WESTERN REGIONAL PANEL
ON AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

2026 WRP Member Reports

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

A key achievement for Alberta's AIS program was the implementation of strengthened mandatory watercraft inspection requirements at the province's eastern and southern borders. Alberta remains the first jurisdiction in Canada to require all watercraft entering through these high-risk border stations to stop for inspection, regardless of station operating status. This significant policy enhancement strengthens Alberta's frontline defense against invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species by increasing compliance, expanding inspection coverage, and reducing the risk of AIS introductions into Alberta waters. This proactive approach reinforces Alberta's position as a national leader in aquatic invasive species prevention and watercraft inspection efforts.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Alberta 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force recommendations have advanced in several key areas with another task force starting in Sept 2026:

1. Revenue and Watercraft Pass Continued exploration of an annual AIS watercraft pass/sticker, with potential revenue dedicated to supporting Alberta's AIS prevention program. A separate inspection sticker is also being offered to provide visible proof of inspection compliance. Public engagement has been completed, and feedback indicated limited support for an annual user fee, alternatives are still being explored.

2. Pilot Watercraft Decontamination Dip Tank Alberta's first watercraft decontamination dip tank, and the first of its kind in Canada, began operations in southern Alberta in August 2026. Modeled after successful programs in Utah, the pilot aims to improve hot wash efficiency for prevention and reduce the risk of invasive mussel introductions. A modular response technology prototype is currently being developed with partners. Once completed, it can be deployed to high-risk sites as part of Alberta's Early Detection and Rapid Response toolkit. A pilot deployment is planned for spring 2027

3. Strengthened Border Inspection Requirements Alberta implemented mandatory inspection requirements for all watercraft entering the province through eastern and southern border stations, further reducing the risk of AIS introduction from higher-risk jurisdictions.

4. Enhanced Monitoring and Rapid Response Capacity Monitoring efforts continue to expand through environmental DNA (eDNA) surveillance and targeted field monitoring. Work is also underway to strengthen rapid response planning and preparedness for emerging AIS threats, particularly invasive mussels. The program has grown to 3 Conservation K9 teams to enhance detection and prevention capacity.

5. Expanded Education and Outreach Alberta continued to invest in targeted outreach and public awareness initiatives focused on prevention, promoting responsible watercraft practices and helping reduce the risk of accidental AIS introductions.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Prevent the introduction and establishment of aquatic invasive species in Alberta waters.

2. Maintain and strengthen mandatory watercraft inspection and decontamination programs.

3. Expand AIS monitoring efforts, including eDNA surveillance and early detection programs.

4. Enhance rapid response readiness and capacity for new AIS detections.

5. Continue education, outreach, and stakeholder engagement initiatives to promote AIS prevention and compliance.


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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) AIS Program continued expanding its monitoring program statewide in Spring/Summer 2026. Stocked waters and community fishing waters in Arizona were prioritized for 2026, while efforts were expanded to adjacent and downstream locations of potential detections. AIS monitoring of AZGFD hatcheries has been expanded in order to address potential new infestations more quickly.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

AZGFD has continued staffing launch ramps at Lake Powell (AZ) with a contractor providing inspectors. This partnership allows more efficient utilization of resources by partners at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and allows for year-round ramp coverage to ensure containment of quagga mussels despite changing lake conditions. Expanded AIS monitoring program statewide in Spring 2026. Added golden mussels monitoring at high-risk reservoirs. New Zealand mudsnail detections in 2026 have only occurred in known locations and downstream of known infestations. AZGFD and partners have performed over 8100 inspections and over 300 decontaminations since September 2025.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. AZGFD will continue to operate current watercraft inspections and decontamination locations.
2. Expand prevention capacity at non-AIS listed waters.
3. Provide outreach and ensure AIS compliance.
4. Expand monitoring program as resources allow.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Adopted ballast water exchange plus treatment regulations for vessels with low-salinity ballast water before discharging at California's low-salinity ports.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Amended three separate regulations

    a. Vessel arrival fee amendment

    b. Enforcement regulations amendment c. Low-salinity ballast water exchange requirement

2. Published four peer-reviewed journal articles:

    a. California's Marine Invasive Species Program: 25 years of comprehensive pathway management; https://www.reabic.net/journals/mbi/2026/3/MBI_2026_Scianni_etal.pdf

    b. Closure of the Strait of Hormuz may trigger a bioinvasion super-spreader event; https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-026-03893-5?utm_source=rct_congratemailt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=oa_20260722&utm_content=10.1007%2Fs10530-026-03893-5

    c. The Trojan seahorse: neglecting biofouling management of vessel niche areas; https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2026.1800424/full?utm_source=researchgate.net&utm_medium=article

    d. Debris capture during in-water cleaning of ship biofouling; https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2025.1702855/full? utm_source=researchgate.net&utm_medium=article

3. Provided invasive species prevention training across U.S., Mexico, and South America.

4. Increased the types of data we now provide on our public data dashboard: https://misp- cslc.hub.arcgis.com/

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Transition of historical and current data to new, more efficient database.

2. Amend regulations as necessary to comply with federal Vessel Incidental Discharge Act.

3. Increase capacity for comprehensive ballast water sampling and analyses in southern California.

4. Pursue Pacific states' collaborative peer-reviewed publication of historical ballast water management data.


ENCLOSED SPACE
PERMIT

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

1. Invasive carp snagging now allowed in Kansas.

In 2026 KDWP opened a new opportunity for anglers to snag invasive carp in the Kansas River downstream of the WaterOne Weir to the confluence with the Missouri River. This new opportunity requires no additional permits beyond a fishing license and allows anglers to snag silver and bighead carp year-round without a creel or possession limit. Invasive carp may be harvested or returned to the water from which they were captured. Invasive carp may be returned to the water from where they were captured dead or alive. This new opportunity provides constituents with the ability to assist in the management and suppression of an invasive species, has been widely covered in media, and very positively received.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Conducted WID at high-use, zebra mussel infested waters in NE Kansas – Funding through USFWS via QZAP provided KDWP the ability to conduct WID related activities at 4 waters in Northeast Kansas in 2025 and 2026:

• Milford Reservoir – zebra mussel infested

• Perry Reservoir – zebra mussel infested

• Clinton Reservoir – zebra mussel infested

• Hillsdale Reservoir – zebra mussel infested KDWP plans to expand WID efforts to other parts of the state in future years as funding and staffing allows.

Continued removal of invasive carps from the Kansas River below the Bowersock dam. Since initiation in 2022, approximately 125,000 pounds of invasive carps have been removed from the Kansas River downstream of the Bowersock Dam to prevent upstream range expansion and to benefit native species and river users below this barrier. KDWP conducted these agency staff removal efforts using a variety of gear including traditional and dozer trawl electrofishing boats and gill nets. Comparisons of demographic data between the areas being targeted for removal and unfished locations continue to show encouraging results and the program is planned to continue.

