

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		
Date of Meeting:	September 7, 2022	Time:	9:00 AM
Minutes Prepared By:	Anna Passage	Location:	Montana Capitol, Room 152 and virtual via Zoom
Attendees			
<p>MISC Voting Members: Bryce Christiaens (County Weed Districts – Chair), Tom Woolf (Fish Wildlife and Parks – Vice Chair), Steve Wanderaas (Conservation Districts, Vice Chair), Steve Tyrrel (Agriculture), Andy Welch (Hydropower), Martin Charlo (CKST), Jason Allen (MT Dept of Transportation), Leigh Greenwood (Conservation Organization), Paul Rossignol (Wildlife Organization), Amy Gannon (DNRC), Jan Stoddard (Department of Commerce), Dennis Longknife Jr. (Fort Belknap Indian Community).</p> <p>Liz Lodman, Anna Passage, Mindy Wilkenson</p> <p>Other Attendees: Ian Foley, Monika Pokorny, Jacob Bradford, Karen Laitala, Leslie Nelson, Michelle Cox, Steve Bekedam, Larry Urban, Cassidy Bender, Wendy Velman, Lori Witham, Bryce Maxell, Patrick Kocovsky (U.S. Geological Survey), Tahnee Szymanski (Dept of Livestock).</p>			
Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Roll call	Bryce opened the meeting at 9:06 am, conducted roll call and confirmed quorum.		
Administrative Business	<p>Action Item: Approval of June 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes Motion: Steve Tyrrel to approve the June 1, 2022, meeting minutes. Second: Andy Welch Discussion: None Public comment: None Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously.</p>		
Meetings Update PNWER	<p>Liz Lodman – MISC, Stave Wanderaas – Conservation Districts, Tom Woolf – Fish Wildlife and Parks Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER): Was held in Calgary July 25-27 with one entire day focused on invasive species presentations. MISC members in attendance were Steve Wanderaas, Tahnee Szymanski, and Liz Lodman; Tom Woolf zoomed in. MISC hosted a booth with information about feral swine and AIS.</p> <p>Steve Wanderaas: Last attended the PNWER conference in 2019 when Saskatchewan didn't seem to acknowledge the feral swine problem but in recent years they have started to recognize it as an issue. Saskatchewan has moratoriums on raising wild boar and hunting. Canada researchers estimate there are more</p>		

	<p>feral swine in Saskatchewan then all the other Canada provinces combined .</p> <p>Tahnee Szymanski: Co-chaired the cross-border livestock health committee for PNWER, led some sessions and was a panelist on a session. The cross-border livestock health committee was paired with the invasive species committee bringing those two groups together and have the conversation about: (1) feral swine harmful impacts, and (2) disease of feral swine and what their presence may mean for the livestock industry and other groups.</p> <p>Tom Woolf: Presented virtually on the Tiber mussel story, how that response occurred, and the current status of the reservoir. PNWER has been active in getting AIS related funding to western states and promoting a regional defense strategy to prevent mussels from moving west and north for mussel impacted areas. A presenter from Manitoba, (not officially part of PNWER) discussed the westward movement of mussels across Canada. Conference members discussed using Army Corps of Engineers funds more broadly especially in the central states like the Dakotas and possibly into Canada for AIS prevention efforts.</p> <p>Liz Lodman: Served on a panel and coordinated with other states/provinces to have feral swine information at the booth. Next year PNWER is in Boise, probably July. Invasive species was not on the agenda last year when PNWER was in Big Sky, although MISC and FWP hosted booths that year. Hoping that PNWER will have at least one session on invasive species every year. PNWER is a good venue to reach policy makers who aren't normally exposed to this information.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>What was the response of the legislators from the U.S or the members of the parliament regarding the feral swine conversation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Mike Cuffe was the only Montana legislator at PNWER; he did not attend the feral swine sessions but did attend the AIS sessions. <p>There had been a legislator and an area expert in invasive species that had co-chaired the invasive species committee. Who is the area expert chair?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Beck from British Columbia.
