

# COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN 100<sup>th</sup> MERIDIAN TEAM

## Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2020

The Columbia River Basin 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Team met remotely via GoToWebinar on Tuesday, June 22, 2020. The meeting was held remotely because of COVID-19 conditions. The agenda is included as Appendix A.

**Attendees:** Erin Abernethy, Colleen Allen, Eric Anderson, Leslie Bach, Jennifer Bayer, Martina Beck, Dave Beedle, Cassidy Bender, Rick Boater, Steve Bollens, Ron Britton, Debbie Carlson, Marcie Clement, Tim Counihan, Lori Curtis, Tammy Davis, Dee Davis, Lisa DeBruyckere, Catherine deRivera, Glenn Dolphin, Lisa Dowling, Robyn Draheim, Jayden Duckworth, Brant Dupree, Erika Edmiston, Leah Elwell, Joshua Emerson, Joanne Grady, Alan Hageman, Cassandra Hagemann, Russ Hartzell, Keith Hatch, Rayola Jacobsen, Carson Keeler, Nicole Kimmel, Lloyd Knight, Tamara Knudson, Liz Lodman, Craig McLane, Holly McLellan, Heidi McMaster, Laura Megill, Ken Merrill, Alana Mesenbrink, Rich Miller, Susan Mills, Christine Moffitt, Alan Monek, Vincent Nagashima, Joe Norton, Mason Parker, Stephen Phillips, Jen Poirier, Anthony Prisciandaro, Martyne Reesman, Stacy Schmidt, Hilary Smith, Laura Sprague, Michael Stephenson, Kelly Stockton-Fiti, Mark Sytsma, Theresa Thom, Chad Tokowica, Richard Visser, Damian Walter, Teagan Ward, Kate Wilson, Thomas Woolf, and Nicholas Zurfluh.

## COLUMBIA BASIN MONITORING FORUM (T. COUNIHAN, R. DRAHEIM)

Tim Counihan led the discussion relative to the status of water body monitoring throughout the Columbia River basin. Individuals conducting monitoring provided updates:

Craig McLane (Montana)

- In full swing sampling.
- Ethanol stock was initially low, but adequate now for sampling this season.
- Sampled 106 water bodies in MT; 396 sites/samples collected.
- Processed 300 samples to date.
- Process Missouri River state samples as well – about 80 samples received to date; 15 processed.
- No positive hits on any samples to date.
- Two new lakes with faucet snails in NW Montana.

Martina Beck (British Columbia)

- On track with sampling based on temperatures – started in early June.
- Concerned initially about supply availability, but supplies are adequate.
- Three weeks of samples have been processed; all negative.

Steve Bollens (WSU)

Samples are being collected for cross-polarized light microscopy and FlowCam imaging microscopy (for veligers), as well as for eDNA analysis (for any life stage(s)).

- Samples Columbia River Basin stations bi-weekly (May-October). Field sampling started on time.
- Lab processing has been challenging to do safely with COVID-19, but all is on track moving forward. One person is sent to the field alone to sample. Field collections on schedule.

#### Heidi McMaster (BOR)

- BOR had an initial delay, but is back on schedule. Completed 20 reservoirs to date; some are sampled more than once annually. Delay in analysis because of social distancing in the lab – minimal staff, therefore, returns have been delayed. Denver lab is also struggling because their lab was shut down for a period of time.
- There was an issue with hiring seasonal crews, but they were eventually hired (2 sampling teams comprised of 2 individuals).

#### Nick Zurfluh (Idaho)

- No detections in 2019. Approached 2020 with similar sampling tenacity. Hiring freeze in Idaho and limitations on programming activities.
- Have adapted and shifted seasonal work to full-time staff.
- Conducted ~400 veliger sample tows, 50 adult surveys.
- Experienced initial supply demand issues, but all is on schedule now.
- Conducting survey blitzes – select a region, or large watershed, and perform a survey blitz for aquatic plants, dreissenids, and other invasive species.
- Idaho has adapted to COVID-19 by working with sampling partners to sample for the state – providing them with clean sampling equipment, etc. A significant amount of sampling has occurred as a result of these partnerships (e.g. Coeur d’Alene Tribe, etc.).

