Montana AIS Update

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Mussel Detection in Montana 2016

• Invasive mussel veligers detected in Tiber & Canyon Ferry Reservoirs in November 2016.
• Governor Bullock declares a Natural Resource Emergency.
  o Incident Command put in place to support containment response and to elevate Montana’s AIS program.
  o Program triples in size. Expands prevention, containment at mussel waters, expand early detection, outreach and rapid response.
2019 AIS Legislation

• Funding FY20-21: $5.3 million.
  o $4.6 million annual allocation FWP. ($650,000 to DNRC for UC3, MISC and AIS grant program)
    ▪ Hydro fee.
    ▪ Prevention pass on fishing licenses.
    ▪ Out of state motorized and non-motorized boat fee.
    ▪ Bed tax
    ▪ General fund from increased broker fees.

• Mandatory ballast boat decontamination.
  o Entering state and crossing west over Divide.
Watercraft Inspection 2019

- Over 70,000 inspections
- 30 inspection stations.
- Over 200 FWP and partner AIS staff.
- 13 Mussel fouled vessels
- Contracted stations.
  - Tribes, counties, conservation Districts
- Other partner stations
  - Glacier, Bighorn NRA, Whitefish Lake
- All using same data system, forms and base protocols.
Monitoring 2019

• 2019 early detection monitoring ongoing.
• FWP AIS Lab:
  o Dreissenid early detection microscopy presence / absence.
  o AIS Taxonomic evaluation.
• Divers, snorkeling, substrate and shoreline surveys.
• Expanded training and partner involvement with survey / sample collection.
• No further dreissenid detections.
• No further detections this season will result in request to delist Canyon Ferry following this season.
Outreach 2019

• TV, radio, print and online outreach.
• Improved signage
• Targeted efforts to specific user groups.
• Irrigators and agriculture.
• Provide tools to partners to help deliver message.
Aquatic Plant Control Program (WRDA Directed)

- Watercraft Inspection Stations: $15,000,000 (FY 2019 $5 Million)
- Monitoring: $3,000,000 (FY 2019 $1 million)

S. 3021  America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018  [aka WRDA]

“(A) WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish (as applicable), operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection stations—

“(i) to protect the Columbia River Basin;  
[to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington]  
“(ii) to protect the Upper Missouri River Basin; and  
“(iii) to protect the Upper Colorado River Basin and the South Platte and Arizona Arkansas River Basins.
Referred to as Arizona