



Aquatic Invasive Species Newsletter

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July 2021

Watercraft Inspections

It's been hot and busy at watercraft inspection stations. Partner and FWP staff have conducted more than 52,000 inspections so far this season, with over 7,400 inspection over the 4th of July weekend alone. FWP AIS and enforcement staff also conducted night operations at the Hardin inspection station June 31 through July 3rd to obtain information on boat movement at night. Few boats were observed and most of them were local traffic. Inspection numbers for 2021 are similar to what stations observed at this time last year.



Watercraft Inspection Station - Troy

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

Early Detection

The AIS Early Detection staff were featured in the July/August issue of Montana Outdoors. View the story online here: https://issuu.com/montanaoutdoors/docs/ais_issuu.com



Early Detection Survey

AIS crews sampled Tiber Reservoir in May and June this year. Fifty-eight mussel early detection samples have been collected and analyzed from Tiber so far this season with no invasive mussel larvae detected.

AIS Lab

The AIS lab is back in action. AIS monitoring crews have started their sampling season, and water samples are flowing into the lab.

Mussel Veliger Early Detection Microscopy Samples Received by the Montana AIS Lab 7/1/21

	TOTAL	PROCESSED	UNPROCESSED
MONTANA	677	593	84
OUT-OF-STATE	153	153	0
TOTALS	830	746	84

WATERCRAFT INSPECTOR APPRECIATION WEEK

Celebrating the inspectors who keep Montana's waters
free of aquatic invasive species.

AUGUST 2 – 8, 2021



Watercraft inspection stations are the first line of defense to protect Montana's water from the harmful impacts of AIS. Inspectors staff more than 20 roadside watercraft inspection stations operated by FWP and partner organizations. The public is encouraged to stop in and say thanks to their local watercraft inspectors.

Montana is hosting the first ever **Watercraft Inspector Appreciation Week** on **August 2-8**. Planning is underway to show appreciation to the hard-working inspectors across the state.

Businesses, conservation groups and others are invited to "adopt" a station and help support their local watercraft inspectors. If you can help with this effort, contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at 406-444-7815 or [email us](#).

- August 2-8: Montana Watercraft Inspector Appreciation Week. Contact us.
- August 17: Pacific Northwest Economic Region, Invasive Species Working Group, Big Sky, MT. [PNWER](#)
- September 20-24: Western Regional Panel for Aquatic Invasive Species meeting, virtual [WRP](#)
- September 27-30: North American Invasive Species Management Association conference, virtual and in person at Missoula, MT. [NAISMA](#)
- Nov 4: Flowering Rush: Phenology, Genetic Variability and Management [USACE](#)
- Nov 12: Invasive Watermilfoil Management [USACE](#)

In the News

Montana

- [Spreading the message to not spread invasive species](#)
- [Montana intercepts record number of mussel boats](#)
- [Boaters may need an inspection for the Holiday weekend](#)
- [Record of mussel-infested boats already broken this year](#)
- [Mussel boats #35 and #36 intercepted at watercraft inspection stations](#)
- [On the Prowl: AIS Early Detection](#)

Regional / National

- [Yellowstone intercepts mussel fouled boat](#)
- [Flying carp in the Midwest](#)
- [Tracking invasive pythons in Florida](#)

Outreach & Education

Colin Threlkeld, Big Sky Watershed member serving with the Central Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST), has been traveling central and eastern Montana conducting AIS outreach to agriculture, irrigation, and recreation businesses, most recently in Helena, Townsend, Miles City, Billings, Laurel, Bridger, Red Lodge, Hardin, Roundup, & Harlowton.

He was featured on the podcast **“We’re No Dam Experts”** to talk about AIS and other invasive species. Colin is the “self-proclaimed Doctor of Invasive Species” in Montana. [Listen to Episode 37: That’s What Tree Said](#)



Colin Threlkeld at Fort Benton Summer Celebration

FWP has a new video to help inform boaters about AIS prevention rules when visiting or passing through Montana. Watercraft inspection stations are located on roadways near the state border and along the Continental Divide. Visitors should plan ahead and include a boat inspection as part of their travel plans.

[Watch and share.](#)

BRINGING A BOAT TO MONTANA?

Help protect Montana waters from aquatic invasive species.

All out-of-state watercraft must be inspected before launching.
Find watercraft inspection stations at CleanDrainDryMT.com

Non-resident watercraft using Montana waters
MUST purchase a Vessel AIS Prevention Pass.

Non-motorized vessel fee: \$10

Motorized vessel fee: \$30



Buy pass online at CleanDrainDryMT.com

CleanDrainDryMT.com



406.444.2440



Protect Our Waters Montana



Our friends on Facebook shared this young boy doing a happy dance while cleaning a canoe – you need to [watch this](#).



Outreach Events

AIS staff and partners shared AIS information at these events in June:

- **Virtual** – US Forest Service Recreation, Wilderness, Trails and Volunteers staff
- **Missoula** – Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Rendezvous
- **Frenchtown** – Paddle Fest at Frenchtown State Park
- **Libby** – Cabinet Peak Health Fair
- **Bigfork** – Echo Lake Homeowners
- **Divide** – Big Hole Watershed Committee
- **Fort Benton** - Summer Celebration



Billboard installed by Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance