

# Clearwater Junction Check Station Opens

11 APRIL

Be Prepared to Stop

## Welcome Back Inspectors

The Clearwater Junction Watercraft Inspection Station and all our lovely inspectors are ready for the 2026 season! The inspection station will be officially opening on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

This is your reminder to be prepared for stopping at the check station for ALL watercraft. It is important that all watercrafts stop, from your jetboats to your inflatable paddleboards and kayaks, even if they are deflated. Invasive species are tricky and can hide in places you might not expect, so it is crucial to stop at every station, every time. Reference the sheet below to make sure you are checking your watercraft thoroughly!

### Prior to Arriving



- CLEAN all watercraft of visible debris
- DRAIN watercraft of all water
- DRY watercraft, storage areas, bilge, anchors, ballast tanks, and live wells



CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

### AT THE STATION BE PREPARED TO...



- REMOVE ALL COVERS FROM WATERCRAFT
- RAISE AND LOWER ENGINE / MOTOR
- ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT PRIOR LAUNCHES
- PROVIDE OTHER ASSISTANCE TO INSPECTORS AS NEEDED
- STOP AT EVERY STATION YOU ENCOUNTER EVERY TIME



### AIS HIDING SPOTS

#### Kayaks, Paddle Boards, Rafts, and Inflatables



#### Motorized Watercraft



#### Gear



Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species helps protect the waterways we all love. Keeping our waterways free of invasive species ensures healthy ecosystems, better recreational opportunities, and keeps Montana wild.

# Keep an eye out for...

## Golden Mussels

MEET THE

### **GOLDEN MUSSELS**

*LIMNOPERNA FORTUNEI*

Juvenile



Adult



Golden mussels were found in San Joaquin County, California in October 2024. They can outcompete native species for resources and can contribute to harmful algal blooms that can lead to fish kills. In addition, they can clog water-based infrastructure like irrigation lines and hydroelectric systems, increasing maintenance and repair costs. They foul watercraft and negatively impact recreation. These mussels have not been detected in Montana, but it is critical that we are vigilant and work to prevent the spread of these invaders into our waters.



## Bullfrogs

Bullfrogs can eat anything that fits in their mouths, including fish, native amphibians, turtles, ducklings, snakes, and smaller individuals of their own species. They can grow significantly larger than native amphibian species and impact their populations through direct predation as well as resource competition. They are also carriers of chytrid fungus, a fungal disease that affects amphibians and can cause drastic reductions in native populations

### **AMERICAN BULLFROG**

Dark green or brown-green with dark blotches

Prominent ridge running from eyes to shoulders

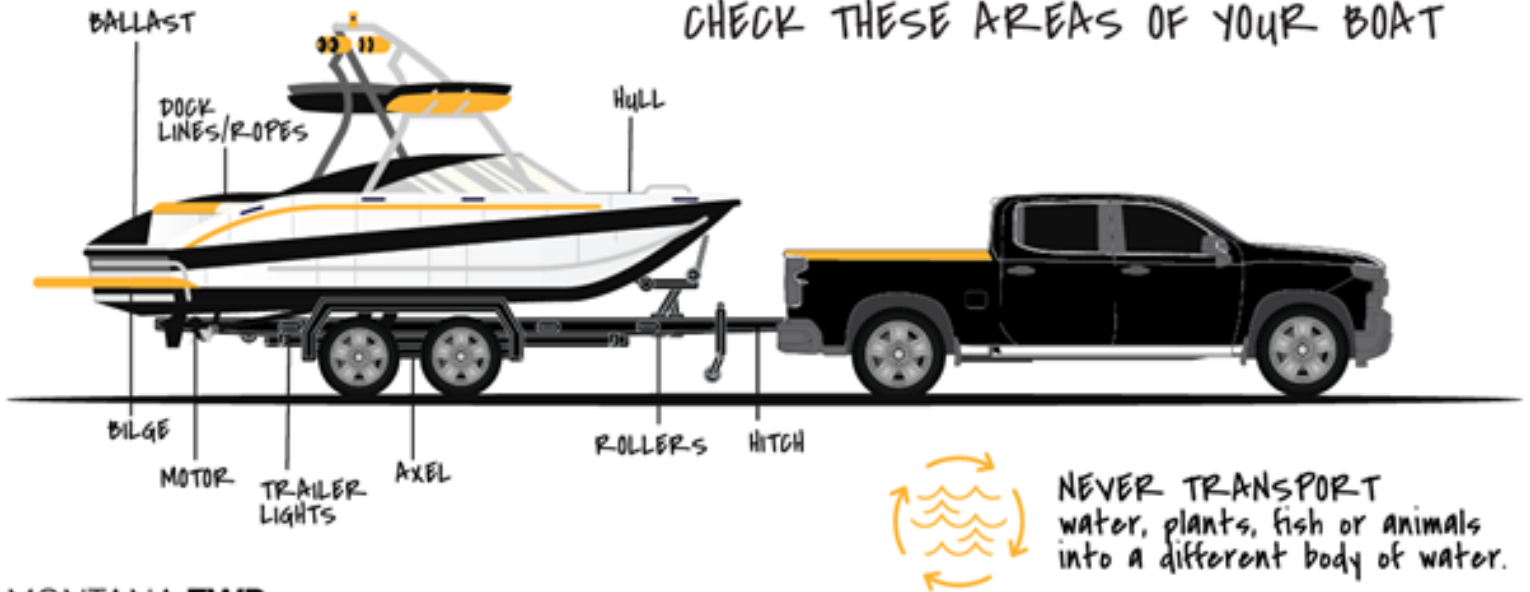


Cream underbelly

# Prevention

## CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.

CHECK THESE AREAS OF YOUR BOAT



MONTANA FWP

Prevention is our best tool for keeping aquatic invasive species from entering and spreading throughout our waterways. Clean, Drain, Dry! Look over your watercraft, particularly in the areas noted on the diagram below, stop at ALL watercraft inspection stations, and never release aquarium pets or plants into waterways. Be sure to thoroughly wash and decontaminate your gear, including fishing gear, boats, shoes, floatation devices, and anchors.

Help us protect Montana's waters by recreating responsibly!

Keep an eye on the Missoula County Department of Ecology and Extension Instagram page for future invasive species highlights! @missoula\_ecologyextension

## REPORT SUSPECTED AIS

1-800-847-MONT

1-800-847-6668

or

Report A Suspected AIS |  
Montana FWP