MEETING MINUTES

These abbreviated summary minutes will become the official adopted minutes at the next Montana Invasive SpeciesCouncil meeting when they will be approved. Until then, they are considered a draft.

Meeting Name:	Montana Invasive Species Council		
Date of Meeting:	June 20, 2023	Time:	8:30 am
Minutes Prepared By:	Anna Connerton	Location:	Sidney, MT Agriculture Research Service & Zoom
Attendees			
Dennis Longknife Jr. Rep), Martin Charlo MISC staff: Liz Lodm Other Attendees: Ja Campbell (USDA – A (Petroleum County C Chrissy Mott (DNRC (Montana Weed Cor	an, Anna Connerton red Beaver (MSU Extension), Sara Ricklefs RS), Dave Branson (USDA – ARS), Natalie CD), Jacob Bradford (BOR), Dan Rostad (YI – Forest Pest Management), Joey Grewel htrol Association)	Paul Rossignol (V s (ISAN), Veronia West (USDA – A RCDC), Cody Her	Wildlife Rep), Andy Welch (Hydropower ca Grigaltchik (DNRC – CDB), Josh RS), Brent Smith (CEMIST), Trish Smith ndrix (BOR), Dona Stafford (Fergus CD),
Agenda and Notes, I	Decisions, Issues		
Торіс	Discussion		
Welcome & Roll Call	Liz Lodman opened the meeting at 8:30 introduced themselves. Dave Branson welcomed everyone and Research Service.		roll call and confirmed quorum. Attendees erview of the Sidney USDA Agriculture
Administrative Business	 *Action: Approval of April 12th meeting minutes Motion: Martin Charlo Second: Jasmine Chaffee Motion Passed Unanimously Governor's Montana Board Resources Portal Liz Lodman: Terms for 8 council members ended in May. Lieutenant Governor Juras contacted Liz and explained that council members remain in their positions, even if their term has ends, until a new person has been appointed by the Governor. MISC issued a news release about the open positions and how to apply online via the Governors Boards and <u>Appointments</u> website. The Governor asks all council members to go through training courses (Roberts Rules Made Simple and Chair a Meeting with Confidence) offered at this website Montana Landing (robertsrulesmadesimple.com). It's possible to do this as a group at a future meetings. 		

	Applicants for open positions to date:	
	County Weed Districts: Pam Schwind (Carbon County Weed District)	
	Conservation Districts: Steve Wanderaas*	
	Agriculture: Steve Tyrrel*	
	Blackfeet Nation: None thus far	
	• Conservation Organization: Sara Ricklefs (ISAN) and Jon Malovich (Madison River Foundation)	
	DNRC: Parker Osterloh – Director Appointed	
	Department of Agriculture: Jasmine Chaffee* – Director Appointed	
Administrative	Department of Transportation: Jason Allen – Director Appointed	
Business	MSU Extension: Jared Beaver	
	Crow Nation: None thus far	
	Little Shell Tribal Government: None thus far	
	 Northern Cheyenne Tribal Government: None thus far 	
	(*) seeking another term on council.	
	Two positions are open before their terms ended:	
	 Private Landowner: MISC will recommend an applicant to Governor. 	
	Steve Wanderaas: MISC should consider finding a landowner from the northern border to aid	
	with our feral swine efforts. We need a representative that will be an active participate in MISC.	
	 Rocky Boy: Brandon Gopher no longer serves on the Rocky Boy Tribal Council. The Governor 	
	needs a formal letter from Rocky Boy with this information. Tracy Tyner has been	
	recommended to replace Mr. Gopher.	
	SB293 - Invasive Species Posters at MDT Rest Areas	
	Liz Lodman & Jason Allen: This bill allows posters related to invasive species prevention to be	
	posted at MDT rest areas. MISC will create and print the posters and provide to MDT for	
	distribution to rest areas. The law goes into effect October 1 st , MDT would like the posters by	
	September 1 st . A couple MISC member will help Liz with the message and design of posters,	
	message options include AIS, Watercraft Inspection, Noxious Weeds, PlayCleanGo, Terrestrial,	
	Don't Move Firewood. Below is the map that shows the rest areas where the posters will be	
	located. Red circles are year-round and blue circles are seasonal.	
Legislative		
Wrap-Up		
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	Montana Rest Areas	
	28 • ADA Access Rest Area, Year Round 24 • ADA Access Rest Area, Seasonal	
	Parking Area, Year Round	
	Parking Area, Seasonal Other	

