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Mike Milburn Montana



KC Golden Vice Chair Washington

Thomas L (Les) Purce Washington

> Ginny Burdick Oregon

Louie Pitt, Jr. Oregon

August 6, 2024

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Council Members

FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst, Biologist

Windy Schoby, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Policy Analyst

**SUBJECT: Update on Response to Detection of Quagga Mussels** 

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Presenter: Nic Zurfluh, Invasive Species Bureau Chief Idaho State Department of

Agriculture, Justin Bush, Aquatic Invasive Species Policy Coordinator

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary: For almost 20 years, the cumulative efforts of Columbia River Basin states

and provinces have prevented the introduction and establishment of invasive freshwater quagga and zebra mussels. Routine early detection monitoring performed by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in fall 2023, detected free-floating quagga mussel larvae, triggering notification by Idaho Governor Brad Little and implementation of the Columbia River Basin invasive mussel rapid response plan. SCUBA surveys also located a single adult quagga mussel during scoping for a rapid response treatment which was performed in October 2024. Nic Zurfluh, Invasive Species Bureau Chief, will summarize the rapid response treatment, lessons learned, and ongoing efforts to understand results. Justin Bush, Aquatic Invasive Species Policy Coordinator, will summarize State of Washington efforts to increase prevention and early detection monitoring, including activities to prepare for downstream detections working with Columbia River Tribes, utilities, and potentially affected water users and managers, such as irrigation districts. Both speakers will share information

on regional efforts to increase prevention and readiness, with opportunities for involvement and support.

Relevance:

The Council's 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program calls the introduction of zebra or quagga mussels "the greatest known threat in the Columbia River Basin from aquatic invasive species." (P. 46) Zebra and quagga mussels multiply rapidly, clogging pipes and intake structures. The potential economic, hydropower and ecological impacts from invasive quagga mussels should not be underestimated. Critical infrastructure including the hydropower system and associated fish passage, hatcheries, irrigation, fish screens, navigation, municipal water, recreational facilities including boat ramps and golf courses, and data center cooling systems could all be affected.

Harmful ecological impacts result from zebra and quagga mussel introductions. Potential serious threats to food webs can negatively transform ecosystem productivity and undermine species mitigation and conservation efforts. Tribal trust and treaty obligations will be harder to meet with a diminished capacity to restore and conserve ecosystem value.

The states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington have watercraft inspection stations in place to prevent aquatic invasive species from unintentional transport into Columbia River Basin waters. All four states continue to encounter boats transported with attached invasive mussels. Rapid Response Plans exist in each state so that effective and organized action can respond to possible detections. Each state has continued to advocate and work to secure additional funding to address and further prepare for quagga mussel prevention actions. In some cases, new laws have been adopted.

Workplan:

The Councils <u>2020 Addendum</u> to the 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program supports a regional approach to establish a defensive perimeter to keep invasive mussels out of the Columbia River Basin. The Council is tracking the 'Number of watercraft inspected and decontaminated in the northwest states of the Columbia River Basin for zebra/quagga mussels' and the 'Ratio of positive detections of zebra/quagga mussels to number of inspected watercraft.' (P. 25)

The 2014 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program calls upon Bonneville and other federal agencies to "...assist the Northwest states' efforts to prevent the establishment of quagga and zebra mussels." (P. 47) In addition, the Program finds that "If quagga and zebra mussels become established in the Columbia Basin, BPA and other federal agencies, along with FERC-licensed utilities, shall support regional rapid-response efforts." (P. 48). The Council has supported the work of the PSMFC 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative-Columbia Basin Team to collaboratively report on regional efforts like inspection and decontamination efforts, protocols, research priorities, containment and prevention, and Lessons Learned. (P. 48) As well, the

Council will assist with legislative efforts to prevent an invasion and control the spread of non-native invasive species in the Columbia Basin. (P. 48) Finally, The Council and federal action agencies should coordinate with other federal, state, and tribal entities, and regional organizations such as the 100th Meridian Initiative-Columbia Basin Team, to track and monitor data on existing non-native invasive species distribution and population trend assessments in the Columbia Basin and encourage regional data sharing on rapid response, prevention, containment, control, eradication, enforcement, and education and outreach efforts. (P. 48)

#### More Information:

Invasive Mussels Update
Economic Risk of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in the Columbia River Basin
Independent Economic Analysis Board, September 3, 2013
Document IEAB 2013-2

Economic Risk Associated with the Potential Establishment of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in the Columbia River Basin Independent Economic Analysis Board, July 14, 2010 Document IEAB 2010-1

#### Rapid Response Plans and Additional Information

What is Rapid Response? https://www.westernais.org/rapid-response

Lessons Learned State Dreissenid Rapid Response Exercises September 2019 <a href="https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0-">https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0-</a>

98958d49781f.filesusr.com/ugd/0e48c2 72ed44f854244b2d953a70f9dd07da08.pdf

Columbia River Basin Interagency Invasive Species Response Plan: Dreissenid Species Prepared for the 100th Meridian Initiative Columbia River Basin Team, 2018 https://www.westernais.org/ files/ugd/bb76e5 aa7f2e9f7a724dfaa272f7b805809157.pdf

COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN DREISSENID INCIDENT RESPONSE TOOLKIT
A resource to facilitate a response to an introduction of dreissenids in the Columbia River Basin https://www.crbdirt.com/

#### Idaho:

Idaho implements new measures to combat invasive species.