Upcoming MISC Events	<p>Liz Lodman – MISC</p> <p>Montana Environmental Education Association (MEEA) meeting in Missoula on September 16-17. Liz will staff a booth and do a presentation about <i>Don't Let it Loose</i> campaign and the materials ISAN developed for classrooms on responsible pet ownership and the dangers of releasing aquarium tank animals.</p> <p>Webinars: MISC is hosting three webinars the end of September and early October. Promotional information will be sent so you can share with your organizations and social media. Presenters are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryce Maxell/MT Natural Heritage Program: suitable habitat models and mapping program • Dr. Tim Seipel/MSU: plant invasions a multiple spatial scales. • Dr. Eve Beaury/Princeton University and Dr. Emily Fusco/ORISE Fellow-US Forest Service: climate smart regulations across jurisdictions and their research on invasive nursery plants being sold <p>NOTE: recordings of the webinars are available here: 2022 Webinars (mt.gov)</p> <p>Montana Invasive Species Summit (October 25-26) is at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. The summit will be preceded by the Fish Wildlife and Parks meeting on October 24 and followed by the UC3 meeting on October 27.</p> <p>Registration will be available soon, hopefully this week. We are waiting for fiscal staff information so credit cards can be used for payment. Register for the Summit will be available online, and state employee will have a different system for paying for their registration (not by credit card). Registration is \$50. There will be an option for organization to sponsor a booth for \$150.00.</p>

	<p>North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) meeting in November 7-10 in Florida. Liz will be attending this conference.</p> <p>Steve Wanderaas: Who are members of NAISMA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz will email the member list. <p>Montana Association of Conservation District (MACD) convention is November 16-17 in Helena. Liz hasn't seen registration information yet but plans to host a booth.</p> <p>Montana Stockgrowers Association convention is December 7-9 in Billings. Liz will host a booth and Tahnee Szymanski will present on feral swine.</p>
<p>Feral Swine Tabletop Exercise</p>	<p>Liz Lodman and Tahnee Szymanski – MT Dept of Livestock</p> <p>The tabletop exercise was held June 30. Invitations were sent to agencies that would take part in a feral swine response. There were 28 federal, state, county, and tribal participants at that exercise. Presenters were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Vienna Brown (APHIS): shared information on diseases and how APHIS responds when targeting a sounder for removal. Dr. Tahnee Szymanski (MT Livestock) talked about the status of feral swine and state laws. Dr. Jared Beaver (MSU Extension) shared information about identifying feral swine and their sign; impacts to crops, land and water; and why hunting isn't the solution. Montana is lucky to have Jared because he has worked on feral swine in other states. Travis Black (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) zoomed in to talk about how they dealt with their feral swine. He didn't have the support or organizational system that Montana has nor the laws to back up their response. He talked about the difficulties they had but Colorado did eradicate feral swine. Travis complimented the work being done in Montana. Kate Wilson (DNRC/UC3) was the facilitator and presented on the incident command system as a tool for feral swine response. <p>The group was divided in two and discussed how to respond to these scenarios:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Glacier National Park: Two sounders were found near Chief Mountain port of entry Blackfoot Nation: One sounder reported by Pike Lake on Blackfoot Reservation <p>Goals for the groups were to work through a simulated feral swine response in Montana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify "initial attach" needs Identify gaps/needs/challenges with current authorities and/or structures (across agencies) Identify crucial MOU and response guide/plan components Identify steps forward to ensure a timely and effective response <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create MOU among agencies Enhance DOL Response Plan Create a 2nd tier notification list Adopt Colorado reporting form Create annual report Continue education / outreach efforts <p>NOTE: The report and participant list can be found here:</p> <p>Tahnee Szymanski: The exercise was very productive; the example scenarios prompted great conversation about jurisdiction and the different issues that come into play if a detection happens somewhere other than state or private land. DOL wants to develop a contact list for Montana and surrounding states/provinces of</p>

