

# U.S. Department of the Interior Invasive Species Update

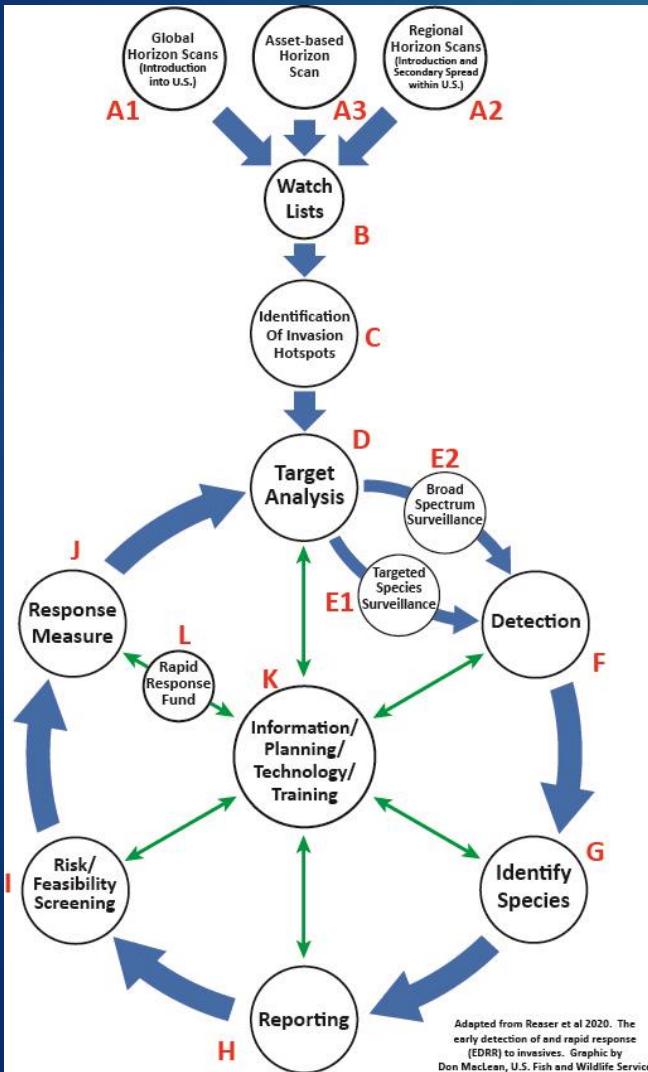
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COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN  
100<sup>TH</sup> MERIDIAN MEETING  
DECEMBER 13, 2023



# Fiscal Year 2022-26 BIL – Activity 6

## → National EDRR Framework



Adapted from Reaser et al 2020. The early detection of and rapid response (EDRR) to invasives. Graphic by Don MacLean, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### FY22+ EDRR Framework Projects -Building Capabilities-

- Horizon Scans & Hot Spot Analysis (A, B, C)
- Molecular detection @ points of entry (E, F, G)
- Resource Manager's eDNA Toolbox (D-G)
- Genetic Material Repository & Network (E, F, G)
- READI-Net: eDNA surveillance network (D)
- INHABIT (terrestrial plant) advancements (A-C)
- Siren: The National EDRR Information System (K)

### FY23+ EDRR Framework Projects -Building Capacity-

- Targeted Early Detection Surveillance (D, E, F)
- Invasion Hotspots
- Asset Based Protection
- Molecular Lab Network (G)
- Genetic Marker Development
- Processing Molecular Samples
- Rapid Response (J, L)
- Rapid Response Fund (Aquatic Invasive Species)
- DOI Interjurisdictional Rapid Response Team

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# Species Highlights

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## ▶ **DOI Mussels Coordination**

- ▶ Program
- ▶ Funding, including Interagency Agreement
- ▶ QZAP 2.0 Implementation
  - ▶ DOI FY 2023 Implementation Highlights – in process
- ▶ Moss Ball Response After Action Report