	Questions from audience: Can a poster about Eastern heath snail be placed at the Armington
	Junction rest area near Belt? YES
	HB821 – Grants to Combat Saltcedar, Russian Olive, and Common Buckthorn
	Jasmine Chaffee: Appropraites one time funding (\$250,000) to MT Department of Ag (MDA) for
	grants to control woody invasives in riparian areas. Funding is for entities in Yellowstone,
Legislative	Musselshell, and Stillwater Counties beginning July 1, 2023. Applications are available through MDA
Wrap-Up	web grants. If herbisides are part of the grant, MDA will conduct an Environmental Assessment
	with them. Grants are due in early July. The MDA advisory panel will meet on July 12, review the
	grants and give recommendations and the MDA director for the final decision. Grant will be issued
	by August 1 st . Successful applicants will have 3 years to spend the funds.
	Other updates:
	HB321 - Conservation District Trust Fund
	<u>SB83</u> – Creates Western Montana Conservation Commission (combines Upper Columbia
	Conservation Commission and Flathead Basin Commission)
	eDNA and Meta Barcoding Information Needs
	Committee: Tom Woolf and Steve Wanderaas
	Goal is to have an informational meeting about eDNA so MISC and the AIS grant review
	committee will have a better understanding of the gaps and needs regarding eDNA. Tom will
	talk to representatives from USGS, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and US Forest Service
	about a meeting date in September. Possibly hold in conjunction with the MISC quarterly
	meeting.
	 Invasive Species to Watch – Fish
Committee	Committee: Bryce Christiaens and Tom Woolf – NO report
Reports	Science Advisory Panel – Process to access potential invasiveness of a species
	Committee: Bryce Christiaens, Gary Adams, Tom Woolf, and Michelle Cox – NO report
	Communications workshop for natural resource professionals
	Committee: Liz Lodman, Jan Stoddard, and Jane Mangold – NO report
	Michelle Cox will connect Liz with science communication staff from Rocky Mountain
	Research Station.
	Woody Invasives best practices workshop/seminar.
	Committee: Jasmine Chaffee, Liz Lodman and Sara Ricklefs. – NO report, see next agenda
	item.
	Dan Rostad: Custer County CD is managing the grant on behalf of the Yellowstone River
	Conservation District Council (YRCDC).
	Kelsey Miller: This is a relatively new working group with collaboration from MT Weed Control
	Association (MWCA), YRCDC, MISC, MDA, CDs, and weed districts. The working group is open to
Woody	anyone who is interested in working with woody invasives.
Invasives	The working group has 3 objects:
Working Group	1. Create a statewide woody invasives management plan.
	2. Launch a wild scale education campaign for awareness and best management practices.
	3. Secure future funding.
	The working group received a Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant for \$65,000 that ends October 2024.

and Sara Ricklefs. ISAN will convene the working group, host a Science Advisory Panel (sponsored by MISC), draft the management plan, conduct education, and seek other grants. Kelsey will continue to coordinate between the working group, ISAN, and MDA on grant reporting. Contact either Sara Ricklefs <u>sara@stopais.org</u> or Kelsey Miller <u>mwca@mtweed.org</u> if anyone wants to get on the email list for updates. If anyone has Woody Invasives data, send it to MDA's Josh Wagoner at <u>josh.wagoner@mt.gov</u>.

