



Aquatic Invasive Species News

September 25, 2023

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RECOMMENDED READING: NEW SPECIES ALERTS!!!

Invasive mussel discovery in Idaho puts Pacific Northwest on alert (9/22/23)

The DNA lab results came back Monday.

“The initial phone call was a bit of a shock,” said Nic Zurfluh, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture bureau chief for invasive species. “But this is what we plan for.”

The call confirmed that routine water sampling had captured the larval form of the quagga mussel – only visible under a microscope – freely floating in the Snake River by Twin Falls.

The species is one of the most invasive in the U.S., and its invasion into the Pacific Northwest has long been dreaded.

By Tuesday, the popular waterfront park in the Snake River Canyon was shut down and nearby lakes and river access points were closed to recreationists with boats, kayaks, paddle boards and canoes. Idaho Gov. Brad Little called two press conferences.

“The what if – what if it's unconstrained – is going to leave a huge mark on this valley and the state of Idaho for a long, long time,” Little said in Twin Falls.

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

Invasive New Zealand Mudsnaails Discovered In Lake Tahoe (9/21/23)

Divers monitoring Lake Tahoe have discovered invasive New Zealand mudsnaails in areas off the South Shore, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) announced today. This is the first time the species has been detected in the Tahoe Basin.

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

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Invasive zebra mussels found along Edmunston, N.B. hydroelectric dam (9/18/23)

Invasive zebra mussels have been found in New Brunswick waters for the first time, according to water samples analyzed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Water samples from the Saint John River taken by DFO over the summer suggested the presence of the invasive species in the areas of Edmunston, Grand Falls and Nackawic.

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

Invasive zebra mussels found in NC quarry; you can take steps to keep them from spreading (9/22/23)

On Friday, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) announced that zebra mussels, a harmful invasive aquatic species, have been found in a quarry Iredell County. It is the first time this species has been identified in the wild in North Carolina.

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

GFP announces zebra mussels found in Roy Lake (9/22/23)

On Friday, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department announced zebra mussels were found at Roy Lake in Marshall County in northeastern South Dakota. GFP officials said a property owner found measles when removing a dock from the water.

[\[cont. reading\]](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

The [Oregon Invasive Species Council \(OISC\)](#) is seeking nominations for five appointed member seats to serve a 2-year term January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2025. Could you, or someone you know, be a good addition to the OISC? **Send in a nomination by October 6, 2023.**

Invasive species have the potential to devastate Oregon's infrastructure, economy, and natural resources that Oregonians hold dear. The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) acts as a catalyst for the collaborative effort to protect Oregon from invasive species across the network of its members, including state and public agencies, tribes, researchers, land managers, industry leaders, educators, and members of the public. Strong council member nominees will have experience or expertise that relates to invasive species prevention or control and/or specialize in a related area of interest. The Council is seeking the appointment of five members representing the following categories for 2-year term positions that conclude December 31, 2025:

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- A member who represents an entity, regardless of the form of the entity, with a headquarters or principal operations in Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake, or Malheur Counties with the purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.
- A member who represents an entity, regardless of the form of the entity, with a headquarters or principal operations in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, or Yamhill Counties with the purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.
- A member who represents a Native American or Indian Tribe or association of Tribes.
- A member who represents an Organization or Association that advocates on behalf of private industry.
- A member who represents the public.

Council members' primary role is to support the advancement of Oregon's Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species. Members benefit from multi-agency communication and collaboration that the OISC provides through meetings, committees, events, and communication. Council members are expected to participate in 4-6 meetings per year depending on the format (in person or by teleconference), multi-day meetings may be possible twice a year. Council members are allowed to designate an alternate if they are unable to attend a meeting. Council members are not paid but may be reimbursed for travel expenses associated with attending Council meetings.

Additionally, Council members are required to serve on at least one committee and support communication with and/or convening other interested groups to contribute to Council activities. Membership is limited to two consecutive two-year terms.

The deadline to submit nominations is October 6, 2023. Fill out the nomination form online here: <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/nominations>

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>

[Colorado] [CPW announces discovery of Rusty Crayfish in Lake Granby \(9/18/23\)](#) Multiple crayfish were found at Lake Granby during routine Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) sampling by CPW's ANS Sampling and Monitoring team near Sunset Point campground, on Aug. 17.

