for June 2, 2021

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Note: Documents are hyperlinked for ease of navigation

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MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

AGENDA

Note: Agenda is subject to change and item times are approximate. Actual times may vary by up to one hour.

WEDNESDAY, June 2, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	**WELCOME** Chair Bryce Christiaens Roll call
8:45 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	**Pull Your Share** Dan Wilkins, Great Falls School District Pull Your Share Coordinator
9:05 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	**AIS GRANT PROJECT SPOTLIGHT** Don't Let it Loose Campaign Expansion—Leah Elwell, Invasive Species Action Network Executive Director, Liz Lodman, FWP AIS Information Officer Control to Prevent Further Spread of Non-native Frogs and Turtles—Bryan Wilson, Montana Conservation Corp. Program Director, Kristina Smucker, FWP Non-game Bureau Chief
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	**WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME UPDATE** Kristina Smucker, FWP Non-game Bureau Chief
9:45 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS** *Action: March 4, 2021 meeting minutes North American Invasive Species Management Assn. 2021 Conference 2021 Legislative Session updates Status of aquatic plants Review and revision of MISC bylaws E&O updates *Action: Topic for MISC video AIS Grant Program updates *Action: AIS Grant Program standing application deadline and hearing dates Budget update *Action: FY22 budget, expenditures
10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**HATCHERIES PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION** Eileen Ryce, FWP Fisheries Administrator
11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	**SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL** Eastern heath snail updates Next panel topic discussion *ACTION: FY22 Science Advisory Panel
11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	**PARTNER UPDATES AND WRAP-UP** Agency and partner updates *Public comment

This meeting is open to the public. The most current meeting information including meeting materials are available on the MISC website at: https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/misc/meetings-schedule.

Members of the public who wish to participate via Zoom may do so by emailing a request with your name to shawna.swanz@mt.gov. Instructions for joining and participating will be sent by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting.

*Public comment will be available during times the Council acts on items as indicated on the agenda and during the end of the meeting. To provide public comment, participants may "raise their hand" and participate after being recognized by the presiding officer or Zoom manager. Comments will be taken in order. Written public comment may be sent via email in advance of the meeting to shawna.swanz@mt.gov and will be provided to council members.

Any oral or written public comment provided to the committee is a public record that is recorded and archived.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Shawna Swanz at 406-444-2613 or shawna.swanz@mt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date.

Great Falls Tribune

NEWS

Pulling together: Hundreds of Montana high school students working to halt knapweed

David Murray Great Falls Tribune

Published 12:17 p.m. MT May 12, 2021

As spring's rains and warmer temperatures bring forth a new growth of grass to the Rocky Mountain Front, a more insidious plant is attempting to take over the landscape and push out the nutritious forbs and grasses that so much wildlife depends on.

Spotted knapweed has invaded large swaths of Montana's pastureland, open space and natural landscapes making them unsuitable for livestock and wildlife alike. Central Montana's high school students will soon be doing their part to fend off this noxious invader.

Near the end of May upward of 240 high school students from Great Falls and Simms will spend one of their final school days before the summer break pulling knapweed from trails and meadows west of Augusta and around Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls. The effort has been organized by Dan Wilkins, a retired high school teacher who spent 29 years teaching applied physics to students in the Great Falls School District.

This will be the fifth year Wilkins has taken students to the Rocky Mountain Front to pull noxious weeds. In that time the effort has expanded into a campaign called "Pull Your Share," which encourages all Montanans to take a few minutes while out recreating to eliminate as many weeds as possible

"If everybody takes five to fifteen minutes out of their day to pull knapweed, which isn't asking a lot, the cumulative effect is going to be substantial," Wilkins said.

The proliferation of spotted knapweed is far worse than just a biological nuisance. Native to central Europe, the weed was first detected in British Columbia in 1883, likely arriving as a contaminant in imported alfalfa or in soil used as ship ballast. It has since spread throughout Canada and into almost every state in the United States, including every county in Montana.

Each adult knapweed plant can produce well over 1,000 seeds. Left unchecked it can overtake entire landscapes. In Montana alone, knapweed covers some 4.5 million acres and costs ag producers more than $40 million annually in herbicide and lost productivity. Furthermore, the plant engages in what amounts to chemical warfare to inhibit the growth of other competing plants.

"It puts a toxin in the soil called 'catechin' (pronounced CAT-e-kin), and no forage plants can grow in that toxic soil," Wilkins explained. "You end up with all these interlocking circles of catechin where forage can't grow. So you've got a plant that can spread extremely fast, it puts toxins in the soil, and it drives out the forage species that elk, deer, bighorn sheep - all these different wildlife species rely upon."

In some parts of Montana wildlife biologists have documented elk herds changing their historical migration routes to avoid widespread infestations of spotted knapweed.

One of the primary vectors for knapweed to spread is when its seeds are inadvertently picked up by hikers on their boots and clothing and carried further into the backcountry. Patches of spotted knapweed can now be found in the interior of the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

During three days toward the end of May, approximately 240 students from Great Falls and Simms high schools will board buses for the Sun River Canyon east of Augusta, and Giant Springs State Park. Once there they will spend the day pulling newly emerging knapweed plants, as well as houndstounge, another noxious weed proliferating in Montana.

The students will work with land management professionals from the U.S. Forest Service, Cascade County Weed Division and Jefferson County Weed District, learning about the harmful effects of noxious weeds on Montana's environment and how to reduce and eliminate noxious weed infestations. They will also install Pull Your Share signs to help recreationalists identify knapweed and encourage them to take a few minutes to pull it themselves, and will learn about career opportunities in land management fields.

Wilkins said that the goal of the high school program is greater than just eliminating a few acres of knapweed. He hopes to instill in students a lifelong ethos of community service, and a dedication to preserving our nation's public lands. To that end each class will be asked to adopt an outdoor recreation site and return to it periodically.

"The intent is that each class will adopt a section of trail, a trail head, a boat launch or campsite that has knapweed in it," said Wilkins, "and they will return year after year to pull

knapweed at that site. Hopefully over the long haul they'll be able to reduce knapweed at those sites, resulting in less knapweed getting spread into the backcountry."

Wilkins hopes the Pull Your Share program will eventually lead to a cultural shift, similar to what happened in the 1980s when "Leave no trace" and "Pack it in, Pack it out" became the common and accepted practice for hikers, fishermen, hunters and horsemen visiting public lands.

"We're hoping to spread it to other schools, and to effect more and more recreators," Wilkins said of the effort to eliminate knapweed. "And it appears to be working. We're seeing areas along the trails where people are pulling the weeds on their own, and we've even found bags of weeds near the signs. Through our efforts and the efforts of the Forest Service we already have sites that are substantially decreased in knapweed."

Since its inception the costs of the Pull Your Share program; money for signs, buses, porta-potties, gloves and lunches for all the students have been covered by grants from local conservation districts, the Cascade County Weed Division and the Greenfields Irrigation District. This year, for the first time, Pull Your Share received a grant from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund.

But as the effort to eliminate spotted knapweed from the landscape expands, so will its costs. Wilkins hopes more individuals, businesses and organizations will consider contributing to the cause.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Pull Your Share program is encouraged to contact Dan Wilkins at 406-750-4116, or by email at danwilkinspys@gmail.com.

David Murray is Natural Resources/Agriculture reporter for the Great Falls Tribune. To contact him with comments or story ideas; email dmurray@greatfallstribune.com or call (406) 403-3257. To preserve quality, in-depth journalism in northcentral Montana subscribe to the Great Falls Tribune.

Great Falls Tribune

OUTDOORS

War on weeds requires a cultural shift

Sarah Dettmer Great Falls Tribune

Published 12:31 p.m. MT May 23, 2017 | **Updated 11:45 a.m. MT May 24, 2017**

From the frontlines of war, Dan Wilkins is calling for backup.

The industrial technologies teacher from Great Falls High is armed with a gun and has his ammunition strewn over his back. But sometimes he dives into the fight equipped only with tactical strategy and his bare hands.

He will persist until all's quiet on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Spotted knapweed and leafy spurge are putting up a good fight and without reinforcements, Wilkins will be overtaken.

"This is a war on weeds," Wilkins said. "And we need an army."

The Montana Department of Agriculture identifies 35 noxious weed species in Montana and 17 as Priority 2B. Weeds in this category are considered abundant and require eradication or containment.

The two species on Wilkins' hit list, spotted knapweed and leafy spurge, are on the Priority 2B list of the state's most wanted. Both plants originated in Eurasia.

"They are two of the most populated noxious species," Dave Burch, state noxious weed coordinator for the MDA, said. "We have 2.5 million acres of knapweed and another one million of spurge in Montana."

There are three varieties of invasive knapweed, but spotted knapweed is the most common. It can be identified the spots on its bracts and the pinkish-purple flowers growing from its stems.

