



Aquatic Invasive Species News

December 19, 2023

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RECOMMENDED READING:

[Nonprofit launches zebra mussel study, accuses South Dakota of ‘capitulation’](#)

A nonprofit is launching a study on the economic impact of the zebra mussel invasion in South Dakota and accusing state government of a lackluster response to the problem.

The South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association, based in Sioux Falls, said Monday it will spearhead a \$107,000 study. It’s designed to provide legislators and other government leaders information to better protect the state’s lakes and rivers, the association said.

The state has been “throwing up its hands in capitulation,” according to association board member Deb Soholt, a former state senator.

“The state was not wanting to do this type of study,” she said in a news release.

Soholt said other states are doing more than South Dakota to stop zebra mussels from spreading.

“We believe it is important to conduct the needed research to understand the economic impact, so policymakers have the necessary information to do both containment and mitigation,” Soholt said.

In response, Nick Harrington, communications manager for the state Department of Game, Fish and Parks, said in an email to South Dakota Searchlight, “GFP has significantly enhanced efforts to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in recent years, both educating anglers and boaters to clean, drain, dry every time they are on the water as well as physically inspecting boats prior to and/or after loading.”

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PUBLIC COMMENT

[Request for Information on Identifying Aquaculture Opportunity Areas in Alaska: NOAA Fisheries is seeking public input via a 60-day comment period on the identification of study areas, data, and analyses relevant to identifying AOAs in Alaska state waters](#)

As a follow-up to our June 1, 2023 announcement beginning the process to identify Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOAs) in Alaska state waters, in partnership with the State of Alaska, NOAA Fisheries requests data, comments, views, information, analysis, or suggestions from the public to support the identification of AOAs in Alaska state waters, including siting parameters that can be used to select potential study areas for further analysis.

The public input provided in response to this Request For Information (RFI) will inform NOAA as it works with Federal, State, and Local agencies, appropriate Regional Fishery Management Councils, and in coordination with appropriate Tribal governments to identify AOAs.

NEW SPECIES SIGHTINGS

Want to get more new species alerts?
USGS NAS: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/default.aspx>
IMAP INVASIVES: <https://www.imapinvasives.org>

Dreissenids:

[Manitoba] [Zebra mussels detected in Clear Lake \(11/21/23\)](#) On Monday, Parks Canada confirmed the presence of this aquatic invasive species at the boat cove. Earlier in the month, the government agency received preliminary test results from water samples collected from Clear Lake during the summer. The results showed the presence of environmental DNA for zebra mussels.

[South Dakota]

[Dreissena polymorpha \(zebra mussel\)](#) was found in Big Stone Lake, South Dakota side [USGS NAS]

[Zebra mussels in Lake Oahe \(12/7/23\)](#) Zebra mussels have been confirmed in South Dakota's largest body of water. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department reported Thursday

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the aquatic invasive species has been found at two boat landings on Lake Oahe. “While pulling docks, fisheries staff reported finding zebra mussels on several structures,” said Jake Davis. He is the department’s fisheries program administrator. “Both detections were then confirmed following these findings.”

Other:

[Colorado] [Potamopyrgus antipodarum \(New Zealand mudsnail\)](#) was found in Eagle River at Eagle, Colorado, immediately downstream of confluence with Brush Creek [[USGS NAS](#)] and in Bear Creek near Idledale [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Faxonius rusticus \(Rusty Crayfish\)](#) was found in Lake Granby, CO [[USGS NAS](#)]

[Oregon] [Potamopyrgus antipodarum \(New Zealand mudsnail\)](#) was found in Willamette River at Corvallis [[USGS NAS](#)]

WATCH LIST

- Alaska: Report your sightings via the [ADF&G Invasive Species Reporter](#) or by calling the Invasive Species Hotline: 877-INVASIV (877-468-2748). If you locate invasive green crab on Annette Islands Reserve, you can call 907-886-FISH to make a report.
- British Columbia: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and email the information about where you saw it and when to: AISPACIoFIC@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Washington: Take a photo, put it back where you found it, and report suspect crabs here <http://wdfw.wa.gov/greencrab>
- Oregon: Retain green crab caught in your gear - it is illegal to return them to state waters. They are part of your “Other Shellfish” daily catch limit. Try them as food with the rest of your catch. Do not mutilate or kill any crab while you are crabbing.

[5 invasive pests to look out for in WA and how to report sightings](#)

[Destructive forest pest, the emerald ash borer, arrives in Oregon; public asked to report sightings](#)
[Cover your ash: Keep an eye out for the emerald ash borer in Washington](#)

[Invasive oak borer beetle worries Oregon forestry officials](#)

DREISSENIID MUSSELS

[Columbia River Basin on alert for quagga mussels \(11/25/23\)](#) Justin Bush, Aquatic Invasive Species policy coordinator at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, recently spoke about the threat this species poses, and the multi-state effort to keep them out of the basin. “I can tell you that each state in the Columbia River Basin has a response plan,” said Bush, “and there is also a regional response plan between all the states. Idaho enacted their plan, and they did it pretty well from an outside perspective.”

