

Montana Invasive Species Council

MISC is a statewide partnership working to protect Montana's economy, natural resources, and public health through a coordinated approach to combat invasive species.



MISC was formed in 2015 to advise the Governor on a science-based, comprehensive program to identify, prevent, eliminate, reduce, and mitigate the impacts of invasive species in Montana. MISC was codified in the 2017 Legislature (80-7-1201 and 80-7-1203). MISC is administratively attached to MT DNRC.

MISC PROJECTS

- **Invasive Woody Plants**

Montana's rivers and riparian areas are threatened by non-native Saltcedar, Common Buckthorn and Russian Olive. These species can form solid stands that extend for miles, congest water channels, create flood and fire hazards, and consume more water than native species. MISC initiated the creation of the Woody Invasive Working Group that will draft a statewide management plan and educational materials. MISC will support science advisory panels to determine best practices for the control, removal and revegetation of areas with woody invasive plants.

- **Feral Swine Outreach and Response**

No known populations of feral swine have been detected in Montana. However, feral swine numbers are increasing in southern US states and Canada. The destructive impacts of feral swine threaten agricultural land, natural areas, livestock, wildlife, and the spread of diseases. MISC collaborates with the Department of Livestock on an outreach campaign and the development of a response plan should feral swine be detected in Montana. MISC participates in the US-Canada trans-boundary feral swine working group to promote regional cooperation for monitoring, reporting, and control efforts.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program**

AIS grants are intended to increase local capacity and involvement to address AIS issues. Projects can address the following: prevention, early detection, education and outreach, research, or treatment. Each year \$250,000 in grant funding is available to Montana communities; local, state, and tribal entities; and Montana-based non-governmental organizations. MISC and DNRC co-manage the AIS grant application process and administer the program.

- **Invasive Species Informational Poster**

The 2023 Montana Legislature authorized MISC to create an informational poster about invasive species to be displayed at all Montana Department of Transportation rest areas. (60-2-244). These posters target travelers/non-residents who recreate on Montana's land and water. The colorful graphics provide prevention tips, laws, and where to find additional information. An image of the poster is on the next page.

CONTACT

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Play Clean Go

Keep the adventure, leave the invasive species.

REMOVE plants and mud from boots, gear, pets and vehicles.

CLEAN your gear before entering and leaving recreation sites.

STAY on designated roads and trails. Always start the day with clean shoes and gear.

Visit PlayCleanGo.org/take-action for more information.

PROTECT MONTANA'S LANDS AND WATERS

Do your part to recreate responsibly. Here's how you can help.

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CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. Remove all mud, water and vegetation from watercraft before leaving access area

PULL OVER. Stop at all open watercraft inspection stations. It's the law.

GET CHECKED. Inspections are required before launching out-of-state boats.

ORDER A PASS. Nonresident boaters need an AIS Prevention Pass.

Visit fwp.mt.gov/ais for more information and to purchase a prevention pass.

PROTECT OUR WATERS

Invasive species poster for Montana rest areas

MISC COUNCIL

Executive Committee

County Weed Districts: Bryce Christiaens*, MISC Chair - Missoula County Weed District Manager

Conservation Districts: Steve Wanderaas, MISC Co-Vice Chair - McCone Conservation District Chairman

MT FWP Representative: Tom Woolf, MISC Co-Vice Chair – FWP AIS Bureau Chief

MISC Administrator: Liz Lodman, DNRC Invasive Species Program Manager