Monday July 1, 2024

https://agri.idaho.gov/pressrelease/idaho-implements-new-measures-to-combat-invasive-species/

June 20, 2024 Snake River Quagga Mussel Update

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/564b8c9ae4b0459b2b8187a3/t/6674803c050a4529ae6ccd22/1718911037331/Snake+River+Quagga+Mussel+Access+-+Update+6.20.pdf

#### EARLY DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM

https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/edrr-monitoring

#### RAPID RESPONSE PLAN

https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/rapid-response-plan

#### TREATMENT PLAN

https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/snake-river-treatment

#### Quagga Mussel 101

https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/quagga-mussels

A Review of the State of Idaho Dreissenid Mussel Prevention and Contingency Plans, February 2012

https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0-

98958d49781f.filesusr.com/ugd/0e48c2 7bb6ce5ba12c41dc8d41f948b9eec779.pdf

#### Washington:

WASHINGTON DREISSENID MUSSEL RAPID RESPONSE PLAN, June 2017 https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0-

98958d49781f.filesusr.com/ugd/0e48c2 5d2d417e0e884cdfa48c24abe91cc4f5.pdf

#### Oregon:

OREGON DREISSENID MUSSEL RAPID RESPONSE PLAN, April 2017 <a href="https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0-">https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0-</a>

98958d49781f.filesusr.com/ugd/0e48c2 96ff2e007ca8422787e07931b0bd9068.pdf

#### Montana:

The State of Montana's DREISSENID Mussel RAPID RESPONSE GUIDELINES Updated: 9/4/2018.

https://www.westernais.org/ files/ugd/0e48c2 3213e58f30f24a5e8e4e3d629e9aa04c.pdf

#### Federal:

Federal Aquatic Invasive Species Contacts for Rapid Response to Zebra/Quagga Mussels in Western Waters \*as of April 2023

https://www.westernais.org/ files/ugd/bb76e5 ef6a66adea894f52af902c3f40aa5d85.pdf

DREISSENID MUSSEL RAPID RESPONSE ACTION PLAN PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, November 2019

https://ec8c3022-1480-4580-96c0

98958d49781f.filesusr.com/ugd/0e48c2 b49213e299e145e594021e4f05b9f357.pdf

#### Canada:

Zebra and Quagga Mussel Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for British Columbia, February 2015

https://www.westernais.org/ files/ugd/0e48c2 6d8bf0482ef94b3bbdebefbe2c9be351.pdf

# Update on Quagga Mussels: State of Washington Prevention and Readiness



Justin Bush Aquatic Invasive Species Policy Coordinator



### **Economic Risk**

- \$100 million annual hydroelectric mitigation and maintenance.
- Anticipated similar impacts to:
  - Fish Hatcheries
  - Fish Passage Infrastructure
  - Irrigation Systems
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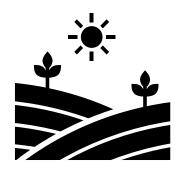
i: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



: Marrone Bio Innovations



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\$21.5 billion annually spent on outdoor recreation 27% involving public waters

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\$35.5 million in state boating related revenue annually (2010)

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- Outcompete beneficial species
- Filter feeding impacts phytoplankton structures and increases bacteria
- Water quality changes including reduced oxygen levels, increases in water transparency and aquatic weeds
- Mussels bioaccumulate pollutants impacting the food chain through increased exposure
- Severe risk to cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, and human health



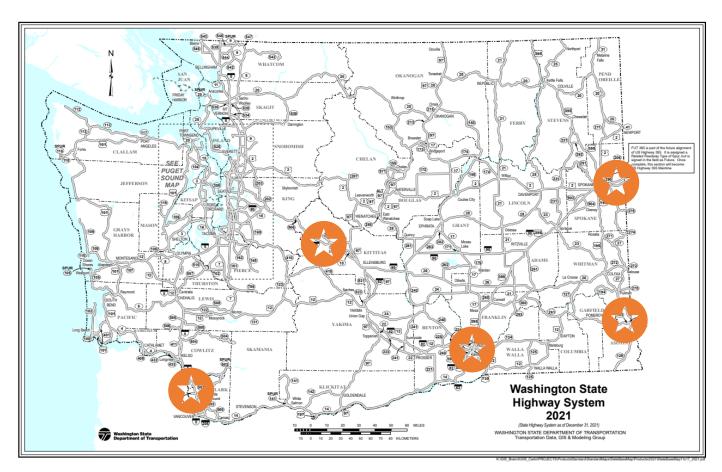
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: Headwaters Science Institute



## Watercraft Inspections



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Operational Days	532	940	1,412	1,501	863
Watercraft Inspected	31,651	55,812	51,942	58,618	24,894
Mussel Fouled Watercraft	23	39	25	25	7

