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Montana Mussel Response

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*Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks*



The Montana Department of
Natural Resources
& Conservation

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Restrictions, Closures, and Decontamination

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Description: Use decontamination as a prevention tool at infested waterbodies. Consider restrictions and closures as necessary for new detections.

- Establish 4 decontamination stations
- Close newly infested waterbodies until decontamination stations can be established
- Deploy appropriate signage as necessary
- Increase law enforcement capacity
- Define criteria for which special events (i.e. fishing tournaments) would be required to provide/pay for additional decontamination stations

Legislation / Rules:

- Develop an administrative rule and/or statutory authority defining requirements for mandatory watercraft inspection and decontamination before leaving infested waterbodies unless otherwise approved for local travel
- Develop an administrative rule or statutory authority defining ability to close and/or restrict infested waterbodies to specific or all types of use

Program Elements	Biennium Cost
Seasonal Staff	
Decontamination Stations	\$2,153,928
Equipment	\$176,000
Operating	\$99,280
Total	\$2,429,208

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

Recommendation #2: Expand Watercraft Inspection Program

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Description: The watercraft inspection program is a primary tool to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive mussels.

- Increase watercraft inspection stations from 17 to 34
- Increase days/hours of operation of inspection stations
- Increase capacity of law enforcement

Legislation / Rules:

- Develop an administrative rule or statutory authority requiring mandatory inspection of watercraft entering the state prior to launch, with ability to expand to other mandatory inspection before launch within the state

Program Elements	Biennium Cost
Core Staff	
Prevention Specialist	\$143,680
Regional Inspection Station Supervisors	\$619,960
Law Enforcement	\$549,672
Seasonal Staff	
7 Perimeter Stations	\$1,375,318
6 Interior Stations	\$573,298
10 Fixed Stations	\$897,480
11 Roving Units	\$897,480
Equipment	\$194,000
Operating (Stations/LE)	\$580,350
Total	\$5,828,238

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

Recommendation #3: Expand AIS Monitoring Program

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Description: Expand and improve Montana’s AIS monitoring program according to a priority list of at-risk waterbodies using standardized protocols.

- Increase field sampling and monitoring capacity to $\geq 1,500$ samples at 206 waterbodies
- Increase lab capacity
- Prioritize monitoring strategy
- Develop statewide sampling and testing protocols

Legislation / Rules: N/A

Program Elements	Biennium Cost
Seasonal Staff	
Sampling Technicians	\$283,800
Lab Technician	\$120,864
Equipment	\$112,800
Operating	\$156,320
Total	\$673,784

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

Recommendation #4: Strengthen Management of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Description: Augment current and future aquatic invasive species program needs while specifically addressing invasive mussels.

- Secure current and future program funding
- Enhance existing staffing and capacity
- Identify priority collaborative efforts, data management, and research needs
- Produce informational programming and publications
- Increase education and outreach

Legislation / Rules:

- Define requirements for an annual watercraft sticker for all motorized and non-motorized watercraft prior to entry into waterbodies in Montana

Program Elements	Biennium Cost
Core Staff	
Independent QA/QC Manager	\$145,392
AIS Administrative Support	\$113,402
Operating	\$26,960
Education/Outreach	\$300,000
Total	\$585,754

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

MISAC Recommendation #1: Strengthen Statewide Invasive Species Program

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Description: Build organizational structure that includes an overarching Invasive Species Program that coordinates all of Montana’s invasive species response.

- Build and enhance coordination among existing terrestrial, aquatic, forest pest, and pathogen invasive species programs
- Build collaborative efforts with partners
- Enhance data management and sharing
- Increase education and outreach
- Develop economic impact analysis

Legislation / Rules: N/A

Program Elements	Biennium Cost
Core Staff	
MISAC Coordinator (half time)	\$80,808
Grant Manager	\$161,616
Data Management	\$395,000
Operating	\$73,860
Total	\$711,284

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

MISAC Recommendation #2: Develop a Future Rapid Response Plan for Invasive Species

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Description: Build capacity to eradicate, control, or contain populations of newly detected invasive species in Montana.

- Review existing response plans, summarize existing authorities, and assess gaps in regulatory tools that facilitate and enhance rapid response
- Identify planning needs to improve rapid response capacity
- Prioritize areas of high-value resources at risk of invasive species introductions
- Development of a Rapid Response Plan

Legislation / Rules: N/A

Program Elements	Biennium Cost
Rapid Response Plan	\$6,000
Total	\$6,000

Invasive Mussel Framework

Implementation Strategy Recommendations

Overview of Recommended Expenditures for AIS Program and Seasonal Inspection and Decontamination Stations

Timeframe: July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019

Recommended Expenditures	Biennium Cost
Core Staff	
Prevention Specialist	\$143,680
Regional Inspection Station Supervisors *	\$619,960
Law Enforcement *	\$549,672
Independent QA/QC Manager *	\$145,392
AIS Administrative Support	\$113,402
MISAC Coordinator (half time)	\$80,808
Grant Manager	161,616
	\$1,814,530
Seasonal Staff	
7 Perimeter Stations *	\$1,375,318
6 Interior Stations *	\$573,298
10 Fixed Stations *	\$897,480
11 Roving Units *	\$897,480
4 Decontamination Stations *	\$2,153,928
Sampling Technicians *	\$283,800
Lab Technicians *	\$120,864
	\$6,302,168
Other Expenses	
Operating	\$936,770
Equipment *	\$482,800
Education/Outreach *	\$300,000
Data Management / Rapid Response Plan *	\$401,000
	\$2,120,570
Grand Total	\$10,237,268

* Program areas with potential federal funding match of at least 50%