



# Montana Invasive Species Council

## Meeting Materials Packet for March 4, 2021

### Contents

Note: Documents are hyperlinked for ease of navigation

1. Meeting Agenda for March 4, 2021
2. New All-Taxa Video
3. Emerald Ash-borer Deregulation
4. *Xerolenta obvia* Science Advisory Panel Report
5. December 2, 2020, Meeting Minutes
6. 2021 North American Invasive Species Management Assn. Conference Save the Date (event co-hosted by MISC)

# 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.



### THURSDAY, March 4, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	<b>WELCOME</b> Chair Bryce Christiaens Roll call
9:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	<b>LEADERSHIP INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS</b> Director Kaster, DNRC Michael Freeman, Natural Resources Policy Advisor Director Long, MDT Director Worsech, FWP Director Foster, MDA
10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	<b>EMERALD ASH BORER DEREGULATION</b> Ian Foley, MDA, Agricultural Sciences Division Administrator Gary Adams, USDA-APHIS, State Plant Health Director
10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.	<b>SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL</b> <i>Xerolenta obvia</i> (Xo) Science Advisory Panel *ACTION: Xo Economic Damages Report Next panel topic discussion
10:55 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	<b>EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</b> All-taxa messaging Outreach to outdoor retailers project Events *ACTION: 2021 E&O projects
11:20 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS AND UPDATES</b> *ACTION: December 2, 2020, meeting minutes Houndstongue, Melissa Maggio-Kasner, MT Biological Weed Control Coordination Project North American Invasive Species Management 2021 Legislative Updates Budget Update
11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>PARTNER UPDATES AND WRAP-UP</b> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:shawna.swanz@mt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.



MISC

Montana Invasive Species Council

Greg Gianforte  
Governor



302 N Roberts, PO Box 200201  
Helena, Montana 59620-0201

Mike Foster  
Director

406.444.3144 • Fax: 406.444.5409 • agr@mt.gov • www.agr.mt.gov

## **Quarantine Name: Emerald Ash Borer Exterior Quarantine**

### **Quarantine: MTQ-2021-001**

Reason for Quarantine: To minimize the risk of introduction of emerald ash borer into Montana. Emerald ash borer is a highly destructive insect pest that has killed millions of ash trees (*Fraxinus* sp.) across North America. This species is not known to occur anywhere within the State Montana.

**Pest:** Emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire

### **Regulated Area:**

(1) Areas subject to quarantine requirements:

- a. The entire states of Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin;
- b. The entire Canadian provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island;
- c. The South Dakota counties of Lincoln, Minnehaha, and Turner;
- d. The Colorado areas regulated as infested areas by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry;
- e. Any areas not mentioned above and subsequently found to be infested;
- f. Any area designated by the Director.

### **Regulated Articles:**

- (1) Emerald ash borer in any living stage of development;
- (2) All ash nursery stock including all species of the genus *Fraxinus*;
- (3) Untreated ash trees, limbs, branches, logs, stumps, cut logs and roots capable of harboring live emerald ash borer;
- (4) Any other plant, plant part, article, product, or means of conveyance which the Director determines to present a risk of spread of emerald ash borer.

**Restrictions:**

All regulated articles are prohibited entry into Montana from an area under quarantine excepted as listed in the Quarantine. A phytosanitary certificate or other document attesting to Quarantine compliance must accompany all regulated articles.

**Regulated articles may be imported into Montana under the following conditions:**

- (1) Documentation of the origin for each shipment in the form of a certificate, bill of lading or invoice including state or province and county or parish if from an infested jurisdiction;
- (2) The regulated article is treated in a manner approved by the regulatory agency in the state of origin in a way that prevents the regulated article from presenting a risk of spreading emerald ash borer, as indicated on a phytosanitary certificate or compliance agreement;
- (3) Heat treatment of 60 °C (140 °F) for 60 minutes at wood core or a temperature and duration approved by the Director and documented on a heat treatment certificate.