[What's next for the Snake River after Idaho's unprecedented invasive mussel treatment? \(11/24/23\)](#) In two rounds of post-treatment surveys, agency staff did not find any mussels in the six-mile river stretch in Twin Falls. However, the state won't know if the treatment was effective until next spring. During the cold winter months, mussel reproduction decreases, making it harder to detect them when they're not releasing millions of larvae. It's also unclear how long it will take for the river ecosystem to recover after tens of thousands of gallons of a copper-based chemical were poured in to kill the mussels. As expected, the treatment also killed most fish in the area. Idaho Fish and Game recovered over 3,000 dead fish from this stretch, weighing six to seven tons.

Related: [Idaho Fish and Game completes survey on quagga mussel treatment's impact on fish populations \(12/4/23\)](#)

[West Kootenay waterbodies still free of invasive mussels \(12/11/23\)](#) For the 11th year in a row, waterbodies in the West Kootenay remain free of invasive zebra and quagga mussels. The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society made the announcement today, crediting the ongoing efforts of the B.C. Invasive Mussel Defence Program.

[North Dakota to step up efforts after invasive species found in South Dakota \(12/14/23\)](#) Officials say they plan to take extra precautions over the next few months to stop the creatures from spreading to the North Dakota side of the waterway.

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[Wyoming AIS check stations identify record number of mussel-infested watercraft \(12/18/23\)](#) GILLETTE, Wyo. — Wyoming wildlife managers inspected over 73,000 boats this season, marking an increase in high-risk watercraft moving through the state as the battle to keep out aquatic invasive species continues. Over the inspection season, Wyoming Game and Fish Department staff decontaminated 1,154 watercraft and found 64 of them contained mussels, both the highest since the State Legislature established the AIS program in 2010, according to a Dec. 18 release.

[Out-of-province boat ban gaining support in the Thompson-Okanagan \(11/20/23\)](#) Calls for a moratorium on out-of-province boats in BC to protect local waterways from invasive and

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destructive mussels appears to be gaining traction. The moratorium proposed by the Okanagan Basin Water Board would be put in place until a proper plan to prevent zebra and quagga mussels from coming into the province is put in place by all tiers of government. The call is supported by the Central Okanagan Regional District, Vernon, Lake Country, Peachland and Summerland.

[Over 268,000 boats inspected in Utah for quagga mussels during 2023 boating season \(11/23/23\)](#) Aquatic invasive species technicians with the DWR, Utah State Parks, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the National Park Service have inspected 268,630 boats and performed 6,625 decontaminations since Jan. 1.

[Zebra Mussel discovery shuts down Riding Mountain boat launch until next year \(11/25/23\)](#) The boat launch at Riding Mountain National Park has been closed by Parks Canada until 2024, following the discovery of zebra mussels at Boat Cove.

The announcement comes after Parks Canada received test results from water samples gathered from Clear Lake throughout this past summer.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[Will economic impact drive a paradigm shift in ballast water compliance to protect the oceans? \(11/30/23\)](#) The ‘polluter pays’ principle is starting to hit shipowners where it hurts – in the pocket – when it comes to ballast water pollution of our oceans. Ships plying US waters have recently been slapped with heavy penalties and this can be the shape of things to come for shipping with wider regulatory enforcement to protect marine ecosystems.

[USCG ballast water management systems type-approval update \(12/8/23\)](#) In October 2023, the US Coast Guard (USCG) granted type-approval to two ballast water treatment systems:

- On 19 October 2023, the USCG granted its 52nd type-approval to South Korea’s Samkun Century’s ARA Plus+ having been tested by class society Korean Register’s independent laboratory.
- On 26 October 2023, the USCG granted its 53rd type approval to South Korea’s Hanla IMS’ EcoGuardian NF BWMS, also having been tested by the class society Korean Register’s independent laboratory.

MARINE

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

A new [Oregon Field Guide](#) on green crabs will air Jan 4th at 8:30 on OPB-TV.

AQUACULTURE

[US land-based aquaculture projects achieve permitting, funding progress \(11/22/23\)](#) The California Coastal Commission voted 12-0 to move a wastewater discharge permit for Nordic Aquafarm's project forward, which the company said is the final major permit between it and groundbreaking on the aquaculture facility.

[Salmon farmers strike back against anti-aquaculture campaign \(12/7/23\)](#) Billboards designed to further undermine the fragile reputation of Canada's salmon farming sector have been removed from around Ottawa after the industry successfully challenged them for false advertising.

[Canada's Limits on Sea Lice in Salmon Farms Don't Measure Up \(12/7/23\)](#) A new study ranks Canada behind three other countries in responding to parasite outbreaks.

FRESHWATER

[Crawfish boils soon to be legal in Colorado \(11/21/23\)](#) Okay, so having a boil was never illegal. However, importing live crawfish has been illegal for years, and according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife that will soon change.

[ESA protection requested for Crater Lake newt \(12/7/23\)](#) Efforts to list the Crater Lake newt, a distinct rough-skinned population of newts found only in Crater Lake, for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act are being taken by the Center for Biological Diversity. Even if the newt, also known as the Mazama newt, receives protection under the ESA, studies by aquatic biologists at Crater Lake National Park, which began in 2008, indicate it might not be possible to ensure their survival because of unchecked, growing populations of non-native crayfish that feed on newts and, according to biologists, "are nearly impossible to remove once established."

