

Addressing the Threat of AIS in Montana

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AIS BUREAU CHIEF



Opportunity



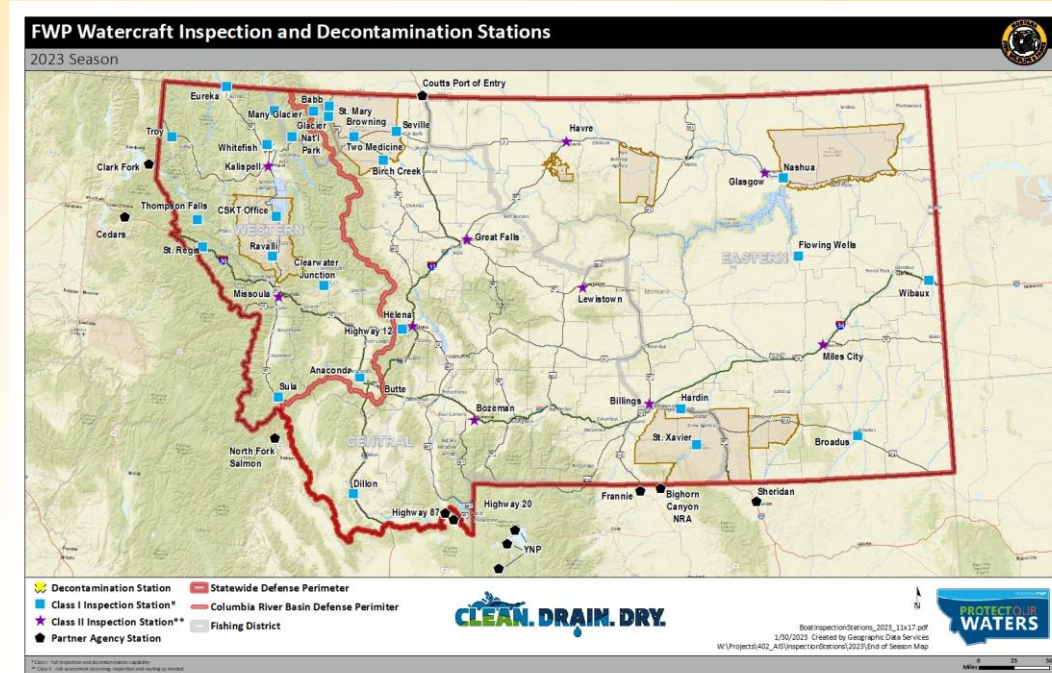
Addressing the Threat of AIS

- Prevention
- Early Detection
- Outreach
- Early Detection /
Rapid Response
Preparedness

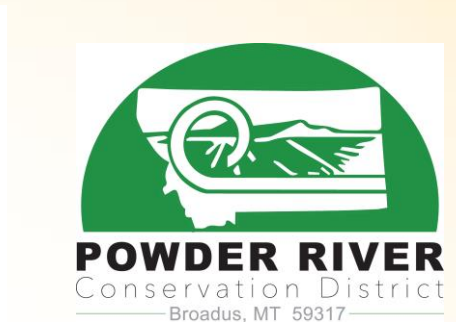
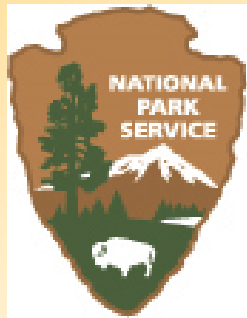


AIS Prevention: Watercraft Inspection

- 17 State-Funded Stations.
- 95,000 Watercraft Inspected.
 - 52 Intercepted with Mussels.
 - Over 400 with Weeds.
- Focus on QA/QC.
- Partnerships



Inspection Partnerships



Inspection Station Partners

Partners (Contracted):