<sup>\*</sup>January 1, 2024, to July 16, 2024





### Decontamination



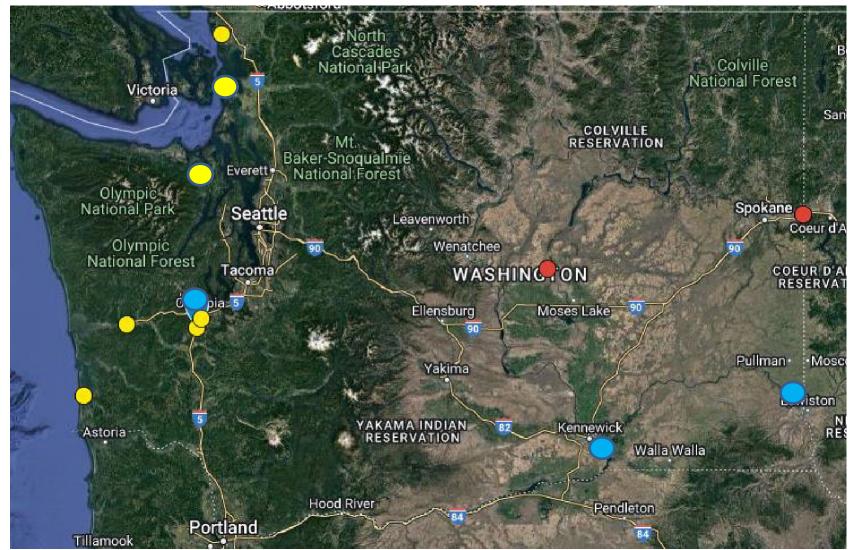








### Decontamination









## Early Detection Monitoring Methods





## Early Detection Monitoring

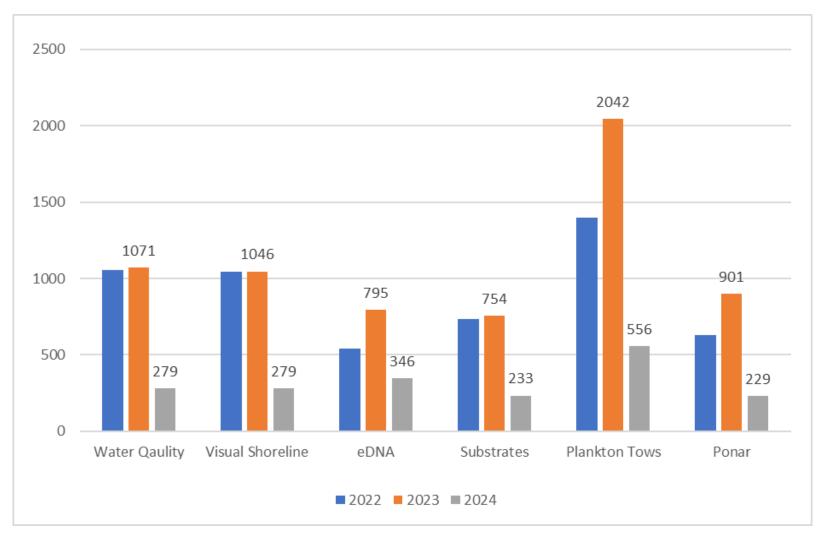
(124 water bodies and 304 sites)



Scoring	0 Point	1 Point	2 Point	3 Point	4 Point
	Establishment				
	0-5				
Dissolved Calcium (mg/L)	(no monitoring)	6-11	12-15	16-24	25 or more
	10 or more				
Salinity (ppt)	(no monitoring)				
		Introduction	on		
	No				
Public	(no monitoring)				Yes
	0				
# Boat Ramps	(no monitoring)	1	2	3	4 or more
Boat Ramp Paved	No				Yes
Boat Ramp w/Dock	No	Yes			
Motorized Watercraft					
Allowed	No				Yes
Speed Limit > 10mph	No				Yes
Moorage	No				Yes
Private Docks	No				Yes
Access Year Around	No	Yes			
Ease of Access		Foot	Ferry	Gravel road	Paved road
In Columbia River Basin	No	Yes			
Water Body Size		0-10	11-49	50-99	100 or more
Fish Stocked	No	Yes			
Hatchery/Net Pens	No				Yes
Fishing Tournaments	No	1-2	3-4	5-6	7 or more
Motorized Watersports					
Tournaments	No				1 or more
Boatyard	No				Yes
Hydropower/Flood Control	No				Yes
Irrigation	No				Yes
Municipal Water	No				Yes
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		west of	West of	Nearby, but may	Downstream,
Proximity to Source		continental	continental	not be as easily	connected, or
Population		divide	divide	assessable	within easy drive
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0	1-20	21-34	35-39	40-49	50 or more
	Once every 3	Once every 2			
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## 2022, 2023, and ongoing 2025 Early Detection Monitoring Results





NO zebra/quagga mussels detected!



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Partners	Water Body Common Name	
Chelan County Public Utility District (PUD)	Lake Entiat	
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Developing new agreements with Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Nez Perce Tribe.