Continued bighead carp telemetry project on Neosho River - Grand Lake system to inform removal In collaboration with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and South Dakota State University, invasive carp are being targeted for capture throughout the Neosho River Grand Lake system. All invasive carp captured are implanted with ultrasonic transmitters (Vemco V16-5H; 69kHz). Once fish are fitted with transmitters, movement and passage will be documented throughout the life of the transmitters (up to 5 years). We are utilizing a monitoring array that is a combination of stationary receivers and manual tracking. The stationary receiver array will extend throughout Grand Lake, Neosho River, and Spring River. Manual tracking is also being conducted at regular intervals and concentrated during seasons with high movement (e.g., spawning movement) throughout the study to garner more fine scale habitat information (e.g., spawning locations) and “hot spots” (e.g., areas of high Asian carp concentration). The receivers will provide enough spatial coverage to detect longitudinal movement throughout the system. Receivers placed above and below low-head dams will inform passage across these structures.

Conducted bait shop inspections across the state. Inspections were conducted at bait shops statewide; no invasive species were found in commercial bait tanks during the inspection process. Bait identification posters and AIS literature were distributed to the bait shops during inspections.

Education and outreach efforts were continued through a variety of media outlets including internet ads, press releases, and direct mailings. We contracted a marketing firm to revamp our education and outreach materials.

Additionally, the firm ran a social media campaign across Meta, YouTube, and Google Ads resulting in 8 million impressions.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Sustain current AIS funding and staffing levels.
2. Continue and expand WID activities in Kansas.
3. Increase removal of invasive carp from the Kansas River.
4. Install an invasive carp deterrent at Bowersock Dam.
5. Revise Kansas AIS Management Plan.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

QA/QC boater interviews at major waterbodies show over a 96% boater compliance with inspection-before-launch requirements.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Over 90,000 watercraft inspected with 24 mussel-fouled boats intercepted.

Over 1,000 early detection samples analyzed with no evidence of invasive mussels in Montana.

Listed the Limnoperna Genus as an invasive species in Montana.

Five years of no corbicula detection after Lake Elmo eradication treatment.

Montana's AIS Management Plan updated for the first time since 2002.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Continue to improve QA/QC at WID stations.

Continue to expand partner involvement and support.

Host rapid response exercises with FWP agency staff and partners to expand response preparedness.

Address weak points in Montana's AIS prevention network.

Continue to support an AmeriCorps member to expand AIS outreach and engagement.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Finalized NPS Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan (v2)

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Supported the establishment of new AIS efforts in three parks (Canyonlands NP, Lake Meredith NRA, San Antonio Missions NHP Whiskeytown NRA).

Supported ongoing AIS efforts in seventeen parks (Bighorn Canyon NRA, Congaree NP, Curecanti NRA, Dinosaur NM, Glen Canyon NRA, Glacier NP, Grand Teton NP, Horseshoe Bend NMP, Lake Chelan NRA, Lake Mead NRA, Lake Roosevelt NRA, Isle Royale NP, Mammoth Caves NP, Mississippi River NRA, Missouri River NRA, Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, Voyageurs NP).

Provided funding to the Colorado Watercraft Inspection Database.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Implement the NPS Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic Plan by 1) maintaining support for existing NPS aquatic invasive species efforts including coordination with federal and state partners; 2) expanding NPS aquatic invasive species geographically and taxonomically.

If possible, hire a service wide Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator in the NPS Directorate for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Nebraska remains a regional leader in invasive aquatic plant management. In 2026, the Nebraska AIS Program confirmed successful eradication of Hybrid Eurasian Watermilfoil from 7 different waterbodies. In addition, the program completed a record 14 whole lake herbicide treatments for both Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed. The Program has pioneered innovative techniques for managing Curlyleaf Pondweed using early-season/under-ice herbicide treatments.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Nebraska's accomplishments should be viewed in the context of its program support. The Nebraska AIS Program has only 2 permanent employees with temporary staff solely conducting watercraft inspections. The following accomplishments are a testament of the Nebraska AIS Program's work ethic.

1) Nebraska remains the last state in the Eastern Great Plains without widespread Zebra Mussel infestation despite being surrounded by infested states. The program completed the second most watercraft inspections in history (7,874) and conducts monthly veliger sampling that are completely analyzed in-house. This year the Program collected and analyzed over 200 samples from 56 waterbodies.

2) The Nebraska AIS Program hosted the second annual "Nebraska Invasive Species Awareness Week". This consisted of multiple events including virtual and in-person, coupled with a Governor Proclamation. The culmination of this event was a dedicated in-person "Nebraska Invasive Species Day" where over 20 organizations participated and over 300 people attended.

3) Nebraska continues to build momentum regarding invasive aquatic plant management. The Program completed a record number of whole-lake treatments (14) and conducted 42 aquatic plant surveys on public waterbodies.

4) The Nebraska AIS Program has been aggressive with respect to outreach and education. The Program now has a dedicated education trailer solely for AIS and participated in over 30 in-person outreach/education events reaching multiple demographics.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1) The top priority for the Nebraska AIS Program is to maintain its status as the last state in the Eastern Great Plains without widespread Zebra Mussel infestation. Despite its support being amongst the lowest in the West and now surrounded by states with large-scale mussel infestation, Nebraska demonstrates how effective management with very limited resources can be successful.

2) The second priority of the Nebraska AIS Program is to continue to the fight against invasive submersed aquatic plants. In 2027 the Program plans for a record number of whole-lake herbicide treatments for Eurasian Watermilfoil, Hybrid Eurasian Watermilfoil, Brittle Naiad, and Curlyleaf Pondweed. No other surrounding state has place as high as a priority on submersed aquatic plant management.

3) Nebraska continues to be innovative with regard to education and outreach. With limited watercraft inspection staff, finding ways to reach multiple demographics is critical. Nebraska's success with limited mussel infestation is a testament to this strategy. With a dedicated AIS outreach/education trailer the Program plans to continue this strategy with multiple events and reach new demographics often missed by AIS Programs.


EVINRUDE
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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

In 2026, NDGF treated Smishek Lake with EarthTecQZ to attempt to control/eradicate the zebra mussel population that resides there. Smishek Lake sits in the headwaters of Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota's most important economic and recreational aquatic resource. The project is ongoing.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Continue to deploy a diverse ANS outreach/education program using a variety of media outlets. In 2026, we partnered with InForum, a regional TV/media provider, to develop and disseminate ANS materials.