Knapweeds overtake an area by force. Each plant can grow several flower heads and produce approximately 25,000 seeds.

"They don't spread linearly," Wilkins said. "They spread exponentially."

Luckily, knapweed is easy to kill.

In the spring and mid-summer, before the knapweed flowers open and begin to dry, pull the plants from their base so the root is removed from the ground. Brush off any clumps of soil and throw the plant aside.

"If it feels like it will come out, expose the root and it will die," Wilkins said. "Toss it on the ground and the sun will bake the root and kill the plant. You can stop thousands of seeds from spreading with every plant you pull."

Later in the year when the seed heads are ripe, Wilkins suggests pulling the plant and burn it or put it in a plastic bag and send it off to the dump.

The seed head will be ripe when the flower is open and seeds fall when the flower is rubbed.

Leafy Spurge is more deceptive and difficult to kill.

The noxious weed can range from yellow to green and stands two to four feet tall. Its roots can extend approximately 30 feet into the ground. According to the MDA, each plant can produce 130,000 seeds from the beginning of spring to late fall.

"Generally speaking, it can't be killed by pulling," Wilkins said. "When it's young and the root system is juts starting, you might be able to pull it. But when its roots are established, they go down 30 feet and spread wide."

Burch recommends leaving leafy spurge be if it is encountered on the trail. The best way to eradicate the plant is through herbicides and biological control. Burch said the plant can be controlled through mowing, but it has to be timed when the plant

Both invasive species dominate Montana's native plants and grasses. When grasses are limited, so is the number of animals an area can support.

"This is one of the most threatening things to public and private lands," Wilkins said.

Wilkins became invested in the fight against noxious weeds after purchasing a ranching property near the Highwood Mountains in 2006.

The land was overrun by leafy spurge.

Wilkins decided to devise a plan of attack. He began attending classes on biological control and others on weed spraying. Through these lessons, he said he learned about the vastness of the noxious weed problem in Montana and the efforts needed to stop the spread.

It took Wilkins 10 years to get the leafy spurge on his property under control.

As his knowledge base grew, Wilkins said he began to notice invasive knapweed as he was camping and recreating. So, he decided to join the fight. Wilkins signed up with the Forest Service to be a volunteer weed puller and sprayer.

"There are three crucial spots," Wilkins said. "Trailheads, boat launches and campsites. Those three are where the seeds are spreading."

Seeds lurk in the dirt and mud around these high-use areas and are picked up by boots, boats and vehicles. The seeds then hitch a ride into the backcountry and across the state. They are also carried by birds and the wind.

"Roadways are a major vector as well as waterways," Joshua Blystone, superintendent of the Cascade County Weed and Mosquito Division, said. "We do a lot of work spraying in those areas. When you see us out there spraying, that's primarily what tax payer's money is used for."

Wilkins is passionate about making a change in the way people recreate in areas infested with noxious weeds. His slogan is, "pull your share."

"Maybe I'm thinking way too big, but I hope to see a cultural change," Wilkins said.

He remembers the days when the Forest Service touted the "pack it in and bury it" method of recreation. When this was realized to be ineffective and harmful, the policy changed to the "pack it in, pack it out" method used today.

Wilkins said the prevalence of noxious weeds has gotten to the point where the Forest Service can't impact the problem in a significant way with their limited budget and workforce. Wilkins hopes to change the recreation culture to make "pull your share" as second-nature as "pack it in, pack it out."

"If each person would pull for 5 to 15 minutes during their day, the cumulative effect would get rid of the weeds in those areas," Wilkins said. "That's what I've been doing on a smaller scale."

Students apply physics to weeds, energy

This month, Wilkins took his nephew, Jordan Wilkins and his nephew's friend, Nick Le, to the Gibson Reservoir boat launch to spray for knapweed. However, when the trio arrived,

their previous efforts in the area had reduced the knapweed number enough for them to ditch their chemicals and start pulling individual plants by hand and with shovels.

"I was invited along to go camping and pull weeds and I thought, 'sure, sounds great,'" Le said. "We spent a few hours hand-pulling. It was an easy thing to do."

Wilkins continues his fight in the war on weeds and hopes to recruit more people to the cause.

Blystone suggests anyone interested in pulling or spraying weeds should contact the Forest Service or regional manager of their area of interest. Experts in these offices will be able to provide information about weeds in the area and how to manage them.

Follow Sarah Dettmer on Twitter @GFTrib_SDettmer

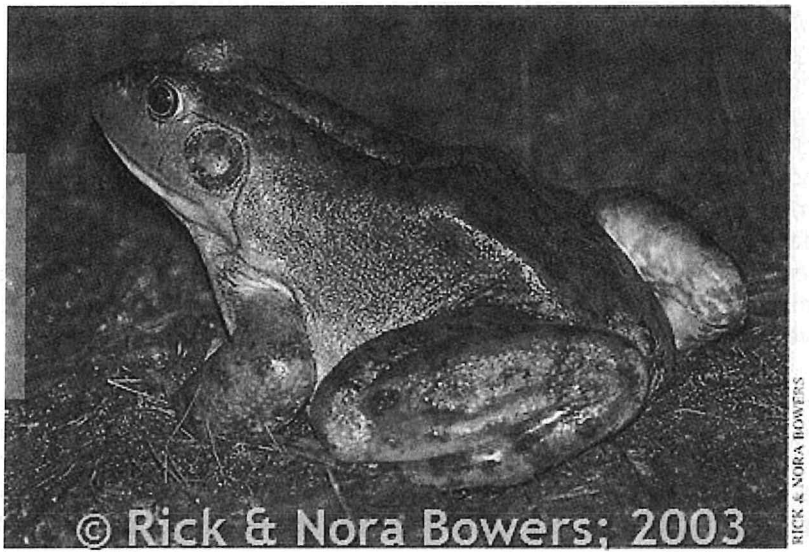
Montana Field Guides

Home - Other Field Guides
Kingdom - Animals - *Animalia*
Phylum - Vertebrates - *Craniata*
Class - Amphibians - *Amphibia*
Order - Frogs / Toads - *Anura*
Family - True Frogs - *Ranidae*
Species - American Bullfrog - ***Lithobates catesbeianus***

American Bullfrog - *Lithobates catesbeianus*

Other Names: Bullfrog

American Bullfrog, adult male



Aquatic Invasive Species

Non-native Species

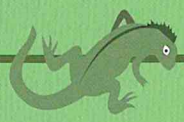
Global Rank: G5
State Rank: SNA
(see **State Rank Reason** below)

Agency Status
USFWS:
USFS:
BLM:

State Rank Reason **(see State Rank above)**
A conservation status rank is not applicable because this species is not a suitable target for conservation activities as a result of being exotic or introduced.

DON'T LET IT LOOSE, MONTANA

RELEASING A PET TO THE WILD IS NEVER THE RIGHT THING



WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

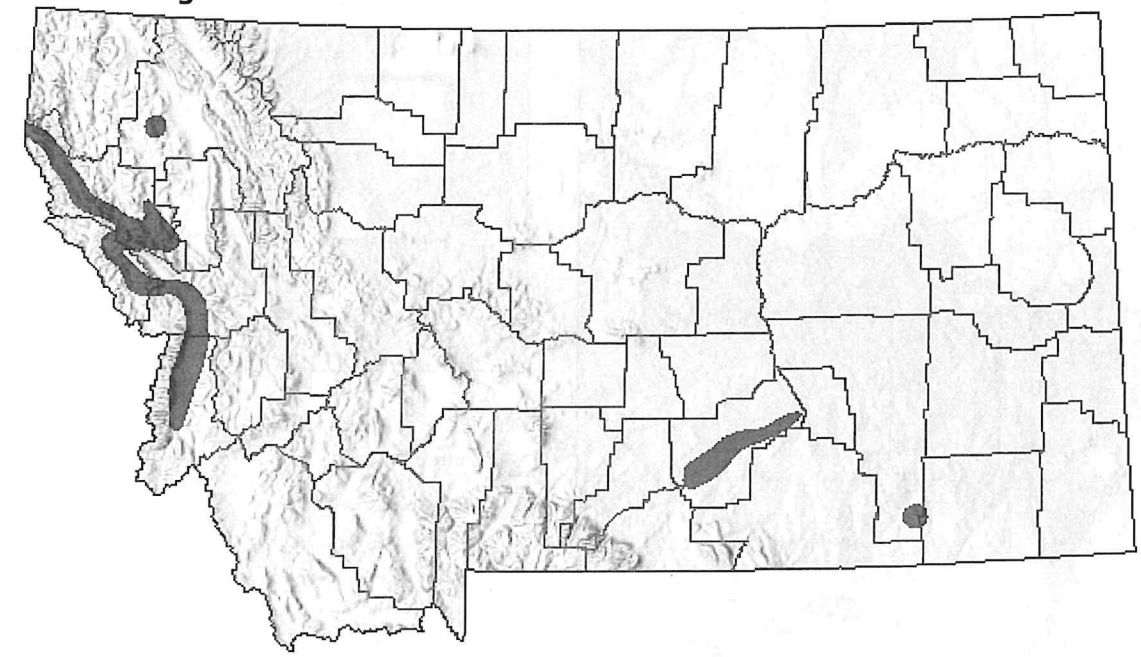
Most pets don't survive and **many suffer before they die.** Pets are usually unable to find food or shelter in the wild and they are often an easy meal for another creature. **If it survives, your pet becomes an invasive species** that causes harm to the environment and economy.