**Disposition of Regulated Articles under Quarantine:**

Disposition of regulated articles arriving in Montana in violation of the Quarantine shall be immediately sent out of state, destroyed, or treated by a method and in a manner directed by the Montana State Plant Regulatory Official. Cost of removal, destruction, and treatment are at the expense of the owner, owners, or their duly authorized agents. Violation of the quarantine order are subject to civil penalties as listed in the Administrative Rules of Montana 4.12.1307.

**Definitions:**

**Director** means the Director of the Montana Department of Agriculture or his or her authorized representative.

**Infestation** means actually infested or infected with a pest or so exposed to infestation that it would be reasonable to believe that an infestation exists.

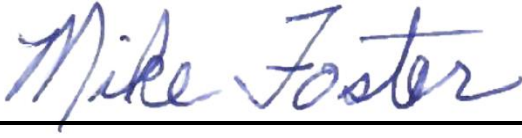
**Certificate and Certificate of Inspection** means a document issued or authorized to be issued by the Director, including state-issued certificates of quarantine compliance, state phytosanitary certificates and multiple-use quarantine certificates, to allow the movement of regulated articles to any destination.

**Long-term Quarantine** means a quarantine lasting more than one year in duration.

**Permit** means written authorization issued by the department, another state, or the federal government and is approved by the department for movement of any prohibited or restricted plants, plant pets, regulated articles or quarantined plants, articles, or conveyances.

**Length of Quarantine:** Emergency quarantine and adoption as a short-term quarantine. The quarantine will be reviewed annually.

**Attachments:** None



January 13, 2021

---

Mike Foster

Date

Director, Montana Department of Agriculture



# Montana Invasive Species Council

## Key Findings of the *Xerolenta obvia* (Eastern Heath Snail) Science Advisory Panel: A discussion on the biology, monitoring, and best management practices for control.

A nine-person panel of researchers, management specialists, and pest program coordinators, met via video conferencing in December 2020. The panel was organized by the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) to review the status of *Xerolenta obvia* (Eastern Heath Snail) in Belt, Montana and discuss gaps in our current understanding of the biology of this species, review risks posed by this species, and determine the resources needed to initiate best management practices. Key challenges, recommendations and next steps identified by panelists follow.

---

## Challenges

- *Xerolenta obvia* (Eastern Heath Snail) is established in Belt, Montana
  - Introduced as early as 1910, possibly with mining operations
  - At least one producer currently impacted (hay)
  - Residents resistant to control efforts as risk of chemical treatments seen as higher risk than the snail
  - Population density reaches high levels within the Belt Valley
  - Resources are limited to mitigate existing snail populations and potential spread
  - There are currently no local cooperative agreements to manage this species or rules prohibiting their transport
- *Xerolenta obvia* is spreading in Montana, Michigan and Ontario, Canada
  - Climate does not appear to be a barrier to the spread of *Xerolenta obvia*
  - Millions of acres of are located in production areas within the likely range of this species
  - The species is regulated at the international border; not all states regulate interstate movement
  - Populations in Michigan expanded once control efforts discontinued and snails spread along rail lines and through intermodal transport
  - Transport of materials (gravel) and vehicles have established at least three additional Montana populations 18-28 miles from Belt
  - Construction (electrical, internet cables) and road work can potentially spread snails
  - Vehicles, garbage cans, propane tanks, bee hives, and any structures left in the field can amass snails providing the potential to move them to other sites
- *Xerolenta obvia* is not currently identified as a high-risk species due to the following:
  - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's 2004 Pest Risk Assessment
  - It is considered a generalist feeder with low direct impacts
  - Lower densities in native range do not have the impacts observed in the introduced range
  - Very high densities have not significantly impacted producers by contaminating equipment or crops
- Research on the biology of *Xerolenta obvia* and gastropods in general is limited and underfunded
- Management requires substantial time, consistent access to funds, staffing, effective molluscicides, and community support for long-term control efforts.
- The most effective molluscicide (e.g. metaldehyde) is not being used due to cost and mitigation requirements
- Sustainable long-term funding for outreach and management for mollusk pests is limited and a low priority