[Minnesota]

[Zebra mussels confirmed in Scandinavian Lake in Pope County](#)

[September \(9/14/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Scandinavian Lake, near Terrace in Pope County. Pope County staff discovered two zebra mussels near a lake property. Minnesota DNR staff found two

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additional zebra mussels near the Scandinavian Lake public water access and took a report from the Scandinavian Lake Association of a zebra mussel found in another part of the lake.

[Starry Stonewort confirmed in Dora Lake in Itasca County \(9/14/23\)](#) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of the invasive algae starry stonewort in Dora Lake, near Wirt in Itasca County. Minnesota DNR staff conducting an LCCMR-funded algae survey discovered starry stonewort near the Dora Lake public access. A follow-up survey to determine distribution confirmed a roughly 100 square foot area where starry stonewort is intermingled with other aquatic plants. Available treatment options could include hand pulling, herbicide applications or other methods as appropriate.

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

[More waterway closures in southern Idaho: ISDA requests community help to stop the spread of Quagga Mussels \(9/20/23\)](#) With the discovery of Quagga Mussel larvae in the waters of Centennial Park, more waterways are being closed around the region and officials are also asking the public’s help to contain the invasive species. On Tuesday, both Twin Falls and Jerome Counties began closing bodies of water to help prevent the spread of the Quagga Mussel larvae discovered on Monday. Centennial Park was the first to close, but Jerome County quickly made

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the decision to close access to Wilson Lake, due to the lake's proximity to the Snake River. On Wednesday, in the same line of caution, Twin Falls County temporarily closed access to watercraft at Murtaugh Lake.

[Fish and Game closes all fishing in a portion of the Snake River in response to quagga mussel detection near Twin Falls \(9/22/23\)](#) The Idaho Fish and Game Director has authority under Idaho Code to declare an emergency, and under this authority has closed fishing of any kind on the Snake River from Twin Falls Hydroelectric Dam to the bridge crossing the Snake River at Highway 46 beginning Friday, September 22, 2023. This emergency closure will expire at 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 29, 2023.

[WY Game and Fish concerned about larval form of invasive mussels found in the Snake River in Idaho \(9/21/23\)](#) The detection of the veligers is significant as Wyoming remains one of the few states yet to have the destructive species. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is concerned about the potential impacts this detection could have on Wyoming, especially the inadvertent movement of invasive mussels into the state through watercraft movement.

[Invasive quagga mussels detected in Idaho; monitoring and prevention efforts ramp up in Washington \(9/21/23\)](#) Preliminary results from 2023 detected no presence in Washington. In response to the Idaho detection, WDFW is redirecting staff from statewide monitoring to the Snake River.

[Great Lakes owe clear waters to invasive species \(9/22/23\)](#) Although perilous to native species of mussels, the invasive zebra and quagga mussels have made Michigan's murky waters into a clear blue within the last three decades.

[Historians race to find Great Lakes shipwrecks before quagga mussels destroy the sites \(9/22/23\)](#) Historians are racing to locate Great Lakes shipwrecks before a seemingly unstoppable invasive mussel destroys them and erases part of the region's heritage

Counihan TD, DeBruyckere L, Bollens SM, Phillips S, Thom T, Shemai B (2023) Identifying research in support of the management and control of dreissenid mussels in the western United States. *Management of Biological Invasions* 14(3): 459–466, <https://doi.org/10.3391/mbi.2023.14.3.05>

BOAT INSPECTION/DECON

[CSKT: Vigilance at AIS inspection stations important after quagga mussels detected in Idaho \(9/22/23\)](#) The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Fish, Wildlife, Recreation & Conservation department took to Facebook on Thursday to remind the public about the importance of watercraft inspection stations after quagga mussel larvae was detected in Idaho.

[More than 88,000 watercraft inspected in Montana for aquatic invasive species \(9/22/23\)](#) So far this year, FWP and its partners have inspected more than 86,000 watercraft for aquatic invasive species. Of those, 45 were mussel-fouled and more than 400 were found with aquatic weeds.

BALLAST WATER/BIOFOULING

[EPA Agrees to Issue Standards for Protecting U.S. Waters From Ship Pollution, Invasive Species \(9/8/23\)](#) The Environmental Protection Agency agreed today to finalize nationwide standards that will protect U.S. waterways from harmful vessel discharges. Under the agreement, the agency must release final regulations on ballast water discharges by Sept. 24, 2024.

