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**Send comments to:**

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(include 'AIS funding proposal' in the subject line)

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Environmental Quality Council welcomes public comment on the following proposal through **September 12, 2018**.

The EQC proposes a new funding structure for Montana's AIS programs as noted in the chart below. Currently, hydroelectric fees provide \$3.7 million in annual funding and the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass purchased by anglers generates about \$3 million per year. The EQC instead proposes using a combination of general fund and angler, migratory game bird hunter, and watercraft fees to provide future funding.

<b>Funding Sources Proposed by EQC, July 2018</b>	<b>Annual estimated revenue</b>
Anglers/Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass* (Resident=\$2/year, Nonresident=\$7.50/year)	\$1,707,420
Migratory game bird hunter/Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass (\$2/resident and nonresident)	\$52,226
Motorized watercraft fee (Resident=\$10/year, Nonresident=\$60)	\$1,090,780
Nonmotorized watercraft fee (Resident=\$5, Nonresident=\$10)	\$375,235
General Fund	\$3,274,339
<b>Total estimated annual revenue</b>	<b>\$6,500,000</b>

\*Current Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass fees = \$2/resident and \$15/nonresident

The EQC will review comments received at its September 12-13 meeting in Helena as it considers whether to move this concept forward for consideration by the full legislature in 2019.