## Response Readiness



















### **Increased Prevention and Readiness**



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## Multiple Threats and Pathways

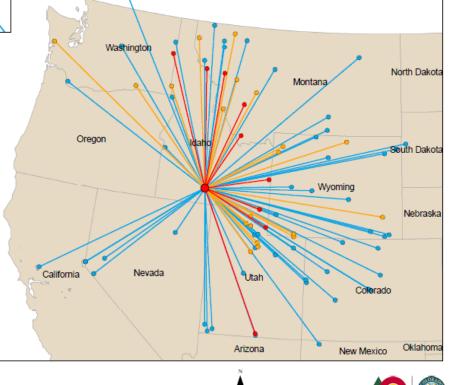


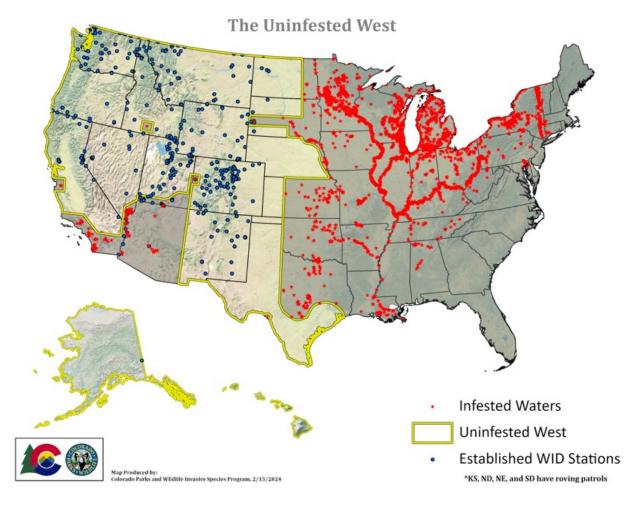
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00-219		
Location	State	Count
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Spokane	WA	104
Ravalli	MT	86
Anaconda	MT	83
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Lake Powell	UT	60
St. Regis	MT	57
Sula	MT	46
Clearwater Junction	MT	43
Bear Lake	UT	40
Flaming Gorge	UT	36
Pasco	WA	35
Pineview Reservoir	UT	33
Grant	WY	28
Glacier National Park	MT	26
Troy Rest Area	MT	23
Bridge Bay	WY	21
Hwy 40 Daniels POE	UT	20
Clarkston	WA	17
Cle Elum Eastbound	WA	17
Helena Highway 12	MT	14
Hyrum Reservoir	UT	14
Utah Lake	UT	13
Jordanelle Reservoir	UT	12
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Produced by CPW ANS Program

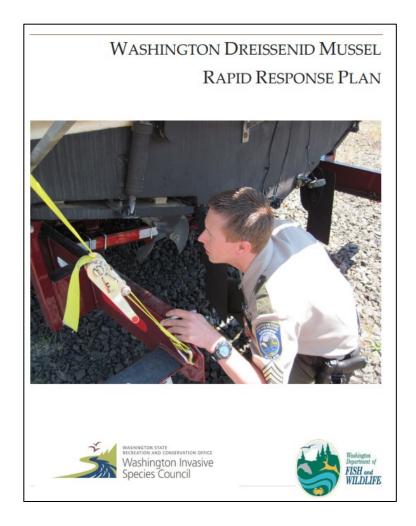






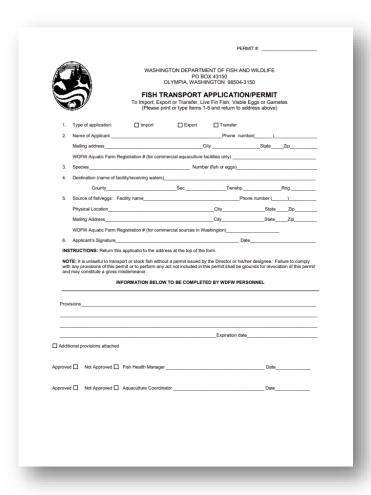
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- Develop and deploy a long-term leadership, planning, and command structure that includes internal and external partners including tribal, federal, regional, state, and local governments.
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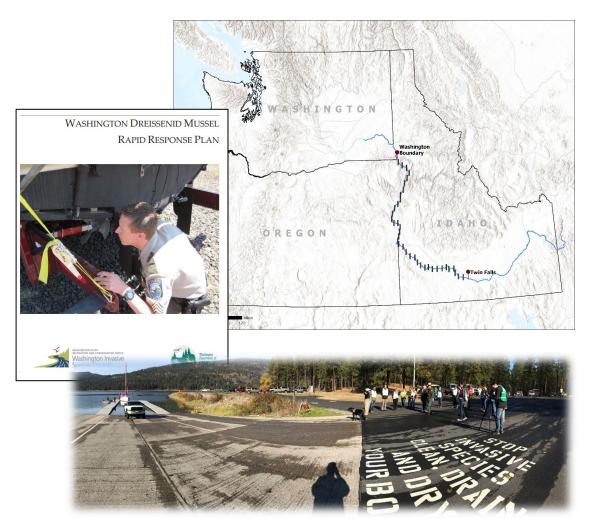
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### Questions