Conducted early detection surveys at more than 200 waterbodies using various techniques. Efforts led to detections of several new ANS.

Continued to operate a roving watercraft inspection system, to date, we have inspected over 8500 watercraft.

Maintained/supported over a dozen ANS prevention devices, including CD3s, ILIDS and wash stations. ILIDS are remote inspection cameras that encourage boaters to comply with ANS regulations

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Continue efforts at Smishek Lake to protect Lake Sakakawea from mussels.

Expand partnerships within the state.

Recruitment of watercraft inspection positions.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Responded to the finding of a single quagga mussel found on the shore of Prineville Reservoir in central Oregon. Ongoing investigations have resulted in no further evidence of a population however staff continue to intensively monitor Prineville and surrounding waterbodies.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- ODFW staff intercepted two golden mussel-fouled watercraft destined for Oregon waterbodies.

- The Oregon legislature increased the fee for Oregon's waterway access permit that provides the state funding for AIS monitoring and prevention. This is the first increase the program has seen in over 10 years.

- Hired dedicated outreach staff to perform informational presentations and staff popup inspection kiosks at waterbodies not normally visited by inspection staff.

- Increased coordination across Oregon agencies involved in AIS prevention including Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Marine Board, The Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at Portland State Uni., and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

- Updated Oregon's statewide rapid response plan for invasive freshwater mussels.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Increase inspection capacity through partnerships with local governments, tribes, and service districts through new allowance to form intergovernmental inspection agreements.


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CLOSED
OPEN
DATE:
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Golden mussels
4/4/26
From: Sacramento + San Joaquin Delta

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Continued working on a national EPA pesticide registration for potash to be used as a molluscicide for invasive mussel control (Lisa DeBruyckere).

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Hosted meetings of the Columbia River Basin AIS Team and Monitoring Forum in January (Vancouver) and June (Missoula).

Hosted Watercraft Inspection Training (WIT): Elizabeth Brown, lead trainer.

Published bi-monthly AIS NEWS (Robyn Draheim, Editor).

Hosted Pacific Ballast Water and Biofouling Workgroup meeting (April, Vancouver).

Administered $18 million APC-WID USACE cost–share program for watercraft inspection (MTFWP, ISDA, ODFW, WYGF, Nez Perce Tribe, and WDFW), and monitoring (MTFWP, WSU, ISDA, PSU, and WDFW).

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Support CRB Invasive Mussel Rapid Response Exercise in Longview, WA with the WDFW, ODFW, ORDEQ, and CRITFC (October, 2026).

Host Golden Mussel Research Priorities Workshop (February 2027, Sacramento).

Support Federal AIS legislation and funding for AIS work in the West (WRDA/APC-WID, QZAP, golden mussels, etc.).

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Strong collaboration with Alaska Invasive Species Partnership entities to assist with interception of high-risk watercraft entering the state at the Alcan Port of Entry, by using communication channels to raise alerts, by meeting boat owners at their homes to provide inspections; by filling-in the gaps caused by few people in a large and geographically distinct state across jurisdictions; building strong relationships on trust, respect, and shared delivery of work products.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. With the expansion of European green crab (EGC) in southern Southeast Alaska, ADF&G (with funding support from PSMFC) was able to provide early detection trapping supplies to eight new community- based monitors in distinct remote locations north of the known distribution. A rapid assessment was completed in the remote Alaska Native village of Kasaan on Prince of Wales Island after EGC carapaces were found. After three-days of trapping, a small cove important to the communities subsistence harvest was found to have an established population of EGC.

2. Co-hosted with USFWS and Kachemak Bay NERR an All Hands on Deck for Early Detection training at Skilak Lake on the Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral, Alaska with participants from 11 entities sending participants from Anchorage, Homer and Kodiak. This was a shared accomplishment under the umbrella of the Southcentral Alaska Hot Spot. Participants enjoyed a classroom learning session and hands-on field sampling stations.

3. Alaska sent three-participants to a microscopy lab skills training at the Bureau of Reclamation Invasive Species Lab. For the first time, Alaska can now analyze plankton samples in-state.

Northern Pike accomplishments:

1. Successfully removed pre-spawn females from Alexander Creek by netting immediately after ice-out.

2. After verifying presence of northern pike in Cottonwood Creek Drainage using eDNA and gillnets, a pike barrier was designed and installed cooperation with Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The barrier will prevent spread in the drainage and is a first of its kind solution to pike invasion in Alaska.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

AIS Priorities

1. Expand capacity for early detection of AIS in high risk waters by improving decision- support tools, and providing trainings on field sampling methods, and establish caches of sampling supplies.

2. Conduct a dreissenid mussel-focused response training/exercise.

3. Support a growing network of community-based citizen scientists engaged in early detection and response to European green crab in SSE AK.

Northern Pike Priorities

1. Suppress population in the Alexander Creek Drainage through early season netting and rotenone treatments in sloughs.

2. Prevent spread of pike with in-water fish barriers; implement mechanical and genetic sampling methods to evaluate changes in pike populations in Southcentral; rapidly respond to new and spreading populations.


DEEP TREKKER

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

The Lake Tahoe AIS Program, led by TRPA, continues to focus its prevention efforts on the threat of golden mussels given the relative proximity to infested areas. The program increased the number of roving inspectors through TRPA's primary implementation partner, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, to educate non-motorized recreators, perform inspections on paddle craft, and direct potentially high risk craft for decontamination. The program has also purchased additional CD3 units to provide tools to paddlers and anglers to become "clean, drain, and dry". The rover program is complemented by educational volunteers lead by the non-profit Keep Tahoe Blue, to expand outreach to more recreators.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Permanent Inspection Stations: Progress continues on two permanent locations for watercraft inspections; one on the east shore (NV), and one on the south shore (CA). The stations are expected to be open in 2028 adn 2029 respectively.

2. The largest aquatic invasive plant control project implemented to date at the Taylor and Tallac Creek/Marsh system has moved into a post-treatment phase, focusing on hand removal in a previously infested area of 17 acres. This project has been implemented with entirely physical (non-chemical) methods and a successful outcome is anticipated.

3. Enforcement of AIS prevention regulations lead to a $5,000 settlement to an individual who attempted to launch at Lake Tahoe by altering an inspection seal. Staff at Obexer's Marina discovered the tampered seal, denied the launch, and alerted TRPA staff. The TRPA Governing Board approved the settlement and the $5,000 penalty has been paid.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Additional Lake Tahoe AIS Program priorities:

1. Tahoe Keys aquatic invasive plant management: The largest infestation of AIP resides in a private development directly connected to Lake Tahoe via two channels that lead to 170 surface acres of waters ways that are entirely infested with AIP. A collaborative of multi-sector partners is focusing on containment of fragments in the short term, while long-term management strategies are being planned for future implementation.