[EPA Plays Hurry Up and Wait on Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018 Regulations \(9/12/23\)](#) Agency Commits to New Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance Deadline ... Maybe

MARINE

[New survey finds invasive species fouling up mid-Atlantic waters \(9/6/23\)](#) East Carolina University participated in the first survey of its kind to identify specific marine organisms across the mid-Atlantic region. Throughout June, a team of 18 biologists and students from the eastern U.S. spent 15-hour days traveling to marinas from Virginia to New Jersey, some battling seasickness while scraping the sides of floating docks. The survey team looked for “biofouling species” — creatures, such as barnacles, that attach to hard surfaces, like boats or docks.

[S. Korea's love for blue crabs to solve Italian problem \(video\)](#)

GREEN (5-SPINED) CRAB

[To help fight invasive green crabs, restaurants are putting them on the menu \(9/6/23\)](#) The finished product is a whole fried green crab, with pickled vegetables, and a spiced aioli, on a brioche bun. It’s a tiny lunch, with a big impact. Green crabs are invasive to New England, and more and more chefs like Sewall are choosing to serve them on their menus to help control their exploding populations.

[Green crab invasion sparks local response \(9/6/23\)](#) Homer conference is part of statewide invasive species monitoring and managing efforts

AQUACULTURE

[This unique fish farm could feed America's appetite for protein. Why does only one exist? \(9/7/23\)](#) Americans import 90 percent of their seafood, 50 percent of which comes from aquaculture, but permitting remains a barrier to expanding offshore fish farms.

[Government grants aim to diversify aquaculture industry in Newfoundland and Labrador \(9/7/23\)](#) Jobs trump environmental concerns for politicians at annual conference

[Virginia looks to expand blue catfish fishery and processing \(9/7/23\)](#) The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Customer Services (VDACS) - International Marketing Division sponsored a seafood promotional event bringing in international chefs, food critics and writers to visit a blue catfish processing plant on Aug. 30 in Hampton, Va.

FRESHWATER

[A call to protect our lake and lands \(Opinion\) \(9/12/23\)](#) The news this week that invasive New Zealand mudsnails have been discovered in Lake Tahoe comes at a time when warming temperatures and the cross-cutting impacts of climate change are challenging all of us to double down on our protection of these resources.

FISH

[Silver carp eDNA found in St. Joseph River in Michigan \(9/7/23\)](#) Routine testing of the St. Joseph River in June discovered the environmental DNA of silver carp, which has overtaken watersheds in other states but not in the Great Lakes basin, said state officials.

[DNA breakthrough detects genetic diversity of invasive fish \(9/11/23\)](#) Ecologists have demonstrated that the genetic material that species shed into their environments can reveal not only the presence of the species but also a broad range of information about the genetics of whole populations.

AQUATIC PLANTS

CLIMATE CHANGE

[Invasive species are causing hundreds of billions in economic damage. Is climate change to blame? \(9/5/23\)](#) Chief among the causes are climate change and human activity, with species accidentally and sometimes deliberately spread by people. Warmer temperatures, like those seen this summer in Europe and elsewhere, are expected to exacerbate challenges caused by invasive species.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

[Community science and its ripple effects \(9/14/23\)](#) “On the southern Oregon coast near Coos Bay, [community scientists] found invasive red swamp crayfish there [and] were able to report that data... Then wildlife managers here in Oregon could get down there and try to stop that invasion before it really caused trouble,” Reynolds said.

Communicating eDNA and eDNA Management Implications:

- Environmental DNA is an effective and efficient toolset for acquiring critical information on many biological resources in our waters, especially for organisms like invasive species that occur at low abundance.
- However, inadequate communication from the scientific community to the management community about the state of the science, appropriate uses, limitations, and result dissemination has hindered eDNA application in environmental monitoring programs.
- Scientists and managers convened at a recent national workshop to discuss strategies for improving communication.
- In this article, we distilled the national workshop discussion into key communication strategies for scientists and managers to consider prior to initiating eDNA sampling.
- A cornerstone for these strategies is the concept of ensuring ‘no surprises’.

Stein, E. D., Jerde, C. L., Allan, E. A., Sepulveda, A. J., Abbott, C. L., Baerwald, M. R., Darling, J., Goodwin, K. D., Meyer, R. S., Timmers, M. A., & Thielen, P. M. (2023). Critical considerations for communicating environmental DNA science. *Environmental DNA*, 00, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/edn3.472>

Lee, K. N., Kelly, R. P., Demir-Hilton, E., Laschever, E., & Allan, E. A. (2023). Adoption of environmental DNA in public agency practice. *Environmental DNA*, 00, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1002/edn3.470>

OTHER

[Searching: A Biologist's Journey. A memoir by Joan H. Cabreza](#)

Joan is former editor of the *AIS News* (2008-2012) and has a great book out. You can purchase the book through her new website.