FISH

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[Do snitches net fishes? \(11/19/23\)](#) Scientists turn invasive carp into traitors to slow their Great Lakes push.

[Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs partner to capture 323 invasive carp \(12/1/23\)](#) Largest single capture in Minnesota/Wisconsin waters - The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed the capture of 323 invasive carp on Thursday, Nov. 30 in Pool 6 of the Mississippi River, near Trempealeau, Wisconsin. Species captured were 296 silver carp, 23 grass carp, and 4 bighead carp. This is the largest single capture of invasive carp that has occurred in Minnesota to date. The capture was made possible by tracking tagged invasive carp, which led agency staff and contracted commercial fishers to them for removal.

[Illinois scientists are fighting invasive fish with AI and unmanned kayaks \(12/7/23\)](#) Invasive species like bighead carp are damaging wetlands and fisheries in Illinois, but a high-tech innovation could solve the problem.

[Construction Starts Next Year On Billion-Dollar Invasive Carp Barrier \(12/7/23\)](#) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is slated to begin construction next year on a \$1.1 billion project in Illinois aimed at keeping invasive carp out of the Great Lakes.

[Once They Were Pets. Now Giant Goldfish Are Menacing the Great Lakes. \(12/10/23\)](#) Released into the wild, the humble goldfish can grow to a monstrous size and destroy habitats for native species. Canadian researchers are tracking the fish, so that they might be culled.

[This Fish Story Is a Whopper, But True: Record-Breaking 750,000 Pounds of Invasive Carp Hauled From Illinois River \(12/11/23\)](#) In one fell swoop, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) nearly doubled its annual removal of invasive carp from the state's waterways. An intense 10-day "harvest" operation in the Illinois River near Starved Rock netted 750,000 pounds of silver carp between Nov. 27 and Dec. 6.

Pintar, M.R., Dorn, N.J., Kline, J.L. et al. Contrasting invasion histories and effects of three non-native fishes observed with long-term monitoring data. *Biol Invasions* 25, 3887–3903 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03146-9>

Shepta, E., Perkin, J.S., Mayes, K.B. et al. The ecological niche of native and invasive fish congeners in Texas streams: evidence from morphology, stable isotope analysis, and stomach contents analysis. *Biol Invasions* 25, 3993–4008 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03155-8>

AQUATIC PLANTS

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[Helicopter assists Tulalip Tribes' wetland restoration \(11/20/23\)](#) The pallets were pre-planted at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wallace Creek Hatchery, then airlifted one by one to their destination—a wetland infested with reed canary grass.

A new key has been published for the different subspecies of *Hydrilla verticillata*. You can find that here: <https://journals.brit.org/jbrit/article/view/1319/1333>

Nikkel, E., Clements, D.R., Anderson, D. et al. Regional habitat suitability for aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant species may expand or contract with climate change. *Biol Invasions* 25, 3805–3822 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03139-8>

Tippery, N.P., Harms, N.E., Purcell, M.F. et al. Assessing the genetic diversity of *Nymphoides peltata* in the native and adventive range using microsatellite markers. *Biol Invasions* 25, 3949–3963 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-023-03151-y>

CLIMATE CHANGE

[Extreme weather may help invasive species outcompete native animals – new study \(11/27/23\)](#)

Non-native species appear to be better able to resist extreme weather, threatening native plants and animals and potentially creating more favourable conditions for invasive species under climate change. That's the conclusion of [a new study](#) in the scientific journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.

[Study finds plant nurseries are exacerbating the climate-driven spread of 80% of invasive species \(12/5/23\)](#)

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst recently [published a pair of papers](#) that, together, provide the most detailed maps to date of how 144 common invasive plants species will react to 2° Celsius of climate change in the eastern U.S., as well as the role that garden centers currently play in seeding future invasions.

[Freshwater Fish Swim Into Trouble As Climate Change Increases Threat: IUCN \(12/10/23\)](#)

Global warming is affecting "all stages" of its lifecycle — reducing prey, allowing invasive species to expand, and increasing deaths of young salmon due to water pollution linked mostly to logging and agriculture, IUCN said in a statement.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[Gardeners, boaters, off-roaders: NotMISpecies webinars just for you:](#) Michigan's NotMISpecies webinars are here with the latest information to help clear the way to outdoor enjoyment by showing how to manage and prevent the spread of invasive species, no matter where adventure takes you. Take advantage of these hourlong sessions and engage with experts on emerging issues across the state.

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OTHER

[America's got a \\$2.5 billion wild hog problem \(11/21/23\)](#) Nearly 300 native plant and animal species in the U.S. are in rapid decline because of feral swine, and many of the species are already at risk, according to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The swine also carry at least 40 parasites, 30 bacterial and viral illnesses, and can infect humans, livestock and other animals with diseases like brucellosis and tuberculosis.