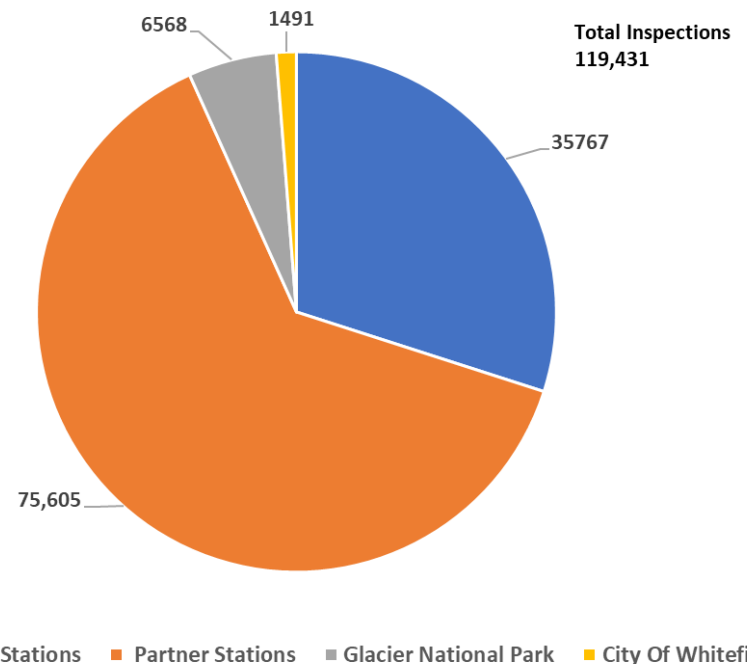
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Ravalli & Thompson falls)
- Blackfeet Nation (Browning)
- Missoula County (Clearwater Junction)
- Garfield Conservation District (Flowing Wells & Wibaux)
- McCone Conservation District (Nahsua)
- Beaverhead Conservation District (Dillon)
- Bighorn Conservation District (Hardin & St.Xavier)
- Powder River Conservation District (Broadus)

Other Inspection Station Partners

- City of Whitefish
- Swan Lakers
- Glacier National Park
- Yellowstone National Park



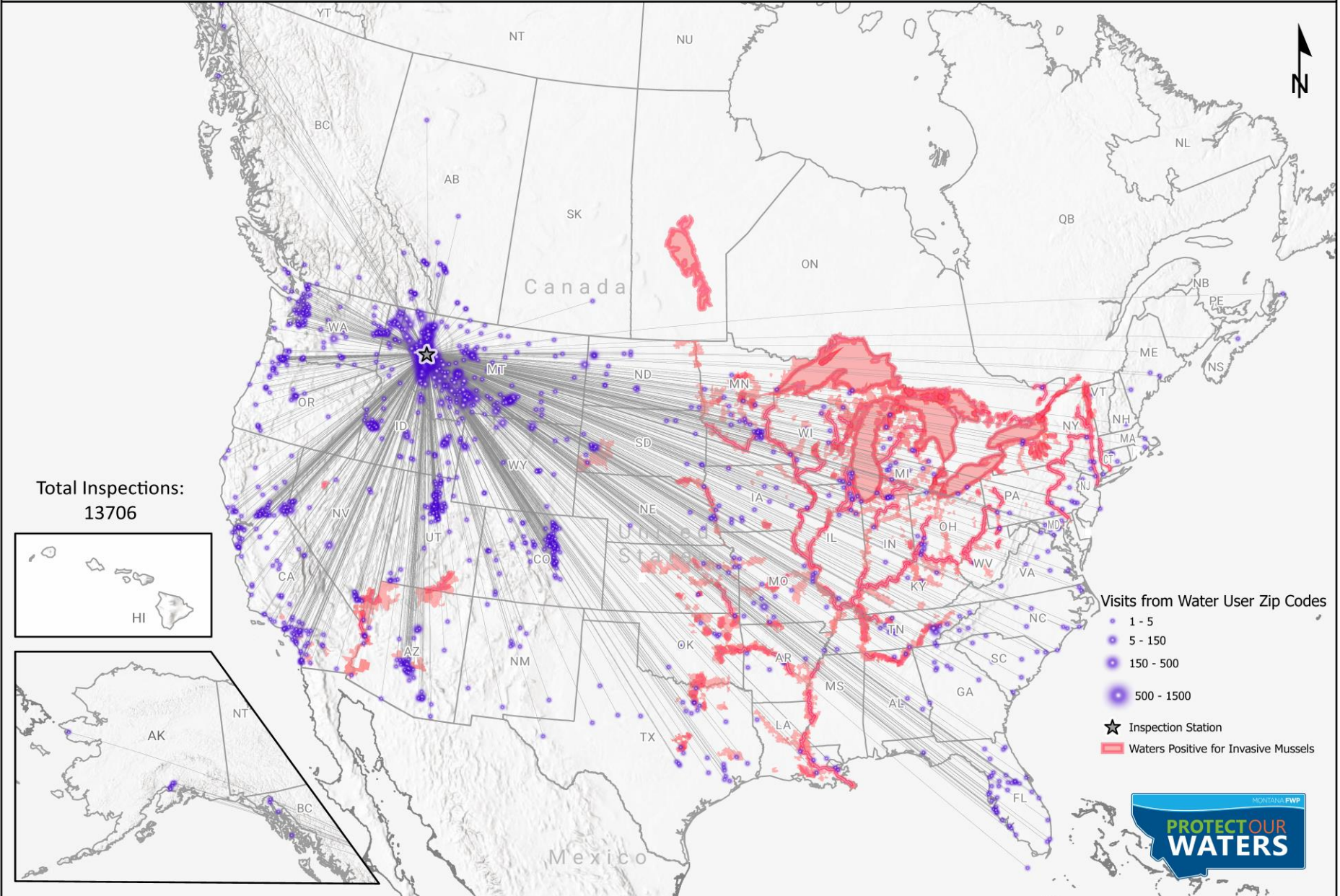
Total Inspections by FWP and Partner Stations, 2022