Dennis Longknife: Fort Belknap Indian Community has a lot of Russian olive along the flood plan of the Milk River corridor that is becoming a problem. The private landowner on the other side of the river is also interested in removal.

Squeal On Pigs!

Liz Lodman: The "Squeal on Pigs!" campaign has a new brand and logos that will be rolled out soon. These images should work better for printing and social media. The logos will be available on a new webpage that the Transboundary Feral Swine Working Group is developing at SquealOnPigs.org. MISC will be updating the poster and fact sheet that we coordinate with Dept of Livestock.



Feral Swine Updates

OLD LOGO

NEW LOGO

Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER):

Liz Lodman: Feral swine is a topic at the PNWER Summit on July 17-19 in Boise. Panels will discuss impacts, economic risks and management actions. A Technical Workshop hosted by the Transboundary Feral Swine Working Group has invited experts to share information about using trail cameras, drones, thermal imaging, eDNA, detection dogs, and traps. Liz is attending PNWER and moderating a panel. PNWER information is here: <u>https://www.pnwer.org/2023-summit.html</u>.

*Action: Approve MISC to pay travel and registration expenses for Steve Wanderaas to attend the PNWER Summit in Boise.

Motion: Jason Allen Second: Paul Rossignol Motion Passed Unanimously

Northeast Montana Feral Swine Tour

Jared Beaver: County extension agents in the northeast are interested in feral swine education events for their producers. The plan is to travel around for a week and reach as many places as

	possible. Best timing would be this fall in September or October. Jared is working with Extension Agents and Conservation Districts to help plan.
Feral Swine Updates	 MOU for Feral Swine Michelle Cox: After the feral swine tabletop exercise it was evident that Montana needs an memorandum of understanding/agreement so that partners understand their roles and will commit to doing certain things if feral swine are detected. An example MOU from another state was provided. Liz Lodman: This MOU provides a great example for Montana to model. It also includes a statewide strategic plan for eliminating feral swine and messaging to the public. DOL needs to be in support of this project for us to more forward. We should look for other state/provincial MOU's. Jared Beaver: Colorado (Travis Black) has an MOU. Dennis Longknife: It would be good to know if any indigenous nations/tribes were a part of MOUs.
Eastern Heath Snail Updates	 Dutreach Events Brent Smith: CEMIST, MSU Extension, and Judith Basin CD hosted a community meeting in Stanford on April 25. Gary Adams, Jeff Littlefield, and Jenny Birdsall provided information on the history of Eastern heath snail, how humans move them, prevention, and (the bad news) there are no effective measures to control or eliminate them. It was well attended, about 40 people, including 4 or 5 crop adjustors and producers who are impacted. Fergus CD would like to host another meeting in Lewistown later this year. Oregon State is in the Belt area this week doing research and trapping snails to see if they carry pathogens. Discussion: Liz Lodman: The UM Economic Report shows the suitable habitat for EHS is central Montana. MISC can host a webinar with Gary and Jeff after field season is over and help with the Lewistown Meeting. The Lewistown "Ag in Action" publication did a 2-page spread on EHS thanks to Brent promoting the April meeting. Steve Wanderaas: Is there a plan to share inform about the research that going on in the Belt area? Brent Smith: I'm not sure, but we can contact them and maybe have them share information at a future meeting. Michelle Cox: Bryce Maxwell is asking for surveys to go to MT Natural Heritage Program as the central location for reporting. Brent Smith: Are we telling the public to report sightings to their county extension agent? Liz Lodman: Can we do a training with central Montana extension agents so they know what to look for and how to report? Jasmine Choffee: We can add EHS to EDDMaps so reports go to Frank at DOA. Action Items: Brent will notify MISC when a meeting is scheduled for Fergus County. Liz will work with Gary and Jeff to schedule a webinar. Liz will contact Extension Agents on needed training and reporting of EHS.

