



Montana Invasive Species Council

Meeting Materials Packet for July 9th, 2024

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MONTANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

AGENDA

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

Big Horn Resort-1801 Majestic Lane, Billings | Hybrid Meeting

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

8:30 AM **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS & UPDATES
*Approve April Meeting Minutes
Liz Lodman - Program Updates / MCC Inter / MISC Coordinator Position / MISC Video
Multi-Agency AIS MOU

9:00 AM **MISC BUDGET REVIEW**
Liz Lodman

9:15 AM **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Woody Invasives SAP and Impact Report
Process to Assess Invasiveness of a Species SAP
Communications Workshop

9:30 AM **BREAK**

9:45 AM **INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT PLANNING**
Liz Lodman & Committee

10:30 AM **FERAL SWINE TOUR AND LIVESTOCK UPDATES**
Jared Beaver - MSU Extension & Tahnee Syzmanski - Dept of Livestock (invited)

11:00 AM **CLIMATE DISCUSSION**
Open Discussion

11:15 AM **ANNUAL GRASSES DISCUSSION**
Open Discussion

11:30 AM **TRIBAL OUTREACH**
Pam Schwend - Carbon County Weed District

12:00 PM **LUNCH - PROVIDED**

12:45 PM **CONFERENCE UPDATES - PNWER, NAISMA, MWCC**
Liz Lodman & Attendees

1:15 PM **INVASIVE SPECIES VIDEOS**
YCD, WMCC, FWP

1:45 PM **MISC MEMBER UPDATES**

2:20 PM **BILLINGS WOODY INVASIVES REMOVAL PROJECT**
Megan Hoyer - MT Dept of AG

2:45 PM **WRAP UP AND ADJOURN**
Location of Next Meeting
Final Discussion
*Public Comment

3:00 PM **LEAVE FOR TOUR OF WOODY INVASIVE TREE REMOVAL PROJECT AT RIVER FRONT PARK**

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:	April 17, 2024	Time:	8:30 am
Minutes Prepared By:	Anna Connerton	Location:	MT State Capitol - Helena & Zoom
Attendees			
<p>MISC: <u>Tom Woolf</u>, <u>Sara Ricklefs</u>, <u>Andy Welch</u>, <u>Paul Rossignol</u>, <u>Pam Schwend</u>, <u>Jasmine Chaffee</u>, <u>Charles Headdress</u>, <u>Dennis Longknife</u>, <u>Steve Wanderaas</u>, <u>Jennifer Pelej</u>, <u>Jason Allen</u>, <u>Jake Chadwell</u>, Gary Adams, Monica Pokorny, Dalin Tidwell</p> <p>MISC staff: Liz Lodman and Anna Connerton</p> <p>Other Attendees: Lori Witham, Dan Rostad, Don Youngbauer, Arthur Potts, Karen Laitala, Steven Phillips, Joe Kremer-Herman, Noelle Orloff, Naija Farhat, Dale Knouse, Darby Warner, Jay Bodner, Mark Bostrom, Bryce Christiaens, Jennifer Riddle, Amy Gannon, Brent Smith, Kasydi Lucas</p> <p><small>**MISC voting members are underlined.</small></p>			
Agenda and Notes, Decisions, Issues			
Topic	Discussion		
Welcome & Roll Call	Steve Wanderaas (Co-Chair) opened the meeting at 8:32 am. Wanderaas conducted a roll call and confirmed the quorum. Attendees introduced themselves.		
Administrative Business	<p>*Action: Approval of December 13th Meeting Minutes.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Motion: Jason Allen Second: Pam Schwend</p> <p>Motion Passed Unanimously</p> <p>Council Member Open Seat Updates</p> <p><u>Confirmed Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Fritzler: Representative of the Crow Nation • Tracy Tyner: Rocky Boy Representative <p><u>Pending Members:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jake Chadwell: DNRC Designee <p><small>*Council members will remain on the council until a successor is named.</small></p>		
Saskatchewan Feral Swine	<p>Saskatchewan Feral Swine Management – Dale Knouse, Manager of Strategic Operations and Darby Warner, Executive Director of Insurance - Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp (SCIC)</p> <p><i>Management Program:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corp (SCIC) coordinates sighting, monitoring, and removal of wild boar in Saskatchewan. • SCIC collaborates with many stakeholders from industry and other government organizations. 		

**Saskatchewan
Feral Swine**

- SCIC employs qualified hunters and trappers, located in strategic areas, to work with landowners and rural municipalities.
- Activities focus on removal of full sounders using corral traps. They discourage public hunting of feral swine.
- 1,008 feral swine have been removed since 2017.

How did they get to Sask?

- Imported from Europe in the 1980-90s as part of livestock diversification efforts.
- Canadian populations have established due to intentional or accidental release.

Technology Adoption:

- SCIC uses technology to efficiently monitor and trap wild boar. Use of judas pigs was ineffective.
- Mobile network enabled monitoring and trapping cameras provide live images.
- Remote triggering of trap gates.
 - Cell cameras on sight. Traps send a notification to cell phones then trappers can close it when all the animals are inside. Have been successful in capturing the ones that have escaped. Deep snow helps, pigs can't move through snow, so they use trails making them vulnerable and easy to catch. Sounders used to have 25 animals and now have only been 5-6.
 - Corral traps are the most efficient method to trap numbers of pigs.
 - As of January 2024, SCIC has over 25 trapping systems, some are permanent.
 - SCIC is significantly increasing camera monitoring network in 2024.
- Thermal images UAVs.
 - Thermal imaging UAVs provide aerial reconnaissance capability for wildlife species verification. Cold nights are best for spotting animals.
 - Large areas can be scanned from a single location with UAVs.

Wildlife Damage Compensation:

- Saskatchewan has approximately 40 million acres of arable crop land.
- SCIC provides compensation for any crop or livestock loss.
- Producers can receive up to 100% compensation on the value of land damage. Receive 1,500-2,000 claims per year for all types of loss.
- Compensation to producers for feral swine damage has been insignificant compared to payments for losses resulting from other species.
- Damage by feral swine is primarily to grain crops.
- SCIC adjusters inspect every wildlife claim and are trained to identify the cause of loss (species).
- Most significant damage to crops caused by big game and waterfowl (elk, moose, deer, bear, geese) and gophers – over 26.6M paid to producers in 2022.
- Compensation for wild boar damage in 2022 was less than \$10,000.

US-Canada Border:

- To date SCIC has not received a wild boar sighting near the US border.
- Domestic escapes continue to be an issue (mostly pot-bellied pigs).

Escaped Domestic Animals:

- Saskatchewan regulations will be updated regarding escaped farm domestic pigs.

**Saskatchewan
Feral Swine**

- Domestic pigs that have escaped are not considered feral until ownership can be disproven.
- Lawful fence requirements fall under the *Stray Animals Regulations, 1999*
- Undergoing regulatory changes.
 - Allow wild pig hunting, boar farms and hunt farms, but new farms must be registered and can't expand.
 - Fences must meet a standard, but SCIC can't enforce regulations. New regulations will allow SCIC to enforce regulations. Staff does inspect fences.
 - Landowners are required to report animals.