INSTEAD OF RELEASING

- CONTACT THIS PET STORE - WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP
- GIVE/TRADE WITH ANOTHER AQUARIST, POND OWNER, OR WATER GARDENER
- IF YOU HAVE A DOG, CAT OR OTHER SMALL MAMMAL CHECK WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY OR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER
- SEAL AQUATIC PLANTS IN PLASTIC BAGS AND DISPOSE IN THE TRASH
- CONTACT A VETERINARIAN OR PET RETAILER FOR HUMANE DISPOSAL GUIDANCE

WWW.DONTLETITLOOSE.COM

Montana Range



Non-native

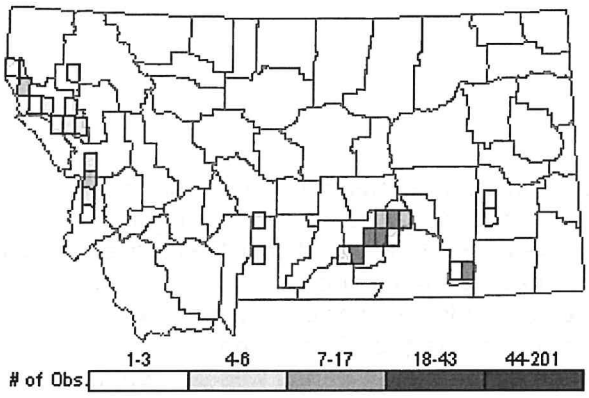
Western Hemisphere Range

Observations in Montana Natural Heritage Program Database

Number of Observations: 464

(Click on the following maps and charts to see full sized version) Map Help and Descriptions

Relative Density



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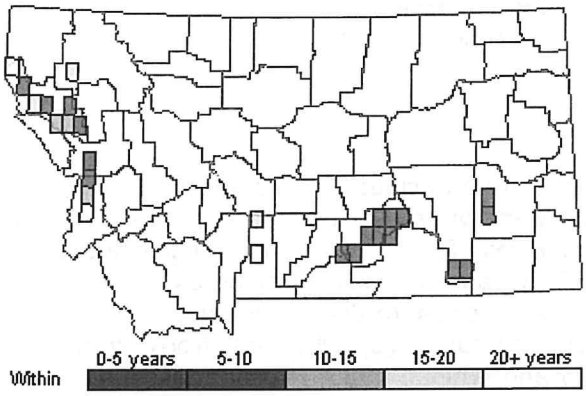
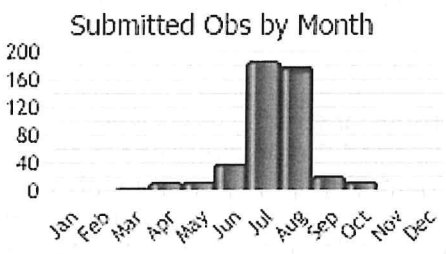
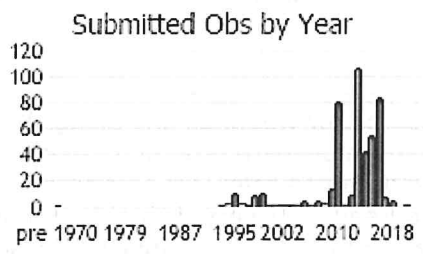
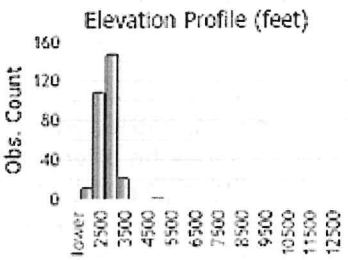








(Observations spanning multiple months or years are excluded from time charts)

Migration

Adult and juvenile bullfrogs may migrate overland to find other suitable aquatic habitats, if their existing wetland or pond habitat dries or is undergoing desiccation.

Habitat

American Bullfrogs are highly aquatic and appear to be mostly limited to warmer permanent water bodies with abundant emergent and/or aquatic vegetation (Giermakowski 1998, Maxell et al. 2009). American Bullfrogs are found in lakes, ponds, cattle tanks, bogs, oxbow wetlands and sluggish portions of streams and rivers. Individuals are rarely found more than a few meters from the edge of the water (Raney 1940, Maxell et al. 2009). So far, they seem to have been unable to invade colder waters and high elevations in Montana, but there is some evidence that they may be adapting to colder water beaver ponds at some localities (Nussbaum et al. 1983, Werner and Plummer 1995b). Adults and larvae overwinter in shallow standing or flowing permanent waters on the bottom's surface (Stinner et al. 1994). Adults typically do not move more than a few hundred meters within a season and show strong homing abilities when displaced (McAtee 1921, Raney 1940, Durham and Bennett 1963, Currie and Bellis 1969). However, individuals have been known to move up to 2.8 km and have been found in temporary pools up to 1.6 km from permanent water (Ingram and Raney 1943, Willis et al. 1956, Hammerson 1999).

Ecological Systems Associated with this Species

Details on Creation and Suggested Uses and Limitations

Commonly Associated with these Ecological Systems

Recently Disturbed or Modified

Introduced Riparian and Wetland Vegetation

Wetland and Riparian Systems

Montana Field Guides

Home - Other Field Guides
Kingdom - Animals - *Animalia*
Phylum - Vertebrates - *Craniata*
Class - Reptiles - *Reptilia*
Order - Turtles - *Testudines*
Family - Snapping Turtles - *Chelydridae*
Species - Snapping Turtle - ***Chelydra serpentina***

Snapping Turtle - *Chelydra serpentina*

Snapping Turtle

Species of Concern

Native/Non-native Species

(depends on location or taxa)

Global Rank: G5
State Rank: S3
(see **State Rank Reason** below)

Agency Status
USFWS:
USFS:
BLM: SENSITIVE
FWP SWAP: SGCN3, SGIN

State Rank Reason **(see State Rank above)**

Little is known about native populations of this species in Montana, which makes assessment of threats and trends difficult. This species has a high age of maturity and low recruitment, making populations vulnerable to

extirpation.

Details on Status Ranking and Review

General Description

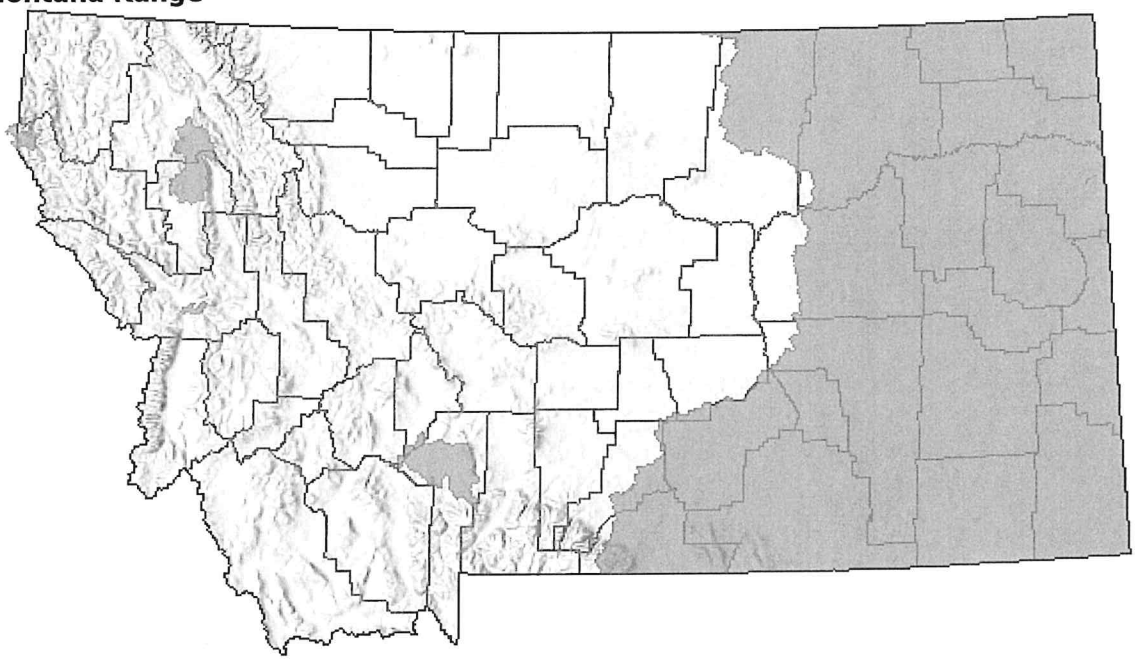
The Snapping Turtle shell is hard and very serrated ("saw-toothed") on the rear edge of the carapace; the plastron is relatively small. The tail is as long or longer than the carapace, with a crest of large, bony scales. The head is large, with a hooked upper jaw and two barbels on the chin. The limbs are strong, with webbed toes and robust claws. Skin and shell color is black to tan. Maximum carapace length is 50 centimeters, but usually is less than 36 centimeters; average weight of wild individuals is 16 kilograms. In mature males, the anal opening extends farther beyond the base of the tail than in females, and is usually beyond the rear margin of the carapace (under the rear edge in females). In adults, the carapace is relatively smooth, and the longitudinal ridges are not prominent. In juveniles, there are three longitudinal ridges on the carapace; in hatchlings the carapace is rough with conspicuous ridges. Eggs are moderately pliable, somewhat brittle, and average 28 by 27 millimeters.