#### Nicole Kimmel (Alberta)

- Budget cutbacks and COVID-19 issues – will monitor 43 water bodies and reservoirs, down 25 from last year. Staff are attempting to augment shortage with existing staff and financial resources.
- Condensing sampling within a few months versus previous years.
- A private contractor processes samples in-house.

#### Damian Walter (USACE)

- NW Division lifted travel restrictions in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Walla Walla District is ramping up – samples this year will be close to marina dock areas and from shoreline tows – not using boats.
- Seattle District – will ramp up. They are behind and have not yet done any sampling. They will sample (July-October). Sampling will most likely occur from shores, until boating is permitted, or protocols are in place (unknown at this time).
- Portland District will probably collect samples along shorelines, like the other districts, until boating is permitted.

- Likely will be fewer samples this year (sample set each month). At times, there will be fewer samples collected if there are county COVID-19 restrictions.
- No eDNA samples are being collected.

Rich Miller (PSU)

- 1 day/week furlough at PSU (including HR and contracting offices).
- Some samples have been shipped to USACE partners. Libby Dam has collected at least 1 set of samples to date. Working to ensure everyone has the equipment they need for veliger samples and adult substrate samples.
- Field crews should be hired by the end of June for July-September sampling focused in central Oregon (e.g., Paulina Lake) and far eastern Oregon as well as the Columbia above where WSU has been sampling.
- No test results received to date.

Richard Visser (Washington)

- 2 teams of 2 people on the east and west sides of Washington. Started sampling May 18 with an end date of November 1.
- Significant budget shortfalls will reduce the size of the teams – 15% overall budget reductions.
- If anyone knows of any funding sources of staff to assist on west side, please let Richard know (need support to hire someone July-November).
- Full sampling regime at water bodies, including one eDNA sample at each site.
- State staffs will be experiencing pending furloughs.

Tim is planning on hosting some webinars in the near future to explore risk assessments. Significant progress has been made compiling regional water quality data conducted by A. Spevulda, etc. The project is supported through BOR. Information is being collected re: boater use and pressure and compiled with water quality data. Tim is working with Elizabeth Brown to access data from the regional database. Tim will survey participants to select the best dates for upcoming webinars.

PSMFC signed another agreement for WRDA funding for 2020 – match funds for the 4 Columbia River Basin states and PSU. Grant funding through March of 2021.

## PARTNER UPDATES – WATERCRAFT INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION PROGRAMMING

Entities throughout the CRB provided updates on their watercraft inspection and decontamination programs.

Washington DFW (E. Anderson)

- Last 10 months – Check station roller coaster ride. Budget reductions caused closure of check stations and layoff of inspectors on November 15. Stations reopened in February 2020. BOR provided grants to WA in March, and then the Legislature granted a proviso (\$400K addition annually) until COVID-19 hit. Now, furloughs are causing issues. Starting July-August, both

stations will likely be closed down 4 days per month. 6,756 inspections conducted to date – 3,200 came from areas of concern. 1,980 inspections came from positive dreissenid waters. Conducted 64 standing water decontaminations, 48 plant decontaminations, 6 watercraft had other aquatic animals, and 12 dreissenid infested watercraft were detected (7 were notifications from other states). Currently in construction phase at Spokane station – permanent decontamination unit is being installed and estimated completed is by August 1. Inspectors are documenting and removing plants detected on watercraft – if they can be collected, they could potentially be identified. Eric will talk to inspectors. Inspectors are now wearing masks, but people towing boats do not get out of vehicles, interviewers maintain social distance while the other inspector inspects the boat.

#### Oregon DFW (R. Boatner)

- Difficult start to the season because of hiring. Inspected 6,806 watercraft, intercepted 6 with dreissenids. Only 5 of 6 stations are open – 2 have reduced staff because fewer people were hired this year.
- A RR exercise was conducted on Lake Billy Chinook. It was a 2-day exercise that resulted in an understanding that we have a new tool to advance rapid response.
- Developed a theater app to explain *Clean, Drain, Dry*, but then COVID-19 hit. The company has it on their web service. More than 118,000 hits on the ad to date, which exceeded expectations.
- Following social distancing at inspection stations, including travel to and from.