Related: ["Super pigs" in Canada threaten to spread across border into U.S. \(11/23/23\)](#)

[Oregon Zoo welcomes new opossum 'Homer' from Alaska \(12/10/23\)](#) The journey started in Washington state, where his mother snuck aboard a shipping container en route to Alaska. Opossums are considered invasive species in the state — potentially dangerous to native wildlife — and the state removes any that are found... When authorities noticed his mother, named Grubby, on the streets of Homer, Alaska, about four hours south of Anchorage, officials from the state Department of Fish and Game tried for two months to capture her... During those two months on the run, Grubby had a litter of babies, called joeys. Fish and game officials ended up capturing five of the tiny joeys, and they were all sent to different zoos. Homer, named after the city of his birth, ended up in Portland.

[Cats Kill a Staggering Number of Species across the World \(12/12/23\)](#) Exotic species such as pythons, Asian carp and cane toads often dominate the invasive species discourse. Few biological invaders, however, have wreaked as much ecological havoc as one of our most cuddly companions: cats.

JOBS/GRANTS

New:

- *The Office of Personnel Management launched a [new portal](#) as part of USAJOBS for students interested in applying for internships at federal agencies, billed as a “one-stop shop” for those interested in exploring a career in government.*
- *Are you ready to make a contribution to fisheries of the West Coast? Begin your job search and application process by searching for [specific jobs at PSMFC](#)*

Jobs

[Research Fish Biologist – DOI – US Geological Survey - Columbia Environmental Research Center, MO](#)

Closes 12/22/23

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- As a Research Fish Biologist within the Columbia Environmental Research Center, some of your specific duties will include:
- Conducting research focused on the biology, ecology, and control of invasive aquatic organisms, especially invasive carps.
- Serving as independent member or leader of various research teams that consist of multidisciplinary scientists from multiple agencies.
- Preparing proposals, reports to funding agencies, and scientific journal publications.
- Providing technical assistance to DOI agencies and to other Federal, State, and private interests as appropriate.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist (Wildlife Specialist I) position in Page, AZ/Lake Powell has re-posted. **The announcement closes on 12/25/23.**

WILDLIFE SPECIALIST

“Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist 1”

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION / AQUATIC BRANCH / PAGE, AZ BASED
FLSA- Non-Exempt / SALARY GRADE 21 / HIRING SALARY RANGE \$43,981-\$48,000
REQUISITION #521041 / CLOSING DATE: 12/25/2023

Description of Duties: This position will work under the direct supervision of the statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Program, based in the Aquatic Wildlife Branch. More specifically, this program Specialist will: ensure watercraft inspection and decontamination protocols are followed at Lake Powell and throughout AZ, lead and perform training and ongoing technical support of personnel and third party authorized agents on behalf of AGFD. The Specialist will also lead or assist the AIS Coordinator with Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Planning (HACCP) training required for agency personnel performing aquatic field work.

Institute for Applied Ecology: Restoration Ecologist Job Announcement

Office location: Corvallis, Oregon

Status: Regular, full time

Compensation: \$25.00 - \$28.00/hr. plus competitive benefits package. Wage depends on placement in job classification system.

Closing date: For full consideration apply by 11:59 pm on January 2, 2024.

Invasive Species Program Support Specialist

Sheridan County Weed and Pest (County) | <https://www.scweeds.com/>

Posting: <https://www.scweeds.com/program-support-specialist>

Application Deadline: **04/01/2024**

Location: Sheridan, WY 82801, USA

Description

Sheridan County Weed and Pest (SCWP) is seeking an enthusiastic and driven invasive species program support specialist to assist the district in implementation of district programs in accordance with local, state, and federal guidelines.

The Invasive Species Program Support Specialist will participate in the following district programs: mosquito mitigation, grasshopper mitigation, leafy spurge biocontrol, weed-free hay certification, and right-of-way weed control. The successful applicant, under the direction of the district supervisor, shall assist with collection and identification of weed and insect specimens,

testing of mosquitoes for presence of West Nile virus, distribution and monitoring of leafy spurge beetles, equipment maintenance and repair, public interaction and education, and more. Other duties include, but are not limited to, reports, grant applications, and data compilation. Duties will be highly variable depending on season and need. Most field activities occur during the summer and mid-winter, and office duties in the autumn and spring. Specific training in invasive species programs will be provided by SCWP.

Wyoming Game & Fish Department Multiple openings:

- 2 [Biologist Technician Fisheries-Jackson](#) These seasonal positions will assist the regional fisheries management crew with all aspects of aquatic resource management activities. Positions will be based in Jackson, Wyoming.
- 26 [Seasonal Biologist Technician Fisheries-Statewide](#) These seasonal positions will assist fisheries management crews with all aspects of aquatic resource management activities. Positions will be based out of Casper, Cody, Green River, Lander, Laramie, Pinedale, and Sheridan, Wyoming.
- 3 [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Specialist-Statewide](#) These regional positions implement the AIS program to protect the state's aquatic resources and infrastructure from the introduction of AIS.