Sighting and Trapping Statistics:

2023 Reported Sightings:

- 7 domestic pigs
- 4 wild boar
- 8 unverified

Animals Removed:

- 2021 season – 186
- 2022 season – 186
- 2023 season – 128 (low snow year and sounders are getting smaller)

Sighting Strategy:

- Anyone can report a sighting via phone, email or sici.ca. Use the ***Squeal On Pigs!*** campaign.
- SCIC investigates every sighting.
- SCIC manages appropriate strategies for response and/or follow up for each sighting.

Feral Swine Impacts/Risk to Sask:

- Wild Boar are primarily located in wastelands and use adjacent agriculture crop for feed and habitat. Not usually found in provincial forests.
- Pigs in Saskatchewan are primarily found in remote treed locations on land with swamps and marshes, mostly in northern and eastern Saskatchewan.
- Little habitat for swine exists in the southern part of the province – open prairie.
- Wildlife Damage Compensation rates indicate the current impacts to agriculture are minimal.
- Impacts to industry as the result of disease could result in significant reduction of export in Canada.
- According to Sask Port, if African Swine Fever is introduced, industry predicts they can expect an immediate threat to 50% of Saskatchewan exports.

Sask Climate and Conditions:

- Saskatchewan weather, cold-harsh winters, and Saskatchewan's natural predators (wolves) do impact the wild boar population in the province.
 - SCIC will conduct an aerial survey next winter over the main populated areas.

SCIC phone: 1.888.935.0000 email: customer.service@scic.ca

Comments:

Liz Lodman: Does using the cell link to notify the trappers work in remote areas? Is it still a good connection? How does it work in the winter?

Darby Warner: In the beginning there was some trouble during the winters, but it ended up being the memory cards that was the issue. This happened at -40 degrees Celsius. We have since overcome this by changing the type of SD card. They now have directional antennas, and the traps can be closed automatically instead of 3–4-minute lapse.

Paul Rossignol: Are you able to salvage the meat from the pigs?

Darby Warner: Yes, we talked about donating the meat to a food bank but to be donated it must be CFIA (Canada Food Inspection Agency) inspected, it would have to be run through a plant and tested for diseases, but the cost was high. We can abandon carcasses on sight, but it seems like a waste – we called the band office, and they took them. This has been done with landowners – if they want the meat, they are welcome to it. Anything that is salvageable we have a couple of processing plants where we have contract there is no profit but once it is done, they can take it and give it to needy families.

Paul Rossignol: What are the regulations for shooting or hunting them?

Darby Warner: Saskatchewan residents can hunt them anytime (no season or limits) but must follow wildlife hunting regulations (no night hunting). You can't accompany someone hunting another big game animal, must be exclusively hunting boar. To remove any profit, there are no boar hunting tags.

Liz Lodman: Following up on the rules, can you tell us about the neighboring provinces?

Dale Knouse: Alberta and Manitoba are similar to Saskatchewan. They are trying to curb hunting. In Manitoba the industry organization manages wild boar, and they engage more with landowners to remove pigs. Alberta uses their Agriculture department and staff.

Steve Wanderaas: Are wild pigs found in/near the Wood Mountain Areas (headwaters of Poplar River)?

Dale Knouse: Nothing verified. Our adjusters cover this area every year and producers are helpful in reporting pigs, but nothing has been reported. We plan to step up surveillance in this area.

Sara Ricklefs: Do you leave open bait around the camera areas?

Dale Knouse: Bait is allowed when used under our program. Bait can become cumbersome as you must check regularly, and some areas are remote. Our trappers and landowners can assist us with baiting.

Lori Witham: What food do you use for trapping?

Darby Warner: Oats and wheat

Liz Lodman: Do you do disease testing?

Darby Warner: The *Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative* takes about 100 of the removed pigs to do necropsy and disease testing every year. Their information is available online.

Liz Lodman: What is the Canadian mapping effort?

Dale Knouse: *Animal Health Canada* is bringing together all provinces to develop standards for sightings and removal data.

Steve Wanderaas: If there is any way we can collaborate with you and make things work better please let us know. Do you have any parting advise?

	<p>Darby Warner: Montana’s regulations and outreach are right – keep doing what you are doing.</p> <p>Liz Lodman: Reminder that Montana held a feral swine tour in March visiting towns along the highline to inform landowners about the issue, what to look for, and how to report sightings. The tour missed visiting the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap tribal community and need to follow up with these areas. Montana has a new feral swine fact sheet available. Canada and US developed a new <i>Squeal On Pigs!</i> website at www.squealonthepigs.org.</p>
<p>Science Advisory Panel Updates</p>	<p>Sara Ricklefs - Woody Invasives</p> <p>The first SAP held in November 2023 discussed best management practices for salt cedar, Russian olive, and common buckthorn. The Woody Invasives Working Group met in February followed by a core planning group meeting, and we decided that the next SAP would be on environmental and economic impacts. The next SAP will be delayed until after field season. The goal is to have economists talking about invasives as a whole if we can’t find experts on the specific species.</p> <p>Bryce Christiaens – Assessing Invasiveness of Species</p> <p>Intentions of this SAP are to revisit the working definition of “invasive” and review existing risk models to develop a process to assess the potential invasiveness and impact of a species to Montana’s economy and environment.</p> <p>Draft panel outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) determine if the definition of “invasive” currently used by MISC captures target species or potentially misses economically, culturally, and/or ecologically important species (e.g. regionally native species moving due to climate) 2) Review existing models and current work being done in North America to assess the risk of a species being invasives based on the definition, 3) From outcomes 1 and 2 develop a process for Montana to assess the risk of introduction and establishment of an invasive species in Montana, 4) develop a process to address the potential economic and ecological impact of the highest risk species if introduced to Montana. Find the SAP committee notes here. <p>Potential Panel Members: Emily Fusco, Evelyn M Beaury, Aimee Agnre, Nicole Hernandez, Deah Lieurance, Dean Peterson, Tony Koop. These are to be discussed further.</p> <p>Does MISC want to pursue as an SAP or has this evolved into another effort, maybe have a speaker at the Summit?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of discussion is happening around this topic but it’s not specific to Montana. If we do the SAP we will have good specific information to Montana, especially around the climate component. • Potential next step is to hold a virtual session with potential panel members to answer questions and get a better agenda for an SAP we could hold spring 2025. • Bryce will organize the next committee meeting to address next steps.
<p>NAISMA Conference Update & Sponsorship</p>	<p>Jasmine Chaffee</p> <p>The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) conference is Sept 30 – Oct 3 in Missoula. The conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Reserve Street. Usually, 300-400 people attend and speakers from all over talk about different invasive species topics, monitoring, prevention, mapping, technology, management, etc. Field trips will be held on</p>

**NAISMA
Conference
Update &
Sponsorship**

Wednesday. Tuesday there is a special track regarding Invasive Annual Grasses and Thursday a special track on forest pests. We encourage Montana folks representing all the invasive species to attend as the conference won't be in our areas again for many years.

