



July 29, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Location: Lakeside Motel & Resort
2957 MT Hwy 200 - Trout Creek, MT

All participants **must register to attend before July 24, 2025.**

[Registration Link](#)

8:30 AM	Welcome, Roll Call & Minutes Action: Vote on Meeting Minutes
9:00 AM	MISC Staff Updates
10:15 AM	Legislative Recap
10:45 AM	Sanders County Aquatic Invasive Plant Task Force Eurasian Watermilfoil Project - Kim McMahon
11:30 AM	Chronic Wasting Disease Bevin McCormick - MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
12:15 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Canada Partners Updates Invasive Species Council of British Columbia - Gail Wallin Alberta Invasive Species Council - Megan Evans
1:45 PM	Montana Department of Agriculture Updates Education – Megan Hoyer Invasive Annual Grasses – Jasmine Chaffee
2:15 PM	Public Comment Wrap-Up & Adjourn
2:30 PM	Depart for Noxious Weed Tour

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- The agenda is subject to change and times are approximate; actual times may vary up to one hour.
 - This meeting is open to the public. Persons who want to attend in-person or virtually must register before the end of day on July 24, 2025. Meeting information is available at invasivespecies.mt.gov/misc/meeting-schedule.
 - The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the public meeting.
 - For questions about this meeting contact Russ Hartzell at 406-324-0021 or russ.hartzell2@mt.gov

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 Name:	Montana Invasive Species Council		
Date of Meeting:	November 12, 2024	Time:	9:30 am
Minutes Prepared By:	Anna Connerton/Russ Hartzell	Location:	Delta Hotel, Helena Zoom
Attendees:			
<p><i>MISC:</i> <u>Dylan Brown</u>, Steve Wanderaas, Tom Woolf, <u>Andy Welch</u>, Sara Ricklefs, Jasmine Chaffee, Jake Chadwell, Pam Schwend, Gary Adams, Jessica Zarate, Michelle Cox, Robert Thompson</p> <p><i>MISC Staff:</i> Liz Lodman, Anna Connerton, Russ Hartzell</p> <p><i>Other:</i> Amy Gannon, Asta Bowen, Eliza McLaughlin, Dr. Heidi Hildahl, Jessica Bushnell, Mark Bostrom, Megan Evans, Ronald Koontz, Rose Picklo, Shayna Jones, Becky Kington, Chris Craft, Erin Bjorklund, Jennifer Riddle, Josh Wagoner, Megan Hoyer, Phil Matson, Sara Owen, Lori Witham, Ian Foley</p> <p>*MISC voting members are underlined.</p>			
Agenda & Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Introductions	Steve Wanderaas (Chair) opened the meeting at 9:30 am. Wanderaas conducted a roll call and confirmed the quorum. Attendees introduced themselves.		
	<p>*Action: Approval of July 2024 Meeting Minutes</p> <p>Motion: Pam Schwend</p> <p>Second: Sara Ricklefs</p> <p>Motion Passed Unanimously.</p>		
MISC Staff Update	<p><u>Liz Lodman, Montana Invasive Species Council</u></p> <p>Update from the 2022 Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz provided an update of projects MISC has worked on since 2022 Summit, and an overview of 2023-2026 work plan. <p>Rotunda & Legislative Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 Rotunda – February 22, 2023-Invasive Species Day at Legislator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate Bill 293 – Requires a poster relevant to invasive species be displayed at MDT rest areas. 2025 Rotunda – February 12, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MISC members are invited to attend to interact with legislators. <p>Woody Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workgroup formed, two SAP's held and impact report forthcoming. <p>Feral Swine – Squeal on Pigs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated factsheets and logo's. Feral swine tour of northeast Montana, highly successful. <p>eDNA and AIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MISC Environmental DNA Panel Discussion – September 14, 2023, in Missoula Panel Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Amberg: USGS, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center Gordon Luikart: University of Montana, Flathead Biological Station 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Taylor Wilcox: USFS, Rocky Mountain Research Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide information on what eDNA and metabarcoding are and how they used. ○ Identify strengths and challenges of using molecular tools for AIS early detection. ○ Identify gaps and needs where MISC AIS funding could potentially support the development of the science. <p>Firewood Science Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Held in 2022 determined challenges and recommendations.</i> <p>Don't Move Firewood Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MISC AmeriCorps Member</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visited 97 campgrounds, educated hosts and managers. Plan to host an intern in 2025. <p>Eastern Heath Snails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastern Heath Snails were discovered in Lewistown. Worked closely with CEMIST, Fergus Conservation District, and partners to increase awareness and execute plan. After action report will be created and shared. <p>Incident Command Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinating a joint training and exercise for next spring ○ Montana Disaster and Emergency Services to assist with development and delivery <p>North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NAISMA Conference – October 1-3, 2024, Missoula, MT ○ Planning Team: MISC a large part of planning team. ○ 459 registered, 39 states, 4 Canadian Provinces, 4 Countries (U.S., Canada, Switzerland, Australia. 25% of attendees from MT, funded by NWTF grant. <p>Much More in 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 54 MISC News e-Bulletins, 119 meetings and outreach events attended ○ Hired MISC program coordinator to build capacity and support <p>What's Next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue 23-26 work plan work ○ Host Changing Climate Workshop ○ Host Invasive Species Communications Workshop ○ Hold webinars on Montana/regional topics quarterly ○ Review and prioritize species in need of additional efforts ○ Redesign invasivespecies.mt.gov website ○ Get Facebook and Instagram accounts ○ Promote community science reporting of invasive species <p>Budget Review</p>
Committee Reports	<p>Sara Ricklefs, Invasive Species Action Network</p> <p>Woody Invasives Science Advisory Panel:</p> <p>The most recent science advisory panel was last month, and it was here in Helena. This was a hybrid meeting. There were about 40 attendees and there were representatives from every time zone in the continuous U.S. There was a lot of good discussions, there were</p>