	<p>entities who should be notified of feral swine reports. For example, a carcass was found on Forest Service property in northwest Montana where the closest domestic swine ownership was about 12 miles away. It would be helpful to have a contact in British Columbia to ask if there are known feral swine populations to the north of the detection site. This carcass has been transported to an FWP freezer and tissue has been sent to USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services for genetic testing. An FWP biologist doing work nearby has trail cams and will report any sightings.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Any assistance on the national level to obtain the equipment that was identified as being desirable for a response capacity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have had ongoing conversations with Vienna Brown from USDA Wildlife Services, primarily fueled by a report of a feral swine carcass up in Northwest Montana. This has allowed us to come back around to the topic of needed resources. <p>Was there any rooting or ground destruction in the area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no evidence of rooting or that a live animal was on the landscape. <p>What was the cause of death?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FWP biologist that picked up the carcass said it could have been hit by a car. Hopefully, the genetic testing will give us information. <p>So it could've been a dumped domestic pig?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes <p>What would be included in the annual report and what information would MISC provide?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A compilation of all the reports for the year that could show the diversity of reports, their frequency and a summary of the follow-up action showing the consistent response and the seriousness of this effort as well as the outreach efforts conducted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>MISC is willing to help with the reports. A one-page summary of each high priority issue would be an excellent tool going into the legislative session.</i> <p>What is the process or timeline for obtaining MOUs with participating agencies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want to find existing MOUs with agencies for emergency responses such as fire or SAR operations. No progress has been made since the ttx meeting. <p>Should FWP add feral swine information to their website for hunters?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We'll investigate adding something on the FWP website about feral swine. <p>Steve Tyrrel: Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) will be available to help coordinate with Department of Livestock on outreach efforts in more rural central/eastern Montana locations.</p>
<p>Prussian Carp</p>	<p>Patrick Kocovsky – Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager for the US Geological Survey</p> <p>Prussian Carp are native to central Europe east to Siberia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First report in North America was 2014 in Alberta. Prussian Carp are considered of the most damaging invasive species globally. Lifespan is 10+ years Mature in 1-3 years and can reproduce multiple times annually Reproduce <i>gynogenetically</i>, their eggs do not need to be fertilized, they just need to be “activated” by another species’ sperm Diet: detritus, vegetation, plankton, invertebrates Tolerate broad environmental conditions <p>Identified 67 potential dispersal pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate risk: headwaters of Frenchman River/Swift Current Creek entirely with Saskatchewan High risk: headwaters of Saskatchewan River and Milk River entirely within the US

<p>Prussian Carp</p>	<p>Next Steps Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess alternatives for mitigating risk at both pathways, closures, deterrents • Assess alternatives for the Red-Minnesota pathway • Identify other potential pathways • Promote a research program toward developing control measures for Prussian Carp <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Could you highlight the differences between the impacts of Prussian Carp and the common goldfish?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Kocovsky doesn't know where goldfish falls on the spectrum. <p>Is there a decrease of the water quality in rivers where there has been an introduction of Carp or is it like any other bottom dwelling fish?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects are on the invertebrate communities directly and fish communities indirectly, I don't know specifically of any negative effects on water quality. The literature is sparse on that in Alberta. <p>Is there any way they transfer with boats or anything similar or is it strictly through water or river systems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My guess is through natural dispersal, through irrigation canals, across watershed boundaries. There may have been bait bucket introductions. As to their eggs or larva being transported, I don't know of any instances. <p>Is there possibility they be considered as a sport fish and the recreational value would outweigh interest in management or control measures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know about the perception of Prussian Carp as a potential recreational species. Most research to date has been done in out of Mark Pochas lab at the University of Alberta and would be a good contact for that. <p>Does USGS use eDNA to detect if it is already through the St. Mary River system?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That's something we are looking into for the proposal. Adam Sepulvadas is checking whether there is already an eDNA marker, and if not then we would be interested in working that. <p>Have any control efforts been undertaken in Canada for these populations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrofishing was used to remove as many fish as possible, although it only had a temporary affect and is not recommended as a control option.