NAISMA was awarded a Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant to help comp registrations for 60 people if you are from a Montana conservation district, extension office, or county weed district office. Be looking for more information about how to use the comped registration.

Liz Lodman: MISC can help pay for registration if council members want to attend. I'd like to complete registrations by June 30 before end of fiscal year if possible. The early bird registration fee ends July 31. If you attend, MISC voting members can be reimbursed for their lodging. MISC shares a NAISMA membership with the Western Montana Conservation Commission. The MISC's NAISMA memberships are Liz, Anna, Steve, Tom, and Jason. Four more spots are open to MISC. There are many perks to NAISMA membership such as recordings of webinars, discounts on products, post job openings, discounts on the conference, etc.

- Sara Ricklefs wants NAISMA membership. Ask Dylan Brown if he wants membership.

Vote on NAISMA sponsorship amount:

There are different levels of sponsorship, usually the host state provides a \$10,000 sponsorship. Proposal is for MISC to allocate \$10,000 as a special event sponsorship for the NAISMA conference. This level would include 4 full in-person registrations, exhibit table, listing in the program, 5-minute speaking opportunity, logo and recognition during event, and social media post on our behalf.

***Action: Motion to approve NAISMA sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000**

Motion: Sara Ricklefs

Second: Pam Schwend

Motion passed unanimously.

**APHIS
Presentation**

Lori Witham, Plant Health Trade Compliance Officer – USDA-APHIS-PPQ

The *Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance* (SITC) program seeks to prevent unlawful entry and distribution of prohibited products that may harbor diseases or invasive species. These harmful organisms could seriously damage America's crops, livestock, and environment.

Objective:

- **Detect and interdict** prohibited or restricted products in the marketplace or at ports of entry
- **Trace** them back to the importer (identify the pathway)
- **Process** violations
- **Close down** the pathway

Why are we here? Preventative Measures, Early Detection, Emergency Response

Some examples include:

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
 - H5N1 is mainly spread by domestic poultry, both through the movements of infected birds and poultry products and through the use of infected poultry manure as fertilizer or feed

APHIS Presentation

- Since outbreak in Aisa in 2003, 45 countries now have HPAI H5N1
- Mediterranean Fruit Fly
 - In 1993, APHIS estimated that annual losses attribute to the Medfly in the continental US would be about \$1.5 billion annually if this exotic pest were to become established
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
 - December 25, 2003, BSE confirmed in US
 - Over 50 countries banned importation of US beef
- Citrus Canker
 - Since 1995 over 2 million citrus trees have been destroyed in Florida
 - It has since cost over \$200 million to eradicate
 - The quarantine area is over 1,000 square miles
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
 - 2001 outbreak in Britian cost over \$4 billion
 - 1997 outbreak in Taiwan cost over \$19 billion.
 - FMD was last eradicated in US in 1929

Exotic Animal Diseases

- BSE – “Mad Cow” Disease
- African Swine Fever
- Avian Influenza
- Vesicular Disease
- Exotic Newcastle Disease
- Food and Mouth Disease

Inspections

Locations include commerce sites, warehouses, weigh stations, land border ports (in cooperation with US Customs and Border Protection), international airports, maritime cargo, passenger busses. Commodity inspected include fresh/frozen/shelf-stable fruits, veggies, and meat products; plants; soil; bark, etc. APHIS doesn't regulate fish.

Other Activities:

- Intelligence collection and analysis
 - Databases
 - Targeting staff
 - Internet surveillance (eBay, Amazon, mail order)
- Other Pathways
 - Overnight Couriers (Fed Ex, UPS)
 - Internet sales
 - International mail
 - Foreign students
- 100 officers nationwide: 70 full-time SITC and 30 plant health trade compliance officers.
- County sanitarians are part of the network to respond

<p>APHIS Presentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public is important to reporting – see something say something. See the APHIS Stakeholder Registry. <p>Sara Ricklefs: Are you using AI to review online purchases or are people doing most of that?</p> <p>Lori Witham: I don't know. The analysts do that work. Sometimes items that are banned in a specific state will say "not for sale in the following states" to prevent sales.</p> <p>Jennifer Riddle: As far as home visits, how do you find out about illegal products? Is monitoring done on smaller scale online operations like Craigs List or Facebook Marketplace?</p> <p>Lori Witham: The analysts find out about the product and trace it back to the seller who is usually cooperative and gives us a list of the purchasers. If they're not cooperative it can get bad for them. I think analysts do monitor Craigs List on large scale. I could do on a localized scale, but people will tag me on questionable items to look at. For plants the Dept of Ag Nurse person reviews those posts. There is an MOU that state and federal agency will assist and act on each other's behalf regarding plants.</p>
<p>Climate Change Discussion</p>	<p>Steve Wanderaas</p> <p>I want the opinion of this group on whether we are doing enough regarding climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dennis Longknife: I brought several copies of the tribe's climate plan if anyone would like to look at it. Pam Schwend: Has MISC don anything been done yet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve: MISC hasn't done anything except mention it in an SAP. Jason Allen: The MTNHP has maps predicting how climate change and different species will affect the state. Gary Adams: Climate change is real and things on the PPQ pest distribution and risk list that we didn't think would be a risk, now their potential occupied range is expanding. Sara Ricklefs: Could we adjust the MISC top invasive species to watch to include climate change information, range shifts and impacts? Liz Lodman: This topic could fall within the SAP that Bryce is chairing. There are many webinars that discuss climate change and invasive species. Tom Woolf: Nationally our federal partners are doing a lot of work on climate change, range expansion, and hot spot analysis. We could include in our conversations that what was isn't what will be and reflecting that on invasive species and the risks. Karen Laitala: It would be good to include this topic in future meetings.
<p>Vice-Chair and Council Member Vote</p>	<p>Elect 2nd Vice-Chair</p> <p>Jason Allen and Jasmine Chaffee are both willing to hold the office if elected. Jason offered to take the position and would accept the nomination.</p> <p>*Action: Motion to nominate Jason Allen as MISC Vice-Chair</p> <p>Motion: Pam Schwend Second: Andy Welch</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Council Member Recommendation Vote</p> <p>The Agriculture representative is open since the passing of Steve Tyrrel. Steve spoke to Dylan Brown, and he is interested in filling the remaining term of this position. The term goes until May 2027. Liz Lodman read the MISC bylaws regarding incomplete terms.</p>

