

Aquatic Invasive Species can displace native species, clog waterways, impact irrigation and power systems, degrade ecosystems, threaten recreational fishing opportunities, and cause wildlife and public health problems.

Prevention is the first line of defense! Do your part to stop the spread of AIS by taking simple precautions.

HOW TO REPORT

If you see or suspect a new infestations of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen or take a photo with as much detail as possible, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at <https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>



Or call the MT FWP front desk at: 406-444-2440

SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT!



MOLLUSKS

CORBICULA CLAM
Corbicula fluminea



Adults are between 3-5 cm in length. Generally yellow or tan in Montana. Triangular shaped shell with concentric ridges. Tiny, serrated teeth visible when open.

CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL
Cipangopalundina chinensis malleat



Up to 2.25 inches (5.7 cm) in length. Light brownish to olive green shell. Six to seven whorls without banding. Round or oval black lip.

MOLLUSKS

FAUCET SNAIL
Bithynia tentaculata



12-15 mm in length. Shiny, pale brown, coiled spiral shell with roughly 5 coils and a teardrop opening.

RED-RIM MELANIA
Melanoides tuberculata



Average length of 20-27 mm (80 mm max). Usually light brown or white shell with sand to dark brown markings and rust colored spots. Elongate conical shell with up to 10-15 slightly convex whorls.

MOLLUSKS

NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL
Potamopyrgus antipodarum



4-6 mm in length. Shell colors vary from gray and dark brown to light brown. Shell is coiled to the right with 7-8 coils separated by deep grooves; trapdoor on opening.

ZEBRA MUSSEL
Dreissena polymorpha



Larvae are microscopic; young are as small as a grain of rice; adults are roughly 2.5 cm. Usually marked with a zigzag pattern that can range from brown to yellowish white in color. Flat ventral (underside) and more triangular in shape than quagga.

MOLLUSKS

Quagga and zebra mussels, also know collectively as Dreissenid mussels, can live outside water for up to 22 days.

Clean, Drain, Dry all watercraft, trailers, fishing equipment and do not use live bait from one body of water to another. Do your part to keep Montana waters healthy.

If you see a boat or trailer with aquatic organisms attached to it, call 1-800-TIP-MONT (1-800-847-6668) immediately.

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen and complete a Report a Suspected AIS form at fwp.mt.gov. You can also notify the FWP Fisheries office at (406) 444-2440.

QUAGGA MUSSEL
Dreissena rostriformis bugensis



Larvae are microscopic; young are as small as a grain of rice; adults are roughly 4 cm. Dark concentric rings on shell, bands in colors that range from cream to black. Paler color closer to hinge. Convex ventral side that will cause it to tip over if placed on side.



MONTANA

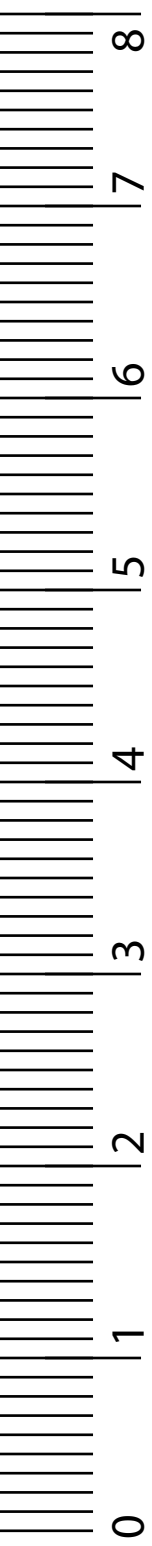
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



An identification guide for invasives in Montana waters

Suspect it, report it! Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Montana waters.





CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

CLEAN off plants, animals, and mud from gear and equipment including waders, footwear, ropes, anchors, bait traps, dip nets, downrigger cables, fishing lines, and field gear before leaving water access. Scrub off any visible material on footwear with a stiff brush.