Grants

[Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species](#)

Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

This Notice of Funding Opportunity requests proposals for projects that support efforts to plan a response or deploy response measures to a new detection of a potentially invasive species. Response efforts must target an aquatic invasive species, defined as non-native plants or animals that reside in fresh, wetland, estuarine, or marine waters.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity will remain open until July 15, 2024, or until the Rapid Response Fund is depleted. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis; submitted proposals will be evaluated on a quarterly basis: Proposals submitted from **November 15 - January 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of March 1. Proposals submitted from **January 16 - April 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of June 1. Proposals submitted from **April 16 - July 15** will be evaluated with an anticipated award date of September 1. All proposals submitted for the Rapid Respond fund will be evaluated using the merit criteria

DOI- Department of the Interior- Bureau of Land Management

[IIJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management Alaska Aquatic Resource Management Synopsis 1:](#)

Funding Opportunity Goals 1. Ensuring water availability to sustain healthy riparian and wetland areas and aquatic habitats. 2. Restoring degraded water resources, riparian and wetland areas, and aquatic habitats, with a focus on process-based approaches and promoting riverscape health. 3. Advancing decision support models, and the inventory, assessment, and monitoring information that feeds such models, to inform the protection of remaining high quality habitats and the strategic restoration of degraded systems. **Open Round 1: December 7, 2023 through February 5, 2024 Round 2: February 6, 2024 through March 8, 2024**

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DOI - Department of the Interior- Bureau of Land Management

[IIJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management Alaska Invasive and Noxious Plant Management](#)

[Program Synopsis 2](#): Funding Opportunity Goals 1. Prevention, detection, and eradication of noxious weeds and invasive plant species. 2. Development of outreach materials to engage the public in the detection of and to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants species. 3. Development of methods or modeling to increase the detection and mapping of noxious weeds and invasive plant species. **Open from October 2, 2023, through January 2, 2024**

[Montana Invasive Species Council 2024 AIS Grant Cycle is Open](#)

The Montana Invasive Species Council is now accepting applications for 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants. The **application period is from October 30 to January 7**.

AIS grants are intended to increase local capacity and involvement to address AIS issues.

Projects that focused on these AIS management components are eligible: prevention, early detection, education and outreach, research, and treatment.

This state funded program awards approximately \$250,000 each year. Applicants may request up to \$50,000 per project. Grant applicants can be local, state, tribal, or other government entities within the state; and Montana-based non-governmental entities.

Applications are due Sunday, January 7, 2024, before midnight.

AIS Grant Program Guidelines are here: [Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program | Montana Invasive Species \(mt.gov\)](#) The grant application form is here: [grants.dnrc.mt.gov](#). Scroll down to AIS 2024 Grant Application.

Contact Liz Lodman at 406-444-0547 with any questions on the grant and application process. Questions can be emailed to dnraisgrants@mt.gov

Grant Opportunity: NOAA-NOS-NCCOS-2024-2008101

[Social, Cultural and Economic Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms](#)

Department of Commerce **Current Closing Date for Applications: Jan 17, 2024**

[R23AS00106 WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects for Fiscal Year 2023](#)

Department of the Interior - Bureau of Reclamation

Second application period due: January 24, 2024,

The objective of the AERP NOFO is to invite eligible applicants (Section C.1. Eligible Applicants) to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Reclamation on the study, design and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and are for the purpose of improving of the health of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat through restoration and improved fish passage. As used here, “aquatic ecosystem” refers to freshwater and brackish water habitats such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, wetlands, swamps, and estuaries and the adjacent floodplains, riparian corridors, deltas, and shallow aquifers that interact with surface water. Projects that affect water resources management in two or more river basins, provide regional benefits not limited to fisheries restoration, and that are a component of a larger strategy to replace aging facilities are prioritized under this program.

[FY24 IIJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management Oregon/Washington \(ORWA\) Youth Conservation Corps Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management](#)

Closes: Feb 21, 2024

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Oregon/Washington (ORWA) offices have collaborated with Qualified Youth and Conservation Corps, as authorized by the Public Lands Corps Act (PLC), to accomplish conservation projects for numerous years. This program's projects provide employment for participants and opportunities to learn about and gain work experience in public lands and natural resources management while promoting long-term interest in public lands stewardship and the BLM. The BLM Youth Program assists the BLM with diversifying the workforce while exposing participants to complex cultural and natural resource issues. This program supports the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Public Law 117-58, Sec. 40804(b) Ecosystem Restoration and Section 40803 Wildfire Risk Reduction. This program supports projects funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Sections 50221 Resilience, 50222 Ecosystems Restoration and 50303 DOI. Projects include Habitat restoration and wildlife protection, including reduction of invasive species, tree planting, fence removal/installation, riparian area restoration, etc.

NOAA-NOS-ORR-2024-2007993

[FY24 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

Department of Commerce **Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 23, 2024**

[2025 John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program](#)

Apply by February 15, 2024

The Knauss Fellowship provides a unique educational experience to graduate students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.

The program, which is sponsored by NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program, matches highly qualified graduate students with hosts in legislative and executive offices in the Washington, D.C., area. The fellowship is paid and lasts one year. Past fellows have developed successful careers in a variety of sectors, including government, academia, consulting, private companies and nonprofit.