	<p>*Action: Motion to recommend Dylan Brown to fill the remaining term of Steve Tyrrell as Agriculture Representative Motion: Sara Ricklefs Second: Pam Schwend Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The Private Landowner position is still open due to the passing of Bob Gilbert and we someone to fill the remainder of that term.</p> <p>Pam Schwend: What does Private Landowner represent or do? I have a person in mind. Steve Wanderaas: It can be any private landowner but hope it's not someone who has just one acre of land. We followed up on several leads but none of them have worked out. Please send recommendations to Liz or Steve.</p>
<p>Summit Planning</p>	<p>Tom Woolf: An AIS meeting will be held adjacent to the Summit. We had a couple of dates chosen for this. How do people feel about one day meetings for each?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Connerton: We contacted the Delta hotel in Helena and the dates we want are still open for November 13-14. But we haven't reserved these dates yet. We'll have 1 day for AIS (Nov 13th) and 1 day for the Summit (non-aquatic) (Nov 14th). • Steve Wanderaas: I hope we have a legislative panel so we can communication with them. What else would we fill the day with? The Communications workshop if we don't have anything else? • Liz Lodman: Let's get a planning committee to help plan the summit? Then we can discuss topics. <p>Planning Committee: Liz Lodman Anna Connerton Sara Ricklefs Steve Wanderaas Tom Woolf Jasmine Chaffee WMCC Team</p>
<p>PWNER Discussion</p>	<p>Liz Lodman: The Pacific Northwest Economic Region holds a conference every year. This year it's in British Columbia on July 21-25, 2024. PNWER has an invasive species committee that holds a session at the conference every year. PNWER has had AIS on their agenda for years but recently added Feral Swine in 2022. Last year I helped plan the feral swine session at PNWER in Boise. This year my Canadian colleague will plan the feral swine sessions. The agenda can be found here. Monday afternoon is the AIS and Feral Swine sessions. The Cross-Border Livestock Health Foreign Animal Health tabletop exercise could be of interest to MISC as well. A lot of good work gets done after the meetings so it would be advantageous to have someone from MISC attend. There is a virtual option to attend for \$75/day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Woolf: I have received an invite from PNWER to attend. I may look into attending virtually. When Steve attend PNWER in Boise and Calgary, he represented AIS very well so he would be a good person to represent MISC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Wanderaas: I estimate it would cost \$3,000/person to attend. MISC has the funds to cover this. I would be willing to go. Should we OK two spots in case someone else decides they would like to go like Tom or Liz? • Liz Lodman: I'd like to see someone representing MISC so I would support Steve attending. <p>MISC Presence at PNWER</p> <p>*Action: Motion to approve two MISC members to attend PNWER in British Columbia</p> <p>Motion: Pam Schwend Second: Jason Allen</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>Andy Welch: I request that when we talk about funding items, we should have a snapshot of our current budget so we can decide where this fits.</p>
<p>2024 AIS Grant Review</p>	<p>Tom Woolf: There were great application and more requests than funds, so we had to decide on recommending funding or not on some applications. The grant review committee makes recommendations to the MISC members to vote on. We haven't got a lot of participation from the council members to participate in the grant hearings and we really encourage council members to attend the deliberations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Welch: It's good to see the increase in the application rates and the quality of applications is getting better over time. People see this as a valuable source of grant funding to get programs on the ground. • Jasmine Chaffee: The AIS Grant is a task responsibility of the council, not just the grant review committee. • Liz Lodman: We've thought about having the AIS Grant Hearing the day before a MISC meeting next year. <p>There were 15 applications for the FY24 AIS Grant Cycle. The hearing was held on April 11th at the DNRC Headquarters in Helena. The funding recommendations were sent to DNRC director Kaster for approval. The review committee is Jasmine Chaffee, Tom Woolf, Jason Allen, and Andy Welch. AIS Grant Committee Funding Recommendations</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Invasive Species to Watch – Fish: No update. Group discuss about how the 2022 Summit identifying a fish as a species to watch, the lead agency (FWP) should provide guidance on a sport fish as an invasive species to watch, and people moving fish and bucket-biology is the concern. The council should approach this based on science and impacts rather than political/social desires. Discussion with FWP director could be based on process. Steve will follow up with Bryce.</p> <p>Communications Workshop for Natural Resources Professionals: No update. Liz Lodman reported that since Jan Stoddard and Jane Mangold left MISC we need additional members on this committee. Don't anticipate this happening until 2025.</p>

<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Woody Invasives Best Practices Workshop/Science Panel: Sara Ricklefs stated the draft report of the first SAP is done and very few comments have been received. Not sure if people are ok with report or they haven't read it. Report might be ready to publish. Plan to have 2nd SAP after field season. Finding the right panel members is difficult as it's experts we don't commonly hear from, like economists. We are looking for an extension of Noxious Weed Trust fund grant.</p>
<p>Member Updates</p>	<p>Tom Woolf: Most all watercraft inspection stations will be open next week. Have conducted 1,800 inspections so far this year with 7 mussel fouled boats. None of the mussels were found alive but one boat was out of the water for only a couple days. Two new AIS to report: DEQ found New Zealand Mudsnaills in Silverbow Creek near Butte about 25 miles upstream from a previous detection, and a reproducing population of Mystery Snails off Finley Point in Flathead Lake. FWP's AmeriCorps member is focusing on both outreach events and early detection training and reporting (how to look, where to look and how to report).</p> <p>Jasmine Chaffee: Dept of Agriculture has 5 Ag Corps members this year, 4 working on noxious weeds and 1 on apiary. Members are working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and building capacity in eastern counties where there aren't full-time coordinators, building our website, creating a blog series, and building education trunks. • Adopt-a-Trailhead program, helping with media for certified materials program, and taking on the Pull Your Share program. • Helping get county mapping and monitoring data digitize in GIS, building a dashboard for grant projects, get a drone program for the certified materials program. • Helping with trapping for plant pests and working with hobby beekeepers. <p>We have an EDRR webinar on May 22nd where we'll talk about what we expect to see this summer and what we'll work on (rush skeleton weed, phragmites, garden loose strife). We will host a group from Alberta in Lincoln County to see Ventenata, Medusa head, and Rush Skeleton weed. We just posted the Invasive Species Education Coordinator position then we'll do a strategic plan to see where we want to take this program.</p> <p>Dennis Longknife Jr.: We developed noxious weed strategic plan in 2013 and it's due for an update. Fort Belknap will hire someone to do the update and start a noxious weed program on the reservation. BIA is supposed to oversee weeds and they haven't been very active. We need help with our Earth Day Event on Monday, April 22.</p> <p>Gary Adams: Most of our time is spent on non-invasive species – grasshoppers; we have 5 more meetings. The last week of April we'll start our pest detection trapping program mostly along the highline, looking for something that hasn't been detected here. Spongy moth grids will be put out by the Forest Service near Bozeman and DNRC near East Missoula, based on positive catches last year. We monitor airports for Japanese beetles. I attend the EAB conference April 2nd in Billings where 70 arborists were trained to identify emerald ash borer. In the evening the public was invited to learn more about EAB, about 100 people attended.</p> <p>Pam Schwend: Carbon County has received two Noxious Weed Trust Fund grants and applied for an REMF grant. Will co-host an Invasive Species Day at Riverfront Park with 200 7th graders and 10 stations. Will attend Conservation Days, Ladies on the Range in Winnett, Stillwater Valley</p>

Watershed Council. Working with extension agent to start a community garden to offer landowners to replace noxious weeds with native plants. The Invasive Species Council of British Columbia has a resource for invasive species that affect native communities, especially noxious weeds. Would MISC be interested in creating a similar program to work with native communities about invasive species with an understand of their culture, history and language.