[Invasive species risk a biodiversity disaster – but there is still time to stop it \(9/6/23\)](#) If current trends continue, there could be as much as a 36% increase in global alien species numbers by 2050, compared with 2005. The relentless pace at which alien species are being transported and introduced globally will alter ecosystems for centuries, if not millennia. A subset of these species, termed invasive alien species, can have a catastrophic effect on biodiversity, human wellbeing and the economy. But research by me and my colleagues suggests that there is still time to avoid the worst outcomes for Earth's biodiversity and bring the rate of new biological invasions under control.

[Mega-Herbivores: Nature's Secret Weapon Against Invasive Plants \(9/6/23\)](#) Heavy herbivores like elephants and buffaloes are effective against invasive plants, concludes a new Danish/Indian study based on data from the world's largest survey of wildlife. But you don't need elephants to get the same effect elsewhere.

[Rethinking the war on invasive species \(9/7/23\)](#) Invasive species cost hundreds of billions each year. But the division between "alien" and "native" isn't so clear.

[In Maui's recovery, ecologists see an opportunity to protect the island from invasive species \(9/13/23\)](#) As wildfire recovery continues on Maui, ecologists say now is the time to restore native vegetation to mitigate future fire risk. The idea of acting sooner than later is to prevent non-native grasses from overtaking the land that was burned.

[There are fears B.C. could be dealing with a rise in feral hogs in the aftermath of this year's wildfires \(9/14/23\)](#) Gail Wallin, executive director of the Invasive Species Council of B.C., said she's aware of reports of pigs escaping pens that were damaged by fires, but that it's unclear how many pigs remain in the wild. She said many were caught and returned to their owners.

[She kills to be kind: the mastermind ecologist eliminating invasive predators \(9/10/23\)](#) Honed in New Zealand and exported globally, Elizabeth Bell's techniques for creating predator-free zones are allowing native species to thrive again on islands from the Caribbean to the UK

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

PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Senior Program Manager

Group Definition: Members of the Program Manager job family have responsibility for developing and implementing budgets, staffing, work plans, and schedules for their organization in support of fisheries management and/or data collection activities. They monitor and evaluate progress toward meeting contractually established goals and are held accountable for the achievement of those goals. **Closes 10/31/23**

PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION CONTRACT RFP

Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program (WIT) Coordinator/Trainer

Deadline for written questions: **09/27/2023**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **10/12/2023**

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to procure the professional services of a contractor to teach inspection and decontamination of zebra or quagga mussels (and other AIS) contaminated watercraft utilizing the “Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Interception Programs for Dreissenid Mussels in the Western United States.” The primary geographic focus of the project is for the Western US states. The contractor shall also assist in strategizing how to effectively carry the WIT Program forward into the future and other tasks as deemed appropriate.

East Kootenay ISC Education & Outreach Coordinator: [EKISC Education + Outreach Coordinator Job Description 2023](#) The Education + Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating education activities and raising public awareness about the impacts of invasive species within the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK). They will follow and refine a detailed short- and long-term education work plan, focusing on outreach and education programs. The coordinator will lead a crew of 1-2 summer students in delivering programming on aquatic and terrestrial invasive species identification, impacts, management options, and restoration techniques. The coordinator and crew will represent EKISC at events, set up outreach booths, and educate the public about invasive species identification and management. They will work alongside and report to the Communications Manager to create social media content,

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resources and provide consistent messaging. **Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.**

SSISC Invasive Animals Program Coordinator/Crab Team Coordinator: [SSISC](#)

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Invasive Animals Program Coordinator](#) The Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC) is a non-profit organization that works to minimize the threat of invasive species in the Sea to Sky Corridor. The SSISC is looking for a self-motivated, hardworking individual to coordinate our existing invasive animal monitoring programs, as well as work with the Executive Director to develop, fundraise and potentially expand our invasive animal monitoring programs.

The position will involve volunteer management, fieldwork in marine and aquatic ecosystems throughout the Sea to Sky region, data collection, analysis and mapping; coordination, planning and communication; as well as grant writing, fundraising and program development.