Diagnostic Characteristics

The Snapping Turtle differs from other Montana turtles by the presence of a plastron (ventral shell) that is reduced to a cross-like structure, covering perhaps only half of the ventral surface; the presence of keeled scutes or scales on the carapace (dorsal shell); and the presence of a tail at least as long as the carapace. The shell is hard, not soft and leathery, nor is it flattened or pancake-like, as is the case with the Spiny Softshell.

Species Range

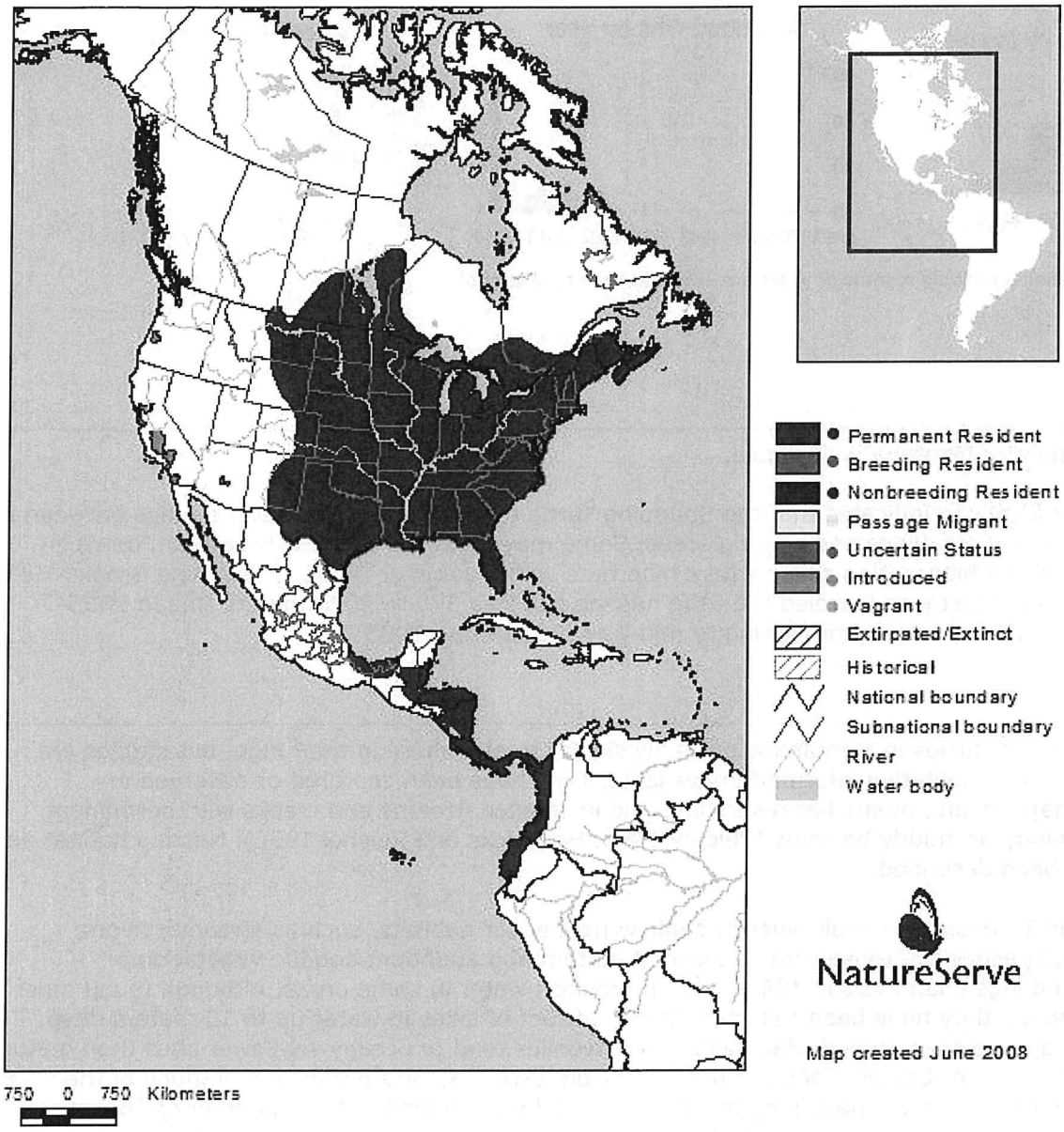
Montana Range



All Ranges | **Non-native** | **Native**

(Click legend blocks to view individual ranges)

Western Hemisphere Range

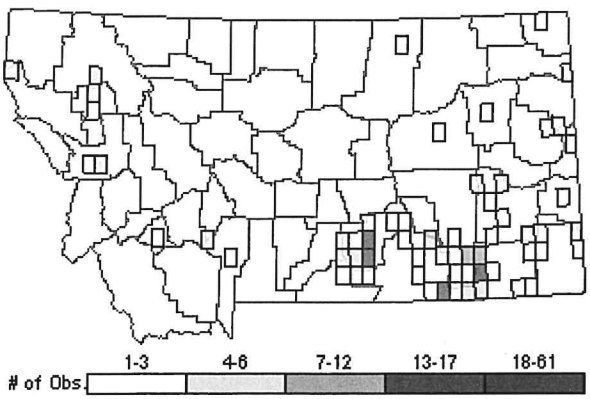


Observations in Montana Natural Heritage Program Database

Number of Observations: 257

(Click on the following maps and charts to see full sized version) Map Help and Descriptions

Relative Density



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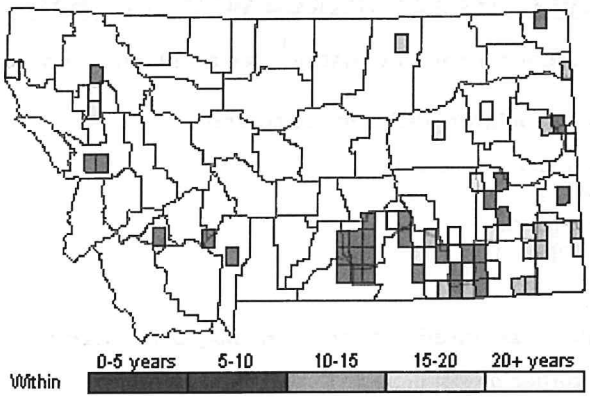
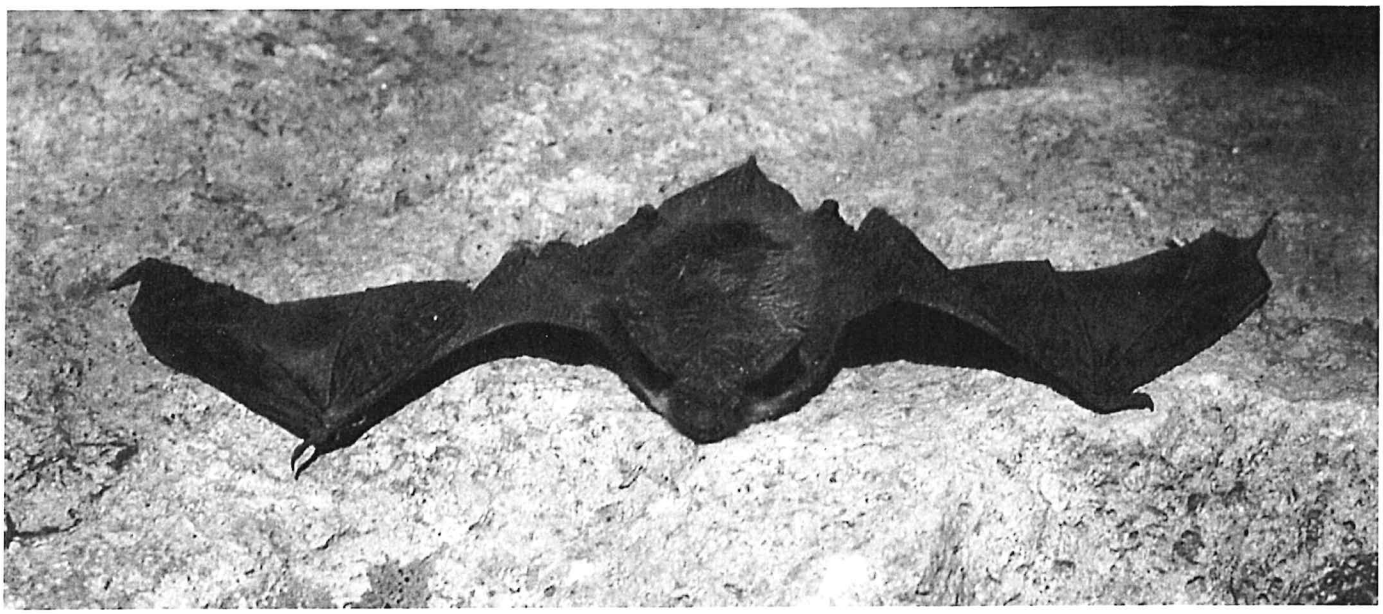