- Dennis Longknife is identifying and prioritizing the first foods in Little Rockies and welcomes this effort.

Sara Ricklefs: ISAN is hiring an Outreach Coordinator, accepting applications until April 30th. ISAN received a grant from USDA-PPA for the forest pest program, will work with fly tyers to make fly box of forest pest and native look-a-likes. Have an agreement with Forest Service to do on the ground AIS outreach in ND, MT and ID; provide more DLIL signage and conduct in-person outreach at boat launches. Our Q-Zapp grant is aimed at paddlers to understand Clean-Drain-Dry and to stop at inspection stations. Applied for a MISC AIS Grant for DLIL forging a new partnership with Zoo Montana. Waiting on a grant from Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Council to do AIS and terrestrial outreach to visitors before they leave home. Outreach order forms CDD and DLIL materials are due soon for stickers, fish bags, and high-risk waterbody signage.

Jason Allen: MDT received an increase to our budget from last legislature, transferred most of that to our county partners. We will treat scotch broom near Idaho border with help from Dept of Ag EDRR program. Posters should be up at rest areas, but please check if you are stopping at them this summer and let me know if posters are missing.

Andy Welch: We are following the Idaho mussel response very closely. Northwestern Energy works with Idaho Power and Avista on operations to compare notes and learn from each other. We hold public meetings in Ennis and West Yellowstone every year and I'll talk about mussels just across the border and to safeguard those areas.

Charles Headdress: Fort Peck Reservation hires 6 high school and college students to work on water projects like shock fish, collect water samples, survey insects and fish. Last summer in a 100-meter stretch of Poplar River we caught 16 small mouth bass.

Jake Chadwell: DNRC Forest Pest Management Program We have been presenting at the AIS Watercraft Inspection training about the Don't Move Firewood program so inspectors can share with traveling boaters. Next week is the Western Forest Insect Work Conference and we help with local planning committee. We start trapping for Spongy Moth soon.

- **Amy Gannon:** Jake Chadwell put together invasive beetle corn hole boards; one board has holes in D-shape for EAB.

Monica Pokorney: We did monitoring efforts last year. We will do training for staff at field offices on invasive plants, management, and tools to use. Let me know if anyone want these training materials.

	<p>Anna Connerton: We sent a survey for MISC members to get MISC-logo shirts, vests, hats and backpacks. We ordered samples and will share those when the order comes in.</p> <p>Liz Lodman: I want to make sure new members are getting the MISC e-bulletin newsletter. We helped Dan Wilkins with outreach for the Pull Your Share program, created brochures and a billboard on the interstate near Great Falls should be up soon. We applied for a Montana Conservation Corps member for a 3-month term to work on the Don't Move Firewood outreach to campgrounds, hang posters, and educate campground hosts. DNRC has approved hiring a MISC Program Coordinator to assist with outreach and planning efforts.</p> <p>Steve Wanderaas: I met a farmer in Nebraska and asked what they grow, his response was they must stick to the basics because of the "super weed" Palmer Amaranth. Are we doing enough outreach? Should we contact Grain Growers and ask to be on their agenda?</p> <p>Gary Adams: I want to point out Noelle Orloff with the Schutter Diagnostic Lab (plant diagnostic lab) at MSU where they receive things for identification (plants, insects and pathogens). She led a conversation between MT Dept of Ag and APHIS on the process of what to do when you find something that is in the regulatory arena. MISC used to do Incident Command training and it would be good to work with MT DES to conduct another training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noelle Orloff: Our lab is a plant diagnostic clinic, and one mission is to identify and detect new and invasive species to Montana. We talked about MISC coming to Bozeman to tour the lab or I could come to your meeting to do a presentation.
<p>Wrap-Up and Adjourn</p>	<p>Location of July meeting: Billings, MT</p> <p>Final Discussion: None</p> <p>Public Comment: None</p> <p>*Action: Motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Pam Schwend Second: Charles Haddress</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Meeting Adjourned at 3:11 pm</p>

**Montana Department of Agriculture,
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks,
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and
Montana Department of Transportation,
Aquatic Invasive Species Act Cooperative Agreement
2024 to 2028**

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have the potential to damage the economy, environment, recreational opportunities, cultural resources, and human health of Montana. The Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act (Act) was passed by the 2009 Montana Legislature and was revised in the 2011, 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023 legislative sessions (MCA 80-7). Montana must take concerted actions to prevent, detect, control, and manage AIS. The best strategy for preventing the introduction, importation, and infestation of invasive species is through coordinated education, prevention, detection, and management activities. The Act recognizes that the Departments of Agriculture (MDA); Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP); Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), and Transportation (MDT); share concerns and responsibilities over AIS and seeks to provide collaboration between these state agencies whenever possible (MCA 80-7-1005). MDA, FWP, DNRC, and MDT are referred to collectively in this Cooperative Agreement (“Agreement”) as “the Departments.”

The Act supports and enhances AIS efforts for the Departments and seeks to ensure coordination of agency roles/responsibilities when there may be overlapping jurisdiction. The Act recognizes that the Departments may share concerns and responsibilities over some aquatic invasive species and seeks to provide collaboration and coordination among them whenever possible. Defined roles and responsibilities provides direction to the Departments for addressing AIS issues, result in improved efficiency, reduced redundancy, and clarity to partners and the public. To achieve this objective, the Act directs the Departments to develop cooperative agreements that further clarify agency roles and responsibilities if there are questions about which agency has lead jurisdiction or when there is overlapping interest in a specific AIS. Cooperative agreements may also be used to transfer funding among the Departments for implementing AIS priority activities with funding authorized through the Act.

PURPOSE and GOALS:

The primary purpose of this Agreement is to establish the cooperative agreement required by 80- 7-1006(2) MC to, “... clarify and coordinate their respective responsibilities” to prevent, detect, and manage AIS. It also serves as a mechanism for the Departments to transfer financial resources from one Department to another Department.

This Agreement clarifies each Department’s specific responsibility(s) and role(s) relative to the management of AIS in Montana, to communicate those responsibilities to other interested agencies, organizations, and the public and to use limited funding for maximum effectiveness. This Agreement also clarifies how the Act fits into the existing authorities of the Departments.

The Departments seek to:

- Enhance the Department cooperation;
- Improve efficiency and consistency;
- Increase public, industry, and other government agency awareness and participation;
- Increase coordination with the public, stakeholders, bordering states, and provinces;
- Increase speed and availability of data and information sharing among the Departments and other agencies;
- Seek and distribute funding to support priority AIS efforts;

- Collaborate to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS;
- Establish an AIS interagency working group to be convened, as needed, to coordinate AIS prevention, detection, and management efforts between Departments;
- Collaborate on emergency responses including requests for a declaration of an AIS emergency from the Governor.
- Coordinate on AIS program reporting and outreach efforts.