## Recommendations

- Initiate a robust research program to investigate and better understand the biology of *Xerolenta obvia* to improve management decisions and options in the future
  - Identify if *Xerolenta obvia* is capable of transmitting vertebrate parasites in North America or the spores of plant diseases
  - Identify where the North American populations of *Xerolenta obvia* originated from to improve efforts to predict their spread and introduction
  - Identify and prioritize other research needs
- Redevelop and modify the 2012 Environmental Review for *Xerolenta obvia* based on the larger area now occupied, including different treatments recommended for landowners, roadsides and different cropping systems, and the impact of integrated pest management (IPM) measures that include increased till and burning to reduce populations in hay fields
- Develop a cooperative management plan for *Xerolenta obvia* in Montana based on the recommendations in the USDA New Pest Guidelines – Temperate Terrestrial Gastropods, other local response plans for gastropod species, and local priorities to include the following recommendations:
  - Boost survey efforts to identify locations of established populations
  - Develop tools to manage pathways and reduce the movement of snails
  - Utilize metaldehyde products, wherever possible, and reduce the use of iron phosphate for control. Incorporate vegetation management into control work
  - Use the full suite of management tools to keep snails from reaching densities that make harvesting impossible and to ensure that there is uniform use to eliminate refugia populations
- Conduct an economic impact analysis of the spread of this and related species in Montana
- Develop targeted outreach materials for the public and those that recreate near infested areas; the public; residents; producers; and industry to build awareness of invasive gastropods
  - Develop identification and reporting tools
  - Raise awareness about the need to check for and remove hitchhiking snails, e.g. install signage at access points to local recreation areas in infested areas indicating the presence of *Xerolenta obvia*
  - Identify impacted industries, processors, and growers and improve understanding of the impacts of expanding snail populations on operations and exports
  - Create a liaison officer position modeled after the South Australia Grains Biosecurity Officer to support impacted industries in adopting the control practices and equipment modifications needed to continue producing crops on heavily infested sites
- Include snails to the gravel section being developed for the Montana weed seed free forage program (MDA bill 2021 leg. Session)
- Secure long-term and sustainable funding and capacity for management efforts
- Support the continued availability of chemical control tools to contain spreading invasive species
- Address non-insect pests at a national level

---

## Conclusion

The MISC *Xerolenta obvia* Science Advisory Panel provided a platform to review the efforts taken since the official discovery of this species in Montana in 2012 and discuss the best globally practiced management practices for pest gastropods. An advantage in managing this newly expanding threat is the ability of U.S. managers and producers to build on decades of experience developed in Australia. A complex of terrestrial snails similar to the Eastern heath snail [i.e. the Mediterranean snails: *Cernuella virgata*, *Cochlicella acuta*,



*Cochlicella (Prietocella) barbara* (Geomitridae), and *Theba pisana* (Helicidae)] have impacted grain and pulse growers in South Australia and surrounding regions.

The economic impact in areas with these high-density aggregating snails has led to the development of a suite of management tools and practices that can be adapted to U.S. grain, pulse, and canola production. The estimated cost to producers to manage the four established Mediterranean snail species is an additional \$50/hectare (\$20.23/acre/year). Costs include reducing snail presence in fields of grain, pulses, and hay in addition to costs due to crop losses. For Montana, the 2019 State Agricultural Review for Montana (USDA) indications predict productions to be:

- 5,450,000 acres wheat
- 3,000,000 acres hay
- 950,000 acres barley
- 1,024,000 acres pulses (lentils, peas, chickpeas)
- 244,800 acres brassica (canola, sugar beets)

Applying Australian estimates, additional costs to Montana growers using the predicted total acreage of crop production could exceed \$215 million per year in additional costs to producers to manage snails. Australia's experience provides information that Montana can use to mitigate the impacts of *Xerolenta obvia* and also amplifies a sense of urgency regarding the importance to develop a local and regional approach for containment and management of *Xerolenta obvia* to avoid potential economic impacts.