Ravalli Watercraft Inspection Station

MONTANA FWP

Watercraft Movement into Montana 2022



AIS Mussels Fouled Boats

46

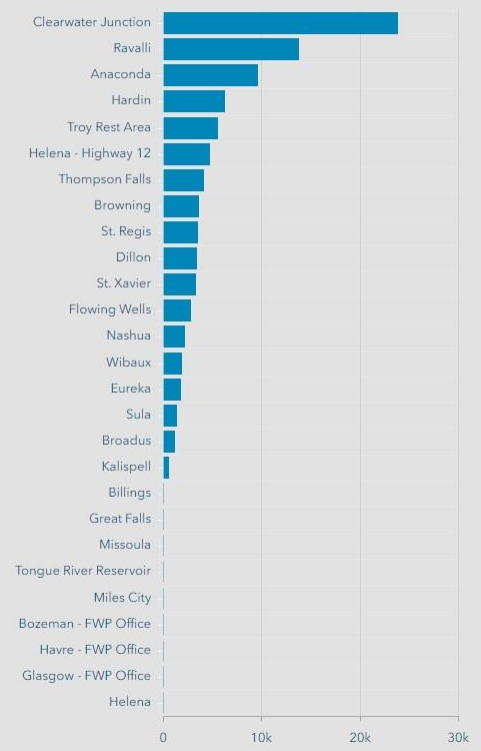
Statewide Total

*Data does not filter by month

Inspection Station Locations



Inspections by Station

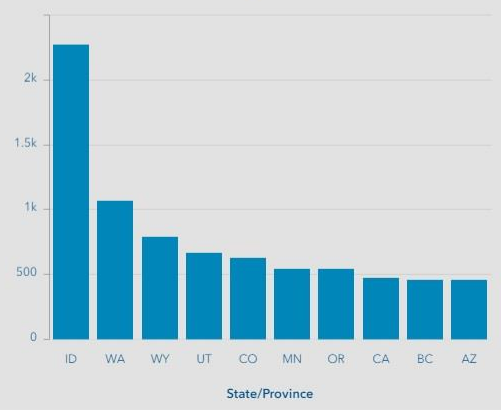


High Risk Boats

18,993

*Boats last launched in states with known AIS infestations

Out-of-State Boats Inspected



AIS Fouled Boats

Inspection Station - Wibaux
Date: September 22, 2023
Water Last Launched: Unknown
State of Origin: NY

Inspection Station - Anaconda
Date: September 9, 2023
Water Last Launched: Ham Lake
State of Origin: MN

Inspection Station - Dillon
Date: September 4, 2023
Water Last Launched: Lake Havasu
State of Origin: AZ

Inspection Station - Broadus
Date: September 2, 2023
Water Last Launched: Lake Minnetonka
State of Origin: MN