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES:

While each department will use its existing authority and jurisdiction to address issues, each department recognizes that other departments and agencies beyond this Agreement may also have interests, concerns, and roles or responsibilities.

FWP Authorities:

FWP directs and houses the AIS Bureau and has the lead authority over invasive aquatic animals, aquatic animal pathogens, and aquatic plants. FWP is tasked with all aspects associated with aquatic invasive species and is responsible for implementing the Montana Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (ANS Plan). This plan outlines six objectives including:

1. Coordinate and implement the Comprehensive Management Plan;
2. Prevent the introduction of AIS into Montana (watercraft inspection);
3. Detect, monitor and eradicate pioneering AIS (survey);
4. Where feasible, control and eradicate established AIS that have significant impacts (treat);
5. Inform public, policy makers, natural resource workers, private industry and user groups about the risks and impacts of AIS (education);
6. Increase and disseminate knowledge of AIS in Montana through compiling data and conducting research.

To support the ANS Plan objectives, FWP leads statewide watercraft inspection station operations, early detection surveys, and the development and delivery of outreach programs. FWP also serves on the Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC), is a non-voting member of the Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC), and coordinates with both on AIS issues and initiatives. FWP also represents Montana on the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Taskforce and the Columbia and Missouri River Basin Teams.

MDA Authorities:

MDA, along with the Counties, has authority over all state and county--listed noxious weeds. MDA houses the Noxious Weed Program within the Agriculture Sciences Division, with responsibilities for listed noxious weeds. The MDA is a resource and an advisor to the AIS interagency working group and serves on MISC. MDA may provide grants through the Noxious Weed Trust Fund for aquatic listed noxious weeds if no other funding source is available. The County Weed Districts have authority to manage noxious weeds at the local level. MDA also has the authority to regulate all pesticides and pesticide applicators, including aquatic pesticides.

MDT Authorities:

MDT cooperates with the agencies to utilize MDT facilities as locations for AIS inspection stations. MDT also helps facilitate the safe and effective implementation of AIS inspection stations, proper use of signage at non-MDT facilities, and accommodates on-site storage of inspection station equipment, where possible. MDT also provides information regarding any commercial motor vehicle carrying marine equipment fouled with AIS. MDT includes special permit conditions for commercial motor vehicles carrying oversized marine vessels and equipment.

DNRC Authorities:

DNRC has authority over certain public lands and the water resources of the state. Authority relative to AIS occurs through two of its administratively attached agencies, The Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC, 2-15-3309 MCA), and the Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC, 2-15-3311 MCA).

The statutory purpose of MISC is, "...to advise the governor on a science-based, comprehensive program to identify, prevent, eliminate, reduce, and mitigate invasive species in Montana and to coordinate with public and private partners to develop and implement statewide invasive species strategic plans." The Directors (or their designee) for of all parties to this MOU are statutory members of MISC.

The Statutory purpose of WMCC is, "...The purpose of the western Montana conservation commission is to protect the existing high quality of western Montana's aquatic resources.) Within the Western Conservation Commission Act, Aquatic Resources are defined, "'Aquatic resources' means all beneficial uses of water, including but not limited to water quality and water supply; recreational, scenic, and aesthetic values; and fish, wildlife, and other organisms, including the prevention and management of aquatic invasive species. The Directors (or their designee) for of all parties to this MOU are statutory, non-voting members of WMCC, except for the Director of the Department of Agriculture.

JOINT DEPARTMENTAL COMMITMENTS:

Montana Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan

FWP has prepared an executive level ANS Management Plan, which includes prevention, early detection, control, education, and emergency response. The existing ANS Plan is currently being revised by FWP, with input from all the Departments to prepare a revised plan that is in alignment with the current statute and the Montana Invasive Species Framework.

Participation on the Montana Invasive Species Council

The Departments agree to actively participate on MISC and provide information, updates, notification of detections, and other resources.

Participation on the Western Montana Conservation Commission

As relevant and necessary, the Departments agree to actively participate in WMCC meetings and provide updates, notifications, and input.

Implementation of the Montana Invasive Species Framework

The Departments agree to lead and/or assist with (as appropriate for each task) the implementation of the Montana Invasive Species Framework as it relates to AIS and to report back to MISC on progress.

Invasive Species Notification

Each Department agrees to notify the Departments within three business days of the confirmation of a new AIS population within the jurisdiction of the other agencies. The primary representatives are the State Noxious Weed Coordinator at MDA, the AIS Bureau Chief at FWP, the Invasive Species Program Managers at the DNRC, and the Maintenance Weed Coordinator at MDT. The Departments will treat the notification as preliminary and confidential until otherwise notified that the information may be released. FWP has

primary jurisdiction related to species identification and population verification. FWP will lead public notification and dissemination of information on any new AIS detection.

Public Education and Awareness

The Departments jointly develop and implement invasive species public education and awareness strategies. The FWP AIS Program in coordination with the FWP Communications and Education Division, serves as the lead for development and implementation of AIS-related public awareness campaigns. Public education and awareness is an on-going element of AIS and the Departments shall meet periodically to coordinate current and future needs and modify the strategy as needed.

Aquatic Invasive Species List(s)

The Departments maintain lists of AIS and their priority classes (if applicable) within their jurisdiction and identify other departments and other public agencies with overlapping jurisdiction or interests in each species. These lists will be shared whenever updated or changed. See Appendix A for list of species.

Invasive Species Management Areas

There are established statewide invasive species management areas for the purpose of preventing the introduction, importation, and infestation of AIS.

Invasive Species Data Management

The Departments agree to share data pertaining to AIS and coordinate on consistent protocols and reporting mechanisms. AIS survey and distribution data will be provided to the Montana Natural Heritage Program annually.

FWP ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS:

- Provide statewide, regional, and national leadership and coordination for Montana on AIS issues in coordination with the Departments.
- Provide facilitation among the Departments on AIS--related issues.
- Coordinate AIS--related outreach and stakeholder engagement.
- Develop and implement a statewide early detection and surveillance monitoring plan for quagga/zebra mussels and other AIS in coordination with Departments and partners.
- Continue to operate the AIS laboratory for early detection sample analysis.
- Conduct mandatory boat inspections at high--risk state border locations, Continental Divide locations, and at other high priority areas to prevent the movement of AIS and to educate the public about the threat posed by AIS.
- Coordinate and expand partner involvement with watercraft inspection, AIS early detection monitoring, and AIS outreach efforts.
- Continue to implement the Montana ANS Management Plan. FWP will lead the preparation and coordination of plan updates and annual progress reports. Annual progress reports will be prepared, disseminated, and made available to the general public and to local, state, and federal decision makers.
- Revise and update the ANS Plan in 2024 in collaboration with MDA, MDT, DNRC, and other state, federal, tribal, and local agencies and interested parties.
- Expand targeted outreach to pet stores and ornamental pond retailers to address AIS transport and introduction.
- Provide statewide, regional, and national coordination for Montana on invasive aquatic plants and invertebrates prevention, early detection, and outreach activities

- Serve as the aquatic plant and invertebrate lead for state agencies, conservation districts, tribes, county weed districts, and other partners.