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

The [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#) is currently recruiting for a [Fisheries Biologist 9-P11 position within the Fisheries Division](#). This is a 2-year limited term position located at the Cadillac Customer Service Center: 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, Michigan, 49601, and is open to all applicants. This limited-term position is responsible for implementing a federally funded project focused on addressing data gaps to inform management of invasive dreissenid mussels for protection of native freshwater mussels. The position will lead an effort to integrate pre-existing invasive and native species databases. The position will also lead a field crew to conduct mussel surveys to address identified data gaps. The project will consist of working with diverse partners within and outside of the MDNR to develop future strategies for management of invasive dreissenid mussels.

[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: 10/05/2023

The mission of the Arizona Game & Fish Department is to conserve and protect Arizona’s diverse wildlife resources and manage for safe, compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations. It is our vision to be the national conservation leader supporting the continuation of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and Arizona’s most trusted, respected and credible source for wildlife conservation products, services and information.

[AZ Wildlife Specialist](#) Do you have a passion for the outdoors and want to protect water bodies in Arizona and western US? If so, we invite you to apply for our dedicated aquatic invasive species team as a Wildlife Specialist in Page, AZ, located at picturesque Lake Powell. As a Wildlife Specialist, you will play a pivotal role in containing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Arizona. This position offers the unique opportunity to not only contain aquatic invasive species, but develop critical communication and leadership skills.

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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.

Post Doctoral Fellow, Aquatic Invasive Species

Employer University of Missouri - Columbia

Location Missouri, United States

Salary Not Specified

Location: Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri; Columbia, Missouri

Responsibilities:

1. Operationalize aquatic invasive species' early detection and rapid response framework by resource managers using natural resource decision-making elements to develop a prevention and monitoring program for Prussian carp.
2. Evaluate the potential outcomes of management actions to control black carp in the Illinois River and expansion into Lake Michigan with additional emphasis on evaluating alternative monitoring programs and uncertainties to research and monitoring efforts.
3. Given management objectives, evaluate the likelihood of invasive carp control and deterrent efforts at sites in the Tennessee River, Cumberland River, and Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.
4. Work collaboratively with state and federal agency biologists, and academics to lead workshops, and communicate decision processes with stakeholders.
5. Present/publish results in agency workgroups, peer-reviewed journals, and professional society meetings.

Spatial Conservation Ecologist Diversity Focus

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Madison, Wisconsin, United States (On-Site)

Apply Now – Closes October 1, 2023

Description

The Spatial Conservation Ecologist (SPE) will work in the Peery lab group on UW-Madison campus in the department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. They will be responsible for developing a spatial prioritization strategy for managing invasive barred owls in western North America on a project funded by NASA's Ecological Forecasting program. This project is being conducted in close collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Services (USFS) Rocky Mountain Research Station, the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, Cornell University, and many other federal and California state agencies.

Wildlife Control and Biology Members - American Conservation Experience

Lake Arthur, Louisiana, United States (On-Site)

American Conservation Experience, a nonprofit Conservation Corps, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking NINE Members to contribute to nutria control in the

Gulf Coast region and other invasive species and biological projects alongside FWS Staff. Members will be placed at one of the following stations: Lacassine NWR, Lake Arthur, LA (2 members); Grand Cote NWR, Marksville, LA (2 members); D'Arbonne NWR, Farmerville, LA (2 members); Panther Swamp NWR, Louise, MS (2 members); Mississippi Sandhill Crane NWR, Gautier, MS (1 member).

For more information about ACE, please visit: www.usaconservation.org

Start Date: January 8, 2024

Estimated End Date: January 2025

Grants

We are excited to announce that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force, posted a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(F24AS00018, Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species\)](#) on August 17, 2023 to request proposals that support the rapid response to a new species introduction within freshwater, estuarine, or marine waters of the United States, including the U.S. territories.

This year, as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorization for ecosystem restoration, the Department of the Interior invested \$1 million to establish a pilot Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species with an additional \$1 million envisioned each year 2024 through 2026 as part of advancing a National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework. The Rapid Response Fund will be administered within the existing authorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Aquatic Conservation program and coordinated through the ANS Task Force. In July 2023, the ANS Task Force approved [The Model Process: Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species](#) that outlines a structure and process for operation of the Fund.