Montana Reporting Authority for Snails:

Bryce Maxell: Unable to attend the meeting but said there are a growing number of introduced slug records on iNaturalist and submitters are wondering what agency they should report information to? *Reporting should go to Department of Ag.*

Bryce also submitted this information to share:

Eastern Heath

Snail Updates

There are 20 non-native mollusk species documented in Montana and another 8 recognized as having the potential to invade Montana. We are all aware of the risks of Zebra Mussel, Quagga Mussel, and New Zealand Mudsnail to aquatic environments and Eastern Heath Snail's threats to agricultural exports. However, there are 10 terrestrial gastropod mollusks documented and another 6 that have the potential to invade Montana and the localities these species are being reported from are growing. They have the potential to compete with native mollusk species and threaten crops in gardens and greenhouses and citizens reporting them are asking what agencies are doing to control them and what they can do to control them. Threats to native species have not been formally assessed. On the positive side, much of Montana is too dry to support invasive slugs and snails. Frequently reported localities include moist areas of campgrounds, trailheads, and roadsides near streams. Pathways of introduction likely include nursery plants/pots, potting soil, recreational equipment such as boats and trailers, and construction materials. They are active at temperatures above 5 degrees Celsius and are most active at night in order to conserve moisture. Control methods include hand collection and then euthanization (sedation in 5% ethyl alcohol, killing in 95% ethanol, and disposal by burning) in natural settings and barriers and chemical pellet control in human altered areas. Chemical bait control should not be used in natural settings to avoid impacts to native mollusks, but may be acceptable at points of introduction (e.g., invaded campgrounds or trailheads).

Bryce provided information sheets for non-native, non-aquatic mollusks in Montana (see page 7) and provided this summary:

1) Report rates are increasing.

- 2) Potential impacts to native species have not been formally assessed.
- 3) The public has asked what agency will respond with control efforts or how they can help control them.
- 4) Need to identify whether or who will respond and what they will do and communicate that to the public.
- 5) Need to educate agencies and resource managers on appropriate and effective control methods. Example: <u>https://accs.uaa.alaska.edu/wp-</u>content/uploads/European Black Slug Risk Assessment Copper River Delta.pdf

Action Item:

- Continue discuss with MDA and Frank Etzler.
- Consider attending an Extension training event (fall meeting for all agents in Bozeman, spring meeting for ag and natural resource agents, and district meetings in west, central and east) about slugs, snails and other invasive species topics.

Montana's Non-Native Terrestrial Gastropod Mollusks



Eastern Heath Snail (Xerolenta obvia)



Gray Fieldslug (Deroceras reticulatum)



Giant Gardenslug (Limax maximus)



Brown-banded Arion (Arion circumscriptus)



Chocolate Arion (Arion rufus)



Orange-banded Arion (Arion fasciatus)



Dusky Arion (Arion subfuscus)



Hedgehog Arion (Arion intermedius)



Longneck Fieldslug (Deroceras invadens)



Dark-bodied Glass-snail (Oxychilus draparnaudi)



Garlic Glass-snail (Oxychilus alliarius)





Widespread Non-Native Terrestrial Mollusks





Eastern Heath Snail (Xerolenta obvia)









Chocolate Arion (Arion rufus)





Dusky Arion (Arion subfuscus)



Gray Fieldslug (Deroceras reticulatum)



Brown-banded Arion (Arion circumscriptus)





Orange-banded Arion (Arion fasciatus)