MDA ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS:

- Provide statewide, regional, and national coordination for Montana on noxious weeds. Coordination will be through the designated MDA representative.
- Coordinate with county weed districts and other partners to provide updated information and data on invasive aquatic plant issues as they arise.
- Coordinate and meet with other departments, agencies, organizations, and other interested parties to facilitate communication, public input, and information exchange.
- Conduct education and awareness outreach on invasive species to groups traditionally associated with MDA, including irrigators, nurseries, and agriculture-based organizations.
- Share information related to travel, public outreach, and planned invasive species activities.
- Provide expertise and guidance for pesticide use for AIS treatments.

MDT ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS:

- Cooperate with the Departments to utilize MDT facilities as locations for AIS inspection stations.
- As requested, help identify locations for AIS inspection stations along MDT state-maintained highways.
- Provide guidance and direction for the proper use of traffic control signage and invasive species signage following the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). When requested by FWP, MDT will install permanent traffic control signs for AIS inspection stations along state-maintained highways.
- Identify and report any commercial motor vehicle carrying marine equipment fouled with aquatic invasive species. MDT has special permit conditions for commercial motor vehicles carrying oversized marine vessels and equipment.

DNRC ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS:

- As directed by MISC and WMCC, provide policy--level guidance, planning, and coordination for invasive species--related issues.
- Continue supporting local efforts to address AIS issues through the AIS Grant Program and other grants and contracts, as funding is available.
- Provide staff to support MISC and the WMCC.
- Ensure coordination and collaboration between MISC, WMCC, and the Departments.
- Participate in AIS activities and assist with AIS efforts as needed.
- Support AIS education and outreach efforts and strategies.

PROJECTS (2024-2028)

- Continued implementation of the Montana Invasive Species Framework through the ongoing efforts of MISC.
- With FWP as the lead, the Departments will collaborate on the revision of the Montana Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan based on statute, rule, and the Montana Invasive Species Framework.
- With FWP as the lead, the Departments will continue to update, refine, and test (via rapid response exercises) the Montana Dreissenid Rapid Response Guidelines.
- The Departments will coordinate to expand partner involvement in watercraft inspection, early detection, and AIS outreach.

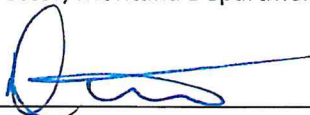
- Through WMCC, continue to focus on AIS coordination and communication between stakeholders in the Montana portion of the Columbia River watershed.
- Through MISC, continue to explore the implementation of recommendations from the Invasive Species Law Review and white papers that identify gaps and needs in AIS law and rule.
- Through MISC, continue to explore AIS topics that would benefit from a scientific advisory panel evaluation or review.
- Through DNRC and MISC, continue to enable and support AIS projects through the AIS Grant Program.
- The Departments will continue to coordinate the delivery of AIS outreach information throughout Montana.
- The Departments shall meet annually to coordinate AIS strategies, activities, and initiatives. The Departments will evaluate operations and activities and identify strategies to improve efficacy, efficiency, and reduce redundancy.

TERMS OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT:

This Agreement shall be effective upon the last signature date. This Agreement may be modified only in writing by mutual agreement of all department directors. This Agreement will remain in effect through December 30, 2028, unless terminated in writing by signature of any department director.

Signature Approvals:

 Director, Montana Department of Agriculture



 Director, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

 Date

 Date 5/14/24

 Director, Montana Department of Natural
 Resources and Conservation

 Date

 Director, Montana Department of Transportation

 Date

APPENDIX A

The Noxious Weed List includes aquatic invasive plants, which are in bold.

1. Montana Noxious Weed List

Effective: June 21, 2019

PRIORITY 1A These weeds are not present or have a very limited presence in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication if detected, education, and prevention:

- (a) Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*)
- (b) Dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)
- (c) Common Reed (*Phragmites australis ssp. australis*)
- (d) Medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*)

PRIORITY 1B These weeds have limited presence in Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment and education:

- (a) Knotweed complex (*Polygonum cuspidatum*, *P. sachalinense*, *P. × bohemicum*, *Fallopia japonica*, *F. sachalinensis*, *F. × bohemica*, *Reynoutria japonica*, *R. sachalinensis*, and *R. × bohemica*)
- (b) Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- (c) Rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*)
- (d) Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- (e) Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)

PRIORITY 2A These weeds are common in isolated areas of Montana. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts:

- (a) Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*, *Jacobaea vulgaris*)
- (b) Meadow hawkweed complex (*Hieracium caespitosum*, *H. praealtum*, *H. floridundum*, and *Pilosella caespitosa*)
- (c) Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*, *Pilosella aurantiaca*)
- (d) Tall buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*)
- (e) Perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*)
- (f) Yellowflag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)
- (g) Eurasian watermilfoil* (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)**
- (h) Flowering rush* (*Butomus umbellatus*)**
- (i) Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* L.)
- (j) Ventenata (*Vetenata dubia*)

PRIORITY 2B These weeds are abundant in Montana and widespread in many counties. Management criteria will require eradication or containment where less abundant. Management shall be prioritized by local weed districts:

- (a) Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- (b) Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
- (c) Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- (d) Whitetop (*Cardaria draba*, *Lepidium draba*)
- (e) Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*, *Rhaponticum repens*)
- (f) Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*, *C. maculosa*)
- (g) Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)
- (h) Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)
- (i) St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- (j) Sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)
- (k) Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- (l) Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- (m) Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
- (n) Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)
- (o) Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*)
- (p) Curlyleaf pondweed* (*Potamogeton crispus*)**
- (q) Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)

Priority 3 Regulated Plants: (NOT MONTANA LISTED NOXIOUS WEEDS)

These regulated plants have the potential to have significant negative impacts. The plant may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as a contaminant in agricultural products. The state recommends research, education and prevention to minimize the spread of the regulated plant.

- (a) Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)
- (b) Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)**
- (c) Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
- (d) Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*)**
- (e) Parrot feather watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum aquaticum* or *M. brasiliense*)**

2. Aquatic Invasive Species under the authority of FWP

This list is dynamic and is subject to change as knowledge of individual species increases.

*Indicates present in Montana. **Indicates not currently classified.