#### Idaho Department of Agriculture (N. Zurfluh)

- WID season starts early (February) to interact with the snowbird demographic. The initial wave of inspection stations opened up on time as did WID training. After COVID-19, Idaho assessed the WID program and safety concerns.
  - How can we make the sites that are open as safe as possible, including those that are run by cooperators? And give them tools, such as PPE and cleaning supplies.
  - How can we make the next wave of inspection stations scheduled to be open prior to Memorial Day? Teach inspectors how to perform their tasks safely due to COVID-19, PPT slides, hands-on boat inspection – we had to change that:
    - Online training and YouTube Videos
    - Webinars
    - Printed materials
    - Host small in-person meetings only when social distancing can occur and when it is absolutely necessary (very infrequently)
- Opened 18 of the 20 inspection stations as scheduled. The stations that did not open were under stricter stay-at-home orders, or could not be staffed. All primary roadside stations have opened up with all COVID-19 considerations in place (not distributing outreach materials, ink pens used to complete inspection reports).
- Conducted 36,000 WID inspections, more than 1,000 hot washes, more than 1,000 boats from infested water bodies, more than 800 watercraft returned to station by law enforcement, and 20 dreissenid infested boats to date. Most infested boats coming from the Lower Colorado.

- Working with Idaho Department of Transportation to work on station construction issues (office space, etc.).
- Working through a procurement process for additional media outreach.

#### Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (T. Woolf)

- Robert Walters completed a great summary (The Decon Think Tank) of what states are doing to address COVID-19 issues.
- 35,000 inspections conducted (increase of 40%), 18 dreissenid infested boats, 20 with aquatic plants. Early season out-of state traffic was about 3x higher than last year.
- Seeing a lot of out-of-state boat sales; people are looking for commercial haulers or driving to Michigan and picking up boats.
- Great participation from partners – more and more are contracting to operate inspection stations.
- We invested in app developments with Colorado, contracting for a number of updates to make it more workable for roadside inspections. These improvements are available for all on the Colorado system.
- Focus in 2020:
  - Quality control - QA checks at stations and working with ISAN on secret shopper program, providing incentives for inspectors this year working with Trout Unlimited (gift cards less than \$50).
  - Law enforcement - More than 50 citations and 50 written warnings
  - Outreach – New out of state fee.

#### BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (M. Beck)

- Scheduled to deliver training for 30 inspectors in mid-March during midst of COVID-19 closures, so start of season was delayed until mid-May.
- Returning staff only will be staffing stations – training conducted in May (7 full stations and 2 roving crews). Our most northern station at Dawson Creek was not opened because of hiring restrictions.
- Contingency planning in March.
- COVID-19 screening at southern borders was announced and started in mid-April. Some inspection staff were diverted to the southern borders. It wrapped up this weekend. Staff will be redeployed doing AIS work.
- Border is currently scheduled to be closed until late July.
- 4 dreissenid infested boats to date – from Great Lakes. A total of 23 high risk inspections. Numbers are relatively low due to late openings, COVID-19 restrictions, and border closure.
- Launched internal WID app (used to use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party platform).
- Made adjustments for COVID-19, including disinfecting vehicles between shifts and other protocols.

## RAPID RESPONSE IN THE CRB (L. ELWELL, L. DEBRUYCKERE)

Leah Elwell and Lisa DeBruyckere provided updates on the status of rapid response exercises in the CRB, highlighting the process and outcomes of the recent Oregon exercise. The following is a chronology of past exercises, including the timing of the launch of the new [www.crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com) website.

- 2007 – Vancouver, WA Exercise
- 2008 – CRB Interagency Response Plan completed
- 2008 – Portland, OR Exercise
- 2009 – Boise, ID Exercise
- 2010 – Lake Roosevelt, WA Exercise
- 2011 – Lake Koocanusa, MT Exercise
- 2013 – Prineville, OR Exercise
- 2014 – CRB Interagency Response Plan updated
- 2016 – Jackson Lake, WY Exercise
- 2017 – Wenatchee, WA Exercise
- 2018 – Kalispell, MT Exercise
- 2019 – Hells Canyon of the Snake River, ID Exercise
- 2019 – [crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com) site launched
- 2020 – Lake Billy Chinook, OR Exercise – Virtual

The Lake Billy Chinook exercise was held remotely May 21-22, 2020 because of COVID-19 conditions. The exercise included the following partners: Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Governors Office, Oregon State Marine Board, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland General Electric, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The exercise objectives were to: Update the Oregon Rapid Response Plan, test the [www.crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com) site for functionality and use, use the ESA Manual for Sec. 7 Consultation, expand communication capabilities, share information post-exercise with additional partners and stakeholders, and document lessons learned to enhance utility of future CRB RR exercises.

