

Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Update

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Current AIS Operations

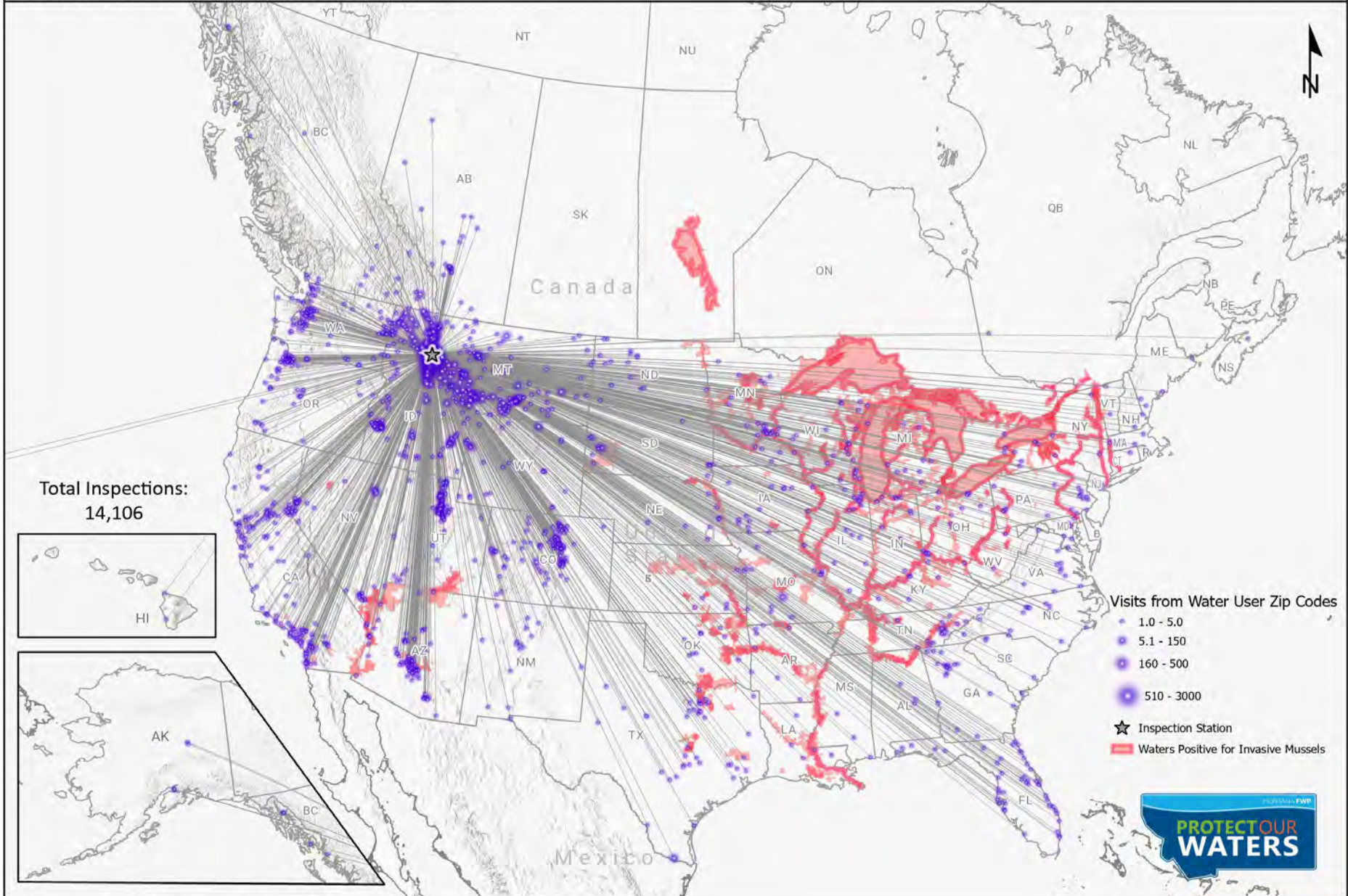
- 17 roadside watercraft inspection stations.
- Stations contracted to Tribes, Conservation Districts, Counties or operated by FWP staff.
- Over 92,000 inspections
 - 42 mussel fouled vessels
 - 500 with weeds
- 2,000 mussel early detection samples processed.
- **NO** Mussel detections to date.



Ravalli Inspection Station

MONTANA FWP

Watercraft Movement into Montana 2023



Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution

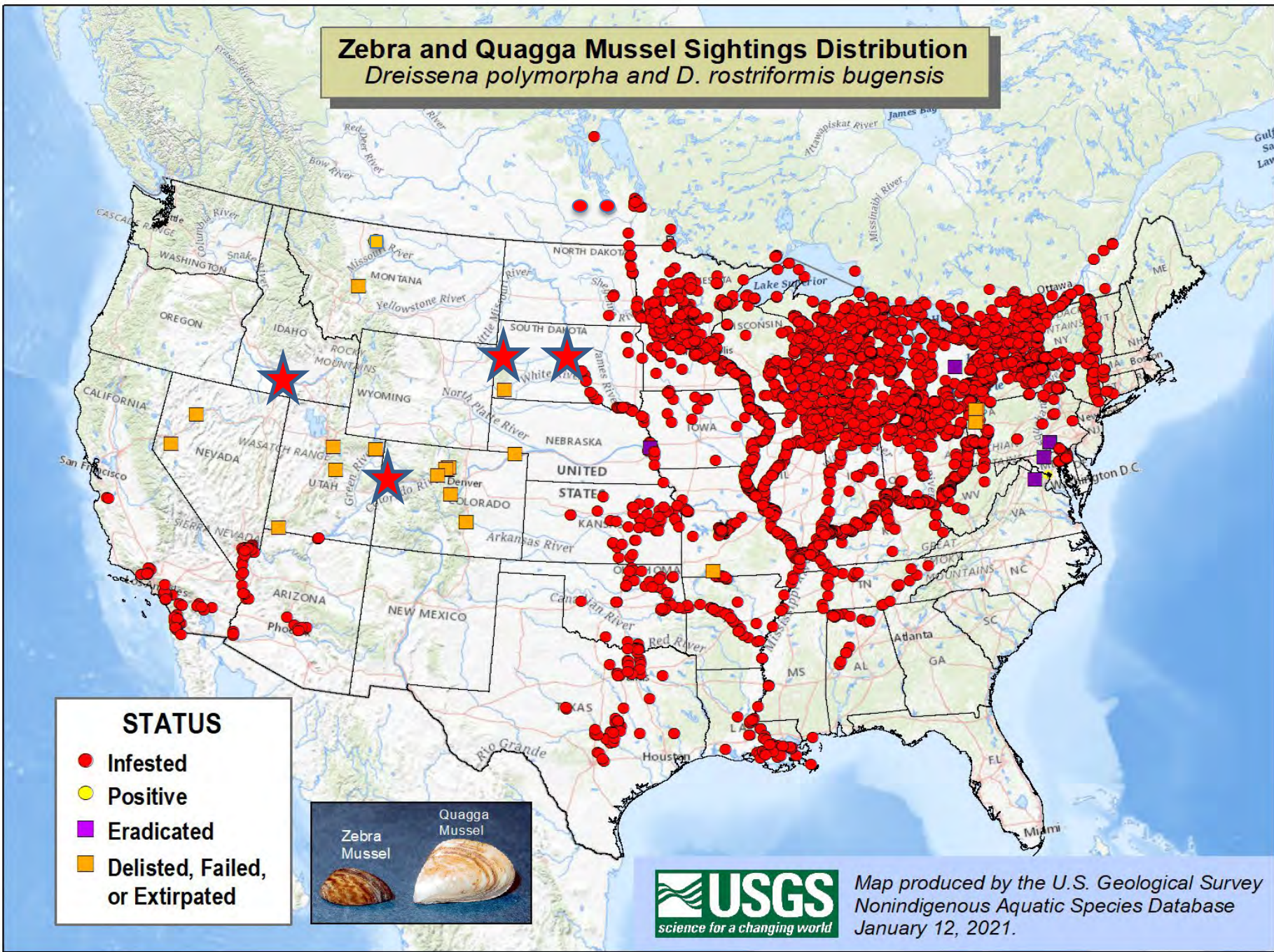
Dreissena polymorpha and *D. rostriformis bugensis*

STATUS

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



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

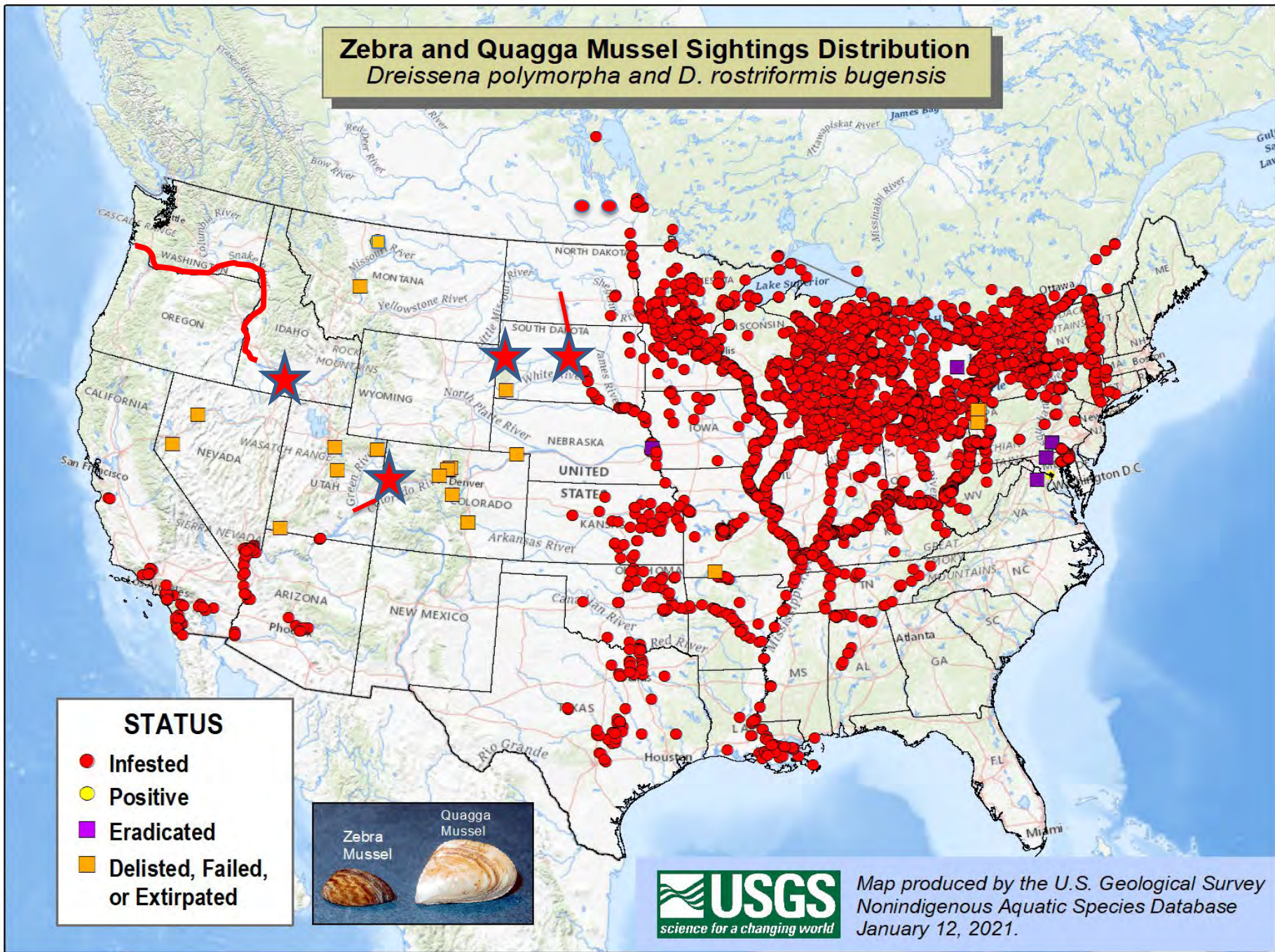



Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution

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New Initiatives

- Preparing for new threats.
 - New mussel waters.
 - Other species.
- Quality Assurance / Quality Control.
 - Targeted inspection verification before launch.
- Treatment projects.
- Rapid response preparedness.



Moss Balls

- No mussels found on Montana moss balls so far this year.
- Don't Let it Loose.



**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.

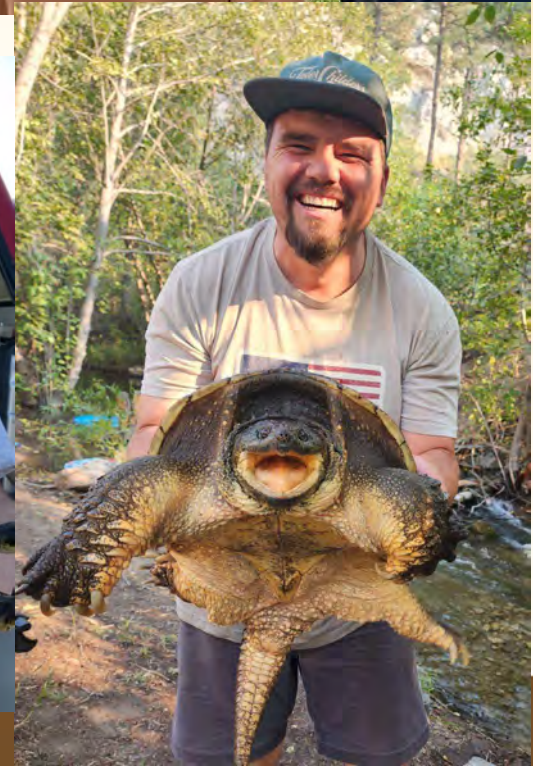
DontLetItLoose.com



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

AIS Training & Workshops

- Expand public involvement with AIS survey and outreach.
- Workshops, events, school groups.
- Expanded public reporting.
- Public and partners helping with:
 - Species detection.
 - Ensuring boats and gear are Clean. Drained & Dry.



Protecting Our Waters is Getting More Challenging

- Prevention will get harder as mussels get closer.
- Alternative Strategies are needed to ensure boats comply with inspection requirements.
- Support prevention efforts.
- Expand public involvement.



MONTANA FWP

**PROTECT OUR
WATERS**

FWP.MT.gov/AIS