#### **Justin Bush**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
Policy Coordinator
Justin.Bush@dfw.wa.gov
564-669-9481

State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife
wdfw.wa.gov/ais
1-888-WDFW-AIS





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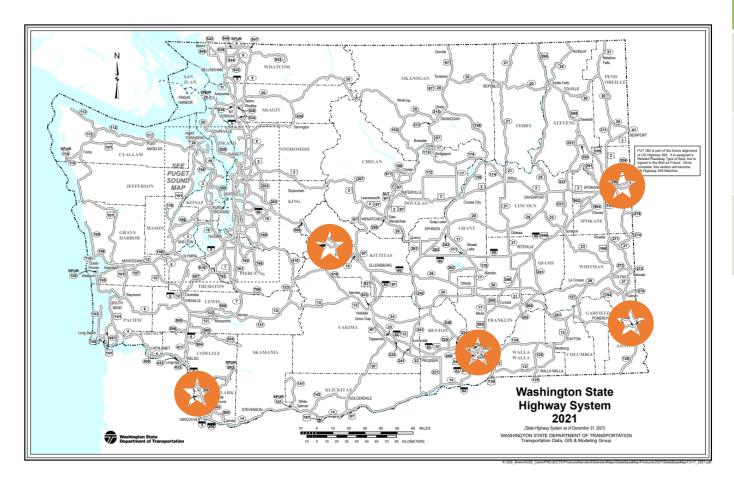
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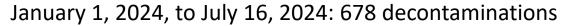
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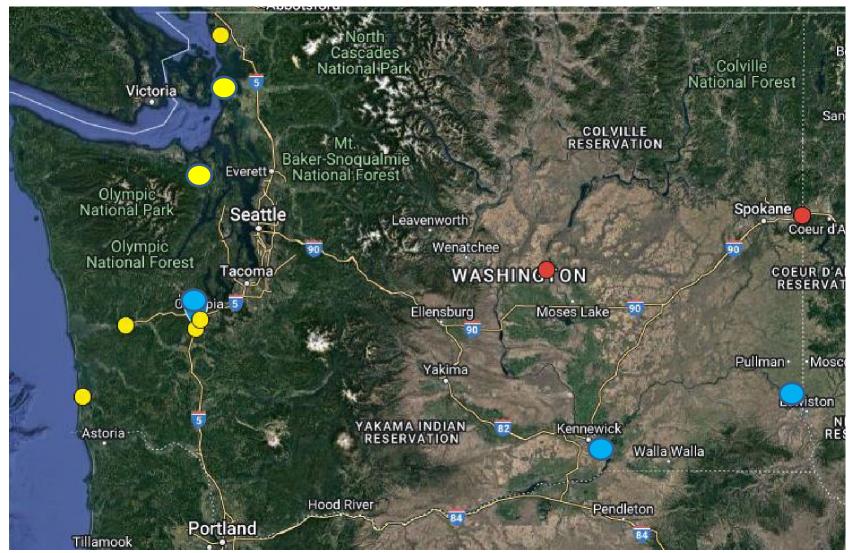








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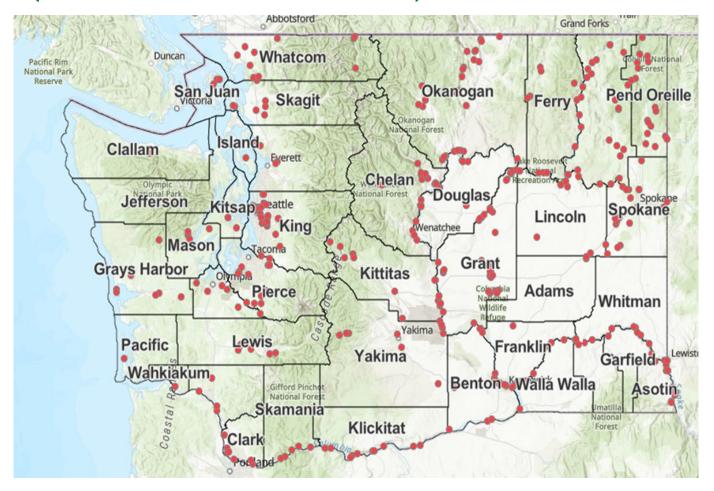
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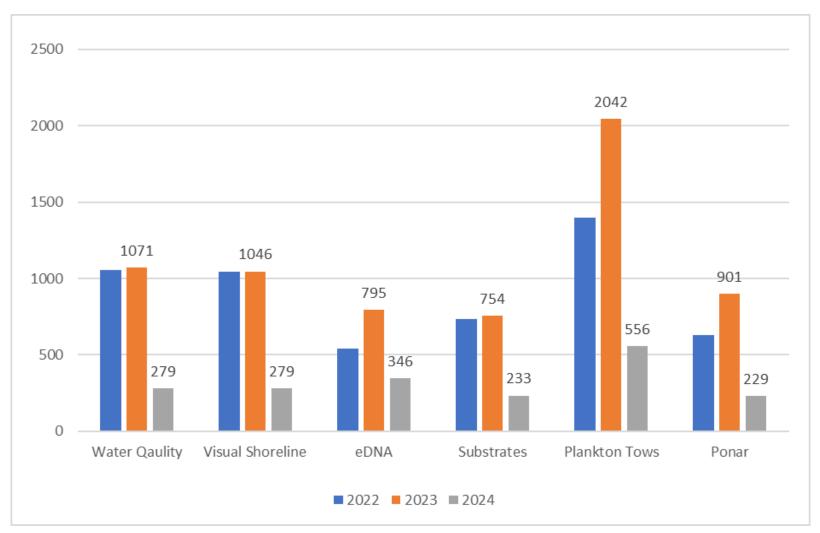
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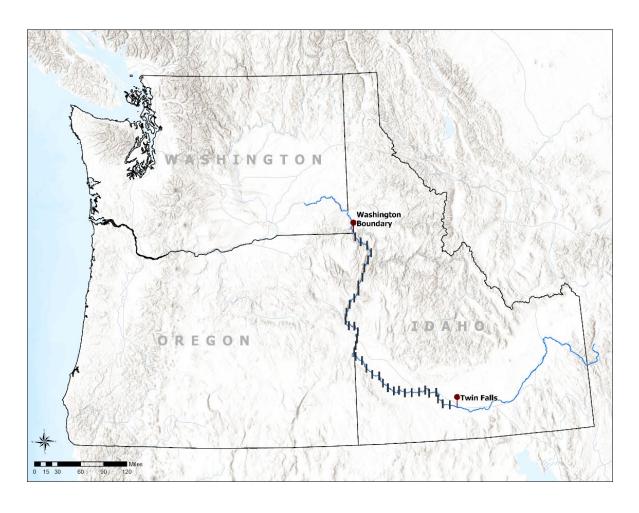