## ▶ **European Green Crab**

- ▶ BIA, USGS, USFWS cooperative response measures and internal coordination

## ▶ **Mussels Rapid Response MOU**



# Mussels MOU: Overview

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- ▶ Interagency MOU to Support Rapid Response Actions for Invasive Zebra and Ouagga Mussels in Western Waters of the United States (2020)
- ▶ BIA, BLM, BOR, FWS, NPS, USGS, USACE, USFS
- ▶ Strengthen Federal coordination, communication, and collaboration to enhance the capacity of Federal, State, and Tribal agencies to rapidly respond to new infestations of Dreissenid mussels (zebra mussels and quagga mussels) in western waters.
- ▶ Participate in the implementation of coordinated, interjurisdictional rapid response actions:
  - ▶ 1) at an early stage of invasion where opportunities exist to contain or eliminate the infestation; and
  - ▶ 2) when requested by an affected Federal, State, or Tribal agency to engage in rapid response actions.

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/usace-usfs-doi-mou-2020.pdf>

# Mussels MOU: Goals



- A. **Coordinate** with one another and with lead action agencies on rapid response actions to address new detections of Dreissenid mussels in western waters.
  
- B. Promote development and implementation of Dreissenid mussel **rapid response plans and associated mutual-aid agreements**, where appropriate, to facilitate rapid response actions.
  
- C. Promote **data sharing** across Federal programs, agencies, and jurisdictions and with State and Tribal partners.
  
- D. **Monitor** for Dreissenids in coordination with others and if new detections are made, **share timely information** with one another, with cooperators, and with relevant databases, in accordance with guidelines provided by State or Tribal managing partners.
  
- E. Explore and pursue opportunities to **share resources and increase Federal preparedness and capacity** to effectively respond to Dreissenid detections and support the implementation of regional, State, Tribal, or local rapid response plans, including: (next slide)...

# Mussels MOU con't - Preparedness

a. Enlisting the guidance and participation of Emergency Management personnel within agencies, as appropriate, in advance of or during the implementation of rapid response actions.

b. Identifying opportunities or capacity gaps for providing Federal financial or in-kind support for the development and implementation of rapid response plans at national, regional, State, or local scales.

**c. Identifying Federal resources that could be shared to strengthen rapid response actions.**

**d. Developing, maintaining, and sharing a Federal contact list of individuals with responsibilities or skillsets applicable to Dreissenid mussel rapid response actions.**

e. Encouraging Federal employees involved in aquatic invasive species rapid response actions to maintain the necessary skills and training in National Incident Management System approaches and protocols, where applicable or appropriate.

**f. Encouraging support of table-top and field preparedness exercises associated with Dreissenid mussel rapid response actions and the participation of Federal employees in those exercises.**

**g. Coordinating the Federal sector's role in supporting the creation and maintenance of equipment caches for rapid response actions.**

h. Conducting environmental analyses and compliance requirements that might be associated with a predictable range of rapid response actions to address Dreissenid mussels.

i. Expediting and streamlining environmental compliance associated with rapid response activities.

j. Supporting basin-wide coordination for State-Federal-Tribal rapid response actions, as appropriate.

k. Tiering from this MOU to develop related agreements at sub-national levels in coordination with Federal agencies and others, as appropriate.

# Equipment Caching – MOU Agency Survey

## Authority to Purchase, Fund, Use, Share & Store Gear, Equipment and Supplies...

- **Purchase** (Gear, Equipment, Supplies) for use by their agency on AIS?
  - Yes
- **Fund** others to purchase...for that entity's use?
  - Generally, Yes
- **Use**... on the agency's projects at different locations? (Yes), on other federal agency projects? (Possibly), on non-federal projects? (Possibly)
- **Share**...for use by others, on the agency's projects? (Mostly, Yes), on other federal agency projects? (Less so), on non-federal projects? (Less so)
- **Store**...provided by others for use by the agency? (Generally, Yes), for use by other agencies? (Possibly)



# Equipment Caching - Discussion

## Additional Input

- **Mechanisms to share gear, equipment, supplies:** Cooperative Agreements, MOU, Interagency Agreements, Contracts
- **Current equipment cache?** BOR Rapid Response Trailer
- **Limitations?** Uncertain Authority, Funding, Capacity, Space, Liability
- **Other comments?** Consider pilot? Remote location? Individual tribes have more authority than BIA
- **Interest to Pursue?** YES...let's talk with CRB, WRP if still of interest...





Thank you.

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