The exercise scenario included a detection of a fouled boat from Lake Pleasant, Arizona that launched in Lake Billy Chinook.

The outcomes of the exercise included: Successfully completed a 2-day virtual exercise; improved understanding of partner authorities and roles; explored feasibility of chemical control in Lake Billy Chinook; utilized new [www.crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com) site for forms, resources and ESA consultation information; conducted ESA consultation call with US Fish and Wildlife Service ESA staff and NOAA; and engaged PIOs from multiple partner agencies to generate press on exercise.

During the exercise, the State of Oregon prepared for the actual call with the USFWS Regional Office to initiate Section 7 consultation. The steps they took included:

- Define the action area – upstream and downstream and within water body
- Use <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac> to define listed species, define a polygon of affected area

- Use [www.crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com), listed species and critical habitat tab, and access table of listed species and critical habitats
- Describe potential response actions based on listed species and critical habitats within action area
- Use [www.crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com) to assess potential effects of chemical and mechanical methods on listed species and critical habitats
- Access state guidelines for timing of in-water work
- Use [www.crbdirt.com](http://www.crbdirt.com) Best Management Practices – highlight those of particular relevance for T and E species and critical habitats. Review BMPs to avoid introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Contact USFWS Assistant Regional Director of Ecological Services and walk through proposed action, timeline, listed species, proposed chemical and mechanical methods that will be used, and best management practices that will be implemented. Ask for feedback and guidance.

Exercise participants documented lessons learned: Virtual meeting allowed for focused work – morning session with afternoon breakout; clarified expectations for ESA Consultation process; prompted self-evaluation of agencies on specific responses or actions; site visits can improve logistics for potential actions; new CRB rapid response resources positive improvement; and additional partner participation and feedback needed.

Next steps for CRB rapid response include preparing ESA consultation steps with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and planning additional exercises in Montana and Nevada.

## WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACT FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION (D. WALTER, USACE)

Damian Walter provided statistics on 2019-2020 funding for inspection stations and monitoring:

- Watercraft Inspection Stations 2019: Watercraft Inspection program agreement(\$4.8 M); Closed out for 2019
- Monitoring 2019: Monitoring agreement (\$719,983); Due to close out soon for 2019, getting final invoices.
- Watercraft Inspection Stations 2020: Watercraft Inspection program agreement (\$5 M)
- Monitoring 2020; Monitoring agreement (about \$720k)

Relative to implementation, the Corps established an Agreement with PSMFC that includes annual Statements of Work (SOW) to identify the expected work and budgets. There is a 50% / 50% cost share on a reimbursement basis; WID and Monitoring are separate scopes of work. Monthly reimbursements occur.

There is an amendment/update to the Letter Report for WID, monitoring, and rapid response that will add Wyoming and Nevada. It is currently in DQC review. NEPA and ESA (WID & Monitoring) have been updated and are completed. The ESA update to/for rapid response is being submitted to NMFS & USFWS. Expected completion is Fall of 2020 to incorporate into 2021 agreement.

There will be a geographic expansion to incorporate other watersheds. A Letter Report is being developed for each basin. Upper Colorado: Albuquerque District; Upper Missouri: Omaha District; and South Platte: Omaha District. It will include monitoring and rapid response. There is an overall report

summarizing the Letter Reports, discussing common elements, work processes, coordination among the states and basins. Expected completion is 30 September 2020. FY2020 Appropriation \$15 (CRB about \$6.5m in 2020).

Relative to rapid response, USACE is assisting with purchase of equipment, training, and exercises. NEPA is completed, and a framework programmatic for ESA consultation is underway. The agreement has been drafted, which allows SOW to include incurred expenses. The agreement was held up for months in legal review – cleared (NWW and NWD). It is currently at HQ USACE, where USACE is trying to resolve agreement structure issues.

A Letter Report for Flowering Rush was developed for the four states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. It is currently in DQC review and Legal review - NEPA and ESA have been completed. The ESA for 2020 is a one-time no effect. The ESA programmatic framework has been submitted; but due to current workload, NMFS & USFWS were unable to complete this fiscal year. USACE performed the 2020 ESA based on 2019 informal consultation with the Services. The 2020 agreement is expected to be completed in mid-July.