Aquatic Invasive Animals

- a) Quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*)
- b) Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)
- c) New Zealand mudsnail* (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)
- d) Corbicula clam* (*Corbicula fluminea*)**
- e) Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensi*, *Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*)**
- f) Japanese Mysterysnail (*Bellamya japonica*)**
- g) Applesnail (*Pomacea* spp.)**
- h) Faucet snail* (*Bithynia tentaculata*)**
- i) Red-rim melania* (*Melanoides tuberculata*)**
- j) Fishhook waterflea (*Cercopagis pengoi*)**
- k) Spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*)**
- l) American bullfrog* (*Lithobates catesbeianus*)**
- m) Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)
- n) Red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkia*)**
- o) Red Claw Crayfish, *Cherax quadricarinatus*)**
- p) Yabby Crayfish, *Cherax albidus*/*C. destructor*)**
- q) Marone Crayfish, *Cherax tenuimanus*)**
- r) Marbled crayfish, (*Procambarus marmoratus*)**

Invasive Fish

- a) Bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*)
- b) Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
- c) Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
- d) Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)
- e) Tench (*Tinca tinca*)
- f) Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernua*)
- g) Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*)
- h) Zander (*Sander lucioperca*)
- i) Northern snakehead (*Channa argus*)
- j) Walking catfish (*Clarias batrachus*)

Aquatic Pathogens

- a) Chytrid Fungus* (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*)
- b) Proliferative Kidney Disease* (PKX) (*Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*)
- c) Viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) (*Oncorhynchus 2 novirhabdovirus*)
- d) Whirling disease* (*Myxobolus cerebralis*)

Applicant	Project Name	Amount Funded	Termination Date	Grant Agreement Number
Clearwater Resource Council	AIS Monitoring in the Clearwater Valley 2024	\$17,211.00	12/31/2024	AIS-24-0058
Grow Wild	2024 Grow Wild's Clean.Drain.Dry. in the Upper Gallatin Watershed	\$20,634.00	12/31/2024	AIS-24-0052
Invasive Species Action Network (ISAN)	2024 ISAN Reducing Invasive Species Spread in MT by Facilitating Aquatic Pet Rehoming	\$16,387.00	9/30/2025	AIS-24-0056
Missoula County Department of Ecology and Extension	2024 Missoula County Department of Ecology Flowering Rush Biological Control	\$19,800.00	9/30/2025	AIS-24-0051
Montana Conservation Corps	2024 CKST, MCC & FWP: Effectively Controlling and Eradicating Non-Native Bullfrogs in the Flathead Valle	\$49,942.00	12/31/2024	AIS-24-0055
Montana Natural Heritage Program	AIS Data Centralization and Exchange to Support Educational Outreach, Early Detection, Prevention, and Planning and Permitting Processes	\$18,900.00	9/30/2025	AIS-24-0057
Petroleum County Conservation District	2024-CEMIST-AIS-E&O	\$23,307.00	9/30/2025	AIS-24-0059
Sanders County	2024 Invasive Milfoil Management in Sanders County	\$23,145.00	12/31/2024	AIS-24-0060
University of Montana - Flathead Lake Biological Station	AIS Detection Using LAMP on Flathead Lake 2024	\$3,371.00	9/30/2025	AIS-24-0061
University of Montana - Flathead Lake Biostation	Protecting Western Lakes by Validating Novel LAMP eDNA Testing for earlier-detection of Invasive Zebra/Quagga Mussels and Eurasian Milfoil	\$37,224.00	9/30/2025	AIS-24-0054
Yaak Valley Forest Council	2024 YVFC Early Detection and Clean.Drain.Dry. E&O	\$20,801.00	12/31/2024	AIS-24-0053
		\$250,722.00		

SUMMIT PLANNING MEETING NOTES – MAY 7, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Present: Anna Connerton, Liz Lodman, Kelly Hendrix, Casey Lewis, Sara Ricklefs, Emilie Henry, Tom Woolf, Steve Wanderaas, Stephanie Murphy

Not Present: Jasmine Chaffee

The Summit will be 1-day rather than 2-days as was done in 2022. The FWP AIS meeting will be held in the same location the day before the Summit.

SUMMIT LOGISTICS

Location: Delta Hotel in Helena

Date: November 14 – Thursday

Time: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

- Breakfast: 7:30 am – 8:30 am
- Lunch: Noon
 - Reception held Nov 13 after FWP-AIS meeting.

TOPIC IDEAS

Topic ideas were generated. The planning team recommends doing work sessions to gather feedback from the participants, following the process used at the 2022 Summit.

- Legislators: invite legislators to talk about and or learn about issues.
- Woody Invasives
- Communication (check how relates to WMCC community-based social marketing workshop)
- Climate Change*
- Define MISC Projects
- Invasive species of concern*
- Feral Swine
- Weeds – Palmer amaranth (check with Jasmine)
- Reporting apps (iNaturalist, Seek, Wild Spotter, other apps?)
- Barriers to on the ground EDRR
- Tribal involvement
- Regional partnerships*

WORK SESSIONS

- Conduct two work sessions, one in AM and one in PM.
- Use the [1-2-4-All](#) method to generate responses to questions.
- Need to determine questions and topics for the 2 work sessions. Possibly topics marked with (*) above.

QUICK RECAP

- Invite legislators to participate but determine how we can get more value out of their attendance and prevent political campaign speeches?
- Seek new strategies to prevent the spread of invasive species in Montana and beyond. Foster innovative, audience-driven discussions to generate ideas. .
- Discuss ways to encourage the public to report invasive species through apps. Suggest inviting Bryce Maxwell to provide an overview of different reporting apps, their pros and cons, and how they integrate with state agency info. The goal is to promote early detection and expand public participation in reporting new or suspected invasive species.
- Include WMCC community-based social marketing info at summit.
- Integrate summit outcome with MISC activities/goals.

NEXT STEPS

- Stephanie will provide more information on WMCC community-based social marketing workshop.
- Liz will send doodle poll for next meeting date.

Free Annual Conference Registration Available North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)

September 30 - October 3, 2024



SHARING STORIES Celebrating Partnerships

Missoula, Montana - 2024

Who: Free registration to the first 70 Montana Weed District, Montana Conservation District, or MSU Extension employees/staff/board members.

What: NAISMA, in partnership with the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund, is offering 70 full-conference registrations (up to \$499 in value per person). *This registration does not include add-ons such as Field Trip Experience, NAISMA Awards Banquet, or the Continental Dialogue Workshop.

Where: To take advantage of this limited-time offer use the code NWTF2024 [here](#).

Why: The 32nd NAISMA Annual Conference is co-hosted with the Montana Invasive Species Council. We expect 350+ attendees from various backgrounds, invasive species interests, and natural resource professions from across North America and beyond. This year's conference includes a special session on Invasive Grasses.

For more info: Please contact [Jasmine Chaffee](#)

The North American Invasive Species Management Association is a 501(c) (3) with a mission to empower invasive species management in North America.
www.na1sma.org



Registration Now Open:
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MWCC  **SRWG**

WATERSHED TOUR
LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS

Draft Agenda

Wednesday, Sept. 18

- (optional) Tour Black Eagle Dam
- Annies Tap House Pint Night and Trivia

Thursday, Sept. 19

- (optional) Tour Black Eagle Dam
- Sponsored Breakfast and NorthWestern Energy Presentation
- Wadsworth Community Pond
- Muddy Creek Projects
- Spring Coulee Farm and J-Wasteway
- Big Anniversary Bash!

Friday, Sept. 20

- Main Stem of the Sun River
- Willow Creek Reservoir
- Sun Canyon
- Arnold Coulee LTPBR Project