https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/first-case-of-deadly-white-nose-syndrome-confirmed-in-dead-montana-bat/article_acdf03ba-7598-5503-8640-acc40d4d12df.html

EDITOR'S PICK | TOPICAL | ALERT

First case of deadly white-nose syndrome confirmed in dead Montana bat

Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Apr 23, 2021



Anyone finding dead bats should contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks which is monitoring the spread of white-nose syndrome in the state.

Brett French

Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MILES CITY — A myotis bat, found dead in Fallon County in southeastern Montana, has tested positive for **white-nose syndrome**.

The bat was sent to the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin, for analysis. It tested positive for Pseudogymnoascus destructans (Pd), the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats. A pathologist also

confirmed characteristic WNS lesions on the skin of the bat.

Biologists with Fish, Wildlife & Parks have been closely monitoring for WNS in recent years as part of an effort to track the impacts of the disease once it arrives, but this is the first case detected in Montana. Bat droppings and environmental samples collected in six eastern Montana counties last summer tested positive for the Pd fungus; however, presence of the fungus does not necessarily confirm the presence of the disease. Also last year, WNS was detected just across the border in North Dakota.

WNS has killed millions of bats in North America since 2006. A powdery white fungus grows on the skin of hibernating bats, often on the face – hence the name "white nose." The fungus causes irritation and dehydration, causing bats to arouse early from hibernation and to exhaust fat stores they need to survive the winter.

WNS has now been confirmed in 36 states and seven Canadian provinces. It can wipe out entire colonies of bats and has caused dramatic population declines in eastern states. WNS is not known to affect humans, pets, livestock or other wildlife.

"Bats provide important services in protecting crops and timber from flying insect pests," said Kristina Smucker, Nongame Wildlife Bureau chief for Montana FWP. "Bats also eat tons of mosquitoes each year, meaning they play a role in reducing the spread of some mosquito-borne diseases. Like we do for all wildlife, we are doing what we can to keep bat populations healthy."

In 2020, FWP temporarily prohibited the capture of all live bats due to unknown risks of COVID-19-infected humans inadvertently transferring the virus to bats. While some sampling of live bats has resumed in 2021, particularly to survey for Pd and WNS, biologists are taking recommended precautions to minimize any risk of COVID-19 spillover to bats. In many places, to substitute for sampling of live bats, biologists have been collecting bat droppings or environmental swabs at roosts to sample for Pd and to look for any dead bats that might be attributable to WNS. They visit known roost areas, including the undersides of bridges.

State and federal agencies are asking for help to monitor the spread of this disease. Anyone seeing a dead or sick bat, or group of bats, should not handle them, but rather call a local FWP office for further guidance.

"Like other wildlife, bats may get sick or die for a variety of reasons," said Emily Almberg, disease ecologist for FWP. "We are particularly interested in investigating clusters of dead bats or bats that are found dead during the winter or early spring."

MEETING MINUTES

These abbreviated summary minutes will become the official adopted minutes at the next Montana Invasive Species Council meeting when they will be approved. Until then, they are considered a draft.

Meeting/ Project Name:	**Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC)**		
Date of Meeting:	**March 4, 2021**	**Time:**	9:00 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	**Shawna Swanz and Stephanie Criswell**	**Location:**	Virtual, Zoom, Recorded

Attendees

MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens, MISC Chair (Missoula Co. Weed District), Alec Underwood (MT Wildlife Fed.), Amy Gannon (DNRC representative), Andy Welch (Hydropower-Northwestern Energy), Jasmine Reimer (MDA), Bob Cloninger (MDT), David Brooks (Montana Trout Unlimited), Dennis Longknife (Fort Belknap), Jan Stoddard (DOC), Leigh Greenwood (TNC), Steve Wanderaas (CDs), Steven Tyrrel (Agriculture), Thomas Woolf (FWP), Tahnee Szymanski (DOL-ad hoc)

Federal Partners: Gary Adams (USDA-APHIS), Michelle Cox (USFS), Monica Pokorny (USDA-NRCS), Wendy Velman (BLM), Phillip Holmes (US Customs and Border Protection)

Special Guests: Amanda Kaster (Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation), Hank Worsech (Director, Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks), Malcolm Long (Director, Department of Transportation), Michael Freeman (Governor's Office, Natural Resources Advisor)

Other Attendees: A. Richie (Ravalli Co. Weed District), Beth Giddings (MT FWP), Bryce Maxwell (MT Heritage Program), Cassidy Bender (DNRC, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Celie Borndal (NRCS-USDA), Chelsi Bay (MDA), Derek Luchik (NRCS), Josh Wilson (Ravalli Co. Weed Dist.), Ian Foley (MDA), Kate Wilson (DNRC, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Lauri Hanauska-Brown (MT FWP), Liz Lodman Stine (MT FWP), Liz Ritter (PRCD) Mark Bostrom (DNRC, CARDD), Melissa Maggio (Missoula Co. Weed District), Pat Sweeney (Missoula Co. Weed Board), Sara Owen (Clark Fork Project Grant Writer), Shantell Martin (MT Noxious Weed Education), Shawna Swanz (Admin. Attachment Coor.), Stacey Barta (DNRC, Rangeland Resources Program), Stephanie Criswell (DNRC, MISC Coordinator), Susan Chin (US Customs and Border Protection), Thomas Burge, (Ravalli Co. Weed Dist.)

Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic	Discussion
Welcome Roll Call	Bryce opened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. Stephanie conducted roll call. Quorum confirmed. Stephanie noted that SB40 just passed the Senate. The bill would add the Department of Livestock as a voting member of MISC. (The bill later died in session.)
All-Taxa Video Viewing	Bryce introduced MISC's new all-taxa video and it was premiered at the meeting. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyR-xO3jNC0
Agency Leadership Introductions and Remarks	<u>Amanda Kaster, Director, DNRC</u> • Shared work experience path leading to DNRC. • Honored to be in Montana to serve Governor Gianforte. • Excited to have opportunity to engage with MISC on important invasive species issues. To be a part of today's meeting is a chance to learn and better

understand where invasive species work stands in Montana, the challenges we face, and opportunities to work together.

- One of top priorities is enhanced customer service.
  - Create opportunities for the public to better understand what DNRC does across all divisions and programs.
  - Enhance communication and customer service.
    - Transparent, responsive, and collaborative.

Michael Freeman, Governor's Office Natural Resources Policy Advisor

- Shared background working in natural resources and invasive species.
- Born and raised in Butte, back in Montana after 10 years.
- Collaboration and communication very important among stakeholders.
  - Everyone has a role to play.
- Important to tell the story of invasive species and the potential economic impacts.
- Limited on what regulation and rules can accomplish due to funding, time, employees, etc.
- Must have cost effective education to protect the state from invasive species.
- Appreciated the video and Director Kaster's comments about collaboration and communication.
- Aware of the invasive mussel discovery and rapid response from the state of Montana. Shows the effectiveness of MISC.
- Look forward to learning from the experts.

Malcolm (Mack) Long, Director, Department of Transportation

- Honor to say: "Great job, keep going, what we've done, has been excellent. There is always more stuff out there. We can always do more."
- Diligence and vigilance are important to keep municipalities and waterways safe from invasive mussels.
- It is important MDT and MISC continue to work together. As we build bridges and work around water, we look at both watercraft and equipment inspection. Important to know how to coordinate.
- With noxious weeds, mussels, snails, beetles, etc. there is a lot to be aware of and watch out for.