## FEDERAL PARTNER UPDATES (J. GRADY, T. THOM, H. MCMASTER)

USFWS staff shared several national updates:

- Federal interagency MOU on rapid response to invasive mussels in western waters is working through the clearance process among DOI, USFS, and USACE.
- Final report of Safeguarding the West in progress. Look forward to transitioning focus to collective implementation of QZAP 2.0.
- In Department clearance process to release DOI's Draft Invasive Species Strategic Plan for public comment.
- Inter-Agency Agreement (5 years)
  - Funding for Watercraft Inspection and Decon classes (PSMFC) and western Watercraft Inspection and Decon database (CPW)
  - Signatories – Lead: FWS
    - BLM, BOR, NPS
  - Goal of \$250K annually across 4 bureaus
  - Anticipated awards end of Fiscal Years
- Funding Updates for FY 2020
  - State ANS Plan Grants\_(all regions)
    - Funding opportunity F20AS00034
    - All pre proposals due to Don MacLean by June 26<sup>th</sup>. All packages in GS with regional coordinators by Aug 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Increased for 2020 (~\$89,200 per applicant)
  - QZAP funds\_(Region 2)
    - Funding opportunity in process.
    - Increased to \$2.0M for 2020
    - Containment, prevention, outreach, early detection, research
  - 100th Meridian Initiative' funds (Region 6) Not this year.
- There is a New Grants System called Grants Solutions
  - Transparent, consistent, documented process.
  - All DOI bureaus are transferring to this system.
    - Live now – Fish & Wildlife Service



- October 13, 2020 – National Park Service
- December 7, 2020 – Bureau Indian Affairs, Bureau Land Management, Bureau Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey
- New grants still apply thru Grants.gov
- Modifications, time extensions, reporting thru GS
- All existing grantees have grants/agencies in system
- Recipient Training: <https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/recipient-training-videos/>
- Your agency/organization decides who your representatives are. Encourage each grantee to have both Program staff and grant staff assigned to grants: <https://home.grantsolutions.gov/home/getting-started-request-a-user-account/>
- Progress on HACCP was derailed by COVID-19. Most regional AIS Coordinators and NPS reps were trained similar to 2019. There is internal funding in FWS and NPS to support HACCP classes. USFWS planned to hold 22 classes between 2019-2021. Next Steps TBD – future dates? Online?

Bureau of Reclamation updates:

- The US BOR has been in touch with Washington DFW, Roosevelt Lake representatives, and BOR re: work on flowering rush. In August, lake levels will be sufficiently low to conduct flowering rush surveys.
- Quagga mussels – FY20 project approved for funding in 2020 via Safeguarding the West is in progress - moving to award stage – awards will be announced by August 17, 2020 (Colville Tribe, Montana check stations, RCO Office in WA for RR training (ICS), and WDFW (Cle Elum, Tri-cities and year-round operation).
- Moving forward with getting ahead of grant process by FY21. Call for proposals was distributed earlier today. If you didn't receive the announcement and you have a project proposal you would like BOR to consider, contact Heidi (\$2 million minus interagency agreement for WID database).

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (S. PHILLIPS)

### WRDA 2020

- **SENATE:** [S.3591](#)—America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 **Sponsor:** [Sen. Barrasso, John \[R-WY\]](#) (Introduced 05/04/2020). **Latest Action:** Senate - 05/11/2020 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. **Details:** May 4, 2020 *Aquatic Invasive Species News:* <https://www.westernais.org/news>
  - Sec.1005. Watercraft Inspection Stations: strike "Arizona River" and insert "Arkansas River"
  - Sec.1603. Aquatic invasive species research.
  - Sec.1604. Invasive species mitigation and reduction: This section authorizes \$10 million in appropriations for fiscal years 2021 through 2024 to support watercraft inspection stations along the United States border with Canada. Upper Missouri River Basin: The purpose would be to develop voluntary AIS management plans to mitigate the effects of invasive species on public infrastructure facilities located on reservoirs of the Corps reservoirs.