	<p>experts on each species. We hope to have a report to the core planning group by December 1st and then one to MISC by the end of the year as per our contract deadline. We had a lot of buy in from partners, \$10,000 from MISC and \$13,000 from ISAN or other partners. For the impact report we have contracted with Nanette Nelson and other researchers out of Flathead Lake Biostation, we put out a bid and got two bids.</p> <p>Liz Lodman, Montana Invasive Species Council for Bryce Christiaens, Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension</p> <p>Process to Access Invasiveness of a Species Science Advisory Panel: Have a contract with Leah Elwell to be the facilitator and moderator for the science advisory panel. They have a list of presenters that they are vetting. As of now they are trying to identify processes by which you can identify invasiveness of a species across the board.</p> <p>Liz Lodman, Montana Invasive Species Council</p> <p>Communications Workshop: We are working on getting this off the ground, we are thinking about potentially doing two workshops, one in the east and one in the west, it would be for natural resource professionals who maybe don't have a background in communication like conservation districts personnel who don't understand communicating with the public.</p>
<p>2025 Legislative Session</p>	<p>Mark Bostrom, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation</p> <p>The 2025 Legislative Session is coming up and we just had an election. There will be a little more play on the topics that we see this year. There will be a lot of pressure on funding, there are eight invasive species related bill drafts, so there is potential that there will be a bill come up this next session that is related to invasive species. If there is a bill or something like that that MISC wants to make a testimony on, make sure to come through the director's office. The administration has the same view as MISC, but if they are to say no then you must follow that. The nature of administrative attachment in government stems from the 1972 Constitutional Convention there used to be 160 agencies, which was like herding cats. And so, the executive was this huge 160 agency thing. In fact, I think one of the campaign slogans that they had in authorizing that constitutional convention was 20 is plenty, and so here became 20 primary agencies, and all the boards and commissions that were operating as independent agencies were then attached to those 20. So, all the communication thus flows from those administrative attachments through to the executive branch Governor's office. based on that, you know, they'll talk to the Cabinet or natural resource advisor, or whatever take a position on a particular bill that may come through and then someone, usually the chair, or often the executive director would have opportunity to go up and do testimony, I just want to make sure that we are clear on this as I have had issues in the past with other commissions. Whoever goes up, you represent yourself as a member of an organization not as the organization itself. We watch the list of bills that drop every day, we have a meeting at 10 am every day during legislation.</p> <p>Liz Lodman: During the last legislative session, I always put the bills pertaining to invasive species in our newsletters with links to the language to keep everyone informed. Last year was the first time I testified in front of the legislature, and I had to write down my script and have it approved.</p> <p>Questions:</p>

	<p>Steve Wanderaas: Say I am going in front of a committee; how do I make sure that I am on the same page as the director.</p> <p>Mark Bostrom: By talking directly to the director, or Liz could talk with the director.</p>																																																																																												
Eastern Heath Snail History & Status	<p>Ian Foley, Montana Department of Agriculture</p> <p>Presentation that reviewed the following topics: History of detection, Notification regarding Montana exports. MDA Quarantine Authority. Current MDA Quarantines. Efforts in and around Belt, Montana. Feasibility and effectiveness of molluscicide treatments.</p> <p>To view the PowerPoint presentation done by Ian Foley, please view 1:37:00 – 2:10:00 of the MISC meeting recording here.</p>																																																																																												
MISC Membership	<p>Liz Lodman, Montana Invasive Species Council</p> <p>Term expirations and reappointment process for council members.</p> <p>Pam Schwend is retiring from her position as weed coordinator and we discussed her stepping into the roll of private landowner position and have someone else fill the county weed districts position. This will need further discussion and cooperation from the governor’s office.</p> <table><tr><th>Council Member</th><th>Representing</th><th>Term Start</th><th>Term End</th></tr><tr><td>Dennis Longknife</td><td>Fort Belknap Indian Community</td><td>5/1/2021</td><td>4/30/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Tracy Tyner</td><td>Rocky Boy Representative</td><td>12/15/2023</td><td>5/1/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Mike Bias</td><td>Fishing Organization Representative</td><td>6/15/2021</td><td>5/31/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Martin Charlo</td><td>CSKT Representative</td><td>6/15/2021</td><td>5/31/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Charles Headdress</td><td>Fort Peck Representative</td><td>6/15/2021</td><td>5/31/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Paul Rossignol</td><td>Wildlife Organization Representative</td><td>6/15/2021</td><td>5/31/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Andy Welch</td><td>Hydropower Representative</td><td>6/15/2021</td><td>5/31/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Tom Woolf</td><td>Montana FWP Designee</td><td>6/15/2021</td><td>5/31/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Jenny Pelej</td><td>Dept of Commerce Designee</td><td>7/14/2023</td><td>6/1/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Jason Allen</td><td>Dept of Transportation Designee</td><td>12/15/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Jared Beaver</td><td>MSU Extension</td><td>12/15/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Jasmine Chaffee</td><td>Dept of Agriculture Designee</td><td>12/15/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Sean Fritzler</td><td>Crow Nation Representative</td><td>12/15/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Sara Ricklefs</td><td>Conservation Organization Representative</td><td>7/25/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Pam Schwend</td><td>County Weed Districts Representative</td><td>12/15/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Steve Wanderaas</td><td>Conservation Districts Representative</td><td>7/25/2023</td><td>5/1/2027</td></tr><tr><td>Dylan Brown</td><td>Agriculture Representative</td><td>Unknown</td><td>Unknown</td></tr><tr><td>Jacob Chadwell</td><td>DNRC Designee</td><td>Unknown</td><td>Unknown</td></tr><tr><td>Vacant</td><td>Blackfeet Nation Representative</td><td>Vacant</td><td>Vacant</td></tr><tr><td>Vacant</td><td>Little Shell Tribal Government</td><td>Vacant</td><td>Vacant</td></tr><tr><td>Vacant</td><td>Northern Cheyenne Government</td><td>Vacant</td><td>Vacant</td></tr><tr><td>Vacant</td><td>Private Landowner Representative</td><td>Vacant</td><td>Vacant</td></tr></table>	Council Member	Representing	Term Start	Term End	Dennis Longknife	Fort Belknap Indian Community	5/1/2021	4/30/2025	Tracy Tyner	Rocky Boy Representative	12/15/2023	5/1/2025	Mike Bias	Fishing Organization Representative	6/15/2021	5/31/2025	Martin Charlo	CSKT Representative	6/15/2021	5/31/2025	Charles Headdress	Fort Peck Representative	6/15/2021	5/31/2025	Paul Rossignol	Wildlife Organization Representative	6/15/2021	5/31/2025	Andy Welch	Hydropower Representative	6/15/2021	5/31/2025	Tom Woolf	Montana FWP Designee	6/15/2021	5/31/2025	Jenny Pelej	Dept of Commerce Designee	7/14/2023	6/1/2025	Jason Allen	Dept of Transportation Designee	12/15/2023	5/1/2027	Jared Beaver	MSU Extension	12/15/2023	5/1/2027	Jasmine Chaffee	Dept of Agriculture Designee	12/15/2023	5/1/2027	Sean Fritzler	Crow Nation Representative	12/15/2023	5/1/2027	Sara Ricklefs	Conservation Organization Representative	7/25/2023	5/1/2027	Pam Schwend	County Weed Districts Representative	12/15/2023	5/1/2027	Steve Wanderaas	Conservation Districts Representative	7/25/2023	5/1/2027	Dylan Brown	Agriculture Representative	Unknown	Unknown	Jacob Chadwell	DNRC Designee	Unknown	Unknown	Vacant	Blackfeet Nation Representative	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Little Shell Tribal Government	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Northern Cheyenne Government	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Private Landowner Representative	Vacant	Vacant
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Feral Swine Update	<p>Dr. Heidi Hildahl, Montana Department of Livestock</p> <p>The MDOL is fully staffed as of now, MDOL is made up of four veterinarians:</p>																																																																																												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tahnee Szymanski (DVM) – State Veterinarian • Heidi Hildahl (DVM, PhD) – Veterinarian Supervisor • Brad DeGroot (DVM, PhD) – Brucellosis • Brenee Peterson (DVM) – Emergency Preparedness • 6 Compliant Technicians • 2 District Investigator Supervisors • 17 District Brand Investigators <p>Dr. Hildahl presented an extensive overview on feral pigs including why they are a threat, the current status in Montana and nationwide and the DOL response plan.</p> <p>To view the PowerPoint presentation done by Dr. Hildahl, please view 3:12:00 – 3:50:00 of the MISC meeting recording here.</p>
Alberta Invasive Species Council	<p>Megan Evans, Alberta Invasive Species Council</p> <p>Megan provided an overview of the structure and projects that the Alberta Invasive Species Council are piloting. She included reports on the councils 2023 activities including biocontrol releases, social media, noxious weed work, 8 different campaigns, and annual conference event. She also gave a deeper dive on feral pig work in Alberta, and the provinces rat eradication campaign.</p> <p>To view the PowerPoint presentation done by Megan Evans, please view 3:56:00 – 4:31:00 of the MISC meeting recording here.</p>
Forest Pest Update	<p>Amy Gannon, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation</p> <p><i>Amy provided an update regarding forest pests in Montana that included an overview of forest pests of greatest concern. Additionally, Amy provided background on the Don't Move Firewood campaign and ongoing outreach and education efforts.</i></p> <p>To view the PowerPoint presentation done by Amy Gannon, please view 4:41:00 – 5:23:00 of the MISC meeting recording here.</p>
MISC Member Update	<p>Tom Woolf – Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:</p> <p>120,000 inspections this year, it's about the same as what we saw at this time last year. 47 mussel fouled vessels which is a bit behind last year but still about the same range. They come from the same places. There have been no mussel detections in the state again this year, no evidence of mussels with DNA or through our microscopy labs. There are new populations of mud snails and other little things that popped up this year but nothing too alarming. More concerning is what is going on regionally, Idaho just completed their second eradication treatment of aquatic mussels in the Snake River a few weeks ago. They did sample with eDNA which they haven't done a lot of.</p> <p>Also, of interest in the western United States, there is a new detection of Golden Mussels, they come from Southeast Asia, they have a lower calcium so they can survive in areas with lower calcium levels. They reproduce like crazy; they are in the Sacramento area right now. Currently, Montana doesn't list them as prohibited so that would be a good thing for us to do soon just to kind of raise awareness.</p> <p>Sara Ricklefs – Invasive Species Action Network:</p> <p>Just had our first rehoming event in Billings, we were able to rehome 8 pets. We are going to have our second pet rehoming event in Missoula, and we will do it during dead week (April 29th) so that the fish that are currently being housed in dorms hopefully don't become housed through sewage systems or in local ponds. If anyone is interested in volunteering, reach out to us and let us know. Aside from that, I will be talking about a few of our outreach initiatives at the Summit, but I wanted to put it out there that we have funding from the GYCC to do a "Know Before You Go" campaign for visitors to the Great Yellowstone</p>