Hank Worsech, Director, Fish Wildlife and Parks

- Shared work experience and background.
- Governor Gianforte is creating a team where all directors will work together for common goals.
  - Strong working relationship with DNRC and MDT.
  - Positive experience moving forward.
- Appreciate video.
- Looking forward to working together for success.

Ian Foley proxy for Mike Foster, Director, Department of Agriculture

- Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Hearings upcoming.
  - Awarded over $2 million in 2020 to all 56 counties, five tribes.
- HB93 allow Department of Ag to certify additional materials as being weed free
  - Gravel and other construction materials.
  - Another tool to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

	• Governor Gianforte goal to expand value-added markets for ag producers.
	  o Exports are important to value-added opportunities.
	  o Ensuring commodities are free from invasive pests and diseases is vital to maintain reliable export markets.
	  o Core mission of MDA and partners.
	  o Work with partners to certify exports to international customers.
	
	Action: Extend invitation to Director Foster to provide remarks at next MISC mtg.

Emerald Ash Borer Deregulation
 	
Ian Foley, MDA, Agricultural Sciences Division Administrator
	Emerald Ash Borer Update
	
	• Not yet found in Montana. Early detection is the key.
	• Engaged citizen scientists.
	• Montana Urban and Community Forestry Association doing active branch sampling as they conduct routine tree maintenance.
	• D-shape exit hole indication of presence. No other insects in Montana make this type of exit hole.
	• Timeline:
	  o 2002 Discovered in Michigan
	  o 2003 Federal Domestic quarantine by USDA-AHPIS
	  o 2006 First surveys conducted in Montana
	  o 2008-2014 Trapping as part of the Department's cooperative agriculture test survey. Partners included DNRC, MSU Extension, local city foresters.
	  o 2013 found in Boulder, CO. Likely from firewood movement.
	  o 2017 Green Ash Trees in North America red listed as critically endangered for the risk of continental extinction by IUCN.
	  o 1-14-2021 Federal Domestic Emerald Ash Borer quarantine removed.
	  ▪ Director Foster directly signed an emergency quarantine order to continue some level of protection for Montana from Emerald Ash Borer.
	• Ash tree mortality reaches 100% when EAB is present.
	• Ash trees in the eastern third of Montana are native and important species for wildlife habitat, livestock. One of the few trees that survive in that area.
	• Green Ash forests in eastern Montana are isolated. Provides unique opportunities for management.
	• Today: MDA has adopted an exterior quarantine. Includes:
	  o Ash nursery stock from infested states.
	  o Ash seedlings and trees can be purchased and sold from non-infested states.
	• SLAM, Slow Ash Mortality. Cities trying to manage the death curve, so all trees don't die the same year. Manage trees for removal and treatments.
	• Cost effective insecticides available to save individual high value ash trees.
	• AHPIS Federal Program working on biocontrol to prevent extinction of susceptible Ash in North America.
	• Research continues into resistant varieties and cultivars.
	  o Asian Ash species that have co-evolved with EAB in Asia are resistant.
	  o Development of a resistant variety Ash is ongoing.
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Gary Adams, USDA-APHIS, State Plant Health Director	• Until January 2021 APHIS had federal authority for domestic movement of firewood to nursery stock in any conveyance of the insect from non-established areas.
	  o The Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) effort was successful.
	  o The EAB was spreading readily independent of the regulatory actions; with limited funding any invasive species AHPIS determined it would be better to put resources into the biological control.
	  o EAB de-regulation consideration has been ongoing since 2018.
	• APHIS does not have a current survey program.
	  o Rely on 1) Entities to help with trapping. 2) Public looking for the exit holes and damaged trees.
	• EAB can be established 5-7 years before the tree starts to die.
	• Have released biocontrol agents in over 30 states on a first come first serve basis.
	• Biocontrol is most effective when new uninfected Ash trees start to grow.
	
	MISC worked with partners to develop an Emerald Ash Borer Fact sheet available at: https://ipm.montana.edu/documents/entomology/ent-fact-sheets-2020-2021/eab_fact_sheet.pdf
	
	Discussion:
	EAB does not travel on dimensional lumber. If bark is removed not a risk, but firewood, noncommercial, and non-processed wood are an issue.
	
	Shipping pallets from Asia were most likely the initial EAB introduction pathway into North American. Since the early 2000s there has been education and outreach efforts and regulatory requirements placed on those pallets. That international pathway has been addressed. All solid wood packing materials from foreign countries need to be certified. Could still be an issue with movement within the US.
	
	In the US APHIS required kiln drying of any Ash wood or hardwoods from the quarantined areas. With the quarantine lifted those requirements are gone which is why Montana put regulations on the movement of those goods.
	
	Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staff are trained to make sure all wood packing material is kiln dried and certified. There is an international stamp that must be on the wood.
	
	MDA has funding from USDA. Partner with MSU-Ext. to monitor the higher risk sites for other wood boring insects. Conduct exotic wood boring beetle and invasive species surveys annually across the state.
	
	USDA-AHPIS has staff that works in a program called Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance. Rely on the public and invasive species professionals to see those commodities that get past the first port of entry that could pose a risk; hopefully before they reach commerce. Report to USDA so the pathway can be closed.
	
	BLM is working with Montana Natural Heritage Program (MNHP) to begin woody draw inventories across eastern Montana public lands. Driver behind effort is detection of

	EAB and for BLM to understand the health of the Green Ash stands. In development phase. Action: schedule report out at a later date on the BLM effort. DNRC has an urban and community forestry program with guidance on species composition of urban and community forests. Cities are working on prioritizing removals of Green Ash and replanting with other species. Hope is that these preemptive remixing forest compositions will be beneficial when EAB does arrive. Education materials and tools are available through the DNRC urban and community forestry program for smaller communities. Several years ago, MDA saw large live-edge slabs for home design advertised on eBay. When the federal quarantine was in place those sales would have been a violation. Montana adopted the state level regulation to continue that level of prevention. Small pathway, but unique sales opportunities to sell live slab products so do need to keep an eye on it. Many Ash trees across Montana are stressed. Insects other than EAB are causing damage, a bark beetle, clear wing moth. MDA has developed some tools to identify those native insects that are available to BLM for their project. North Dakota had a regulation in place prior to the federal quarantine lift. South Dakota is working on a regulation. Minnesota is partial invested with EAB and will maintain their state regulations. When deregulation of a pest occurs, states can utilize the federally managed state partnership program, Free Stamp. Through a petition process states can request enforcement of a particular invasive species. Minnesota DOA has submitted a petition to USDA to continue enforcement at the ports of entry. States that do not have EAB populations and have significant Ash resources are standing up state level regulations. USDA regulates commodities at Canadian ports of entry based on a variety of pests. Currently firewood or wood with live bark are regulated. Have a domestic gypsy moth quarantine in place. Also, Asian longhorn beetle and other pests. The commodity itself is still regulated at the border for certain requirements independent of EAB issues. Have woody draws that go across the border into Canada near Cypress Hills. Need to know what potential for EAB or other pests to naturally cross the border outside of exports. Considering EAB deregulation, TNC will increase awareness of the problem of moving firewood on both commercial pathways and personal firewood use. Waiting to hear if Canada is also going to deregulate. Replacing trees in both large and small communities in Montana is needed. Deregulation issues are based on geography. Invasive species come at the state from the east coast, the west coast, and the Great Lakes. Montana usually in the last group of states to get any new thing. EAB has followed that same pattern. It's a continual challenge for all of us as invasive species interested parties and managers that by the

	time we have a problem, a lot of times the federal protections that were available to the first couple of states aren't available to Montana. That's just a point of baseline geography of the reality of our situation as an interior Western state. Link to EAB Maps: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/emerald-ash-borer/emerald-ash-borer

***Xerolenta obvia* (Xo) Science Advisory Panel**
Stephanie Criswell, Panel Chair
	Eastern health snail SAP Update
	Link: https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/misc/Science-Advisory-Panel
	• MISC's 3rd science advisory panel.
	• Xo (Eastern Heath Snail) infestations in and around Belt, MT for many decades.
	• National malacologist from USDA-APHIS came to Montana in 2016 and presented a video that detailed invasive snail infestations (similar species to Xo) in Southern Australia and impacts to its agricultural industry.
	• MISC released the Xo science advisory panel key findings in December 2020 following panelist questionnaire and a Zoom workshop series.
	  o Nine panelists from around the country and Australia.
	  o Due to virtual format, able to include more panelists than we typically would with an in-person panel.
	• Main takeaways:
	  o In excellent position, ahead of the curve on this invasion
	  o Australian panelists encourage immediate action, before it becomes a problem.
	  o Increase research efforts on the biology.
	  ▪ Dr. Littlefield (panelist) and Jenny Birdsall, MSU have prioritized research efforts
	  o Need to update 2012 environmental review of EHS with findings from new research efforts.
	  o The Belt community is not ready to address the issue. Need for E & O.
	  o Conduct economic impact analysis-nothing exists for invasive snails
	  ▪ Southern Australia has some estimates of ag. loss
	
	Motion: Steve Tyrell motioned that the Council move forward with taking on the recommendation for the economic impact study and include an education and outreach component to the study.
	Second: Steve Wanderaas.
	Public comment: none
	Discussion: HB93 gives DOA rule-making authority to allow for a program that would include gravel that was free from snails if it was a need.
	Action on motion: Vote through chat/raise hand/voice. Motion carried unanimously.
	
