

The Montana Invasive Species Council



A statewide partnership working to protect Montana's economy, natural resources and public health through a coordinated approach to combat invasive species.

MISC's mission is to protect Montana's economy, natural 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.

Executive Committee

County Weed Districts

Bryce Christiaens, Chair
Missoula County Weed District Manager

Conservation Districts

Steve Wanderaas, Vice Chair
McCone County

FWP Representative

Tom Woolf, Vice Chair
AIS Bureau Chief

Stephanie Hester, MISC Coordinator
DNRC Invasive Species Program Manager

Agriculture

Steve Tyrrel, Integrated Ag. Services, Vice President/CEO

Blackfeet Nation (appt. pending)

Dona Rutherford, Blackfeet Environmental Office

Chippewa Cree Tribe

Daryl Wright II, Council Member

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Dennis Clairmont, Tribal Council

Conservation Organization

Leigh Greenwood
Nature Conservancy, Don't Move Firewood Campaign
Manager

Crow Tribe of Indians (appt. pending)

Gail Whiteman, Crowe Land Management

DOC Representative

Jan Stoddard, Bureau Chief
Industry Services & Outreach

DNRC Representative

Amy Gannon, Pest Management Specialist

Fishing Organization

David Brooks, Montana Trout Unlimited

Fort Belknap Indian Community

Dennis Longknife, Climate Change Coordinator

Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

Laurie Shafer, Water Quality Specialist

Hydropower Representative

Andy Welch, NW Energy, Hydropower Compliance Mgr.

MDA Representative

Kim Mangold, MDA Deputy Director

MDT Representative

Mike Miller, Noxious Weed Coordinator

University Extension

Jane Mangold, MSU Ext, Noxious Weed Specialist

Wildlife Organization

Alec Underwood, Montana Wildlife Federation

Vacancies

Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Private landowner



MISC Updates:

- Establishment of an independent scientific advisory panel for invasive species issues
 - **Issue:** Potential limitations, research needs and interpretation of Environmental-DNA results for use in early detection monitoring for zebra/quagga mussels
 - **Status:** Beginning stages of developing stakeholder workgroup to refine SAP questions and identify experts to engage in the panel
 - **Timeline:** Workshop and recommendations to be completed in time to incorporate results into 2018 survey/monitoring field season
- Invasive Species Law Review
 - **Issue:** Clarify existing statute regarding all-taxa invasive species issues (regulatory authority, management responsibility, funding, etc.)
 - **Status:** in the process of hiring law student from UM Law School's Land Use & Natural Resources clinic to compile current federal, tribal and state statute and rule related to invasive species in Montana
 - **Timeline:** Completed in July of 2018 to serve as basis for summit in fall of 2018 to discuss potential solutions to identified gaps in management, authority and funding.
- Stakeholder interest in raising the fine for not stopping at Watercraft Inspection Stations
 - **Issue:** current fine for not stopping at a watercraft inspection station is \$85.
 - **Status:** stakeholders in meetings in both the Columbia and Missouri River watersheds, ranging from boaters to agricultural producers, believe this fee is too low to serve as any kind of barrier to not stopping at WIS and are interested in the MISC and the Upper Columbia Basin Commission recommending to Fish, Wildlife and Parks to increase fine through rule.
 - **Timeline:** Working to have new fine in place by 2018 Watercraft Inspection Season.

MISC Committees:

- **Data Management:** Established to facilitate the development, implementation and enhancement of a coordinated information data management system for invasive species in Montana.
- **Education & Outreach:** Established to coordinate and promote invasive species information between natural resource managers, scientists, educators, policy makers, stakeholders and the public.
- **Invasive Woody Trees:** Established to facilitate a more coordinated statewide network for management of invasive tree species across the state of Montana
- **Firewood:** Pathway-based Committee that focuses on preventing the spread of invasive species through the movement of firewood
- **Tree Pest:** Serves primarily as an information sharing body between multiple parties that have a role in tree pest issues throughout Montana.

Invasive Species on the Horizon:

- **Feral Hog** encroachment into Montana from Saskatchewan into Northeastern Montana. USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services have been receiving reports of pig activity from cooperating landowners recently, and have conducted looking for pigs in the area where they were reported.
- **Emerald Ash Borer** has been confirmed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, which is now the closest infestation to Montana, only being approximately 300 miles from our border.