2. Permanent inspection stations: Two locations have been identified for permanent locations for watercraft inspections; one on the south shore of Lake Tahoe, the other on the east side. These will provide long-term assurances and efficiencies to protect Lake Tahoe from the threat of AIS.

3. ASI Management Plan Update: TRPA is in the process of updating its AIS Management Plan, scheduled for approval by the ANS Task Force at its Spring 2027 meeting.

4. Rapid Response Exercise: As part of the AIS Management Plan update, Tahoe partners will conduct a tabletop rapid response exercise, simulating the response to a discovery of golden mussels in Lake Tahoe.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

July 2026 brought extensive flooding to the Central Texas Hill Country/Edwards Plateau watersheds, with the most pronounced effects in the Upper Guadalupe watershed which experienced catastrophic flooding only one year prior. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department AIS staff have been working to assess the effects of both flood events across multiple watersheds on spread of riparian invasive plants (primarily giant reed; Arundo donax) as well as the vigorous regrowth seen. The management program was adapted to incorporate rapid response to dispersal in continuing efforts to manage, and, where possible, eliminate, problematic riparian AIS to promote aquatic habitat health in key Native Fish Conservation Areas. The Healthy Creeks Initiative to manage giant reed works in partnership with the Nueces River Pull.Kill.Plant program as well as other NGOs, state, regional, and local agencies, and hundreds of landowners to implement and expand this multi-watershed program over the past decade. Adapting the program to nimbly respond to flooding effects and address new spread to multiple sites before the species was able to gain a foothold was a significant accomplishment this year to support ongoing program success.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Implemented a broad Protect the Lakes You Love - Clean, Drain, Dry outreach program adaptively to strategically use decreased funding in the face of expanding priority geographic areas in coordination with supporting partners.

- Worked with numerous partners to facilitate zebra-quagga mussel early detection sampling at high-risk waters around the state, providing lab analytical support to many partners and technical support to affected entities.

- Successfully continued to manage aquatic invasive vegetation through Integrated Pest Management across nearly 50 water bodies achieving a continued level of control such that none are currently experiencing recreational access limitations despite ever-increasing costs and static funding.

- Successfully continued watershed-scale management of riparian invasive plants that have significant detrimental impacts on aquatic habitat in Native Fish Conservation Areas, including critical habitat for some listed species, across 8 watersheds, all of which have seen significant decreases in degree of infestation.

- Continued to support research toward better understanding potential impacts of suckermouth armored catfish and enhancing control efforts, as well as optimizing chemical control methods for giant salvinia.

- Enhanced incorporation of marine AIS tracking and reporting by staff, both as part of agency protocols and via reporting from members of the public.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Continue to seek to maximize implementation of the Protect the Lakes You Love; Clean, Drain, Dry campaign in the face of funding constraints.

- Continue the use of Integrated Pest Management strategies to achieve a high degree of control of aquatic invasive vegetation to both prevent recreational access issues and strategically reduce the risk of spread as well as implementing rapid response to seek to eradicate new infestations of giant salvinia.

- Continue zebra/quagga mussel early detection sampling partnership efforts and provide continued lab analytical support in the face of current short-staffing.

- Continue watershed-scale efforts to manage riparian invasive plants with significant detrimental effects on aquatic habitat in priority areas for maximal conservation benefits.

- Collaborate with researchers on completion of currently funded AIS research projects and implement a Request for Proposals and selection of new projects for grant award for the coming biennium, with strong focus on management and conservation implications.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

- Prepared to perform IFM Containment Curtain test and drill in November, 2026 with numerous project team members and stakeholders.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Finalized WID program agreements with States for July 2026 to June 2027.
- Maintained Pacific Northwest Flowering Rush field demonstrations and research field trails.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

- Continue to improve the Station Placement Optimization Tool through user feedback.
- Drafting basin specific Rapid Response environmental compliance documents ensure potential response actions are adequately covered.
- Finalize Northern Pike Cost-Share agreement.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Over the past year, Reclamation's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program has maintained program resiliency in the face of personnel shortages and rapidly spreading golden mussel in Western water systems.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1) Comprehensive Monitoring & Sample Analysis The Reclamation Ecological Research Laboratory received 1,592 invasive mussel samples (including field blanks) and have analyzed 791 of those samples for quagga, zebra, and golden for eDNA. Samples have been received from These yielded detailed data on mussel presence and provide essential partner information in states such as Colorado.

2) Golden Mussel Coordination Since the first detection in late 2024, Reclamation has expanded coordination efforts at facilities such as Tracy Fish Facility, to assist in understanding mussel establishment. This includes redesigning mussel settlement "bioboxes".

3) Innovative "Halt the Hitchhiker" Challenge In February 2026, Reclamation launched a national prize competition seeking technologies to deactivate AIS within watercraft ballast systems—awarding up to $200K across phases. This encourages new scalable solutions complementing traditional inspections.

4) On-the-Ground Prevention at Reclamation Sites At New Melones Lake, all boats are now subject to a 30-day quarantine or must obtain marina-grade decontamination prior to launch—a direct measure preventing golden mussel spread. Enhanced partner coordination at Reclamation reservoirs is occurring to prevent further spread of mussels in California.

5) Securing FY 2026 AIS Funding Through internal spend-plan calls for proposals, Reclamation allocated funding for FY 2026 AIS grants, prioritizing invasive mussel prevention, containment, and control. This ensures support for emerging projects and interagency coordination.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1) Accelerate deployment of promising ballast decontamination technologies tested through "Halt the Hitchhiker," advancing prototypes toward field trials and commercialization.

2) Expand surveillance into newly vulnerable water systems beyond the Delta, leveraging eDNA and strategic monitoring informed by existing detection trends.

3) Understand and develop seaplane guidance for Reclamation managed reservoirs.

4) Finalize and implement the first Reclamation Invasive Species Strategic Plan.

5) Target investments through the FY 2027 AIS funding mechanism to bolster rapid-response, infrastructure vulnerability assessments, early detection and monitoring expansion, and prevention efforts.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

The U.S. Geological Survey supported state, federal, and tribal partners with development, validation, and application of horizon risk assessments and molecular tools for AIS early detection rapid response efforts.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

(1) Worked with state, federal, and tribal partners to deploy environmental DNA (eDNA) autonomous samplers and conduct eDNA sample analyses for early detection of invasive mussels, carp, and other fishes. Surveillance sites include the Upper Colorado River, Green River, Snake River, Pend Oreille River, Madison River, Bighorn River, St. Mary/Milk Rivers, southcentral Alaska.