<p>Stakeholder Listening Session</p>	<p>Mindy Wilkenson</p> <p>The purpose of the listening sessions was to have a multi-party discussion with stakeholders for developing the MISC workplan and updating the framework.</p> <p>To prepare for the listening sessions more than 110 individuals were invited to participate; 55 people attended one or more sessions and eight people provided written or verbal comments. These individuals represented federal, state, and county agencies; tribes; industry; and non-profit groups. MISC held eight sessions each with a different focus: aquatic resources, conservation and watershed, recreation and tourism, terrestrial weeds, tribal, research and education, and forest resources,</p> <p>The summary of the listening sessions can be found here.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Lodman: A top 10 list could be used as an educational tool, not necessarily a way to prioritize work but to help the public understand invasive species issues. Stakeholders suggested both species that are in the state and species that are on the horizon. Monica Pokorny: A one-page flyer by topic or agency on invasive species would be helpful, something more digestible than the full report. • Bryce Christiaens: The message needs to evolve with changing demographics. We need to still be clear on our message and find the most effective route of communication. • Amy Gannon: A communication workshop is a really good idea, and it would be hugely useful.
	<p>Mindy Wilkinson and Council Members</p> <p>Purpose of the Montana Invasive Species Summit is to update partners and develop a prioritized work plan for the Council and staff. The work plan will define the type of actions that MISC will be taking on for the next few years. The desire is to have the discussions be interactive.</p>

<p>MISC Summit</p>	<p>Bryce suggested using 1-2-4-All method as a tool to lead discussion and prioritize topics brought up during the work sessions. This tool allows everybody to add their input to the discussion and is a good way to hear a bunch of ideas but also get the top 10 ideas on a given issue.</p> <p>The council discussed the different sessions and potential speakers to invite. Mindy, Liz and Bryce will continue to work on the agenda and share with the council. The draft plan for Summit is here.</p>
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p>Martin Charlo: Tourism has been steady along with new people moving into our areas. Western Montana hasn't seen a population shift like this since homesteading. Inspection stations are operating. We held appreciations for our inspection staff as they take their jobs very seriously. There is discussion about making some of the station's permanent and possibly shifting locations to make them more effective. The Ravalli station doesn't have running water, so if a boat needs to decontaminate staff has to take it somewhere else. That location would probably shift to St. Ignatius where traffic from highway 200 coming from the west and the north could be checked. We have an aggressive lands department that works on weeds.</p> <p>Steve Wanderaas: On behalf of CEMIST, their specialty is doing education and outreach regarding invasive species. We are hiring a coordinator and will be working on a strategic plan.</p> <p>Tom Woolf: AIS update: almost 90,000 inspections, a little behind previous years but it's going well. We've got 17 stations running, two operated by CSKT, one by McCone Conservation District, one by Missoula County. Two new conservation districts are operating inspection stations and were hopeful that a couple more will take over stations next year from FWP staff. Almost 50 mussel fouled boats have been intercepted, most coming from the Midwest and a lot are recent purchases. Over 300 boats were found transporting aquatic vegetation. Enforcement has conducted over 170 traffic stops, issuing 70 citations this year. We are getting more support than ever from state police and going through state police dispatch now instead of Tip Mont which seems to be compelling a more support from enforcement entities. We are looking at site improvements for several stations for next year including on-demand hot water decontamination units to replace aging units. For early detection, over 1,500 samples have been processed with no invasive mussels detected in Montana samples so far. New populations of New Zealand Mud Snails and Curly Leaf Pond Weed have been found. We are treating Eurasian Watermilfoil in Beaver Lake with divers and barriers and in Nylon Reservoir using herbicide. We are hopeful