*Data does not filter by month

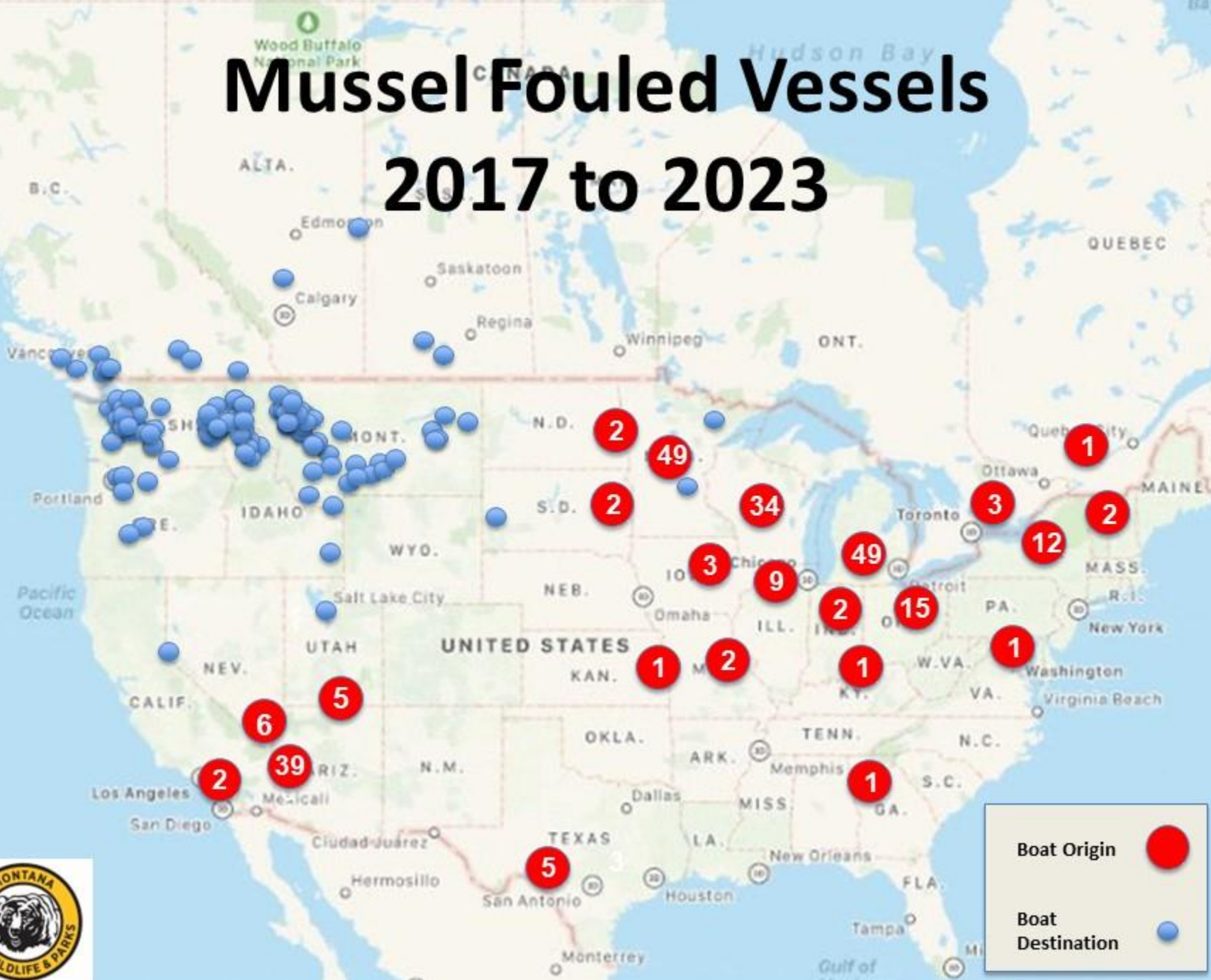
Total Watercraft Inspections

92,746

updated every Monday afternoon



Mussel Fouled Vessels 2017 to 2023



Boat Origin

Boat Destination

Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution

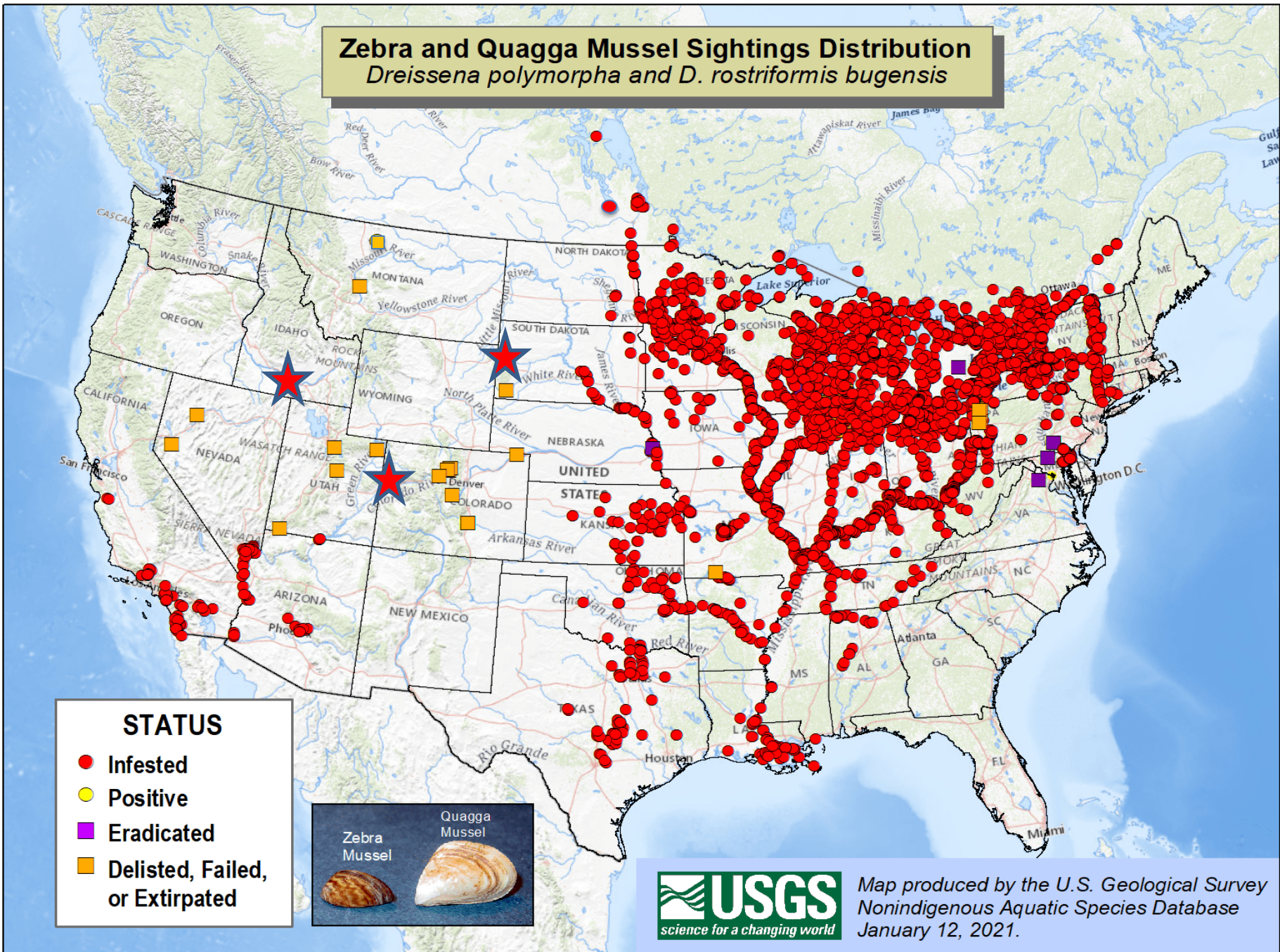
Dreissena polymorpha and *D. rostriformis bugensis*

STATUS

- Infested
- Positive
- Eradicated
- Delisted, Failed, or Extirpated

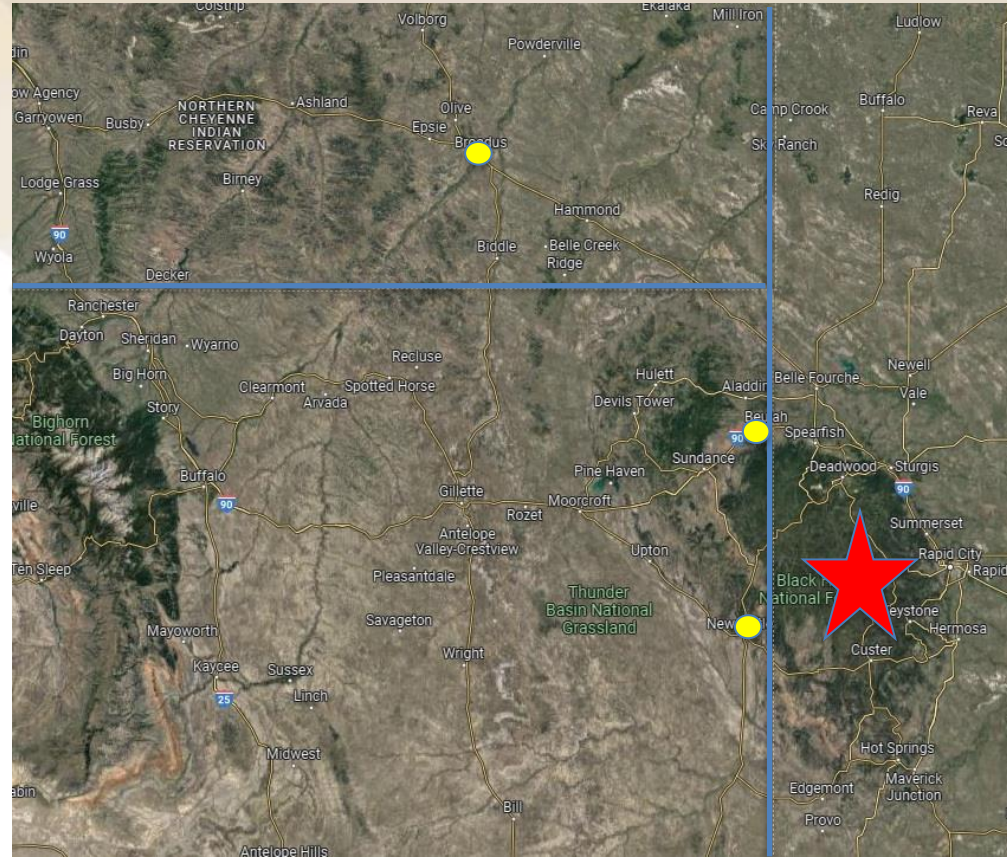


Map produced by the U.S. Geological Survey
Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database
January 12, 2021.



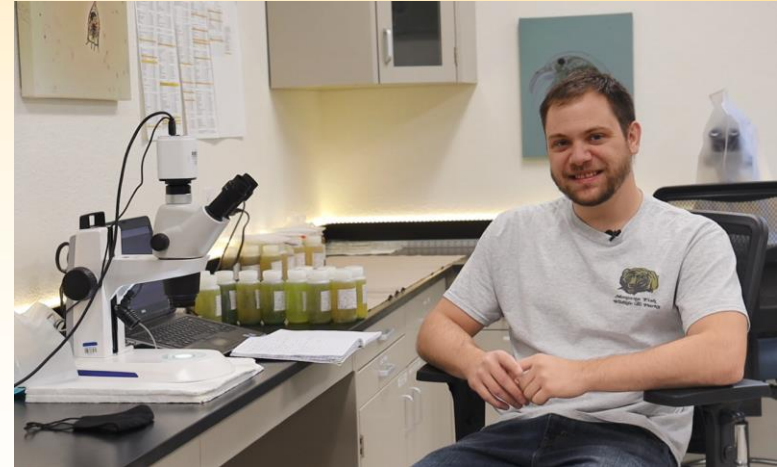
Pactola Reservoir

- Zebra mussels detected 2022.
- USFS and BOR: Land and dam ownership.
- SDGF stations operated by Conservation District.
- Requested FWP Assistance in Sept:
 - 73 mussel fouled boats intercepted the first two weeks of September.

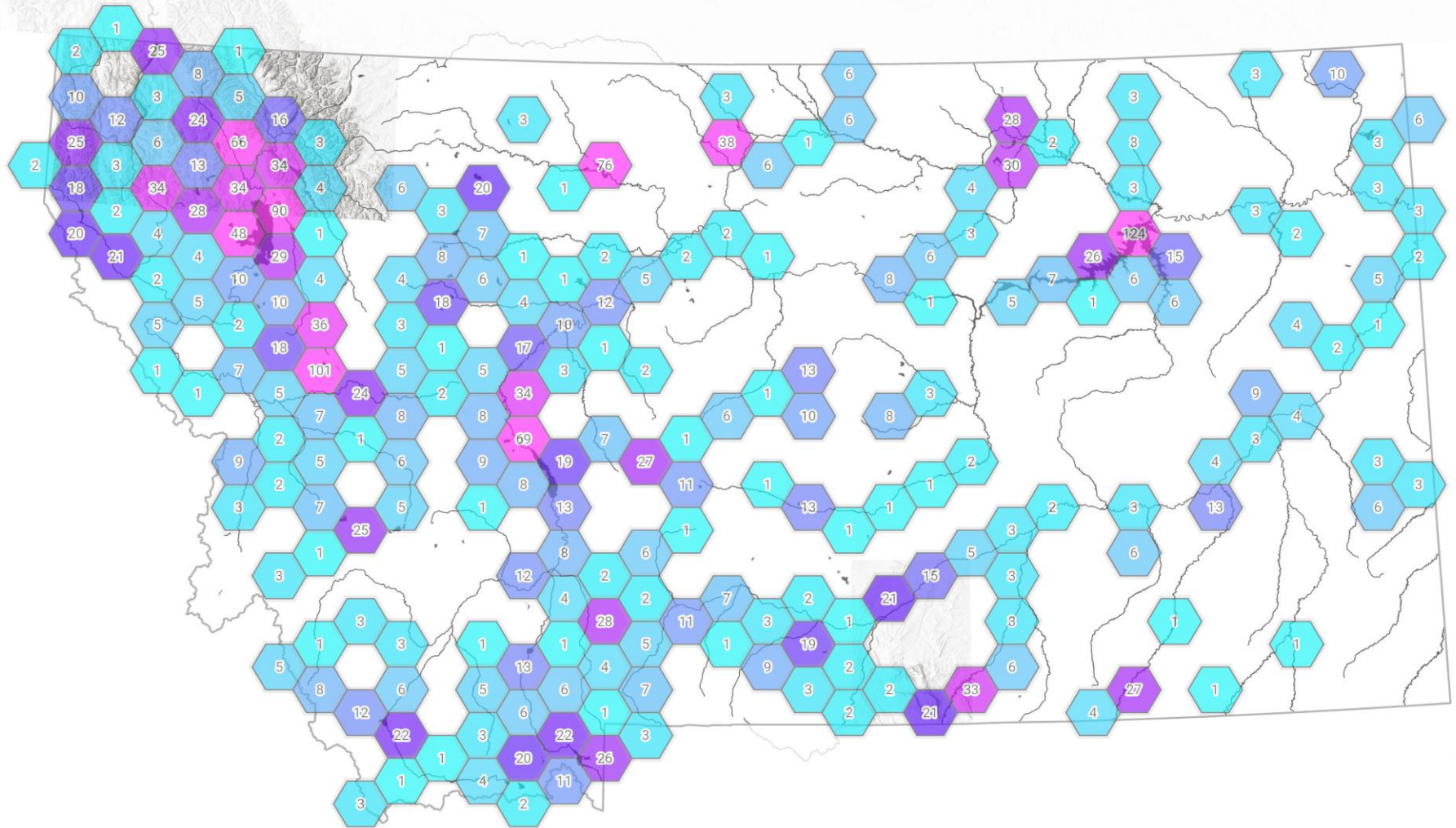


Early Detection Survey

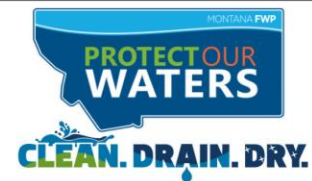
- 3,000 mussel early detection samples processed per season
- Microscopy, substrates, shoreline, divers, eDNA.
- Expanded partner sampling and survey.
- Early Detection training for partners and the public.
- EDRR Treatments.



2022 FWP Plankton Net Survey Location



Plankton Net AIS Sample Location Density



AIS Outreach



MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS



ATTENTION FORT PECK
RECREATIONISTS

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

LEARN MORE!



**CLEAN.
DRAIN.
DRY.**



HELP STOP THE
SPREAD OF AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES



MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS



CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

FOR A HEALTHY
GALLATIN RIVER



CleanDrainDryMT.com

Come Clean Leave Clean



Outreach Partnerships

- Central & Eastern MT Invasive Species Team, UC3 USACE, USFS, USFWS, BOR
- Irrigation districts, Utilities, TU, WU, CDs, lake associations, NGOs.
- AmeriCorps Volunteers
- Marketing Campaign
- Industry Outreach
- Outreach Events



Ballast Decon / Outreach Trailer



Dumping aquarium pets is illegal.



Releasing a pet in the wild is never the right thing to do.

Released pets and plants can become invasive, harm native plants & animals, and be expensive to remove. Instead, contact a pet store or shelter.

DontLetItLoose.com



Call 1-800-TIP-MONT to report illegal dumping.



Anglers Can Stop Aquatic Invasive Species

Take these simple steps every time you fish to be sure you're not moving invasive species from one waterbody to another.

CLEAN

all plants, mud and debris from fishing gear, waders and boots before leaving the water. Use a scrub brush if needed.

DRAIN

any standing water from gear. A sponge can help.

DRY

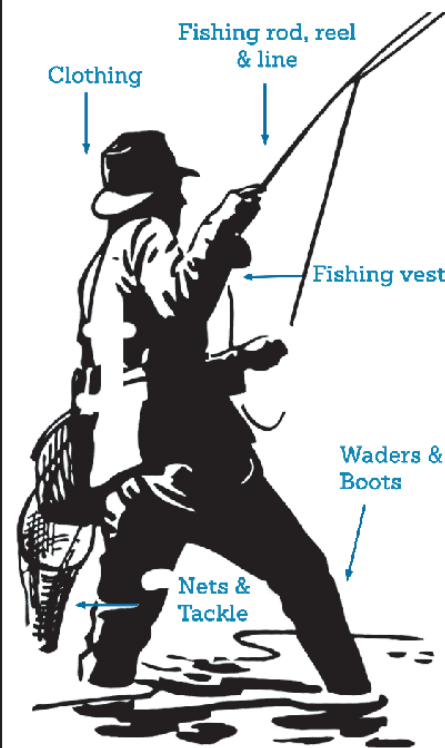
everything before using it again. Gear should be dry to the touch. When possible use **different waders for different waterbodies.**

DISPOSE

of unwanted bait in the trash, not on land or in the water.

NEVER

transport plants, fish or animals into a different body of water.



Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana



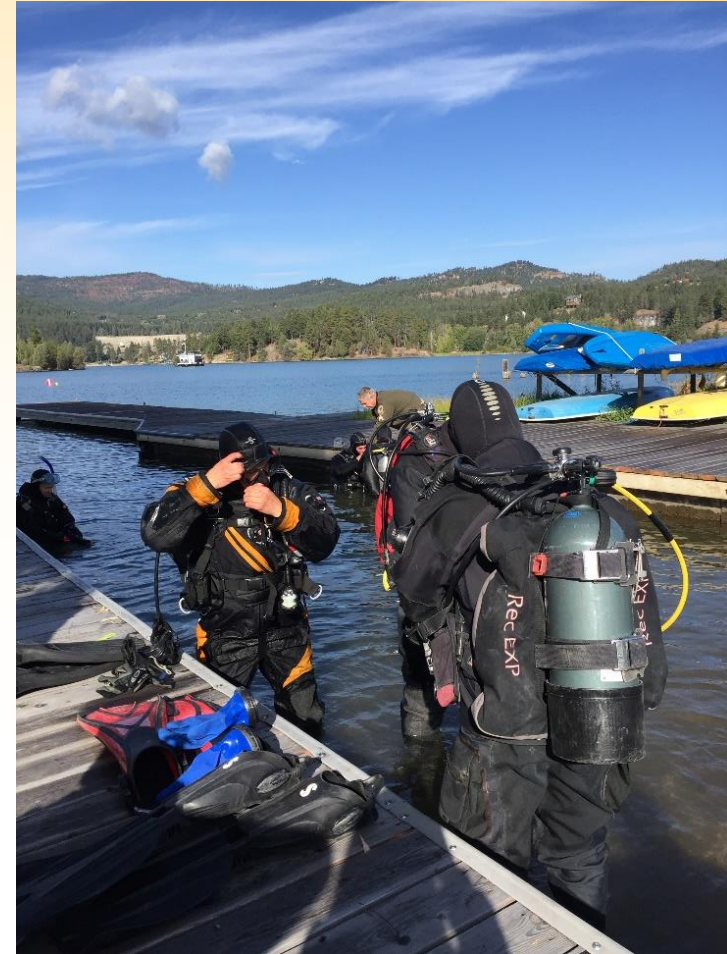
**MONTANA FISH,
WILDLIFE & PARKS**

CleanDrainDryMT.com

Rapid Response Preparedness

PSMFC and USFWS Coordinated.

- Lake Koocanusa Rapid Response Exercise, October 2011.
- Flathead Rapid Response Exercise conducted September 2018.
 - Unified Command: CSKT & FWP
- Fort Peck Reservoir Rapid Response Exercise September 2021.
 - FWP led in coordination with USACE
- CSKT & FWP, Flathead Lake: December 2022
- Koocanusa in BC: Summer 2024



Plans 2024

- Continue inspection and survey operations.
- Targeted outreach to boats coming into MT.
- Expand partner participation.
- Regional Coordination to expand containment.
- Continue EDRR Prep.
- Annual AIS Partner meeting Nov 29-30th, Helena.



MONTANA FWP

**PROTECT OUR
WATERS**

FWP.MT.gov/AIS