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, on behalf of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is soliciting proposals for interagency agreement funding to support response to the ongoing [European green crab emergency](#). Please visit <https://rco.wa.gov/about-us/employment-and-contracts/> for more information about the available funding for public agencies. **(Rolling deadline until funds fully allocated)**

For more information on European green crab and the state response, please visit

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/carcinus-maenas>

and <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/emergency-measures-deployed-control-invasive-european-green-crabs-washington-waters>

LEGISLATION

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Advocacy

State/Provincial

[Ontario adding 10 new species to Invasive Species Act \(12/12/23\)](#) The Government of Ontario is expanding its list of invasive species in an attempt to prevent, control and reduce their spread within the province. In a press release dated Monday, December 11, 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry announced it was regulating 10 new non-native species and four groups of similar species under the Ontario Invasive Species Act (ISA) beginning January 1, 2024. The act is intended to control the possession, and reduce the spread of, different species not native to the province in order to keep them from threatening biodiversity in the ecosystem and prevent them from overtaking and outcompeting native species.

Federal: Executive

Federal: Congressional

Water Resources Development Act of 2024

Both chambers of Congress have had hearings in preparation for the upcoming 2024 reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act that funds the Corps AIS (Quagga/Zebra) Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination, Monitoring, and Rapid Response cost share programs (AKA APC-WID):

Senate: [WRDA 2024: Stakeholder Feedback on USACE Project Partnership Agreements \(11/29/23\)](#)

House: [December 13, 2023 - Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2024: Stakeholder Priorities](#) and [December 5, 2023 - Water Resources Development Acts: Status of Past Provisions and Future Needs](#)

The House T& I Committee's WRDA website is up and can be found @ <https://transportation.house.gov/wrda-2024/>

NOTE: Unfortunately, states have been unable to generate enough non-federal match to take full advantage of the current 50-50 cost share program, To access these funds, the 50:50 APC-WID cost share needs to be changed to 75% federal and 25% state through WRDA 2024. This would result in millions more coming into the region. The very recent Lake Oahe and Snake River mussel discoveries are reason enough to make this cost share change.

NOW WHAT: Stay tuned...we will see the reauthorization bills introduced in 2024.

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[Bipartisan Recreation Package Expands Outdoor Access and Opportunities on Public Lands and Waters, Includes BOR WI Cost Share \(11/29/23\)](#)

On 11/29/23 House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) and Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) announced the introduction of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act ([H.R.6492](#)). The EXPLORE Act brings together more than a dozen individual outdoor recreation bills aimed at boosting the industry, encouraging public-private partnerships and instructing agencies to clarify some rules around recreation on public land.

Sec. 128. of the bill is entitled “Aquatic resource activities assistance.” Similar to the [S.873](#), America’s Outdoor Recreation Act of 2023 (Sens Manchin (D-WV) and Barrasso (WY)), H.R.6492 establishes a competitive grant program within the Bureau of Reclamation to help non-Federal partners conduct inspections and decontamination of watercraft around reservoirs administered by the DOI, including a 75% federal cost share.

The bill includes some controversial language on access to federal waters:

(4) LIMITATION - The Secretaries shall not prohibit access to Federal land and water for vessels under this subsection in the absence of an inspector.

NOTE: The limitation language in H.R 6492/S.873 is in direct conflict with state laws that require boat inspection or decontamination prior to entering reservoirs. The authority to close federal reservoirs is, in most cases, granted to the recreational manager (often states and local governments) through long-term lease agreements. This language would create a federal preemption that may require the re-negotiation of many federal recreational management agreements. The water held in these federal reservoirs is often owned by a suite of water providers for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use, in addition to providing outdoor recreation. Protecting limited western water supplies from the economic and ecological impacts and irreversible harm caused by zebra and quagga mussels, and other invaders, is a complex partnership-based priority that is largely coordinated and implemented by states. Removing the states and local governments ability to manage federal impoundments, including closures intended to prevent aquatic invasive species introductions and spread, would cripple western state programs and could result in the total loss of recreation at such reservoirs if the water owners themselves were not confident in the ability of the recreational manager to protect their water sources. For example, the fall 2023 quagga mussel discovery in the Snake River near Twin Falls, Idaho will result in state, federal and tribal agencies increasing their watercraft inspection coverage. Coverage areas will include Bureau of Reclamation and other federal properties. This bill will cause confusion as to opening and closing procedures, and the decontamination authority stations will be required to follow. It would hamper lake-based WID operations, increasing the risk of further spread of quagga and zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species. Additionally, staffing of watercraft inspection stations has been a challenge for many

states. This has resulted in the inability to provide adequate coverage during lengthy summer boating hours, and difficulty in staffing stations during fall and spring seasons when seasonal field staff help is not available.

Bennet Bill as an alternative: A preferred alternative to the H.R 6492/S.873 limitation language comes from Senator Michael Bennet's (D-CO) [S.2105](#) – the “Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2023”. S. 2105 has more AIS protective access language that is favored by many western state AIS programs, stating "to the maximum extent practicable, inspect watercraft in a manner that minimizes disruptions to public access for boating and recreation in noncontaminated watercraft."