(2) Development and validation of point of use molecular assays, tools, and protocols for dreissenid mussels, golden mussels, and New Zealand mudsnails,

(3) Monitored and removed invasive amphibians, crayfish, and fish in the Pacific Northwest, including Crater Lake National Park and Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

(4) Continued to build and apply tools to support the National Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Framework, including horizon-scans, genetic marker development, a molecular laboratory network, a shared laboratory information management system, point of use tools, autonomous eDNA tools, and a central information hub for informing EDRR.

(5) Collaborated with international scientists and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to develop standards for eDNA field sampling and lab analyses

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

(1) Support federal, state, and tribal partners in early detection rapid response efforts of invasive golden mussels, including co-hosting a golden mussel research priorities workshop.

(2) Transition molecular detection technologies (e.g., point-of-use and autonomous samplers) to partners for integrating into existing AIS monitoring efforts.

(3) Protect our borders from invasive species by conducting assessments to identify and prioritize invasive species that threaten U.S. borderlands, developing advanced tools for detection and monitoring, and conducting on the ground research on effective eradication and control methods.

(4) Continue to contribute critical research to invasive carp and grass carp management in the Missouri River basin.

(5) Conduct science to support executive orders and DOI secretarial orders.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

The 2026 Utah Legislative session provided additional funds to the Utah AIS Program. The Utah AIS Program was funded for (3) additional diptanks to be located at the St. George Port of Entry, Kanab AIS Mandatory Inspection Station, and Deer Creek State Park. We also received funds to upgrade our existing diptanks across the state.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Since September 2025, Utah has installed two diptanks. Jordanelle State Park is operational and Pineview Reservoir plans to be operational May 2027. These were part of the previous legislative session.

The Utah AIS Program received an additional legislative appropriation for (3) additional diptanks to be located at the St. George Port of Entry, Kanab AIS Mandatory Inspection Station, and Deer Creek State Park.

We are currently hiring for our Interdiction Specialist positions. We are at, or will be at 50% of our full time Biologist staff. This along with replacing our South Sergeant position. We were lucky enough to bring Josh Wright back to our program as the AIS Budget Coordinator.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

In the coming year we hope to install (3) new diptanks across the state. We have requested additional state funding to adjust for decreasing Federal funding. We plan to complete the remaining (2) diptanks from previous years appropriations. We plan to hire, train and mentor our open AIS Interdiction Biologist positions.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Continued breeding program to produce herpes virus resistant oyster broodstock.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. Breeding program to create herpes virus resistant oysters.

2. Continued transfer permit program and compliance to restrict the spread of aquatic invasive species such as the oyster drill ocinebrullus inornatus.

3. Continued trapping and reporting of the invasive Green Crab.

4. Industry and tribe working with middle school students to study ways to limit Green Crab impacts.

5. USDA High Health program to monitor diseases free broodstock for hatchery use.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Continued assessment of impact of Green Crab spread.

2. Continued investment in development of disease resistant oyster broodstock.

3. Continued USDA High Health program to monitor diseases free broodstock for hatchery use.

4. Continued compliance with the WDFW Shellfish Transfer program.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Washington significantly expanded its statewide capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to aquatic invasive species, particularly invasive freshwater mussels. Following the detection of quagga mussels in Idaho's Snake River, approximately 375 river miles from Washington, the Washington State Legislature provided a one-time $7.24 million investment for the 2025–2027 biennium to expand invasive mussel prevention and readiness. WDFW has used this investment to substantially increase watercraft inspection and decontamination capacity, expand early detection monitoring, strengthen rapid response planning and training, and increase coordination with tribal, federal, state, and local partners. In calendar year 2025, WDFW inspected more than 61,000 watercraft, the highest number in state history, intercepted and decontaminated 21 fouled watercraft before they entered Washington waters, and completed more than 3,300 additional decontaminations. Statewide early detection monitoring covered 222 waterbodies at 428 sites and included more than 6,200 samples. No quagga, zebra, or golden mussels were detected in Washington waters.

This expanded prevention system is increasingly important as invasive mussel risk continues to grow across the West, including the ongoing quagga mussel response in Idaho, golden mussel establishment in California, mussel pathway interceptions in Oregon, and the 2026 detection of quagga mussels at Prineville Reservoir in Oregon. Washington is now working to transition this successful one-time expansion into sustained statewide capacity while leveraging federal cost-share and partner investments.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1) WDFW expanded watercraft inspection, decontamination, and early detection capacity statewide. In 2025, WDFW inspected more than 61,000 watercraft and intercepted 21 mussel-fouled watercraft before they entered Washington waters. WDFW also completed more than 3,300 decontaminations associated with travel from infested waters, regulatory noncompliance, or invasive species presence. Following the Idaho Snake River detection, WDFW increased monitoring in the Washington portion of the Snake River to 36 sites and more than 1,800 samples, while continuing statewide surveillance using plankton tows, environmental DNA, artificial substrates, sediment sampling, plant surveys, and other methods. No quagga, zebra, or golden mussels have been detected in Washington waters.

2) Washington strengthened regional invasive mussel preparedness and response planning. WDFW worked with Oregon, Idaho, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, tribes, utilities, federal agencies, and other partners to address increasing regional risk. WDFW and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are developing new containment systems and planning a November 2026 Snake River exercise to test containment approaches. WDFW and regional partners are also preparing for a Lower Columbia River golden mussel response tabletop exercise in October 2026. These efforts build Washington's ability to move quickly from detection to containment and response if an invasive mussel is found.

3) WDFW strengthened Washington's response to the emerging golden mussel threat. Following the first North American detection of golden mussels in California and subsequent detections and interceptions in the Pacific Northwest, WDFW incorporated golden mussels into statewide surveillance, risk assessment, prevention, and rapid response planning. WDFW initiated rulemaking to strengthen Washington's regulatory framework for invasive freshwater mussels and continued coordination with Oregon and other regional partners to address the increasing risk to the Columbia River Basin and other connected waters.

4)Washington substantially expanded coordinated European green crab management while transitioning from emergency response toward long-term management. During FY2026, WDFW, tribes, co-managers, and other partners removed more than 2.157 million European green crabs from Washington marine waters, including more than 2.13 million from coastal waters and approximately 24,800 from the Salish Sea. More than 40 co-managers,

tribes, and partners continued implementing coordinated management activities through the statewide Incident Command System, regional coordination groups, and Multi- Agency Coordination Group. Implementation of the 2025–2031 European Green Crab Management Plan continued, supported by $1.5 million in new NOAA funding and $2 million made available through the Bureau of Indian Affairs for tribal green crab management. These investments have strengthened Washington's ability to sustain trapping, monitoring, research, outreach, and adaptive management while continuing to advocate for additional federal support.