DRAIN water from waders, watercraft, motor, bilge, bladder tanks, livewell and portable bait containers before leaving water access. Replace with spring or dechlorinated tap water when keeping live bait before leaving water access.

DRY everything five days or more when moving between waters to kill small species not easily seen OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait, fish parts, and packing materials, in the trash; do not dump them in the water or on land.

Releasing a pet into the wild is never the right thing to do! Dumping aquarium water, plants, and animals is illegal and can be harmful to native wildlife and habitats. Be aware of prohibited species regulations before purchasing a pet and visit our website for pet rehoming options if needed. www.dontletitloose.com



Suspect it, report it! Help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Montana waters.

To prevent the spread of invasive crayfish, do not use the species as bait and never release crayfish kept as pets or purchased for boils.

If you suspect an infestation of an invasive crayfish, take a photo of the full back of the crayfish and the belly side as close as possible for distinguishing characteristics.

RED SWAMP CRAYFISH
Procambarus clarkii



Adults are 2-5 inches long. Body is dark red with red, raised spots on body and claws and a black wedge-shaped stripe on the top of the abdomen.

RUSTY CRAYFISH
Faxonius rusticus



Adults are up to 6 inches long. Body is light to dark brown with dark rusty colored spots on sides of shell. Claws have black bands at the tips.

MARbled CRAYFISH
Procambarus virginalis



Adults are 4-5 inches long. Body is typically olive to dark brown but can range from tan to reddish blue. Distinct marbled or streaked appearance on its back and claws.

Non-native fish threaten the prevalence of native fish through competition and predation. Most introductions of non-native fish are through human introduction. Do your part by not moving fish from one water body to another. Do not release aquarium or bait fish.

If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen or take extensive photos of prominent features and submit to MT FWP. You can also notify the FWP Fisheries office at (406) 444-2440.

NORTHERN PIKE
Esox lucius



Most measure 15-30 inches. Pale spots on greenish background with white belly. Fins are typically yellow-orange with black mottling.

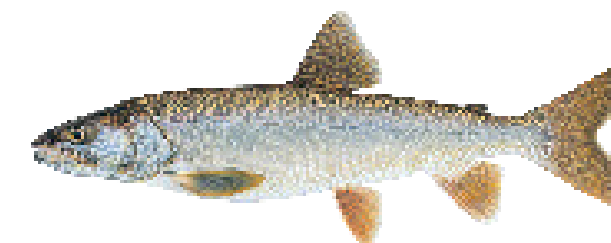
SMALLMOUTH BASS
Micropterus dolomieu



Typically 8-22 inches long. Pale green to olive green with a white-yellow belly and small, brown blotches and vertical bars along body.

Catch, kill, and report Smallmouth Bass along the entire Bitterroot River. Call MT FWP within 24 hours at: 406-542-5500.

LAKE TROUT
Salvelinus namaycush



Can reach up to 3 ft in length. Light spots on a black to grey body and white belly. Dark markings on dorsal fin and white leading edge on lower fins.

AMPHIBIANS

AMERICAN BULLFROG
Rana (Lithobates) catesbeiana



Adults are 3-6 inches long and can weigh up to 2 lbs. Adults are pale to dark olive green with darker spots and white-yellow undersides. Males have a yellow throat and are slightly smaller than females. The tympanum is larger than the eye.

RED-EARED SLIDER
Trachemys scripta



Adults can be as large as 12 inches. The shell of the native painted turtle and invasive red-eared slider are very similar in color and markings. To distinguish between the native and invasive species look for the characteristic red stripe behind the eye to identify the invasive red-eared slider. The underside of the shell is lighter with dark spots.

SNAPPING TURTLE
Chelydra serpentina



Average carapace size of 14 inches (max 19.6). Head and carapace are green to dark brown and skin is more yellowish. Carapace has jagged scales on top and serrated edges towards the back. **Snapping turtles are invasive west of the Continental Divide but are a native species east of the Continental Divide.**