	Action: Economic Impact Study follow up with full council at June 2, 2021, MISC meeting.
	
	Next Science Advisory Panel topic
	• Two topics that came up during the most recent AIS grant hearings.
	  1. Discussion on species that are native in one portion of the state and invasive in other portions. E.g. snapping turtles. What kind of impact do these species have to our invasive species messaging so that it is not confusing to the public?

	2. Biosecurity at private hatcheries. Explore best management practices and actions to prevent introduction of AIS and/or to promote AIS-free hatcheries. 3. There is a gap and a need for this panel. Fish health is an issue that hatcheries have been working on for a long time. ▪ Block pathway (have needed to increase procurement of out-of-state nursery stock) ▪ Identify how to prevent in-state private hatcheries from closing (protect/enhance sector of MT economy) ▪ Montana's import restrictions are the most rigorous. ▪ Source for fish has been drastically reduced because of the New Zealand mud snails and whirling disease detections. ▪ Clean hatcheries and protocols would be useful to investigate. Action: Science Advisory Panel follow-up at June 2, 2021, MISC meeting to vote on next topic.
Education and Outreach Stephanie Criswell	**Discussion about allocating MISC's E&O FY 22 budget** MISC has convened group of invasive species E&O partners to refine all-taxa messaging, address pathways, and tie issue to values. Has held two meetings and group is updating the all-taxa infographic/ad MISC created for FWP hunting and fishing guidebooks. • **Outdoor Retail Project** presented by Shantell Frame Martin, Project Coordinator, Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign o Outreach mailing campaign in 2015 to every outdoor retailer that racked MT FWP hunting and fishing regulation guidebooks and sold licenses. Also, to Chambers of Commerce. Total of 500 packets. o Used Play.Clean.Go. messaging. Posters, brochures, etc. o Haven't measure effectiveness of campaign. o Interested in opportunities to partner with MISC on industry outreach • Department of Commerce shared outreach efforts o Regional tourism staff attend outdoor recreation shows in other states and Canada. ▪ Distribute visitor information about hunting, fishing, ATV, snowmobiling, etc. ▪ Could coordinate adding invasive species messaging at the shows. o Office of Outdoor Recreation previously held an annual outdoor recreation summit that attracted tourism partners and outdoor retailers. Not sure current status of group. o Recently completed survey of places that resident and nonresident visitors go for information. i.e. visitor's center, chamber, dinosaur museum in Ekalaka, etc. These places are ready to open this year and open on time. o Department of Commerce packet of materials typically goes out second week of May. ▪ MISC has participated last few years (san 2020) and will prepare materials for 2021 season o Predict high visitor levels this season.

	MISC member, partners and coordinator travelled across the state extensively in 2019 to distribute materials at many events. A lot of the E & O budget covered travel and materials to attend these events. Because events have been on hold due to COVID, funds were reprogrammed for production of videos. All-taxa complete, feral swine up next. Work with members to explore environmental programs on the reservations as potential MISC E & O events. MISC has participated in Ft. Belknap and CSKT events in past.
Administrative Business and Updates	**December 2, 2021, Meeting Minutes** distributed via digital meeting packet Motion: Steve Wanderaas moved to approve minutes from December 2, 2020, as provided. Second: Jan Stoddard Discussion: None Public Comment: None Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously **Update to Assess Nontarget Impacts of the Houndstongue Root Weevil (*Mogulones crucifer*) in Montana, Washington, and Idaho** presented by Melissa Maggio-Kasner, MT Biological Weed Control • Discussed background and recommendations from MISC's Science Advisory Panel on *M. crucifer*. • Current project focuses on 1) development of protocol for monitoring the weevil and its non targets and 2) the development of tools to help in identification of the weevil and the damage that they inflict • Funding secured for monitoring in early 2020 o Identified ideal sites. 9 sites identified, 8 established. • Dr. Jeffery Littlefield also doing research that will enhance this project. • Second year data will be collected in 2021 at the 8 established sites. 2 added in Montana. • Need to ID and establish 5 sites in both Washington and Idaho. • Provided update on petitions Mark Schwartzlander presented at recent conference. • Timeline for petition actions are typically 3-5 years. Other updates: • NISAW: MISC working with E&O forum on National Invasive Species Awareness Week education and outreach. If all-taxa campaign is finalized, may launch during NISAW • Invasive-species related bill updates are sent weekly through bulletin. Session to wrap up in next few weeks. • Budget: Stephanie working to obligate remaining FY21 funds (~$8,000 remaining for E&O)
Partner Updates and Wrap-up **Adjourn** (02:57:01)	**Tom Woolf, MT Fish Wildlife & Parts – AIS Program Update** • Watercraft inspection stations open week of March 8. • Tiber will be delisted for invasive mussels if no detections this year • Looking for groups to deliver information to local communities to attend events, speak at meetings, field work and detection training. Working on a schedule. • Moss balls with zebra mussels. National issue, developing protocols.

Stephanie Criswell, DRC MISC Coordinator

NAISMA

- MISC co-hosting event, several members and coordinator on planning team
- Sept 28-Oct 1, Missoula.
- Hybrid model (in-person and virtual), developing field trips and sessions.

AIS Grant Update

- Next AIS Grant Cycle has closed. Public Hearings March 16.

Jan Stoddard, Department of Commerce

- New marketing direction, recreate responsibly education format: https://www.visitmt.com/montana-matters (Action: follow-up with Jan on including invasive species info.)

Lauri Hanauska-Brown, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks

- Received $50,000 grant from MISC for snapping turtle, bull frogs, and red slider removal in cooperation with Montana Conservation Corp. Planning underway.
- State Parks are getting the Don't Move Firewood message out.
- White-nose Syndrome sampling on bats starts soon, increasing surveillance efforts this year. Over 30 sites.

Steve Wanderaas, Conservation Districts

- Gearing up to run 5 watercraft stations in eastern Montana.
- CEMIST planning AIS education outreach

Bryce Maxell, Montana Heritage Program

- MPD has a predicted habitat suitability draft model in place for EHS that may help with economic analysis.
- Later in the spring will have predicted habitat risk models in place for all remaining state and county listed noxious weeds
- Continued training with weed coordinators.
- The boat access layer is now on the statewide GIS data list.
- Data centralization for invasive species continues.

Adjournment

Motion: Steve Wanderaas moved to adjourn the meeting.
Second: Leigh Greenwood
Discussion: None
Public comment: None
Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned: 11:57 am

Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) Charter

MISC VISION

Our vision is for the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) to foster coordinated efforts in Montana that lead to positive changes in the state coordination, prevention, detection, rapid response, and management of invasive species.

MISC MISSION

Our mission is to protect Montana's economy, ecological resources and public health and safety by assessing and bolstering Montana's invasive species efforts through a coordinated approach to keep invasive species out of Montana and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in the state.

MISC Bylaws

Adopted: July 22, 2015
Revised: September 22, 2017

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name. The name of this organization shall be the Montana Invasive Species Council.

Section 2: Purpose. The purpose of the Montana Invasive Species Council is to advise the Governor on a science-based, comprehensive program to identify, prevent, eliminate, reduce, and mitigate invasive species in Montana and to coordinate with public and private partners to develop and implement statewide invasive species strategic plans.

Section 3: Definition. "Invasive species means nonnative plant, animal, and pathogen species that cause, or are causing, harm to natural or cultural resources, recreational opportunities, the economy, or human health."

Section 4: Objectives. The objectives of this Council shall be to:

a. provide policy level recommendations, direction, and planning for combatting infestations of invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of other invasive species;

b. foster cooperation, communication, and coordinated approaches that support international, federal, state, provincial, regional, tribal and local initiatives for the prevention, early detection, and control of invasive species;

c. identify, coordinate, and maintain an independent science advisory panel that informs Montana's efforts based on the current status, trends, and emerging technology as they relate to invasive species management in Montana;

d. in coordination with stakeholders, identify and implement priorities for coordination, prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control of invasive species in Montana;

e. champion priority invasive species issues identified by stakeholders to best protect the state;

f. advise and coordinate with agency personnel, local efforts, and the scientific community to implement program priorities;

g. implement an invasive species education and outreach strategy;

h. work with regional groups to coordinate regional defense and response strategies; and

i. work towards establishing and maintaining permanent funding for invasive species priorities.