5) WDFW continued to strengthen aquatic invasive species prevention through commercial and recreational pathways, including vessel ballast water and biofouling. WDFW worked with the U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, Washington Department of Ecology, ports, maritime interests, and other partners on implementation of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act. WDFW provided technical input on proposed federal ballast-water requirements, biological monitoring, challenging water quality, treatment standards, vessel inspection coordination, and the protection of Washington's ability to address invasive species risks. This work recognizes that Washington's AIS prevention responsibilities extend beyond recreational boating to commercial vessels and other pathways capable of introducing invasive species into state waters.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1) Sustain and institutionalize Washington's expanded invasive freshwater mussel prevention and readiness system. WDFW will seek to transition the 2025–2027 one-time legislative investment into ongoing statewide capacity, including watercraft inspection and decontamination, early detection monitoring, rapid response planning and exercises, pathway surveillance, risk assessment, and public outreach. The proposed 2027–2029 investment of $1.81 million General Fund-State annually is designed to leverage substantial federal resources through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control– Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination program and other federal partnerships.

2) Strengthen regional preparedness for quagga, zebra, and golden mussels. WDFW will continue close coordination with Idaho and Oregon while expanding preparedness for potential introductions through the Columbia River Basin and other high-risk pathways. Priorities include implementation of the updated statewide invasive mussel response framework, Snake River preparedness and exercises, enhanced tribal and local monitoring capacity, and development of coordinated response protocols for emerging golden mussel detections.

3) Maintain and expand coordinated European green crab management while pursuing sustainable funding. WDFW will continue implementation of the 2025–2031 Management Plan, support tribal and co-manager capacity, improve monitoring and adaptive management, advance research priorities, and maintain statewide coordination through the Incident Command System and Multi-Agency Coordination Group. Sustained federal funding through NOAA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other federal programs will remain a priority because the scale of the threat exceeds the capacity of any single jurisdiction.

4) Advance AIS prevention across marine vessel pathways and support effective implementation of VIDA. WDFW will continue technical and policy engagement with the U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, Ecology, ports, maritime industries, and other states to ensure federal ballast-water and biofouling requirements provide meaningful protection against invasive species while recognizing Washington's statutory role and unique aquatic resources. WDFW will also continue evaluating practical approaches to ballast-water treatment and vessel inspection coordination at Washington ports.

5) Expand partnerships, public engagement, and rapid response capacity for emerging aquatic invasive species threats. WDFW will continue strengthening partnerships with tribes, local governments, utilities, ports, industry, researchers, and regional organizations; improve Clean, Drain, Dry outreach and other prevention communications; and build the workforce, equipment, training, and response capabilities needed to address new invasive species threats. Priority threats include invasive freshwater mussels, European green crab, northern pike, Chinese mitten crab, and other novel aquatic invasive species.


2026 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

R4 Forests adjacent to the Snake River Plain across southern Idaho and western Wyoming, along with the Fish Lake NF in Utah, were equipped with multi-station fluorometers and other equipment necessary to implement the LAMP (loop mediated isothermal amplification) protocol for eDNA filter sample analyses. Species of AIS potentially detected by this protocol in 2026 are quagga and zebra mussel. 32 lakes will potentially be sampled by the end of the 2026 season using this protocol.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

- Analysis of filter samples, using both the LAMP and qPCR protocols, for dreissenid mussels and New Zealand mud snail eDNA in up to 32 NFS lakes in southern Idaho, Western Wyoming, and Southern Utah.

- Funding of USGS to develop a LAMP assay for New Zealand mud snail. USGS is coordinating with a contractor to produce reaction strips for validation testing.

- Lake sampling watercraft were purchased / recommissioned and provided for eDNA filter sample collection on the Salmon Challis, Sawtooth, and Fish Lake National Forests.

- LAMP protocol training was provided to personnel from the Fish Lake NF, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the Bureau of Land Management in Southern Utah.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Further coordination with State, Federal, and local agencies to integrate eDNA sampling with existing net- tow, shore-line surveys, and other detection methods on lakes and reservoirs across the Intermountain and Southwest regions.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

In 2026, CPW successfully onboarded two new dedicated criminal investigator positions for the ANS Program. The investigators have also established a traveling team of limited commission officers focused on increasing public awareness and enforcement of ANS laws and regulations. This initiative has already increased compliance rates at Ports of Entry and strengthened CPW's overall capacity to manage and enforce ANS-related regulations across the state.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

CPW established three new watercraft inspection and decontamination stations at the Cortez Port of Entry, Kenney Reservoir and the Grand Mesa.

CPW performed more than 500 plankton tows in the Colorado River. No veligers were identified in the Colorado River in 2026.

Despite drought conditions closing many boat ramps early, CPW continues to intercept a large number of mussel-fouled watercraft with 141 interceptions in 2026 to date.

CPW expanded Spanish-language outreach by presenting "Clean, Drain, Dry" messaging at a hunter's education course and developing English and Spanish versions of a waterfowl hunting focused rack card.

CPW expanded the "Oh, Shell No" by partnering with a private firm to implement a paid media campaign. The paid ad campaign consisted of static and video elements and made over 7.6M impressions on Meta and Reddit and Google Analytics reported over 16,000 new users to CPW's website as a result of the campaign.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

Develop and begin deployment of permanent highway and interstate check station signage plans in coordination with Colorado Department of Transportation.

Work with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to clarify roles and responsibilities as it pertains to inspections of live aquatic bait dealers in Colorado.

Finalize and implement ANS inspection regulations for private in-state aquatic wildlife production facilities and all out-of-state facilities importing aquatic wildlife into Colorado.

Evaluate data collected from sampling and monitoring efforts on the Colorado River to develop an improved sampling strategy for flowing waters to be applied to other river basins in the state.

Translate, design, produce and distribute eight high-priority ANS rack cards and informational brochures in Spanish to expand accessibility across diverse recreational user groups statewide.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

In FY26, certified trainers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Authority from multiple regions provided Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) planning certification courses to partner agencies and staff across the country. Trainings were offered in-person. HACCP-related training opportunities to prevent and mitigate the risk of unintentionally spreading invasive species will be offered in FY27 including a HACCP Train-the-Trainer course. Additionally, HACCP was included as part of four collaborative biosecurity pilot projects with the Service and the Department of the Army including Fort Drum in New York, Fort Wainwright in Alaska, Fort Carson in Colorado, and U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO) - PIFWO strengthened biosecurity coordination across Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) by working closely with territorial governments and NGO partners. In FY26, staff advanced the Marianas Islands Biosecurity Gap Analysis, a multi-year effort aimed at directing resources to critical biosecurity needs at Guam and CNMI commercial ports of entry/exit. Staff continued active participation in Pearl Harbor Octocoral Response including field delineation surveys supporting this emerging invasive coral threat.