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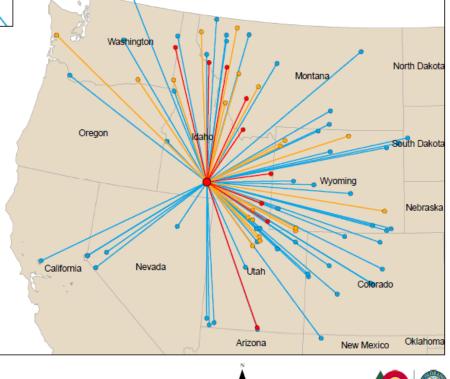


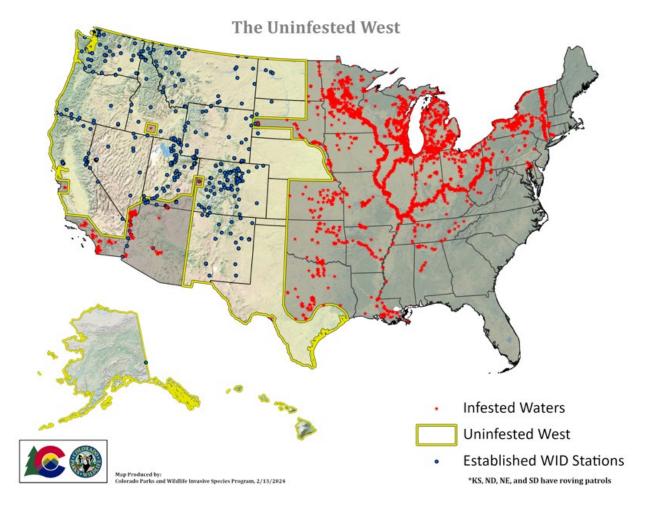
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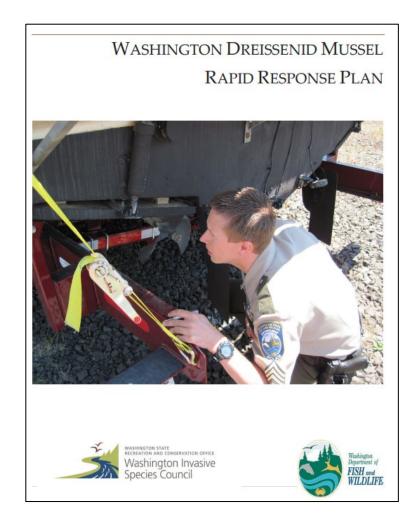