Ecosystem, so if any of you have reach with visitors, please reach out to us. This will basically be an electronic toolkit for spreading the message, we have reached out to a log of land management agencies, the state departments of commerce, and the parks.

Jake Chadwell – Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation

You touched on a lot of the things that we have been working on. We did check station trainings, spongy moth trap pick ups (no detections). Right now, we are ramping up efforts to do surveys in Missoula/French Town area. We added Rose Picklo to the team also.

Jasmine Chaffee – Montana Department of Agriculture

This is kind of our slow season, not too much going on. We are attending conferences, meetings, and doing a lot of tabling's this winter. Megan with the invasive species education program is going a steering committee and Josh Wagoner with EDRR does fall and spring webinars and talking about EDRR species in Montana and the other half will be Megan talking about education. Our AgCorps members are done this week, and we will have three more come on next year to help. Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grants are due January 6th, grant hearings are mid-March.

Lori Witham – APHIS PPQ

We heard from APHIS FWS that we had an illegal importation of the moss balls come into Florida from the Ukraine and moved on to 19 states, 49 locations in those states, Montana was not one of these locations. We were in contact with US Customs and Border Protection, and they were asking what they can do and why it is regulated this way. If Montana had been a state, we would've known that we had a location and gotten the company, gotten the names of purchasers and went to see them and see if they still had them. If they go to a pet store, they can be hard to track as someone can use cash.

Jessica Zarate – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

We put together some large-scale invasive species pesticide applicator trainings with funds this past year. Next year they will be eligible to most people in all 8 states to get education credits and those trainings are generally located centrally within our regions, we did one in North Dakota last year and one in Colorado. I don't know if were going to add another one so there is less travel for some of the people, but it is a weeklong training. It is very well received.

Gary Adams – APHIS PPQ

We covered almost everything but for future meetings, we should talk about the national honeybee survey where they look for mites and diseases that are affecting our honeybee population.

Andy Welch – Northwestern Energy

We inventory our entire mystic project, which is up in the Beartooth Mountains, this is done every ten years. We did not find any new infestations of weeds up there so no new ones to tackle. I'm on the board of the Northwest Hydroelectric Association, and I have a panel put together on the Idaho infestation of mussels there next year for annual meeting in February. It's kind of cool to talk to those folks and get an update at that point in time probably going to be a lot of changes over this winter until the water runs up. They still do a bunch more monitoring. But it'll be kind of here good to hear their perspectives from Idaho Department of Ag, Idaho Power, and we're also having someone come up from further down south that already has infestations of mussels, on their hydro projects to kind of talked about how they manage them and those sorts of things. So, a hot topic in the Western US for hydropower companies to see what happens with this infestation.

	<p><i>Pam Schwend – County Weed Districts</i></p> <p>At the meeting in Billings, I talked about how we were hoping to get invasive species included in the indigenous learning curriculum. Since then we have actually gone past that, I have had conversations with principals and teachers, I've gone to the adult learning education in Billings and Megan Hoyer spoke with some of the teachers that are actually involved in putting together the Indian learning at MEA and we got nothing but positive response from this so we actually took it one step further and on Monday we have a Zoom meeting with the director of the Ace Consortium and their group is involved with setting the standards, so we have gone through all of the science standards from K-12 and have done a document where invasive species could be inserted into what is already a standard, just the conversation that I already had with her she is very excited about this so we are really chose to getting invasive species education as part of our science standards for the State of Montana, I will update you all after Monday and see what happens.</p> <p><i>Becky Kington – Montana Weed Control Association</i></p> <p>We have awards through MWCA for many things, I would encourage anyone who is sitting around the table who has done something cool with weeds to please nominate them, the nominations end this Friday. MWCA has our conference January 28-30, 2024, Gary Adams is a keynote and bringing back Ken Kington who is a popular comedian. Registration is live at MT.Weed.Org. We are hoping to begin to strengthen partnerships, and I am looking forward to working closely with you.</p>
Wrap Up & Adjourn	<p>Location of next meeting: A meeting location was not decided.</p> <p>Final Discussion: None Public Comment: None</p> <p>*Action: Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion: Andy Welch Second: Jasmine Chaffee Motion Passed Unanimously.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.</p>