clams have been eradicated Lake Elmo. The Yellowstone Conservation District is getting a decontamination unit for Lake Elmo. The bullfrog project has removed 1,300 bullfrogs and tadpoles and 37 snapping turtles have been removed with no new locations found. FWP is conducting a statewide survey of crayfish, no new invasive crayfish populations have been found but crayfish plague has been identified for the first time manifesting itself in North America. FWP is building a trailer that will be used for decontamination training. Pactola Reservoir in South Dakota has verified zebra mussels, this is about 70 miles from the Montana border and a significant threat since South Dakota has had trouble keeping their inspection station open and running.</p> <p>Ian Foley: Palmer amaranth contaminated Millat Seed was shipped in from out of state. That seed sale was stopped and we are doing some monitoring with the local weed districts to see if any Palmer amaranth plants grow. Jasmine and her group are working to petition NAISMA to add Ventenata to the noxious weed list. The only positive detection so far is Japanese beetle in Yellowstone County.</p> <p>Monica Pokorny: Were working with Missoula County and Extension on revegetation guidelines that considers management of invasive species. We put out a publication on how to understand seed tag labels and how to determine weed content. We've updated our weed treatment conservation practice in the last year and there will be some additional funding for those counties that are working on annual grass management. Coming out in October we are updating our pest management conservation practice. There will be a new PAMs plan, Prevention, Avoidance, Mitigation, and Suppression.</p>

	<p>Jan Stoddard: The Yellowstone flood had a huge impact on places such as Gardiner, they lost most of their bookings for July. The fall and winter projections are down 20-30%. Projections for next year or after the park opens back up is believed to be closer to 2019 levels, pre covid. Hope to add Leave No Trace into more marketing for tourists and create a Leave No Trace toolkit to be used by tourism organization and businesses across the state.</p> <p>Cassidy Bender: The UC3 Big Sky Watershed Corps member Josh Abrahamson is visiting businesses throughout the Upper Columbia Basin, talking to them about AIS, and leaving outreach materials. Josh attended tabling events with the FWP AmeriCorps member to talk about AIS (county fairs, youth fly fishing camps, Flathead water cleanup). The Flathead Waters Cleanup was successful with about 100 volunteers and over 5,000 pounds of trash picked up. Unfortunately, someone found an aquarium along the Flathead River. We developed Clean.Drain.Dry coasters to drop off at breweries and restaurants. This fall we'll conduct an education and outreach survey with partners and compiled information into a report. We got an RPF to create videos in 2023, working with FWP. The next UC3 meeting is October 27.</p> <p>Jacob Bradford: BOR is working with South Dakota Fish, Game, and Parks on the Plectroglabella mussel discovery. We are requesting funds for a permanent decontamination station that recycles water, so it doesn't go into the ground. Also requesting funds for AIS personnel. We completed invasive mussel sampling for all BOR waters east of the divide, all samples came back negative. We are working with Patrick Kocovsky on a Prussian Carp briefing paper.</p> <p>Bryce Maxell: (MT Natural Heritage Program) I'm presenting a webinar for MISC on September 21 about our modeling efforts and our rapid weed reporter form. It's meant to bring more people into the fold for entering their data digitally.</p> <p>Amy Gannon: (DNRC) I have been surveying along the Idaho border for an invasive insect, BWA. There were no detections. White bark pine ecosystem is having a meeting September 15-16 in Dillon.</p> <p>Jason Allen: MDT's main focus is on Ventenata; we have a task force and we were able to treat about 150 acres. A patch of blue weed popped up on a project by Hot Springs. The area will be treated this for the next couple years so it doesn't spread.</p>
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Wrap-up Adjourn	<p>Location for next meeting will be December 13, 2022, in Helena, MT at the Capitol Building.</p> <p>Discussion/ Final Discussion:</p> <p>Public Comment: None</p> <p>Motion: Martin Charlo moved to adjourn the meeting. Second: Steve Wanderaas Discussion: Public Comment: Action on motion: Motion passed unanimously Meeting adjourned:</p>
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