---

## Next Steps

MISC has identified the following steps to utilize the information from the panel:

- Distribute information generated from the scientific advisory panel to all interested parties including outreach networks, neighboring states, and impacted industries
- Engage regional coordinating bodies for both impacted industries and invasive species coordinating bodies to assist in the promotion/implementation of the next steps identified by the panelists
- Support research on both the biology of this pest and possible control strategies
- Conduct an economic impact analysis and develop education and outreach materials
- Encourage and support the development of funding and regulations for invasive gastropods (slugs and snails)

## 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.

<b>Meeting/ Project Name:</b>	<b>MISC</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>December 2, 2020</b>	<b>Time:</b>	9:30 AM
<b>Minutes Prepared By:</b>	<b>Shawna Swanz and Stephanie Criswell</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Virtual, Zoom, Recorded
<b>Attendees</b>			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (Missoula County Weed District – Chair), Alec Underwood (MT Wildlife Fed.), Amy Gannon (DNRC representative), Andy Welch (Hydropower-Northwestern Energy), Beth Eiring (proxy for Jasmine Reimer, MDA), Bob Cloninger (MDT), David Brooks (Montana Trout Unlimited), Dennis Longknife (Fort Belknap), Gerald Cobell (Blackfeet Nation), Jan Stoddard (DOC), Jane Mangold (MSU-Ext.), Leigh Greenwood (TNC), Martin Charlo (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes), Steve Wanderaas (CDs), Steven Tyrrel (Agriculture), Thomas Woolf (FWP)</p> <p>Federal Partners: Gary Adams (USDA-APHIS), Michelle Cox (USFS), Monica Pokorny (USDA-NRCS), Wendy Velman (BLM), Jessica Zarate (US Fish and Wildlife Service)</p> <p>Other Attendees: Amanda Bourdon (Confederated Salish &amp; Kootenai Tribes), Autumn Christenson (Missouri River Watershed Program Coordinator), Deb Tirmenstein (Montana Black Dogs Services), Jared Beaver (MSU, Extension Wildlife Specialist), Jayden Duckworth (MT FWP), Juli Thurston (Sanders County Extension), Kate Wilson (DNRC-Upper Columbia Conservation Commission), Katie Taylor (Grouse Mountain Environmental Specialists), Laura Lundquist (Missoula Current), Liv Holt (Missouri River Conservation Districts Council), Liz Lodman Stine (MT FWP), Peter Rice, Rachel Cramer (Yellowstone Public Radio), Sara Owen (Clark Fork Project Grant Writer), Sean Flynn (MT FWP), Shawna Swanz (Admin. Attachment Coord.), Stephanie Criswell (DNRC, MISC Coordinator), Susan Chin (US Customs and Border Protection), Susan Drumheller (Clark Fork Project Grant Writer), Tahnee Szymanski (DOL), Tom Kuglin (Helena IR)</p> <p>Unidentified: 1406****117, 1406****494, 1406****305</p>			
<b>Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues</b>			
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>		
Welcome & Introductions	Bryce opened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. Stephanie conducted roll call. Quorum confirmed.		
September 3, 2020 meeting minutes approval	<p>Meeting minutes were distributed via digital and USPS meeting packet for review prior to meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned to adopt minutes from the September 3, 2020, meeting as provided.  Second: Jane Mangold  Discussion: None  Public comment: None  Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously</p>		