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 Name:		Montana Invasive Species Council																					
Date of Meeting:		February 20, 2025	Time: 8:30 am																				
Minutes Prepared By:		Anna Connerton/Russ Hartzell	Location: Montana Wild, Helena Zoom																				
Attendees:																							
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Other: Amber Burch, Ashlee Atchison, Barbra Martin, Becky Kington, Brent Smith, Bryce Maxell, Cara Thompson, Emilie Henry, Evan Youngblade, Gunnar Bridges, Hailey Smalley, Heidi Hildahl, Jill Allen, Joe Kremer-Herman, Josh Wagoner, Kelly Hendrix, Mark Bostrom, Michael Jones, Michael Skamarkas, Mike Jones, Molly Masters, Phil Matson, Torrey Ritter.																							
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MISC Staff Update		MISC Staff Update (Liz Lodman):																					
		<u>Activities From Last Quarter:</u> Liz provided an update on activities MISC staff and members have been engaged in since last quarter.																					
		<u>2023-2024 MISC Annual Report:</u> The annual report can be found here on the MISC website, request to have the executive committee review prior to publishing in the future: https://invasivespecies.mt.gov/misc/reports-and-publications																					
		<u>AIS Grant Update:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">MISC received 11 grant applications for the FY25 cycle.<ul style="list-style-type: none">The requested amount was \$336,625, and MISC has \$278,580 available yearly.The AIS Grant Review Committee met yesterday (2/19/2025) and reviewed the applications.The AIS Grant Hearing will be held on 3/6/2025 from 8:45 am to 12:00 pm – following lunch is when the deliberations will happen. See a list of applicants below.																					
<table><tr><th colspan="4">FY25 AIS GRANT APPLICATIONS</th></tr><tr><th>Applicant</th><th>Grant Title</th><th>Type</th><th>Amount</th></tr><tr><td>Montana State Library - Montana Natural Heritage Program</td><td>AIS Data Centralization and Exchange to Support Outreach, EDRR, and Planning</td><td>Education and Outreach</td><td>\$ 40,050.00</td></tr><tr><td>Flathead Lakers</td><td>Targeted AIS Prevention: Reducing Risks through Data-Driven Outreach</td><td>Education and Outreach</td><td>\$ 42,575.00</td></tr><tr><td>Grow Wild</td><td>Clean Drain Dry in Upper Gallatin Watershed</td><td>Education and Outreach</td><td>\$ 20,708.00</td></tr></table>				FY25 AIS GRANT APPLICATIONS				Applicant	Grant Title	Type	Amount	Montana State Library - Montana Natural Heritage Program	AIS Data Centralization and Exchange to Support Outreach, EDRR, and Planning	Education and Outreach	\$ 40,050.00	Flathead Lakers	Targeted AIS Prevention: Reducing Risks through Data-Driven Outreach	Education and Outreach	\$ 42,575.00	Grow Wild	Clean Drain Dry in Upper Gallatin Watershed	Education and Outreach	\$ 20,708.00
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Invasive Species Action Network	Aquatic Pet Rehoming	Education and Outreach	\$ 16,090.00
Beaverhead Conservation District	Statewide WIS Training Lead	Education and Outreach	\$ 45,688.00
Salish Kootenai College	Flathead Lake Flowering Rush Controls	On the Ground	\$ 43,005.00
Sanders County	Invasive Milfoil Management	On the Ground	\$ 40,000.00
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	EWM Treatment for Pablo Reservoir	On the Ground	\$ 22,173.00
Clearwater Resource Council	AIS Monitoring in Clearwater Valley	On the Ground	\$ 19,943.00
Yaak Valley Forest Council	YVFC Early Detection and Clean.Drain.Dry. E&O	On the Ground	\$ 26,593.00
Missoula County	2025 Missoula County Flowering Rush Biocontrol	Research	\$ 19,800.00

2025 MISC Summit - Summit Work Session Takeaways:

Work Session #1 was focused on top invasives of concern and actions to improve management or prevention

- Our current invasives to watch list was heavily represented in the work session report-outs
- Standardizing mapping and reporting were consistently highlighted
- Increased funding for existing prevention efforts was a common recommendation
- Education and outreach prioritized across all taxa

Work Session #2 was focused on invasive species communication, including how to encourage public engagement and reporting and ways to improve campaign messaging and effectiveness

- Emphasis on short, simple, and engaging messaging with calls to action, make it easy to report and offer training on what to look for
- Reaching new and diverse audiences with messaging
- Utilizing technology, social media, targeted ads, geofencing, etc.
- CBSM principles heavily featured

Stories for Action Video Update, Invasives to Watch Story Map:

- Funding committed from a previous contract with Stories for Action.
- Will update current video
- A new video topic could be focused on bucket biology
- Agreement with MTNHP to create a StoryMap based on the invasives to watch list

ICS Exercise/Training:

- April 23-24th in Helena, Montana DES and USDA APHIS have been key partners in the planning

Don't Move Firewood Intern:

- Application submitted to host MCC intern May-August, continue and expand work of 2025 intern.

Science Advisory Panel

Topic: Process to Assess the Potential Invasiveness of a Species

Date: May 5-7, 2025

Location: Butterfly House in Missoula

Expected Panel Outcomes:

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	<p>Liz Lodman reviewed the <u>MISC Bylaws – Article III: Membership</u> and discussed the current open positions on MISC. To apply, visit https://governor.mt.gov/boards_appointments/ under “Invasive Species Council (ISC)”.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">MISC OPEN POSITIONS</th></tr> <tr> <th>Position</th><th>Nominated for Position</th></tr> <tr> <td>Chair</td><td>Steve Wanderaas</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vice-Chair</td><td>Tom Woolf</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vice-Chair</td><td>Jason Allen</td></tr> </table> <p>*ACTION: Floor was opened for nominations for Co-Vice-Chair of MISC. Tom was nominated by Mike Bias. No further nominations. Vote on Tom Woolf of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for the MISC Co-Vice-Chair Position. Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned for a vote. Vote Passes Unanimously.</p> <p>*ACTION: Floor was opened for nominations for the Private Landowner seat on the council. Pam Schwend was nominated by Tom Woolf. No further nominations. Vote on Pam Schwend as the Landowner Representative for MISC. Motion: Steve Wanderaas motioned for a vote. Vote Passes Unanimously.</p>	MISC OPEN POSITIONS		Position	Nominated for Position	Chair	Steve Wanderaas	Vice-Chair	Tom Woolf	Vice-Chair	Jason Allen
MISC OPEN POSITIONS											
Position	Nominated for Position										
Chair	Steve Wanderaas										
Vice-Chair	Tom Woolf										
Vice-Chair	Jason Allen										
Legislative Update	<p>Legislative Update (Liz Lodman): Liz Lodman gave an update on the current legislative bills that MISC is tracking.</p>										
Invasive Grasses & Phragmites Update	<p>Invasive Grasses & Phragmites Update Josh Wagoner gave a presentation on invasive grasses and phragmites. Presentation recording available.</p>										
Bullfrog Update	<p>Invasive American Bullfrogs in the Mission Valley Cara Thompson (CSKT) and Torrey Ritter (FWP) gave a presentation on Bullfrogs in the Mission Valley. Presentation recording available.</p>										
MISC Member Updates	<p>Mike Bias (FOAM): Annual meeting coming up, updates on state of Fishery at annual meeting. Guide training program is also underway with field practicum coming up. Trainees learn about invasive species, amongst other topics.</p> <p>Jake Chadwell (DNRC): Attending events and tabling. Some federal funding expiring which will limit where they are advertising. Have an intern who will lead update to EAB Readiness & Response plan. Attending ICS training. Trapping will begin in spring.</p> <p>Bryce Maxell (MNHP): Shared links to non-native species watchlists that have been reported via iNaturalist. Would like to hear from anyone doing outreach for citizen reporting, they are putting together materials. Putting together some dashboards on landscape changes. Hearing from the Schutter lab would be a good idea.</p> <p>Lori Witham (USDA-APHIS): Uncertainty, down two employees. Pest committee has been rejuvenated. Take another run at looking at aquatics at ports of entry.</p> <p>Monica Pokorny (USDA-NRCS): Still waiting on budget. Looking at a program to focus on small infestations.</p> <p>Tom Woolf (FWP): Stations open in March. Very similar to last year across the board. Positions posted. Pivot from monitoring training to more general awareness on keeping an eye out for things. Aquatic Nuisance Plan will be coming soon, keep an eye out for that. Concerns about golden mussels, unlikely to be contained. South Dakota still a challenge</p>										

	<p>when it comes to containment. Idaho has treated again and trying to tighten up cooperation with them. Working on getting golden mussels listed that will come after session.</p> <p>Dennis Longknife (FBIC): Following developments from Federal Government changes including loss of staff from some partners.</p> <p>Brenda Witkowski (BLM): Received approval to put out contract to partners, those will have additional review. Some funding still frozen.</p> <p>Pam Schwend (Private Landowner Representative): Her and Megan get to do workshop with K-12 science teachers. Help teachers learn how to teach invasive species to students. Standards are written for all school curriculum and that should be official soon.</p> <p>Dylan Brown (Ag): A lot of funding variability depending on agency. Time is of the essence as any delays will set back the field season work.</p> <p>Jared Beaver (MSU-Extension): No update.</p> <p>Jennifer Riddle on behalf of Sara Ricklefs (ISAN): Some spring events coming up. Aquatic pet rehoming at University of Montana. Ready to launch the GYCC Know Before You Go campaign.</p> <p>Michelle Cox (USFS): If agreements remain in place, project on eDNA with University of Montana and a 22 species biochip. Take new and archived samples and run those for eDNA. Good communication plan in place. Second thing is work on Invasive Annual Grasses. A lot of work has been done on those agreements, a plan will be created off of that work and fire effects protocol. Grasses identification training is happening in Helena in June.</p> <p>Tracy Tyner (Rocky Boy): Next week will have natural resources meeting and will work on noxious weeds plan. Also working with ranchers on range management plan. Let her know about funding streams that will help with mapping, etc. Have an earth day activity lined up. Hoping to take these ideas to the tribal council so a plan can be created.</p>
Wrap Up & Adjourn	<p>Location of next meeting: Looking at Ft. Peck area in July the Executive Committee will discuss the next meeting date.</p> <p>Final Discussion: None</p> <p>Public Comment:</p> <p>Ashley Atchison, Montana Salinity Control. Envirothon is coming up soon. Clean, drain, dry outreach and Pull Your Share projects. Studies ongoing looking at impacts and mitigation of rangeland saline seeps.</p> <p>Amber Burch, MWCA, have put in for a couple grants. Several upcoming events.</p> <p>*Action: Motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Lori Witham</p> <p>Second: Monica Pokorny</p> <p>Did not have a quorum to hold vote on motion.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.</p>

MISC Council Members, July 2025

Name	Council Position	From	Term Dates
Andy Welch	Hydropower Utility Industry	Helena	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2029
Charles Headdress	Fort Peck Tribes	Poplar	6/15/2021 - 5/31/2025
Dennis Longknife	Fort Belknap Indian Community	Harlem	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2029
Dylan Brown	Agriculture	Seeley Lake	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2027
Jacob Chadwell	Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Missoula	6/11/2025 - 5/1/2027
Jared Beaver	Montana State University Extension	Bozeman	12/15/2023 - 5/1/2027
Jasmine Chaffee	Department of Agriculture	Helena	12/23/2024 - 5/1/2027
Jason Allen	Department of Transportation	Helena	12/15/2023 - 5/1/2027
Karen Laitala	County Weed Districts	Deer Lodge	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2027
Martin Charlo	Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Pablo	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2029
Mike Bias	Fishing Organization	Twin Bridges	6/15/2021 - 5/31/2025
Pam Schwend	Private Landowner	Joliet	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2029
Paul Rossignol	Wildlife Organization	Lolo	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2029
Sara Ricklefs	Conservation Organization	Lewistown	7/25/2023 - 5/1/2027
Sean Fritzler	Crow Nation	Hardin	12/1/2023 - 5/1/2027
Steve Wanderaas	Conservation Districts	Vida	7/25/2023 - 5/1/2027
Taylor Tidwell	Department of Commerce	Helena	6/11/2025 - 5/1/2027
Tom Woolf	Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Helena	6/17/2025 - 5/1/2029
Tracy Tyner	Rocky Boy	Box Elder	12/15/2023 - 5/1/2025
Vacant	Little Shell Tribal Government		
Vacant	Northern Cheyenne Tribal Government		
Vacant	Blackfeet Nation		

Summary Report Science Advisory Panel: Assessing the Invasiveness of a Species

May 5-6, 2025



Summary

Montana is proactively addressing and considering invasive species assessment tools to better inform management actions and potential legislative needs. By examining the language for invasive species found in legislative code used by Montana agencies a better alignment of actions can be realized. Further, there are globally accepted tools used to assess species invasiveness which may also be well suited for application in Montana. The use of these assessment tools can advance our confidence and priorities for invasive species management across Montana.

Goal

Explore current assessment tools and legal language for invasive species determination to understand preparedness in climate or regional changes in capacity to manage invasive species effectively.

