

Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council

www.dnrc.mt.gov/misac

The Invasive Species Bulletin provides you with all the latest news on invasive species in Montana and the region. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, contributions, questions, corrections, or comments.

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Montana Recognizes National Invasive Species Awareness Week

National Invasive Species Awareness Week comes at a unique time for Montana, as Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation continue their joint efforts to implement a plan to fight aquatic invasive mussels.

“We take the fight against invasive species in Montana very seriously and continue to be vigilant in addressing threats to Montana’s critical infrastructure, economy and recreational way of life,” said Montana Gov. Steve Bullock.

NISAW runs from Feb. 27 through March 3 to raise awareness and identify solutions for invasive species at the local level. The Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council encourages Montanans to participate in local events and offers ways you can help observe...[read more](#)

The expansion of harmful introduced species is one of the single largest threats to the nation’s natural resources. Invasive species:

- Reduce agricultural production,
- Reduce property values,
- Decrease biodiversity and disrupt ecosystems,
- Displace native species that fish and wildlife require,
- Increase soil erosion and bank failure and clog waterways,
- Increase the severity and frequency of wildfires, and
- Further threaten endangered and rare species.

Residents can take simple actions to help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive species:

- Learn about invasive species and report outbreaks to authorities. Visit the websites of the state invasive species councils to find information on phone hotlines, mobile apps, or reporting forms.
- Clean hiking boots, waders, boats and trailers, off-road vehicles and other gear to stop invasive species from hitching a ride to a new location. Learn more about preventing spread at protectyourwaters.net.

- Avoid dumping aquariums or live bait into waterways. Follow directions about disposal of school science kits. Teachers can get more information at wise.wa.gov/solutions/teacher.aspx, OR website, ID website, MT website.
- Don't move firewood - instead, buy it where you'll burn it, or gather on site when permitted. Learn more at DontMoveFirewood.org
- Use forage, hay, mulch that is certified as weed free. Learn more by visiting <https://www.naisma.org/weed-free-forage> Plant only non-invasive plants in your garden, and remove any known invasive plants. Consider planting all native species. Learn more by contacting your local native plant society or master gardener chapter.
- Volunteer in a Citizen Science invasive species detection program.
- Volunteer to help remove invasive species from public lands and natural areas.

For more information:

<http://www.nisaw.org/>

http://bugwoodcloud.org/mura/nisaw/assets/File/2015/ways_to_observe.pdf

Save the Date: Invasive Species Day in the Capitol Rotunda

- MISAC will be hosting an invasive species educational event in the State Capitol Rotunda on April 3, 2017. Mark your calendars!

FWP seeks comment on rules aimed at invasive mussels

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking comment on proposed amendments to rules that outline new regulations needed in the battle to contain, detect and prevent the risk of spreading invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species to other state waters.

Invasive mussel larvae were detected for the first time in Montana in October 2016 in Tiber Reservoir – and “suspect” detections turned up in Canyon Ferry Reservoir, the Missouri River below Toston Dam, and the Milk River.

The discovery triggered a natural resource emergency in Montana and led to several recommended strategies to manage the threat of invasive mussels spreading to other areas.

The proposed rule amendments outline several new regulations...[read more](#)

Regional AIS News

Visit the Aquatic Invasive Species Network at westernais.org for the latest AIS news in and around the region. (Thanks, Stephen)

Other

WRP Regional Panel on ANS Update (Thanks, Leah)

Meeting Minutes - The Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of each month. The approved minutes from all meetings can be found [here](#).

Please join the WRP - Mid-Year Teleconference - Wednesday March 29th 1 pm mountain - The WRP invites you to participate in the mid-year teleconference call. Committee chairs will provide updates and business items will be discussed. An agenda and call-in information will be provided in early March.

Save the date - WRP to host the federal ANS Task Force in South Lake Tahoe - May 2-4, 2017.

All are welcome to attend. For more information, please visit the [ANSTF website](#).

San Diego - 2017 Annual Meeting - The WRP will hold their 2017 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA on September 13-15 at the Horton Grand Hotel. The meeting is hosted by California Fish and Wildlife and California State Lands Commission.

Hotel Reservations - Meeting participants can take advantage of the special rate at the [Horton Grand Hotel](#). The prevailing government per diem rate will be honored for guests that qualify for the rate and show appropriate identification. To make reservations please call 619.544.1886 and mention "WRP Meeting" or [go online](#).

Potential speakers - if you are interested in giving a talk, please fill out [this form](#) to share your idea. All submissions will be reviewed by the planning team and all submissions will receive notification. **Submission deadline is April 29.**

For more information about MISAC and to access archives of this e-newsletter go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/MISAC>