- Sec.'s 1607/1608. Asian carp prevention and control pilot program/Expansion
- Sec.1609. Invasive species in Alpine Lakes pilot program.
- **House:** Will be introduced soon.

**S.2975/ H.R. 6057 - Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2019: )No Movement, not part of WRDA to date).**

Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] (Introduced 12/04/2019):

- Section 2: **Bureau of Reclamation Assistance** This section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to provide financial assistance to purchase, establish, operate, or maintain watercraft inspection and decontamination stations.
- Section 3: Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Authority: This section provides each federal agency that is a member of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force with the authority to inspect and decontaminate watercraft and, as necessary, impound, quarantine, or otherwise prevent entry to limit the movement of aquatic invasive species into and out of U.S. waters.
- Section 4: Technical Corrections: Fixes "**Arizona**" issue -- makes the Arkansas River Basin eligible
  - APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter.
  - (2) MANDATORY INSPECTION/DECONTAMINATION.—To limit the movement of aquatic invasive species (as defined in section 2(a)) into or out of the waters of the United States, each task force agency **may**, as appropriate— (A) conduct mandatory inspections and de-contamination of watercraft.

**S. 3051/HR 925 America's Conservation Enhancement Act: (Introduced 12/12/2019...../01/39/2019 )**

- The bill combines several legislative provisions codifying the National Fish Habitat Partnership program, reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, the establishment of a task force to combat the rapidly growing threat of chronic wasting disease.
- **SEC. 105. INVASIVE SPECIES.**
  - *Section 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, (16 U.S.C. 666c–1) is amended—“(p) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025— “(1) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers; and “(2) \$2,500,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.”.*
- **Passed House 11/20/19. Passed Senate 01/09/2020 with amendment. Sent back to House. Part of larger legislative package later in year.**

**Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2019 (H.R. 3742):** Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12] (Introduced 07/12/2019)

- TITLE I—WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION 9SEC. 101. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION 10SUBACCOUNT. 11(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669b) is amended in subsection (c).

- “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBACCOUNT.
  - “(C) DEPOSITS INTO SUBACCOUNT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer \$1,300,000,000 from the general fund of the treasury each fiscal year to the fund for deposit in the Subaccount.
  - “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds apportioned from the Subaccount.
  - “(F) **may be used to manage, control, and prevent invasive and nuisance species,** disease, and other risks to species of greatest conservation need.
- Out of House Committee on Natural Resources 12/5/19 – vote 26-6. Senate?

**"Murder Hornet Eradication Act":** [H.R. 6761](#) (Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, D-AZ)

- To require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide financial assistance to States in eradicating the Asian giant hornet, and for other purposes.

**HEARING:** On Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. EDT in room 1324 Longworth (Hearing Room) and online via Cisco Webex video conference platform, the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife will hold a legislative hearing that will include: [H.R. 6761](#) "Murder Hornet Eradication Act". **Coming Soon!!!!** Will be summarized in *AI NEWS*.

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/hornets>

**OTHER AIS RELATED LEGISLATION:** <https://www.westernais.org/regulations>

- Scroll down to -- US AIS - Related Federal Legislation
  - [115th Congress AIS Federal Legislation](#)
  - [116th Congress AIS Federal Legislation](#)

## HATCHERY BIOSECURITY FROM STATE AND FEDERAL PERSPECTIVES (S. SCHMIDT, L. SPRAGUE)

Hatchery biosecurity is a work in progress. The AHAC (Aquatic Health Advisory Committee) review included in-state and out-of-state facilities. Each facility was assessed individually for frequency and intensity of inspection. AHAC Committee includes Fisheries Division Administrator (Fish Management Supervisor, Regional Fish Manager), Hatchery Section Chief and Hatchery Manager, Fish Health Coordinator, Native Species Coordinator, Geneticist, and AIS Bureau Chief/Early Detection and Monitoring Coordinator, including AIS Specialist.

The Hatchery Risk Assessment Form documents water source temperature, rearing structures (settling ponds), fish species (sizes, sources, fish or eggs), 3 years of fish health and AIS testing results, downstream waterbody, and biosecurity measures.

Hatchery Inspections are based on biosecurity criteria and a point system that includes water source, infrastructure (holding structures, fencing (people)/netting (animals)), public accessibility, proximity to known AIS populations, and other/miscellaneous.