Panelists

Panelists were drawn from a broad range of expertise in invasive species, climate change and species assessment from across the United States. The four panelists also ranged in focus work that spanned terrestrial and aquatic species.

Dr. Eva Colberg is a research scientist at the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC). **Dr. Alisha Davidson** works as a contractor for the Great Lakes Commission and The Nature Conservancy. **Dr. Deah Lieurance** is an Assistant Professor of Invasive Species Biology and Management at Penn State. **Dr. Elliott Parsons** is a specialist with the Pacific Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (Pacific RISCC) Management Network.

Key Recommendations

- Consider multiple suggested changes to the current MISC definition (see full Report).
- Apply available robust tools to assess species invasiveness. In conjunction with the current work by the Montana Natural Heritage Program, specific tools may be explored for adoption and use to conduct multiple species analysis.
- Focus on pathways rather than species as a strategy to address more than one species at a time.

Current Language: MCA 80-7-1203 “Invasive Species” means plants, animals and pathogens that are nonnative to Montana’s ecosystem and cause harm to natural and cultural resources, the economy, and human health.

Recommended Language: MCA 80-7-1203 “Invasive Species” means ~~plants, animals~~ *organisms* and pathogens that are nonnative to Montana’s ecosystems and *likely to* cause harm to *Montana’s* natural and cultural resources, the economy, and human health.

Next Steps

- MISC will hold a follow up meeting to determine a strategy for completing species assessments. At this meeting multiple areas of information could be determined including potential identification of participants, specific tools to be used, and identification of role for Montana Natural Heritage Program in species assessments. Ideally an assessment process could be used that would speak across jurisdictions.
- An initial process might take several species and utilize multiple tools in assessments to better understand which best suits Montana needs.



Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

2025



Executive Summary

The waters of Montana cover 177,000 stream miles and over 10,000 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. As a northern state of the Mountain West, the upper reaches of major rivers flow through Montana and therefore any aquatic invasive species (AIS) that is introduced into Montana waters has the potential to spread downstream to other states. Montana's status as a headwater state puts additional responsibility on Montana to do all it can to combat the introduction and spread of AIS.

The purpose of this comprehensive state management plan is to identify objectives that will ensure the prevention and mitigation of AIS to protect and preserve the waters of Montana and the species and habitats they support. The Plan is intended to help coordinate efforts and secure long-term funding to accomplish the goal, including pursuing opportunities for federal cost-share support for implementation. The goal is to proactively address aquatic invasive species that threaten Montana with both long and short-term actions.

The objectives of the Montana AIS Management plan include:

- Coordination and implementation of an AIS Management Plan
- Prevent the introduction of AIS into and within Montana
- Early detection and monitoring aquatic invasive species in Montana
- Rapid Response preparedness
- Control and eradication of aquatic invasive species where feasible
- Provide outreach and education to expand public understanding, involvement, and promote behavior change
- Periodic evaluation of AIS laws and rules

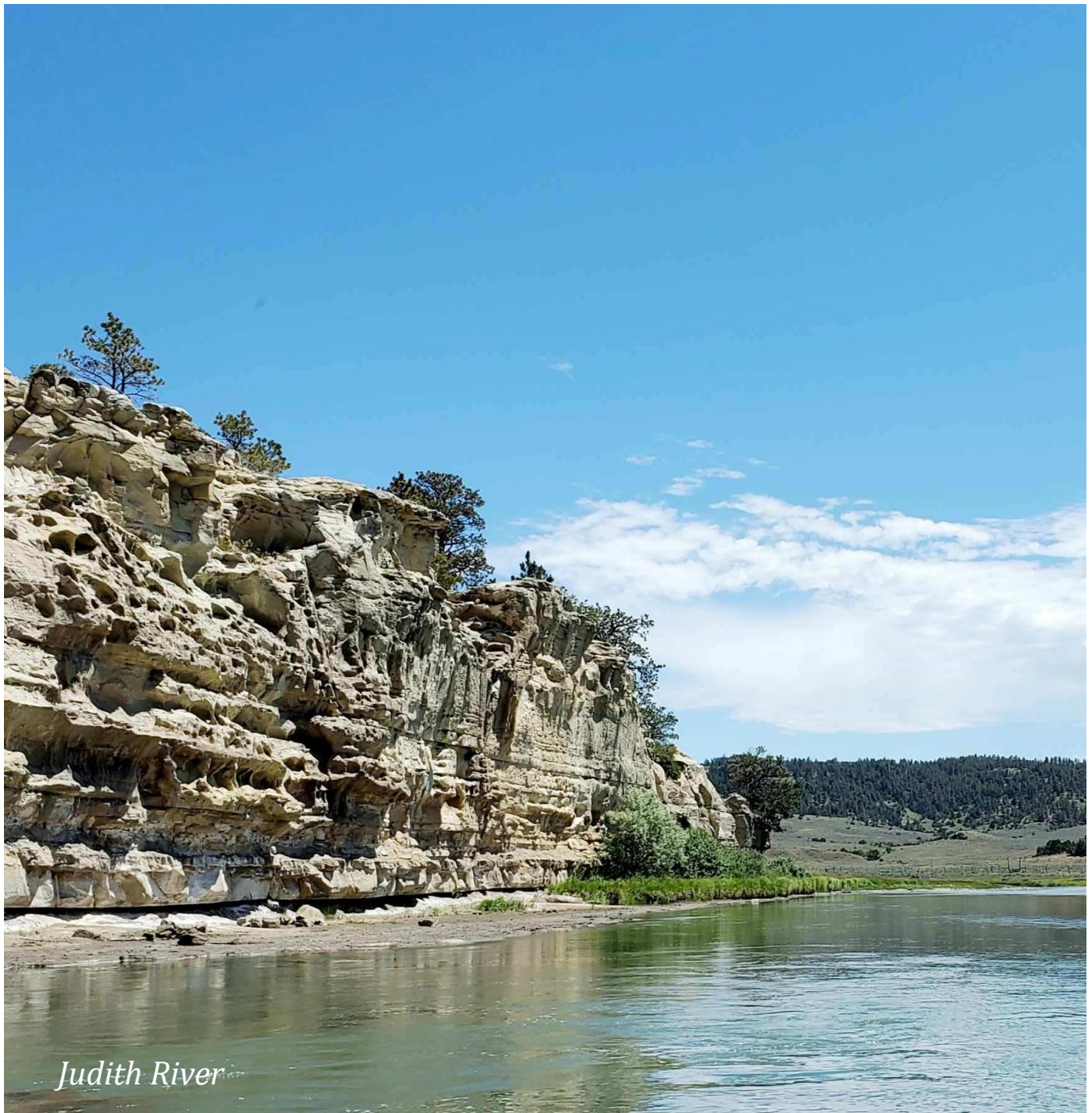
The Plan was compiled and reviewed by personnel from state agencies, federal agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. Public comments have been solicited and incorporated and the Plan has been submitted to ANSTF for review and comment. Following this work, the *2025 Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan* (hereafter called the Plan) is intended to guide future AIS issues and actions for the state.