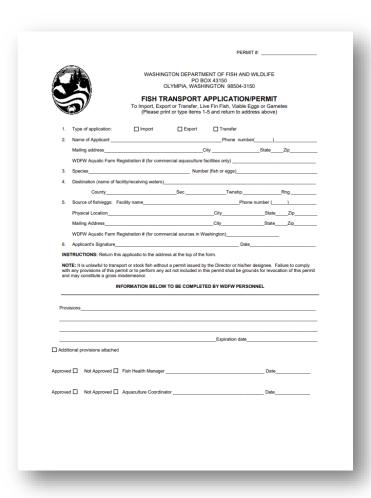
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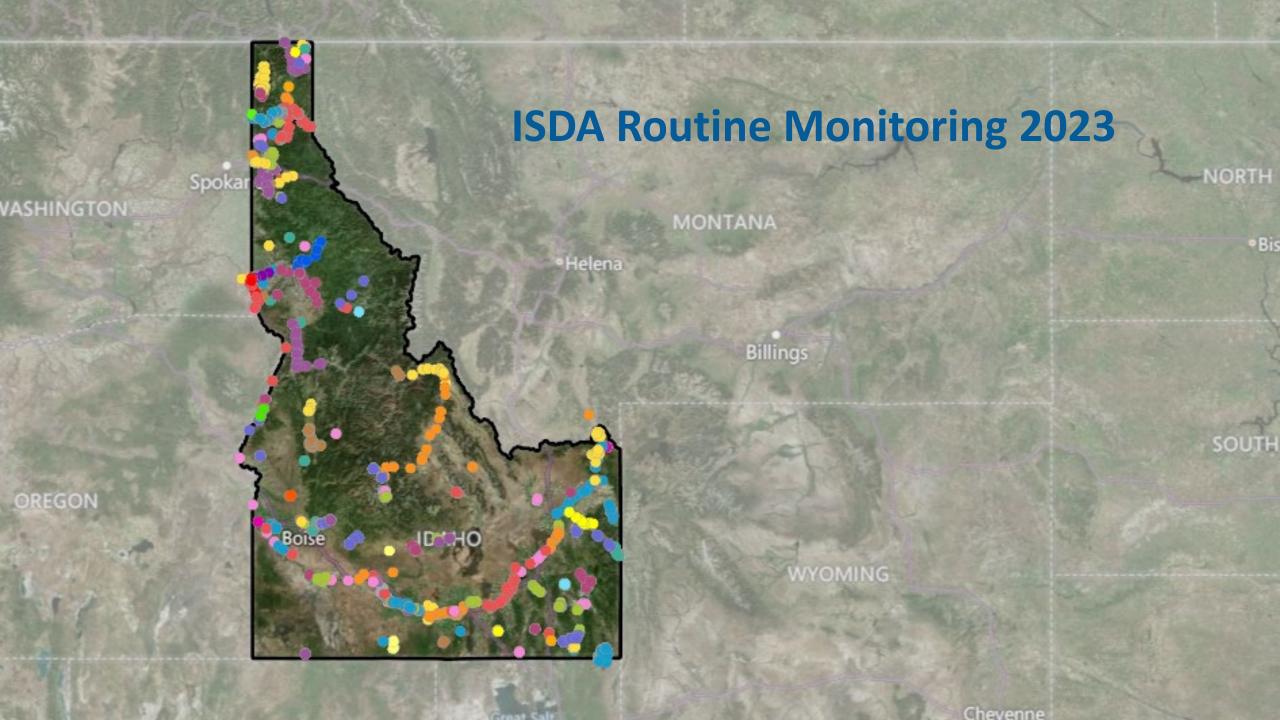
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1-888-WDFW-AIS





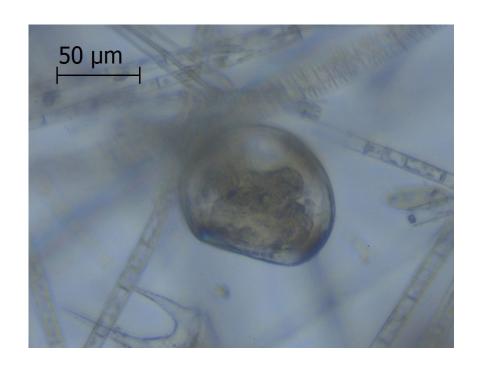


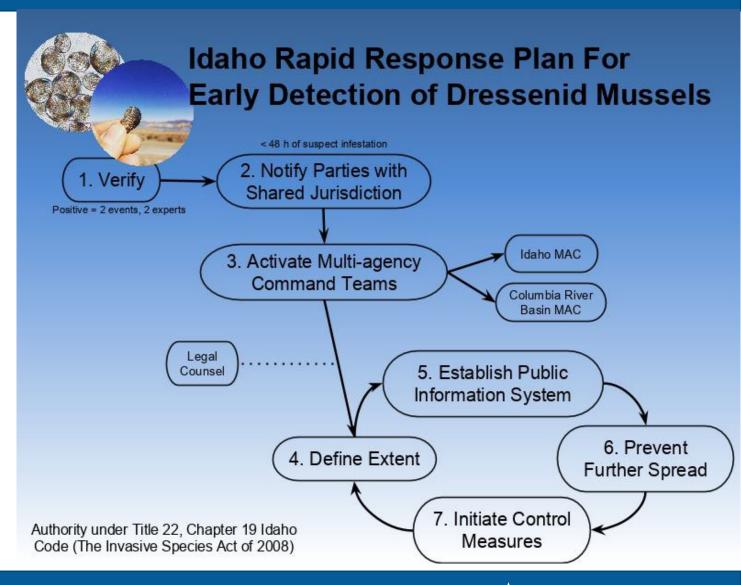


## Detection Verification

Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Quagga Mussel veligers verified

- Multiple sample events
- Multiple specimens per sample
- qPCR genetic verification







# ISDA's Rapid Response Plan

**Detection Verification- September 18** 

Notify impacted entities.