<p><b>Feral Swine Updates</b></p> <p>Dr. Tahnee Syzmanski, Assistant State Veterinarian, Department of Livestock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feral swine prevention and response program in Montana going very well that began in earnest 1½-2 years ago.</li> <li>• With the help of MISC, the Squeal on Pigs Campaign was developed and launched to provide public education and a single phone number to report sightings.</li> <li>• Continue to educate additional partners; US Wildlife Services, MT Fish Wildlife and Parks, Department of Livestock field staff and streamline reporting.</li> <li>• Volume of reports reflects the success of the process and campaign. At the beginning there were 1-2 sighting reports a year. Close to 10 reports to-date in 2020. None of the reports have been confirmed incidences of feral swine presence.</li> <li>• With each report, DOL refines its response and report conclusion activities.</li> <li>• Most recent report came from hunters along the hi-line who made first contact with MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks field staff. FWP staff successfully redirected the hunters to the Squeal on Pigs Campaign hot-line number. DOL received the call and conducted follow up. The sighting was determined to be domestic escapees and returned to owner. Incident illustrates the success of the Campaign, public awareness, and staff response.</li> <li>• Feral Swine Fact Sheet is now available in print and digital format. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Action: Develop a plan for distribution and printing of Feral Swine Fact Sheet and information for 2021 hunting season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Focused effort on the landscape during hunting season</li> <li>▪ Online where licenses are purchased</li> <li>▪ Secure ad in Montana FWP hunting and fishing regulations publications</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ PDF link: <a href="https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/montana-invasive-species/squeal-on-pigs">https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/montana-invasive-species/squeal-on-pigs</a></li> <li>○ 508 ADA compliant version PDF link: <a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/technical/ecoscience/invasive/invasive+species/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/technical/ecoscience/invasive/invasive+species/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Printed Feral Swine Fact Sheet can be requested from Tahnee or Stephanie.</li> <li>• Jared Beaver (jared.beaver@montana.edu) is new Montana State University wildlife extension specialist who has been helping with outreach efforts. He has worked in states that have feral swine populations. Another great resource for outreach and education about feral swine.</li> <li>• Squeal on Pigs is 24-hour hotline.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aquatic Invasive Species Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Tom Woolf, MT Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks - AIS Program Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom provided an overview of 2020 season including watercraft inspection, monitoring, outreach, and Covid challenges, as well as plans for 2021.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Link to Presentation PDF</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Stephanie Criswell, DNRC MISC Coordinator - AIS Grant Program Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded 13 projects in FY20 cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 projects are complete and have closed out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whitefish Lake Institute permanent station</li> <li>▪ Flathead Biological Station remote sampling Tiber/Flathead</li> <li>▪ Fragrant Water Lily Survey and trial treatments</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The remaining 2/3 have asked for extensions that were COVID related <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extended to end of 2021</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• FY21 AIS Grant Applications – Cycle 1 (list of proposals provided in meeting packet)</li> </ul>

- Received 12 applications; 3 ineligible because they were received after the deadline. 5 on-the ground education proposals, 4 education and outreach, 0 research
- AIS Review Committee is currently reviewing the 9 eligible applications
- Requests for eligible applications totaled \$199,918
- Available Funding = \$250,722
- Review meeting for cycle 1 applications is scheduled for Dec. 15 for reviewers to form recommendations for January 7, 2021 hearings
- Applicants have been notified that they can present project at the Zoom meeting
- Tom noted that revised grant structure is working well, good proposals
- **Action: Stephanie will send out committee funding recommendations and grant project briefs prior to the hearings**
- Bryce encouraged members to attend hearings
- Stephanie explained that according to the program guidelines, a quorum will be represented by the council members in attendance, not a quorum of the full membership
- Cycle 2 will be announced by end of 2020 to expend remaining funds

**Kate Wilson, DNRC UC<sup>3</sup> Administrator - UC<sup>3</sup> Update**

Recommendations to improve AIS management came out of the 2018 MISC Law Review. UC<sup>3</sup> created a legislative committee to prioritize and discuss five recommendations.