	Liz Lodman - MISC:
	The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) conference is in
	Lincoln, Nebraska, on October 16-19. Jason Allen, Jasmine Chaffee, and Liz Lodman are
	attending. Are there other MISC members who want to attend? Information is here:
	https://conference.naisma.org/.
	Montana will host NAISMA in Missoula in 2024. MISC will take a large role in helping plan
	the 2024 conference and will help staff a conference planning committee to work on
	logistics, organize field trips and fundraising.
	Jasmine Chaffee: NAISMA can apply to the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant for funding to
	support weed districts, conservation districts, and extension agents getting a percentage off
	their registration. Applications open in September and close in January.
	Tom Woolf – Fish Wildlife and Parks AIS:
	This season is going great; staffing has mostly been full. Over 22,000 boats inspected which
	is ahead of last year; 26 mussel fouled boats have been intercepted; one with live mussels in
Partner Updates	a bait bucket. AIS staff are surveying around the state looking for invasives and collecting
	samples. Over 300 water samples have been processed with no mussel detections in
	Montana samples; however, the lab detected a new mussel population in Nebraska. FWP
	has worked with the Flathead Lake Bio Station, CSKT, and CEMIST to train about 40 people in
	AIS surveys/early detection. FWP is looking for more opportunities to train people. New
	detections include New Zealand Mudsnails in the Upper Clark Fork River near Warm Springs.
	A mystery snail (large aquarium snail) was reported on Flathead Lake thru iNaturalist. FWP
	previously found a mystery snail in the same area and will do more surveys here. Milfoil has
	been detected on tribal waters (Pablo Reservoir) for the first time. No evidence of clams in
	Lake Elmo but it could take 3 years before they show up. FWP Big Sky Watershed Corps
	member Sophiane Nacer is traveling to AIS outreach events and providing content the
	Protect Our Waters Montana Facebook page.
	Jason Allen – Department of Transportation:
	Missoula County has done really well with Rush Skeleton along the I-90 corridor. Lincoln
	county has gone over and above treating Ventenata and they plan to help in Sanders
	County. Maintenance forces are working on a new Blueweed patch in the right-of-way in
	Sanders County; it's hard to deal with as it grows new rosettes and needs to be treated
	every two weeks. MDT received a research grant to work with spectral imaging with drones
	that will help with MDT's mapping and monitoring. Steve Wanderaas – Conservation Districts:
	McCone CD will be moving the Nashua watercraft inspection station; work on the new site will start tomorrow. Steve attended the <u>Invasive Grasses</u> public meeting sponsored by the
	BLM in Belle Fourche, SD. Steve said ventenata is spreading faster than people realize, a lot
	of outreach is being done but the issue is that people aren't listening. What can we do to
	assist outreach efforts on invasive grasses. Ideas for outreach should be sent to Jasmine
	Chaffee.
	Dennis Longknife Jr – Fort Belknap:
	The BLM Director will visit on July 11 to tour native intact prairie/grassland restoration sites.
	This is a result of national attention on the Fort Belknap grassland restoration project.
	Dennis is helping mentor the students and is the liaison between the BLM and people.