During post-disaster recovery from Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi, PIFWO supported FEMA’s Emergency Support Function #11 by helping conduct biosecurity inspections for the CNMI government. Regionally, staff coordinated national and territorial brown treesnake (BTS) interdiction and suppression initiatives through the Brown Treesnake Technical Working Group. With funding from the Office of Insular Affairs, PIFWO also maintained a dedicated BTS Interdiction Coordinator in the CNMI. Staff mobilized to Rota for a rapid response survey following two confirmed BTS detections.

Columbia River Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office (CRFWCO) - CRFWCO continued an intensive eradication project targeting nonnative brook trout in Tyee Springs using the YY-male stocking technique. In 2026, staff removed approximately 1,590 resident brook trout, collected 600 tissue samples for genetic assignment tests, and stocked 2,000 PIT-tagged YY males. Recapture results annual survival of stocked fish, including 68 YY males from the 2025 cohort recaptured in 2026.

Sex-ratio monitoring showed a continued male bias (55% male, 45% female among 1,010 fish sampled), and genetic assignment testing by Abernathy Fish Technology Center confirmed successful YY male reproduction. YY progeny made up 19.1% of young-of-year brook trout in 2024 and 16.4% in 2025, with overall young-of-year sex ratios also strongly male-biased (around 60% male both years). Mark-recapture demonstrated significant population decline from an estimated ~7,000 fish in 2019 to ~700 fish (>70 mm) in 2025. The reduction in resident brook trout abundance, detection of YY male progeny, and male-biased sex ratios indicate that the YY male technique is producing the intended effects in Tyee Springs.

Western Washington Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office (WWFWCO) - WWFWCO submitted three scientific manuscripts on invasive fish predation of juvenile salmonids in the Lake Washington Basin, focusing on rock bass, black crappie, and yellow perch. Staff continued evaluating nighttime artificial light influences on invasive fish predation; preliminary results suggest predation rates are seven times higher under nighttime lighting, with over-water structures further increasing risk to juvenile salmon. WWFWCO also supported invasive European green crab monitoring at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge with Washington Sea Grant’s Crab Team, WDFW, UW, and volunteers.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Fish Health Program - Through the 2026 national Wild Fish Health Survey, staff visually surveyed 67 sites for invasive aquatic species (especially New Zealand mudsnails and invasive mussels) and collected more than 1,800 fish samples tested for whirling disease and VHS. Additional invasive brook trout suppression occurred in three major drainages on the Kalispel Reservation over the summer.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

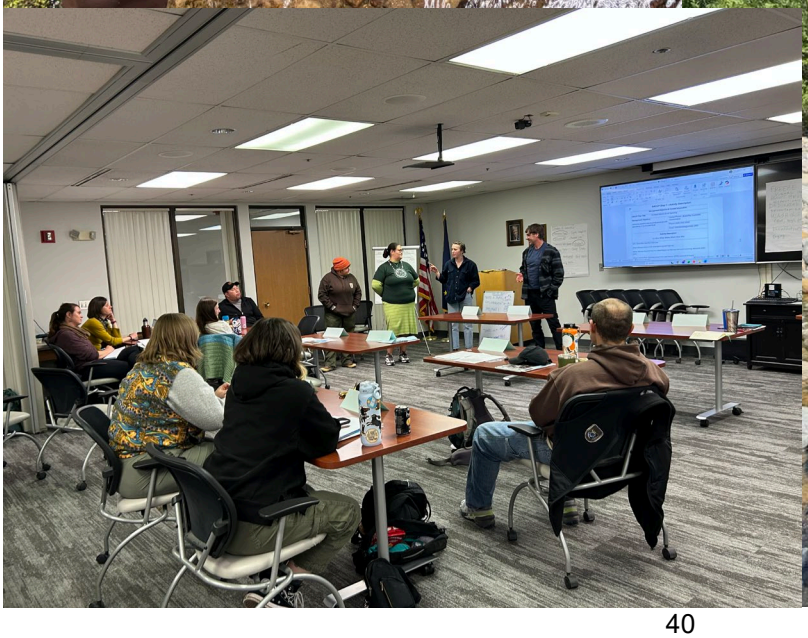
1. Provide Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification courses to partner agencies and staff across the country. The certification course will be offered in-person and online. The goal: to prevent and mitigate the risk of unintentionally spreading invasive species.

2. Work with tribes, states, and other partners to implement a Nationally Coordinated Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework for aquatic invasive species and pathways.

3. Work with entities responsible for key pathways (and associated vectors) to proactively reduce the risk of introduction of invasive species.

4. Continue to assist with EGC monitoring and trapping efforts and further development of ANS outreach and education materials.

5. Support emergency response preparedness related to invasive species introductions.



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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

in 2026, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's (WGFD) AIS program pursued new regulatory updates to add golden mussels to the list of AIS species. Additionally, other regulation changes included bolstering language in preparation for a response and containment scenario, as our regulations were heavily focused on prevention status. The Department also increased the motorized decal fees for both residents and non-residents to increase revenue for the program. These new regulations are set to be in place for November 1, 2026.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1) Through August 2026, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department AIS program has conducted 53,745 inspections, which is significantly less (20% decrease) than this point in 2025. Of these, 4,269 were high risk watercraft and 851 were decontaminated for water onboard or suspect AIS. A total of thirty-four boats have been intercepted with mussels attached or in compartments.

2) The AIS program is in the final stages of completing check station modernization upgrades at our Cheyenne, Glendo Reservoir and Keyhole Reservoir check stations, which includes power, water and on-demand decontamination units inside new office buildings.

3) The AIS program restructured a bit in 2026, which included the repurposing of an existing position into an AIS Monitoring and Response Coordinator role to help alleviate workloads and parse out work duties. The position is based in Cody, WY and will be WGFD's main point of contact for all monitoring and rapid response work moving forward.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1) The WGFD AIS program will prioritize updating training and outreach materials to align with the new regulations passed in 2026, which includes some exemptions for watercraft historically required to be inspected.

2) The program will work on bolstering the monitoring and response portion of our program with the new position created in 2026.

3) The program will continue to upgrade check stations as funds become available, including drilling a well at Keyhole Reservoir in preparation for the potential for a containment scenario.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

A fire incident management team purchased eDNA collection kits and analyses after a potential waterbody contamination on a fire incident; the Resource Advisor coordinated with the USFS National Genomics Center. The intent was not to detect immediate presence of potential introductions but to develop a baseline for continued monitoring. We developed a General Message template for future ordering.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1. eDNA monitoring program. Continue AIS monitoring with our partners with IIJA (Infrastructure) funding.