- At the Nov. 4, 2020, meeting UC<sup>3</sup> voted to move forward with bills for two of the five recommendations
  - 1) Aquatic Plants Invasive Species List
    - FWP to manage
    - Create AIS invasive species list similar to the noxious weed list
    - Bill has been drafted, confirming a sponsor
    - Approved for pre-draft by the Environmental Quality Council
    - Good, broad-based bipartisan support
  - 2) Pull the Plug
    - Boats that have plugs must pull them in transport
    - Reduce amount of standing water arriving at check station
    - Reduce time at station
    - Better boater experience
    - Sponsored by Rep. Durham (UC<sup>3</sup> member)
- UC3 is providing outreach to build support for the bills
  - **Action: Kate is creating a fact sheet for bills**
  - Looking to partner organizations to provide testimony
- Industry Outreach Project
  - Second year
  - Trying to secure a Big Sky Water Corp member to reach out with the Clean.Drain.Dry message to all water-based industries in the upper Columbia River Basin, approx. 150: outdoor retailers, fly shops, boat shops, marinas, etc.
- Next UC<sup>3</sup> meeting is February 10, 2021

*Discussion points:*

- Tom, Stephanie and Kate were complemented for their AIS work and for how the program has progressed in a few short years. Keep it up!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Southwest US has more robust prevention programs, so MT does not see as many mussel-fouled boat movements from that area as opposed to prevention and movement from the Midwest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Southwest is becoming more proactive in prevention efforts. They do see a lot of boats with mussels on them, but it is improving. Utah is leading the charge at Lake Powell. Arizona is still a huge challenge, but Nevada has tightened things up at Lake Mead.</li> <li>○ In Montana, there is a different use pattern than states to the south. Influence of Lake Powell is much greater in Idaho. Coast to coast traffic in Montana—boats moving from the Great Lakes to Washington and Idaho, as well as Montana. Increase in boats coming from the Midwest.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There's a lot more interest in this issue now and a lot of work to do. Many states in the Midwest do not have aquatic invasive species programs or prevention programs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need targeted education to address this pathway</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Program Updates</b>	<p><b>2021 NAISMA Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MISC is Co-Sponsor</li> <li>• Missoula, September 27-30, 2021</li> <li>• MISC's co-sponsorship fee has been paid using funds from the last fiscal year</li> <li>• Action: Let Kate or Stephanie know if you want to be on the planning committee</li> <li>• Action: Send Kate or Stephanie ideas for field trips, projects to showcase, etc.</li> <li>• Theme is Transboundary Cooperation</li> <li>• Action: Invite the Governor's office to be a keynote speaker</li> <li>• Action: Invite Federal Delegation</li> </ul> <p><b>Xerolenta obvia (Xo) Science Advisory Panel</b> Information and agenda in Dec 2 meeting packet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled for Dec 7-10, 2-4 pm</li> <li>• MISC toured the Belt site at a quarterly meeting in April 2017</li> <li>• Panel outcomes are to consider the science and basic biology of the invasive snail</li> <li>• Only 3 know populations in North America: Montana, Michigan, Ontario-Canada</li> <li>• Working with a global panel from Australia, MSU, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, and Florida</li> <li>• MISC produced a video about the history, background, research, and current status of invasive snail in Belt</li> <li>• Video will be presented the first day of the Science Panel Workshops and available on website</li> <li>• Bryce added that as Science Advisor Panels evolve, the virtual format could provide additional opportunities to draw on cross country and international expertise</li> <li>• Approximately 20 participants signed up so far</li> <li>• Action: Let Bryce and Stephanie about future Science Advisory Panel ideas</li> </ul> <p><b>Education and Outreach and Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MISC not registering for any in-person or virtual events at this time</li> <li>• RFP currently out to produce 3 videos, \$20,000 budget <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All-Taxa currently in Montana or threatening</li> <li>2. Feral Swine</li> <li>3. TBD—possibly EAB considering possible deregulation</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Action: Let Stephanie know your video ideas</li> </ul>