The deadline for the first cycle of proposals is October 18, 2023. After this cycle, we will continue with quarterly review and selections, anticipated to begin on or near **November 1, 2023**, February 1, 2024, and May 1, 2024. General information about the Fund and a list of Frequently Asked Questions can be found [HERE](#). Additional questions may be directed to Susan Pasko, ANS Task Force Executive Secretary, at susan_pasko@fws.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**

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**

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>

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

LEGISLATION

Advocacy

State/Provincial

Federal: Executive

[USDA Forest Service Awards Over \\$900K to Fight Invasive Species in Oregon and Washington \(9/7/23\)](#) The USDA Forest Service has awarded over \$900,000 to fight invasive species in Oregon and Washington. The funding, which is part of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, will support projects to detect, prevent, eradicate, and research invasive species that threaten forests in the two states.

A majority of the funding, \$775,000, will go to Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species Monitoring and Control in the following Oregon National Forests: Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River Grasslands, Malheur, and Siuslaw and the following Washington National Forests: Mt Baker Snoqualmie and Olympic. The funding will support projects to survey for and control invasive species like the emerald ash borer.

Additionally, \$133,000 will go to the Washington Invasive Species Council to partner with tribal, federal, state, and local governments, non-profits, and landowners to protect Washington's Sagebrush Biome through the prevention of movement and establishment of invasive plants and noxious weeds.

Related: [USDA Invasive Species 2023 BIL Funded Projects](#)

Federal: Congressional

[Here's how many times the federal government has shut down \(9/24/23\)](#)

There have been 21 federal government shutdowns in the last five decades, and Congress has until Sept. 30 to pass a set of spending bills or come up with a short-term plan to avert a soon-to-be 22nd government shutdown

[Congress stares down shutdown deadline \(9/24/23\)](#)

...With the funding deadline inching closer and the House without a solid path to averting a shutdown, the Senate this week will move ahead with its own path to pass a stopgap bill. The

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House traditionally moves on spending and revenue bills first, but Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) is pressing ahead as House Republicans remain divided.

Federal: Appropriations

EVENTS

Archived Events:

Ongoing Training Opportunities:

Watercraft Inspection Training

Virtual (TBA):

- Virtual WIT or Level 1 – Inspector Training (2 days - 8 am – Noon PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-1-inspector-training>
- WIT or Level 2 – Inspector & Decon Training (3 days – 8 am – Noon PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-2>
- WIT or Level 3 – Trainer Training (3 days- 9 am – 4pm PST)
<https://www.westernais.org/level-3>

In-Person:

TBA

[DOI Invasive Species Training Opportunities Spreadsheet](#)

[PNW IPC Citizen Science Trainings](#)

[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

September

[Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 113th Annual Meeting](#) September 24-27, 2023;
Calgary, Alberta

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting 9/28/23](#)

[Zoom Webinar Registration](#)

Phone: 1-253-205-0468, Webinar ID: 895 4703 6648

Physical Location: Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia,

October

[North American Invasive Species Management Association's 31st Annual Conference](#)

October 16-19, 2023; Lincoln, Nebraska

2023 Montana Lakes Conference, October 18-20. The theme for the conference is "[Montana Lakes at Risk; Challenges and Opportunities.](#)" Whitefish, MT

Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species Summit, Salem, OR October 24th, 2023 (8:30am-4:30pm PST)
ODFW Field Office in Salem, OR FREE – lunch will be provided [Register now!](#)

November

[Oregon Invasive Species Council - Business Meeting.](#) Hybrid. November 8th, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport OR

[Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation \(CERF\) 2023: Resilience & Recovery](#) Portland, Oregon, USA | 12–16 November 2023

[2023 Delta Invasive Species Symposium.](#) November 30th, Sacramento, CA.

December

[Wild Spotter Invasive Species Ambassador Training Course December 5-7, 2023](#)

This intensive training will include building relationships, partnerships and engaging stakeholders; branding and marketing programs; using innovative tools and technologies; and volunteer citizen-science coordination, recruitment, and retention to meet invasive species management goals and expand local community capacity for action. This gathering will have limited attendance through a merit selection process. Please apply at <https://invasivesfree.org>.

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Priority will be given to participants who can demonstrate their commitment to building invasive species management capacity within their community.

[Washington Invasive Species Council Meeting 12/15/23](#)

[Zoom Webinar Registration](#)

Phone: 1-253-205-0468, Webinar ID: 872 1552 7263

Physical Location: Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, WA 98501

2024

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.

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