Now What: H.R 6492 is a large bipartisan bill with 29 co-sponsors already. It has a good chance of passage in the House in 2024. S. 2105 has not had a committee hearing and S. 873 passed out of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on 7/26/23.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) to be Introduced in House

A toned down version of RAWA is close to being introduced in the House. According to [E&E Daily \(12/8/23\)](#):

House Natural Resources Chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR) says his chamber's alternative to long-sought wildlife and conservation legislation will likely be ready for hearings early next year. The Arkansas Republican told E&E News this week that his bill, to be renamed the “American Wildlife Habitat Conservation Act,” would be structured similarly to the farm bill — requiring reauthorization every five years and depending on appropriations annually...Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), who reintroduced "RAWA" as [S. 1149](#) earlier this year, is envisioning directing \$1.4 billion annually for state and tribal conservation of wildlife, with the money devoted to protecting more than 12,000 species of animals and plants.

Westerman, meanwhile, said he expects his bill to authorize lower levels than the Senate version — approximately \$200 million to \$500 million per year. Offsets remain to be determined. The House bill would also look to more state funding, donations and agreements for state and tribal agencies to do work on both federal and private lands to help fund conservation.

In the Senate meanwhile, according to *E&E Daily*:

Over in the Senate, its version of "RAWA" [[S. 1149](#)] is two votes short of being able to move to the floor, according to people familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity. Backers have been unable to clear the 60-vote threshold without a plan for offsets. “I do think there's consensus that we want this to be paid for and fully expect to do that,” Heinrich said last month. “So, you know, we're open and trying not to be overly prescriptive or doctrinaire and respect the Finance Committee's role in this and try to work with them.” Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife

Federation, told E&E News that senators remain focused on finding a satisfactory pay-for, but lawmakers are also competing to gain ownership off offsets from a limited menu of options to fund other bills pending before Congress.

[Bonamici, González-Colón Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Remove Marine Debris \(12/15/23\)](#) WASHINGTON, DC [12/15/23] –Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Jenniffer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico), Co-Chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, introduced legislation to help remove marine debris from the ocean and waterways. H.R. 6781 would reauthorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Marine Debris Program through 2028. The representatives introduced the bill ahead of the third anniversary of the bipartisan Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, the most comprehensive legislation passed by Congress to address marine debris and strengthen NOAA’s Marine Debris Program. Bonamici led the original bill with the late Rep. Don Young (R-AK).

Senate: The companion bill in the Senate is [S.318](#) - Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act ([Sen. Sullivan, Dan \[R-AK\]](#)) Passed the Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent on 12/13/2023.

House Passes DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act (12/4/23)

By voice vote, the chamber approved the measures, including [H.R. 1713](#), the "DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act," from Science, Space and Technology Chair Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) and ranking member Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.). H.R. 1713 would require the Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Energy (DOE) to collaborate on research and development activities that focus on a variety of topics, including environmental science, biofuels, energy storage, invasive species management, electric grid modernization, and rural technology development. The bill also would require USDA and DOE to report to the Congress on those efforts. Bill language including invasive species is as follows:

(a) IN GENERAL .—The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretaries”) shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture mission requirements and priorities.

(c) COORDINATION .—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretaries may

(1) conduct collaborative research over a variety of focus areas, such as—

(H) invasive species management to further the work done by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW)

Now What: [S. 3301](#) is the Senate companion legislation and was introduced by Senators Lujan [D-NM] and Hoeven [R-ND] on 11/14/23. Given that the House version passed so

easily, Senate passage seems possible in the 2024 second session of the 118th Congress. Also helping chances for passage is its low cost. According to the [Congressional Budget Office \(6/9/23\)](#): “CBO expects that the bill’s requirements are largely being met under current law. As a result, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1713 would have an insignificant cost, mostly for the report. Any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.”

[Sullivan, Baldwin, Bonamici & Joyce Lead Legislation to Improve Harmful Algal Bloom Response \(11/28/23\)](#)

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.), and Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.) and Dave Joyce (R-Ohio), have introduced the [Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act \(HABHRCA\) of 2023](#), legislation to reauthorize the *HABHRCA of 1998* and to improve monitoring, forecasting, prevention, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms (HABs) and hypoxia by requiring better coordination among task force agencies, and state and local entities, including Indian tribes. A copy of the bill, S.3348, can be found [here](#).

Background: The original Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) was passed in 1998 and established an interagency task force to assess the distribution of harmful algal blooms and their impacts on coastal waters and human health. HABHRCA has since been reauthorized three times, through FY 2023, and is currently due for reauthorization. This bill reauthorizes the original 1998 HABHRCA, and improves coordination among state and local entities, as well as Indian tribes, to improve monitoring, forecasting, prevention, and mitigation of HABs and hypoxia.

Federal: Appropriations

[Window rapidly closing for deal on appropriations framework \(12/13/23\)](#)

Congress appears poised to leave town before Christmas without a topline spending agreement, which could doom the chances of getting full-fledged fiscal 2024 appropriations bills done in January. If there’s no deal on spending limits this week, lawmakers will essentially be out of time to work out the details of the 12 annual appropriations bills by Jan. 19, the first of two deadlines set in the last continuing resolution. The next deadline is Feb. 2, leaving little time to complete the last, larger batch of bills, particularly with the House scheduled to be in recess the week of Jan. 22.