ARTICLE II: Membership

Section 1: Member appointments. MISC shall include 22 members. The directors of the following departments or designees: Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Natural Resources and Conservation, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce. A representative of each of the following appointed by the Governor: county weed districts, conservation districts, Montana State University Extension service, agriculture, conservation organizations, wildlife organizations, fishing organizations, hydropower utility industry, private landowners, and each of the tribal governments in Montana.

Section 2: Federal agency representatives. The council shall seek active input and participation in its deliberations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other federal land management agencies as deemed necessary. Agency representatives will actively participate in MISC meetings and projects and facilitate coordination and communication between the Council and the representative's organization.

Section 3: Ex-officio members may be recommended by consensus of the Montana Invasive Species Council. The appointment will be made by the Governor. Ex-officio members could include additional representatives of federal entities, local government organizations, tribal governments, Montana universities and private and for-profit organizations with an interest in the wellbeing of Montana pertaining to invasive species.

Section 4: Terms. Council members shall serve staggered 4-year terms.

Section 5: New appointments. At least two months prior to the expiration of appointed member terms, the presiding officer and Office of the Governor shall invite nominations from the Montana Invasive Species Council and other parties for new members or renewal of appointees.

Section 6: Resignation and removal. Resignation from the Council must be in writing and received by the presiding officer. An appointed member may be removed for excess absences or other reasons by a majority of the voting members.

Section 7: Incomplete terms. When an appointed member vacancy occurs through resignation or removal before the term expires, the members shall by majority vote recommend a new member representing a similar interest or agency. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Governor for consideration.

Section 8: Proxy. The appointed member is allowed to assign a proxy to attend a Council meeting with prior approval of the presiding officer.

ARTICLE III: Administration

Section 1: Administration. The council is attached to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for administrative purposes as prescribed in 2-15-121.

Section 2: Officers. The officers of the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council shall be a presiding officer (chair) and two vice chairs. Other officers may be nominated and elected by a majority vote as deemed necessary.

Section 3: Presiding officer. The governor shall appoint the presiding officer (chair), who shall serve in that capacity for a 2-year term.

Section 4: Vice chairs. Two voting members will serve as vice-chairs elected by a majority vote of the Council, who shall serve in that capacity for a 2-year term.

Section 5: Elections. If an appointed member chooses to resign prior to the expiration of his/her term, the members shall recommend a new member representing a similar interest by a majority vote. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Governor for appointment.

Section 6: Quorum. A majority of the membership of the council constitutes a quorum to do business. A favorable vote of at least a majority of all of the members is required to adopt any resolution or approve a motion, or to make any other decision. Dissenting votes will be recorded.

Section 7: Duties of the presiding officer. The presiding officer shall plan and preside over regularly scheduled meetings. Meeting agendas will be provided in a timely manner prior to meetings. The presiding officer may appoint a facilitator as necessary to guide council decision-making.

Section 8: Duties of the vice chairs. The vice chairs will assist the presiding officer's completion of duties, and will preside over meetings in the presiding officer's absence.

Section 9: Council coordinator. A Council Coordinator, provided by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, will administer the operation and functions of the Council. Specific duties of the Coordinator will be determined based on activities pursued by the Council.

Section 10: Reporting. The Council shall report on its activities to the Governor, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Environmental Quality Council annually. The presiding officer and the director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation shall serve as the council's liaisons to the Governor's Office.

Section 11: Payment. The council members shall serve without pay from MISC. Unless otherwise provided by law, each council member is entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

ARTICLE IV: Meetings

Section 1: Regular Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held at least two times each year. The schedule of regular meetings shall be set by the Council.

Section 2: Notice. Notice of each regular meeting shall be given to each voting member at least ten days before the meeting. Notices of regular meetings shall also be published on the MISC website at http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/montana-invasive-species-program/misc.

Section 3: Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the presiding officer or a majority of voting members. Two days prior notice shall be required before all special meetings or conferences.

Section 4: Minutes. Minutes from each Council meeting shall be provided to voting members at least ten days before the next meeting. Minutes must be approved, with any necessary changes, by the quorum at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE V: Decision Making

Section 1: Consensus. See Article III, Section 6.

Section 2: Proxy Voting. An appointed member is allowed to assign a proxy with voting privileges to attend a Council meeting with prior approval of the presiding officer.

Section 3: Executive Committee Decision Making. See Article VI, Section 4.

ARTICLE VI: Committees

Section 1: Establishment. A majority of the quorum may establish workgroups or committees to aid and advise the Council in performance of its functions.

Section 2: Membership. Committees/workgroups may consist of Council members, federal agency representatives, and/or other individuals, as designated by the presiding officer or a majority of the quorum. Committee chairs will be elected by a majority vote. The expectation of Council members is to serve on committees. Each newly formed committee shall have Council representation.

Section 3: Reporting. Committees/workgroups shall report to the presiding officer and vice chairs.

Section 4: Executive Committee. The presiding officer and two vice chairs of the Council shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have, and may exercise, when the Council is not in session, and cannot be assembled in a timely fashion, all of the powers of the Council in the management and affairs of the Council. Decisions made by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Council and shall be subject to review and subsequent ratification if requested by a Council member.

ARTICLE VII: Amendments to the Bylaws

Section 1: Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended when necessary by a favorable majority of the quorum. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the presiding officer.

ARTICLE VIII. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is in accordance with the Governor's Montana Appointee Handbook and is a true and correct copy of the Bylaws adopted by the Montana Invasive Species Council on the 27 day of September 2017.

By: _____ 9/27/17

Presiding Officer Date

AIS Grant Awards - FY21

Quantititive rankings. See project briefs for qualitative evaluation

CYCLE 1

Rank	Applicant	Project Name	Request	MISC Rec./DNRC Approved Award
1	Missoula County Weed District	Watercraft Inspector Training Video	$11,200	**$11,200**
2	UM-Flathead Biological Station	AIS Early Detection and Monitoring at Two High-Risk	$47,316	**$41,916**
3	Swan Valley Connections	Voices for an AIS-Free Swan Valley	$2,514	**$2,514**
4	Clearwater Resource Council	Clearwater Region Early Detection Program	$22,982	**$8,315**
5	Invasive Species Action Network	Don't Let it Loose Campaign Expansion	$29,131	**$29,131**
6	Montana Conservation Corps-Greater	Control to Prevent Further Spread of Non-Native	$50,000	**$50,000**
7	Montana State Library	AIS Data Centralizaion and Exchange	$17,748	**$17,748**
8	Harriman Trout Company	Primary Spring Capture	$15,000	**$0**
9	Missoula County Weed District	Fragrant Water-lily Impact Assessment	$4,027	**$4,027**
	Total Amount Requested		$199,918.00	**$164,851**

CYCLE 2

Rank	Title	Organization	Request	MISC Rec./DNRC Approved Award
1	CleanDrainDry in the Upper Gallatin	Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance	$14,836	**$14,836**
2	Lake Elmo Asian Clam Eradication	Fish, Wildlife & Parks	$30,000	**$30,000**
3	Effects of Preservation and Storage on eDNA	Flathead Lake Biological Station	$24,191	**$24,191**
4	CEMIST Monitoring and Capacity Plan	Lower Musselshell Co. CD	$35,475	**$13,550**
			$104,502	**$82,577**
	FY21 Amount Available	$250,722		
	Less FY21 Cycle 1 Awards	$164,851		
	Balance	$85,871		
	Less MISC FY21 Cycle 2 Awards	$82,577		
	FY21 Balance	$3,294		

MISC Budget — FY 22 Budget Worksheet

	FY21	FY21 expenditures	FY22 budget
MISC Appropriation	**$50,000**		**$50,000**
Council member travel (meetings, conferences)	$10,000	$0	$10,000
2021 NAISMA/MISC Conference	$9,500*	$950	$8,550
Science Advisory Panel	$10,000	$0	$10,000
E&O (design and materials)	$20,500	$17,600	
FWP Hunt/Fish Ads	0	$9,920	
NISAW digital/print advertising and all-tax campaign	0	$5,000	
Outreach events and conferences (virtual/in-person)	$0	$0	
TOTAL	**$50,000**	**$33,470**	**$**

FY21 Appropriation	$50,000
FY20 Accruals	$12,094
FY21 Expenditures	$33,470
FY21 Remaining	$ 4,436

Accrued Funds Remaining from FY20-21:

E&O Videos Contract	$16,000
Windfall	$ 2,500

*NAISMA budget set at $20,500 at 1/8/2020 meeting. To date $11,950 has been expended ($11,000 sponsorship pd., $950 2020 MISC member registration fees).

AIS Grant Program Appropriation	**$278,580**	**$278,580**	
Funds to award	$250,722	$250,722	
DNRC 10% admin.	$27,858	$27,585	
TOTAL	**$278,580**	**$278,580**	**$557,160**