Additional measures include dedicated sampling equipment, sampling within the facility, requiring inspectors to be trained and experienced in AIS techniques, fish stomachs, and eDNA. All hatcheries are

different – singular approach won't work. Species would be rare because adult searches wouldn't find them. So what is the minimum?

- 4-5 replicate samples at each location to be sampled
- Minimum 1 location – outflow of system
- Volume – as much as you can get
- Nets or hand grabs of water
- If water, filter and preserve in field (dna degradation) – harder to do at private hatcheries
- Positive and negative controls

The Bitterroot Fish Hatchery was a case study: The site was quarantined after New Zealand Mud Snails were found in the facility. In November 19, the facility was decontaminated with hot water, the water was shut off, and excavation occurred. From November 19 through February 2020, the facility was dewatered, some freezing occurred, the site was excavated, and the site was cleaned with copper and bleach. In March of 2020, the site was re-watered, re-inspected, and no live snails were found, so the site was re-permitted. Finding a new source of fish for Bitterroot Fish Hatchery was difficult. The USFWS couldn't get permission to inspect for AIS at potential donor hatcheries, and there was red tape and legal jargon from hatchery. Bitterroot Fish Hatchery will continue its hatchery inspections, and continue with inspection of private ponds stocked with fish from this hatchery.

Future issues to address include implementation of new protocols by 2020, addressing private ponds (particularly those found to have New Zealand Mud Snails, and addressing private hatcheries that test positive for AIS. Developing regional and national plans is important.

Columbia Pacific NW Hatchery Biosecurity Audits are conducted at least quarterly.

- Field collection biosecurity audits define Zones of AIS and Pathogens (i.e., no fish from a pos NZMS zone to a neg zone),
- Return fish to same watersheds
- Annual biosecurity training refreshers
- Try to only release or move fish within watersheds
- For translocation activities of ESA species, minimum 30 day quarantine before movement, but shoot for 90 day
- Goal is to have all Fish Health staff to go through HACCP certification to assist hatcheries
- Level 1 and 2 boat inspection certifications ( mainly used for in house gear, including screw traps, etc.)

## FEEDBACK FOR FUTURE CRB MEETINGS

Expect a survey from Leah Elwell that asks for your feedback in highlighting issues CRB members would like to discuss at future meetings.

# Virtual Columbia Basin Team Meeting

## AGENDA

June 23, 2020

All times are in **Pacific Time**



9:00 am	Welcome and Introductions	Stephen Phillips, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Leah Elwell, Invasive Species Action Network Lisa DeBruyckere, Creative Resource Strategies
9:10 – 10:00 am	Columbia Basin Monitoring Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates from partners on monitoring plans for 2020</li> <li>• Update on the Regional Assessment of Mussel Invasion Risk</li> </ul>	Tim Counihan, US Geological Survey Robyn Draheim, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission contractor
10:00 – 11:00 am	Agency Updates on Watercraft Inspection Season and WRDA Implementation	Eric Anderson, WA Dept Fish & Wildlife Rick Boatner, OR Fish and Wildlife Nic Zurfluh, ID Dept of Agriculture Zach Crete, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Martina Beck, BC Ministry of Environ.
11:00 – 11:20 am	Rapid Response in the CRB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debrief on Oregon Virtual Exercise</li> <li>• Upcoming Exercises</li> </ul>	Lisa DeBruyckere, CRS Leah Elwell, ISAN
11:30 – 1:00 pm	BREAK - LUNCH	
1:00 – 1:20 pm	USACE Updates: Flowering rush, WID, monitoring, rapid response, and national activities (NV, WY additions)	Damian Walter, US Army Corps of Engineers
1:20 – 1:50 pm	Federal Partner Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes and revisions to grants, timelines and activities</li> </ul>	Joanne Grady, Barak Shemai, Theresa Thom, US Fish and Wildlife Service Heidi McMaster, US Bureau of Reclamation
1:50 – 2:10 pm	Legislative Update	Stephen Phillips, PSMFC
2:10 – 2:40 pm	Hatchery Biosecurity from state and federal perspectives	Stacy Schmidt, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Laura Sprague, USFWS Columbia Pacific NW Region
2:40 – 2:50 pm	<b>Next steps: feedback for future CRB actions and focus</b>	
2:50 pm	Public Comment	
3:00 pm	Adjourn	