EVENTS

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Archived Events:

Recording available - [Invasive Mussel Collaborative webinar: Unique pathways of invasive mussel spread \(12/13/23\)](#)

Recording available: 2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium. You can now view the recording of the Symposium on the [Delta Conservancy's YouTube channel](#)

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training

Virtual: **** 2024 Schedule Now Available****

- Virtual WIT or Level 1 – Inspector Training (2 days - 8 am – Noon PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-1-inspector-training>

[January 9 - 10, 2024](#)

[February 7 - 8, 2024](#)

[March 5 - 6, 2024](#)

[April 2 - 3, 2024](#)

[April 16 - 17, 2024](#)

[April 23 – 24, 2024](#)

- WIT or Level 2 – Inspector & Decon Training (3 days – 8 am – Noon PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-2>

[January 9 - 11, 2024](#)

[February 7 - 9, 2024](#)

[March 5 - 7, 2024](#)

[April 2 - 4, 2024](#)

[April 16 - 18, 2024](#)

[April 23- 25, 2024](#)

- WIT or Level 3 – Trainer Training (3 days- 9 am – 4pm PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/le>

[January 30 – February 1, 2024](#)

[February 20 – 22, 2024](#)

[March 12 - 14, 2024](#)

[DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

[PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings](#)

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[InvasivesU – NAISMA](#) - InvasivesU is NAISMA's exclusive online learning library intended to provide professionals, students, and interested individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent and manage invasive species in North America. NAISMA experts have thoughtfully curated and developed this content, especially for you!

Calendar of Events

December

NAISMA: December 20, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CST [Webinar: The Dilemma for Control of Invasive Species: Incorrect Terms Limit Our Capacity to Respond](#)

2024

January

2024 [32nd USDA Interagency Research Forum on Invasive Species](#) Jan 09, 2024 - Jan 12, 2024
Annapolis, Maryland

NAISMA: January 17, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CST [Webinar: Protecting Threatened and Endangered Species from Pesticides](#)

ANSTF Meeting January 24- 25 **In-Person Participation** [Meeting Dates and Location](#)

The next ANSTF meeting will be held January 24 -25, 2024.

In-Person Participation: The meeting will be held in the USGS National Center (see info below)

Remote Participation: A web and/or audio option will also be offered for remote participation.

The web link and phone number to join will be sent to the email address used to register for the meeting no later than January 19th.

LINK TO REGISTER: <https://forms.office.com/g/Ahpu8hkx1i>

[International Invasive Species and Climate Change](#) Conference ([RISCC](#) and NAISMA (virtual conference). January 30, 2024 @ 11:00 am – January 31, 2024 @ 3:45 pm CST
Please join us for the INAUGURAL International Invasive Species and Climate Change Conference (IISCCC) organized by the Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (RISCC) Management Network on January 30 and 31, 2024. This conference is VIRTUAL allowing for more international attendance while reducing our carbon footprint.

February

February 26, 2024 - March 1, 2024 National Invasive Species Awareness Week

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Communicating about invasive species can get complicated! On February 27-28, in partnership with NAISMA for National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Sea Grant is proud to present The Invasive Species Language Workshop, bringing together invasive species researchers and science communication professionals to share best practices for communicating about biological invasions to scientists, stakeholders, and the public.

Day 1 (February 27) will feature a webinar on communications issues in invasion biology, including inclusive language, effective use of metaphor, changes to species names, and more. These hybrid presentations will be available to watch online for free, and virtual attendees will be able to send in questions for discussion. Register for the webinar [here](#) or at the link below.

- <https://naisma.org/event/nisaw-webinar-the-invasive-species-language-workshop/2024-02-27/>

Day 2 (February 28), held in-person in Washington, DC, will feature in-depth discussion to develop research topics and interventions to improve communication strategies in invasion biology, including the process for changing species names, harmonizing communications strategies across agencies and research groups, tailoring messaging to different stakeholder groups, and more. Attendance for this portion is limited: reach out to Tim Campbell (tim.campbell@wisc.edu) if interested in participating in person.

March

NAISMA Webinar: March 11, 2024 @ 8:00 am - March 14, 2024 @ 5:00 pm CDT
[2024 National Forum on Biological Control](#)

[March 21, 2024 Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting, Salem OR](#)

May

The [23rd International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species](#) will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from May 12 – 16, 2024. The conference theme is ‘Meeting Challenges with Innovation’. The International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species addresses emerging freshwater, marine and estuarine AIS issues by involving scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and industry professionals in the presentation of research, and opportunities for collaboration on research and management projects. Stay tuned for more details.

June

June 1 – June 8: PlayCleanGo Awareness Week

September

September 30, 2024 @ 8:00 am - October 3, 2024 @ 5:00 pm CDT
[North American Invasive Species Management Association 32nd Annual Conference](#)

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December

December 5, 2024 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm CST [NAISMA Annual Biocontrol Summit](#)



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