2. Fragrant Waterlily Detection & Eradication. One lake will be in eradication/monitoring status after the 2026 season.

3. Continued agreements with Invasive Species Action Network, Missoula County AIS district, MT FWP, Whitefish Lake Institute, and Trout Unlimited for outreach/education and/or monitoring.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Developing a new strategy within the new reorg structure.

2. Identifying new funding sources (no more IIJA) at unit and/or regional level.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

Thanks to new skills learned from our forest pest program, ISAN has started creating epoxy blocks of AIS specimens. In the past year, we've developed protocols for preparing mussel and crab species, ultimately creating more than 150 blocks for use in outreach. We look forward to stretching our creativity with these skills, including working with additional species and the planned development of a life cycle diagram of European green crab/five-spine crab. We hope to publish the protocols with open access so that anyone can create their own. We'll also offer to create them for other organizations. We feel they're an especially perfect fit for outdoor education opportunities!

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

1) Always be a good partner. This year, we prioritized opportunities to connect with agencies and organizations. One very bright spot in our year included multiple days of rampside outreach on Lake Sakakawea. We worked with local partners and the Forest Service for months to develop plans and materials, ultimately delivering outreach to dozens of local businesses and hundreds of boaters. We also continue to engage in statewide and regional efforts to improve outreach across Montana and the West. We strive to be a consistent and reliable partner to all.

2) Conduct outreach to the paddling community. Despite significant delays to our large-scale funding, we leveraged other resources as we were able to continue in-person outreach to paddlers. We were able to utilize partnerships with Grow Wild and Gallatin River Task Force to speak with paddlers in the Greater Yellowstone Area throughout the summer. We participated for the first time at Paddle Power Camp in Tualatin, Oregon and Ready, Set, Summer! in Lewistown, Montana to educate young paddlers. Lastly, we utilized a free resource with Skype A Scientist to talk with K-12 students in four separate states and provinces about their role in protecting our waters.

3) Improve pet rehoming efforts. In the last couple of years, we have worked to improve our efforts in rehoming aquatic pets. Through four events, we have rehomed more than 70 pets. We now have a better understanding of the barriers that pet owners face and factors contributing to their need for rehoming. We hope to direct our efforts to reduce those factors and barriers to better prevent pet release and improve efficiency in facilitating rehoming.

4) Participate in new collaborations. We were invited to join in with other local organizations to be part of a pilot Yellowstone River Ambassadors program. The goal was to conduct outreach at high-use points on the river, reminding users of etiquette and their responsibilities. In addition to AIS prevention, topics included bear awareness, human and pet waste impacts, access and regulation compliance, and more. The Ambassadors program demonstrated the success of collaboration and the importance of reducing impacts to this incredible resource. We've also teamed up on a proposal with new partners in Oregon to improve reporting and removal of invasive turtles as well as restoring native turtle habitat.

5) Communicate transparently about the current funding landscape. In order to elevate awareness and understanding, we have taken steps to communicate transparently about the impacts of the current funding landscape. Natural resource fields have had less representation in the media for funding impacts and we feel it's important to be transparent with the outdoor community about potential and realized impacts, not only for ISAN but for the future of AIS prevention.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1) Return to conducting paddling outreach at a large scale and scope, reconnecting with industry, agency, and NGO partners alike;

2) Expand the Don't Let It Loose program to one or more new states;

3) Continue progress on preventing the pet release pathway on military installations and at county fairs;

4) Reinvigorate K-12 education efforts; and

5) Advocate for continued and broadscale collaboration in the midst of ongoing uncertainties.

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Question 1. Provide one achievement / highlight from your AIS program that you would like the WRP members to know about.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will implement an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and early detection program across the Bighorn, Medicine Bow–Routt, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming during the 2026 and 2027 operating seasons. Currently, Wyoming does not have any known detections of zebra or quagga mussels, yet is surrounded by states with known populations, creating an urgent need for enhanced prevention and monitoring. This agreement supports Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Mussels Spend Plan by reducing the risk of dreissenid mussel introduction into BOR managed waters, including Boysen Reservoir and the North Fork Shoshone River. All work under this agreement will take place on National Forest System lands. This AIS prevention initiative will include the following:

- Install 200 AIS prevention signs at trailheads, campgrounds, boat launches, and high-use dispersed sites.
- Purchase, deploy and maintain two hot-water decontamination units for wildfire operations and contractor equipment cleaning.
- Construct six wader wash stations at high-use angling and boating locations.
- Conduct 30 eDNA sampling events and 30 plankton tow surveys for early detection of invasive species, with lab analysis completed.
- Deliver outreach reports documenting events (e.g., fishing clinics Clean, Drain, Dry education) entered into the NICE database.
- Submit a final summary report to BOR detailing completed tasks, expenditures, and monitoring results.

Question 2. Provide a description of up to five activities, accomplishments, priorities from the past year.

REGION 2 (CO, WY, SD, NE, & KS)

1. USFS has a Cost Share Agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) as well as other partnerships for boat inspection and decontamination programs on 10 reservoirs across 5 National Forests in the Region. In FY 2026, the FS cost-shared a total of $150,000 with CPW for boat inspections and decontaminations on NFS waters across Colorado:

a. San Juan NF – McPhee Reservoir. 4-way partnership with CPW, FS, BOR, and Delores Water Users. FS Share = $30,000K

b. Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre/Gunnison NF – Taylor Park Reservoir. FS share = $30,000K

c. Pike/San Isabel NF – Turquoise and Twin Lakes. FS Share = $15,000K

d. White River NF – Green Mountain and Ruedi Reservoirs. FS Share = $25,000K

e. Arapaho Roosevelt NF – Colorado Big-Thompson System of Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain and Lake Granby. FS Share = $50,000 towards the annual cost with partners making up for FS deficit in cost share agreement.

2. The USFS was able to secure an additional $100, 000 to be put towards AIS work in CO. The money was placed in a new Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for boat inspection and decontamination work across FS reservoirs across CO.

Question 3. Outline up to 5 priorities for the coming year.

1. Prevent the introduction and establishment of aquatic invasive species in Rocky Mountain waters.

2. Maintain and strengthen mandatory watercraft inspection and decontamination programs.

3. Expand AIS monitoring efforts, including eDNA surveillance and early detection programs.

4. Enhance rapid response readiness and capacity for new AIS detections.

5. Continue education, outreach, and stakeholder engagement initiatives to promote AIS prevention and compliance.

Figure 1: We have purchased and received pumpkins and supplies for two mobile weed wash stations for the Bighorn and Shoshone NF's with IIJA funding we received for the Wyoming AIS prevention program.