	Jasmine Chaffee – Department of Agriculture:	
	MDA has an education and outreach person helping out 4 month during the summer, her	
	other job is pesticide training. MDA has a <u>Facebook page</u> . Noxious Weed Awareness week	
	was held the first full week of June. MDA worked with MWCA, MISC, and MSU to develop	
	themes for each day. MDA crews organized rush skeletonweed workdays at two fire burned	
	areas on CSKT land. Also assisting were Lincoln County, Missoula County, AmeriCorps	
	members and CSKT tribal members. At the recently burned area very little was found, but	
	the older burned area (2022 Rattlesnake) had a lot of rush skeletonweed. The crews were	
	able to map and treat the area. EDDMapS has reported rush skeletonweed in Jefferson	
	County and Madison County. MDA will work with the rush skeletonweed task force to verify	
Partner Updates	the reports or see if it's a different type of skeletonweed. Jasmine will run the materials	
	program until a new person is hired to replace Andrew Lamb. Jasmine submitted a pre-	
	proposal to America the Beautiful Challenge grant for invasive annual grasses that was	
	denied for this year but encouraged to reapply next year. This proposal is working with	
	Wyoming, South Dakota and southeast Montana. The Noxious Weed Management Advisory	
	Council will meet July 12 in Huntley. Montana will host the EDDMaps summit next spring.	
	Michelle Cox – Forest Service:	
	Infrastructure funding has been received for aggregate projects to survey and treat invasive	
	species. A site visit was held at Beaverhead Deer Lodge Forest with MDA staff to discuss	
	survey methods and other considerations; more site visits will be held. Forest Service is	
	working with UM on invasive grasses projects to map grasses and offer workshops next	
	season. Infrastructure funding is supporting an agreement with FWP AIS program	
	(inspections, signs, monitoring), North Dakota Game and Fish, and possibly with MISC.	
	Andy Welch – Northwestern Energy:	
	Their annual public meeting for recreators in West Yellowstone is in July, Andy will give an	
	update on AIS inspection program. A lot of people from out of state own summer cabins	
	here so there is a lot of watercraft movement.	
	Parker Osterloh – DNRC:	
	The division is in the final stages of approving a weed management plan for all bureaus and	
	trust lands that will help improve consistency. Staff is on the look out for ventenata and	
	collecting data. They have a Lidar drone and will conduct test plots this winter. The Minerals	
,	Bureau is requiring a weed management plan on any new gravel pits on state trust land.	
	They are putting biocontrol on state trust lands with the hope to go back and collect bugs for	
	future releases.	
	Veronica Grigaltchik – DNRC – Conservation District Bureau (CDB)	
	Conservation districts can apply for education grants year-round. Some CD's use these	
	grants for invasive species outreach, such as the Pull Your Share program.	
Guest Updates	Dona Stafford – Fergus CD	
	Last week they held a stream permitting workshop for realtors and contractors. Presenter	
	Brenda Murry from the weed district spoke about noxious weeds.	
	Brent Smith – CEMIST	
	CEMIST and FWP held an AIS monitor training in Miles City last week. Another training will	
	be held August 9 in Harlowton. CEMIST will help coordinate ISAN AIS trunk training	
	workshops. BLM suggested and CEMIST is pursing invasive species information and signage	
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	be available at FWP Block Management sign in boxes.
	Sara Ricklefs - ISAN
	ISAN's QAQC evaluator for watercraft inspection stations is traveling throughout Montana
	and the Columbia River Basin. ISAN is applying for grants to expand the Don't Let It Loose
	and Clean Drain Dry programs and evaluate efficacy and messaging. Sara is presenting on
	Don't Let It Loose at the Western Regional Panel meeting in Salt Lake in September.
	Jacob Bradford – BOR
Guest Updates	BOR completed noxious weed spraying at Clark Canyon Reservoir near Dillon, in cooperation
	with Beaverhead County Weed District and MDT, to control knap weed and leafy spurge.
	Also funded a contractor to do fall treatments. BOR coordinated with Yellowstone County
	Weed District to treat poison hemlock near Huntley Project. BOR will sample all reservoirs
	for invasive mussels the first week of August. BOR had funding for state aquatic invasive
	species program and awarded nearly \$340,000 to South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to
	beef up exit inspection program at Pactola reservoir. South Dakota turned down the
	funding. BOR shifted and give the funds to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to
	increase inspections and personnel on their eastern border with South Dakota.
	Tom Woolf: Montana watercraft inspection stations have seen a "handful" of boats from
	Pactola mostly at the Broadus station; half of the boats were not inspected in South Dakota.
	Montana inspectors have not detected AIS on these boats so far.
ARS Research	See recording from ARS staff Natalie West and Josh Campbell starting at 3:43 time marker.
Overview	
	Final Discussion:
Wrap-Up and Adjourn	Location of September meeting will likely be in Missoula to coincide with the eDNA meeting.
	Public Comment: none
	Motion to Adjourn: Jasmine
	Second Motion: Tom Woolf
	Motion passed unanimously.
	Meeting Adjourned and attendees toured the ARS facility.
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