## 2021 Legislative Session

### Education and Outreach at 2021 session (01:22:16)

- Rotunda Day scheduled for January 27 - in question due to legislative session format unknowns
- Possible unstaffed display table, video presentations, flyers/information at legislator desks
- Will provide outreach during National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Feb 24-28, 2021
  - Plan to use videos, targeted daily message, and provide other E&O
- Planning all-taxa education session with natural resource committees
  - Working with legislative staff to get on the schedule
- **Action: Reach out to the Natural Resource Committee chairs to try and schedule education session early on in session**
- Will need additional education and outreach effort for new administration and new department heads
- **Action: Get the new MISC 2020 Accomplishments Report to all legislators**

### MISC Membership

- Discussion about potential changes to MISC with new administration
  - MISC is in statute and remains in existence unless the legislature decides to change the law
  - Members are appointed by the Governor, so it is possible new administration may make changes, although unlikely at least in the short-term (likely not a high priority)
- Term changes are coming up
- **Action: Send out reminders to MISC members with term expiration dates**
- Director Tubbs (retires at the end of December 2020) has written a letter to new DNRC Director that includes discussion of MISC's work

### Proposed Invasive Species Legislation as of Dec. 2

LC0360	9/10/2020	Environmental Quality Council	(C) Draft in Legal Review	11/9/2020	Revise membership of the Montana Invasive Species Council
LC0361	9/10/2020	Environmental Quality Council	(C) Draft Request Received	9/10/2020	Clarify AIS management authority laws
LC0372	9/11/2020	Environmental Quality Council	(C) Draft in Edit	11/2/2020	Revising laws on mandatory decontamination of vessels with ballast and bladders
LC0431	9/16/2020	Economic Affairs Interim Committee	(C) Draft Request Received	9/16/2020	Expand materials certified under noxious weed seed free program

Legislative Update email will again be sent out during this legislative session

- **Action: Organizations and Agencies send any legislative news and updates to Stephanie to be included in that email**
- LC0431 language may include other taxa, snails a possibility that would address Eastern heath snail

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom noted Sen. Pomnichowski is planning to carry LC0372 to amend ballast decontamination requirements. Gives FWP more discretion on what boats to decontaminate based on risk</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wrap-up Adjourn</b> (02:11:34)</p>	<p><b>Agency and Partner Updates</b></p> <p><u>Missoula County Weed District/Bryce Christiaens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missoula Co. Commission passed a resolution to create a county Aquatic Invasive Species District</li> <li>• Recruiting for volunteer board members to help develop strategic and operations plans</li> <li>• Hope to create a template for other counties that want to move in similar direction</li> </ul> <p><u>Agriculture/Steve Tyrrel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montana Conservation Districts working on outreach to Midwest states to address issues involving neighboring states not having aquatic invasive species programs</li> <li>• Attempt to get national programs established between here and the Great Lakes</li> <li>• CEMIST plans to participate in legislative activities</li> </ul> <p><u>Confederated Salish and Kootenai/Martin Charlo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting our lake and reservation boundaries is critical to generations to come</li> <li>• People who work here take it very seriously and are very proud of what they do at check points—we call them water protectors</li> <li>• It is not easy work, more challenging and a little more dangerous, but have good continuity in employees, they enjoy it</li> </ul> <p><u>DNRC Forest Pest Management/Amy Gannon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban and Community Forestry Program grant available through US Forest Service</li> <li>• Working with MSU extension and DNRC on the Emerald Ash Borer detection project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Destructive branch peeling on Ash tree branches</li> <li>◦ Pilot program in Bozeman</li> <li>◦ Have not found any EAB</li> <li>◦ Emerald Ash Borer Fact Sheet is available at <a href="https://ipm.montana.edu/documents/ent-fact-sheets-2020/eab_fact_sheet.pdf">https://ipm.montana.edu/documents/ent-fact-sheets-2020/eab_fact_sheet.pdf</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• DNRC Forest Action Plan has been published with information on invasive species and MISC's coordination role</li> </ul> <p><u>Montana Trout Unlimited/David Brooks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through AIS Grant extension have been stenciling “Clean. Drain. Dry.” message on access spots, boat ramps, and fishing access sites</li> <li>• Have sets of stencils to loan out</li> <li>• Will be at legislature full time working on AIS issues</li> </ul> <p><u>University Extension/Jane Mangold</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviewing for new Associate Director and new Forage Specialist</li> <li>• Developing monitoring protocols for evaluating effectiveness of noxious weed management</li> <li>• New educational deliverable projects in the works</li> </ul> <p><u>MT Wildlife Federation/Alec Underwood</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing for 2021 Legislative Session</li> <li>• Thanks to Tom Woolf on a successful AIS season—stopped at many check stations this summer and fall; staff always professional, good process</li> </ul>