The responsibility and authority to protect the state from AIS does not fall to one agency or entity. It involves people from across the state working together with a common purpose. Tribes and counties, fishing groups and conservation organizations, power companies and agriculture groups, state, and federal agencies, all work together to protect the state. Current AIS efforts have made and continue to make significant accomplishments addressing AIS issues. Working closely with partners, the state AIS program regularly evaluates operations and strategies and adapts the program to improve program effectiveness and efficiency. By working together, we advance our abilities to prevent, detect, respond and educate on AIS.

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) of 1990 and the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) (1996) called for the development of state and regional management plans to control aquatic invasive and nuisance species. After approval of a state plan by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), matching funds for activities described in the management plan become

Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan

available. The first AIS Management Plan for Montana was approved and adopted in 2002 and since that time many things have changed. The 2025 Plan builds on the work that has been accomplished in the past twenty-three years and looks to a future where the state can continue to address the AIS threat to Montana.



Objective G: Evaluation of Laws and Rules

Montana's existing AIS statutes and rules were enacted over multiple years. This has helped to build a strong and effective program to address the AIS issue, however gaps and needs remain.

The MISC conducted an invasive species law review in 2018 which identified several gaps and needs related to AIS. These issues were discussed at the AIS Summit and these changes were supported by summit participants.

Strategy G.1: Regularly review laws to determine gaps and needs that could be changed to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the AIS program.

- G.1.1** Review feasibility of legislative action to define roles and responsibilities more clearly between state agencies responsible for AIS through Title 80 to ensure effective and efficient program coordination and implementation. Currently AIS responsibilities in statute are shared between FWP, MDA, MDT and DNRC with roles and responsibilities defined in MOU.
- G.1.2** Review feasibility of creating an AIS species list that would provide a single list of aquatic invasive plants and animals that provides clear management authority.
- G.1.2.1** Identify additional species to be added to the prohibited species list.
- G.1.3** Review the feasibility and need for a pull the plug requirement for watercraft.
- G.1.4** Review the feasibility and need for increased penalties for watercraft that fail to stop at inspection stations.
- G.1.5** Evaluate the effectiveness and utility of the AIS Trust Fund.
- G.1.6** Review and clarify overlapping AIS responsibilities shared by the WMCC and the state-wide AIS program managed by FWP.
- G.1.7** Evaluate statutory requirements for integrating technology-based requirements to help ensure boaters meet inspection before launch requirements.

Objective G: Evaluation of Laws and Rules						
Actions	Lead Organization	Cooperating Organizations	Funding Source	Status	Frequency	Order of Magnitude of Cost
Strategy G.1: Regularly review laws to determine gaps and needs that could be changed to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the AIS program.						
G.1.1 Action: Review feasibility of legislative action to more clearly define roles and responsibilities between state agencies responsible for AIS through Title 80 to ensure effective and efficient program coordination and implementation. Currently AIS responsibilities in statute are equally shared between FWP, MDA, MDT and DNRC with roles and responsibilities defined in MOU.	MISC	State agencies, Tribes, Counties, Conservation Districts, MWCC	State funds and federal grants.	For Consideration	One-time	\$
G.1.2 Action: Review feasibility of creating an AIS species list that would provide a single list of aquatic invasive plants and animals that provides clear management authority.	MISC	State agencies, Tribes, Counties, Conservation Districts, MWCC	State funds and federal grants.	For Consideration	One-time	\$
G.1.2.1 Action: Identify additional species to be added to the prohibited species list.	FWP	State agencies, Tribes, Counties, Conservation Districts	State funds and federal grants.	Existing	Ongoing	\$

Objective G: Evaluation of Laws and Rules						
Actions	Lead Organization	Cooperating Organizations	Funding Source	Status	Frequency	Order of Magnitude of Cost
Strategy G.1. Cont.						
G.1.3 Action: Review the feasibility and need for a pull the plug requirement for watercraft.	MISC	State and federal agencies, tribes, counties, Cons. Distr., WMCC	State funds and federal grants	For Consideration	One-Time	\$
G.1.4 Action: Review the feasibility and need for increased penalties for watercraft that fail to stop at inspection stations.	MISC	State and federal agencies, tribes, counties, Cons. Distr., WMCC	State funds and federal grants	For Consideration	One-Time	\$
G.1.5 Action: Evaluate the effectiveness and utility of the AIS Trust Fund.	MISC	State and federal agencies, tribes, counties, Cons. Distr., WMCC	State funds and federal grants	For Consideration	One-Time	\$
G.1.7 Action: Review overlapping AIS responsibilities shared by the WMCC and the state-wide AIS program managed by FWP.	MISC	State and federal agencies, tribes, counties, Cons. Distr., WMCC	State funds and federal grants	For Consideration	One-Time	\$

Objective G: Evaluation of Laws and Rules						
Actions	Lead Organization	Cooperating Organizations	Funding Source	Status	Frequency	Order of Magnitude of Cost
Strategy G.1. Cont. G.1.8 Action: Evaluate statutory requirements for integrating technology-based requirements to help ensure boaters meet inspection before launch requirements.	MISC	State and federal agencies, tribes, counties, Cons. Distr., WMCC	State funds and federal grants	For Consideration	One-Time	\$

Topic	Bill #	Status	Short Title	Sponsor
AIS	HB 242	Signed by Governor 5/5/25	Revise fines related to aquatic invasive species	Tom Millett
AIS	HB 74	Signed by Governor 4/3/25	Revise private fish pond and commercial take laws	Ken Walsh
AIS	HB 829	DEAD	Generally revise laws related to aquatic invasive species.	Neil Durham
AIS	SB 409	Signed by Governor 5/12/25	Generally revise laws related to the depart. of commerce	Daniel Zolnikov
WEEDS	HB 932	Signed by Governor 5/13/25	Revise laws related to funding conservation	Ken Walsh
WEEDS	SB 167	Vetoed 5/5/25. Veto override failed 6/4/25	Provide funding for noxious weed trust	Greg Hertz
WEEDS	SJ 42	Filed with Secretary of State 5/6/25	Interim study of noxious weed control	Forrest Mandeville
WILDLIFE	HB 57	DEAD	Designate quail as upland game bird	Paul Fielder

Commerce Welcomes New Director Marta Bertoglio

On June 16, 2025, Gov. Greg Gianforte announced the appointment of Marta Bertoglio as Director of the Montana Department of Commerce.

Press release and more information on Marta: <https://commerce.mt.gov/News/press-releases-and-statements/Governor-Gianforte-Announces-Leadership-Change-at-Montana-Department-of-Commerce>.



Marta Bertoglio was sworn into her new role on June 16, 2025.

Conservation Districts

On behalf of Conservation Districts I can report that WIS ran by CD's continue to go well and they are busy.

Judith Basin CD recently hosted an EHS workshop in Raynesford, in conjunction with CEMIST, MISC, and the Dept. of Ag.

CEMIST along with CD,s and partners are planning a number of workshops for this fall and winter, as well as attending events.

Thank you
Steve Wanderaas

DNRC

A few things to report, here's a quick update:

- Forest Pest Management is currently remeasuring plots in Blackleaf and Choteau (Rocky Mountain Front area) for the Limber Pine/White Pine Blister Rust assessment.
- We've installed around 65 Spongy Moth traps across greater Missoula County as part of our annual cooperative monitoring program.
- If time allows this summer, we're tentatively planning to conduct Balsam Woolly Adelgid surveys—still to be determined.

Additionally, UCF, FPM, and Misc (shoutout to Russ!) have completed the update to the EAB Response Plan: [2025_EAB-Response-and-Readiness-Plan.pdf](#)

That's all I have for now on the invasive species front. Including Amy on this response in case she wants to chime in.

-Jake Chadwell

Dennis Longknife/MISC Member Office: 406-353-8348, Mobile: 406-390-5690
Fort Belknap Indian Community

I have been involved in Native Plants since 1997, and currently working on three projects involving native plants, grasses and restoration in our mountains and prairies.

The Relocation, Managed Retreat or Protect in Place Program (RMP). I main task for my work for our tribe, is to manage a grant offered by the BIA, Tribal Climate Resiliency Program, to develop plans on how we can make our community more resilient to the effects/impacts to climate change. The funding came about after we seen how climate change caused big impacts to Alaskan villages, by rising seas levels, and the loss of land. He BIA noticed that not only Alaskan villages were being affected, but also the lower 48 states with tribal lands were also being affected by land loss, through several climate change scenarios. I will be having a series of community meetings to gather comments on how to protect our natural resources and infrastructure.

The **CASC First Foods Project** is a grant offered to our tribes as a sub-award by the University of Montana, and Jennifer Thompson/Professor-Forestry Department, and involves working with project partners, to build resilience to climate change, by assessing priority foods our tribe deems as a priority (First Foods). Work involved performing field data collection and transects, including collecting and identifying native plants for our Herbarium. First Foods are plants we use for Ceremony, Cultural, and Medicinal/ Dietary purposes, through seasonal harvesting.

The Little Rocky Forest Resilience Project, was another grant secured through a sub-award, by the University of Montana, Environmental Studies Program under the direction of Robin Saha/Professor. The LRFR Project involves Forest overstory reduction, in the form of thinning 300 acres of Lodge Pole Pine, in order to improve forest health, and reduce impacts from catastrophic wildfires. We just completed this project in the fall of 2024. I also collect native plants that are growing in the thinning plots and store them on our Herbarium.

BLM Oregon State University, Grassland Restoration Project, I am a Cultural Monitor for this project and oversee the planning and logistics of the project. The program was originally under the guidance of Cristina Eisenberg, Professor OSU, but now under the guidance of Thomas Deluca/Soil Professor-OSU. The project involves using native students to conduct AIM Protocol, to assess the health of our native grasslands. The student fellows and field techs, also collect native grasses, take soil samples and collect native grassland seed, from several of our native grassland species. We are in our 7th year of this project and even worked through the pandemic which was very challenging. I take care of all grasses that have been collected and created a separate Herbarium for all native grasses on this project.

Our Buffalo Program will be having an Open House and Buffalo Day Celebration on August 13, 2025! Event location will be at the Buffalo Program office and Horse Capture Park area. We are looking for vendors and tribal programs who would like to come set up a booth. Thank you! In August I will be attending the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Tribal Lands and Environmental Forum, to be held in Minneapolis, MN., August 18-22, 2025. This gathering is an big event held annually. Anyone working on tribal lands, can attend and share/present their project work.

See flyers below.



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*Come Celebrate our
New Harvest Trailer!*

Wednesday August 13, 2025
Tourism Building
(across from little river trading)
143 Assiniboine Ave

Schedule

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM -Vendor Setup

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

- Buffalo Tours
- Local Vendors
- Activities: Elder stories, bouncy house, art displays and more!

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

- Community Feed

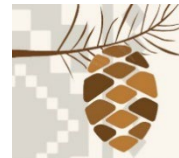
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

- Screening of *Singing Back the Buffalo*



Teri Harper | 406.353.3965
tcharper@ancestralcollege.edu

Yvonne Stanley | 406.353.8363
yvonne.stanley@ftbelknap.org



SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 18-21, 2025

TRIBAL LANDS & ENVIRONMENT FORUM



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

In-Person attendance: \$175.00

Virtual attendance: \$25.00

For more information please contact:

Todd Barnell

Project Director

Todd.Barnell@nau.edu



FWP

Quick update from the AIS side:

- Over 61,000 watercraft inspected so far this season. 28 intercepted with mussels and 325 with weeds.
- Over 500 early detection samples collected and analyzed to date with NO INVASIVE MUSSELS detected.
- No new populations of AIS have been found this season.
- No EWM was found in the most recent surveys of eradication project in Beaver Lake (Whitefish) and Nilan Reservoir (Augusta).
- FWP has a number of new outreach materials and videos. They can be found here: <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/resources>; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJq8fZWA4VeautaDZIhpOLw>

Craig can help fill in the blanks at the meeting.

Sorry to miss the meeting next week.

Tom Woolf

ISAN

My update:

The third Woody Invasives Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 10th in Lewistown (venue TBD, but will be offered hybrid). The agenda is not yet finalized with presenters, but the Impact Study team (Nanette & Diane) will be presenting their work virtually. We'll be launching the Education and Outreach campaign soon (including social media, radio ad, and a sponsored content article). If you'd like PDFs of the ID trifold or IPM guides, please let me know.

Our next pet rehoming event is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th in Helena at MTWild from 10 AM to 3 PM.

We have another run of sticker orders due on Friday, August 15th. Email Erin Bjorklund at erin@stopais.org for more information. There are Clean, Drain, Dry; forest pest; and Don't Let It Loose designs included.

Thanks!

Sara Ricklefs (*she/her*)

USFWS

Here's my update:

USFWS Region 6 Invasives Species Program provides technical expertise, services, and coordination support for refuge staff working to manage noxious and invasive weeds throughout the mountain-prairie region (MT, WY, UT, CO, ND, SD, KS, NE) . Our refuges in Montana are working hard on a variety of management and restoration projects, such as, Ventenata and cheatgrass control projects and woody encroachment removal projects. This spring, I've been working with Melissa Maggio, coordinator for the Montana Biocontrol Coordination Project to collect and distribute biocontrol agents for release on refuge lands in Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, and South Dakota, in coordination with other partners such as USDA PPQ and ND Biological Control Program. This has largely been successful with more than ten refuge complexes participating.

Thanks,
Jessica

--

Jessica Zarate

Regional Invasive Species Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Mountain-Prairie Region

4567 Wildfowl Lane

Stevensville MT 59870

Ph: 406-544-2552