BLM/Wendy Velman

- Thanks for all the good work, information and updates, very helpful, share with field staff

USDA-APHIS/Gary Adams

- Busy summer working in conjunction with Montana Dept. of Ag
- Unsolicited seeds from China and other countries issue
  - Collected, identified, destroyed
  - No significant pest risk, marketing scam
  - Moved through the channels, discovered loopholes, closed pathways
- *Ralstonia solanacearum*
  - Disease of potatoes and tomatoes
  - Identified on geranium plants distributed throughout the county
  - Geranium plants were traced and destroyed
- On the lookout for Murder Hornets
- Even though they are a non-invasive, native organism grasshoppers have been a big issue this year

US Forest Service/Michelle Cox

- Wild Spotter™ (mapping invasives in America) app. rollout; requested webinar for invasive species managers and partners about how to use app
- Great American Outdoor Act
  - Weed and invasive species managers working closely with recreation staff to ensure invasive species management is included in project funding
  - Great boost in invasive species programs across the state

USDA-NRCS/Monica Pokorny

- New publication, Plants Poisonous to Livestock in Montana and Wyoming
  - Information includes symptoms, toxic does, prevention
  - Available on the website, hard copies printed in the future
- Thanks to the council for the updates, flyers, and information, make it easy to get information on the ground to field offices, appreciate it

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Jessica Zarate

- In process of hiring new Program Coordinator

Montana Natural Heritage Program/Bryce Maxell (read by Stephanie)

- 7,887 observations of 23 nonnative animal and plant species and 17,601 structured surveys for 24 nonnative animal and plant species were added to the natural resource information system database since June 30, 2020.
- Total of 63,599 observations associated with 2,170,333 structured surveys for 78 AIS in the database.
- Boat access layers, docks, ramps, marinas, access points was finalized over the summer and should be available on the statewide GIS data list in the next few weeks.
- DNRC and the Department of Ag grants to the Heritage Program have now been transferred from UM to the State Library. This resulted in some work delays on data centralization and development on species, risk maps for invasives, but should be able to catch up by early 2021.

The Nature Conservancy/Leigh Greenwood

- If Emerald Ash Borer is deregulated by the federal government, Montana will be responsible for protecting itself through state laws
- White Bark Pine now on the proposal to be a federally listed species for the Endangered Species Act under the threat from White Pine Blister Rust
  - Unusual wording in the proposal



- Leigh and Amy not sure if respective agencies will provide comment to the proposal

Action: Leigh and Amy will discuss federal proposal to list White Bark Pine.

Department of Agriculture/Beth Eiring

Dept of Ag is moving forward with an EAB quarantine draft.

Stephanie read overview provided by Ian regarding proposed legislation to expand materials certified under Weed Seed Free program.

**Next MISC Meeting: March 4, 2021**

Action: Send ideas for agenda items, presentations or information to Bryce or Stephanie.

No public comments or questions.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Jane Mangold moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Steve Tyrrel

Discussion: None

Public comment: None

Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned: 11:48 am



# Save the date!

## 28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE Transboundary Cooperation

Sept. 27-30, 2021 | Missoula, Montana  
North American Invasive Species Management  
Association | co-hosted with the Montana  
Invasive Species Council



[NAISMA.org/conferences](https://naisma.org/conferences)