Implement containment measures.

Conduct delimiting surveys.

Explore treatment options.





# Notify Impacted Entities

- Establish communications team
- Media releases
- Create webpage
- IS Hotline

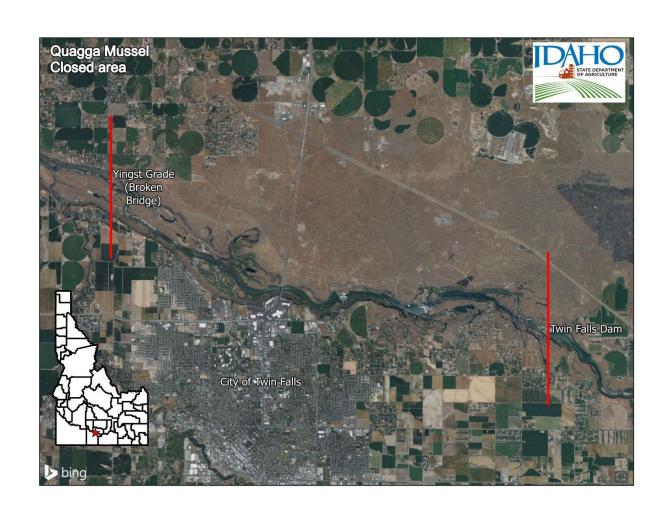


MEDIA ADVISORY – Press Conference Tuesday September 19, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

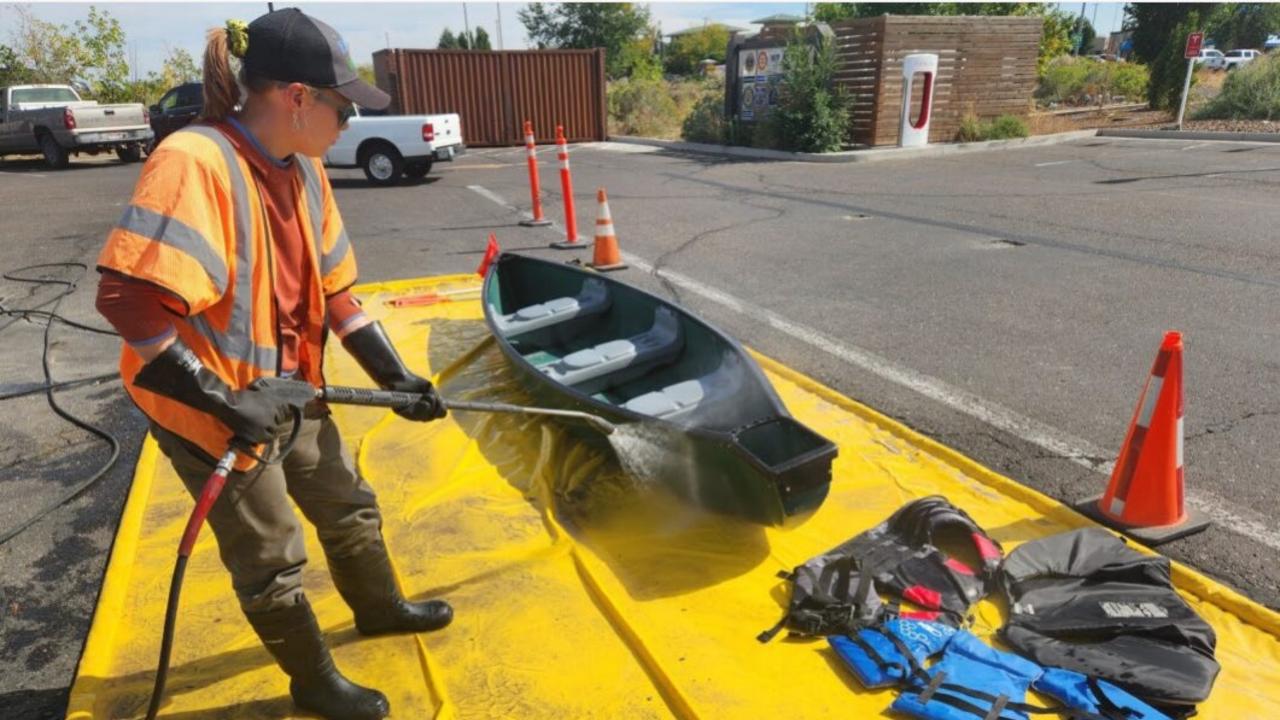
Governor Brad Little and Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Chanel Tewalt will be addressing the confirmed presence of quagga mussel veligers in the Centennial Waterfront Park area of the Snake River near Twin Falls. The press conference will provide more details on ISDA's rapid response plan to the aquatic invasive species.

# Implement Containment Measures

- Waterbody closures
- Signage
- Mandatory decontamination for exiting watercraft
- Public outreach for watercraft recently visiting Mid-Snake area in previous 30 days



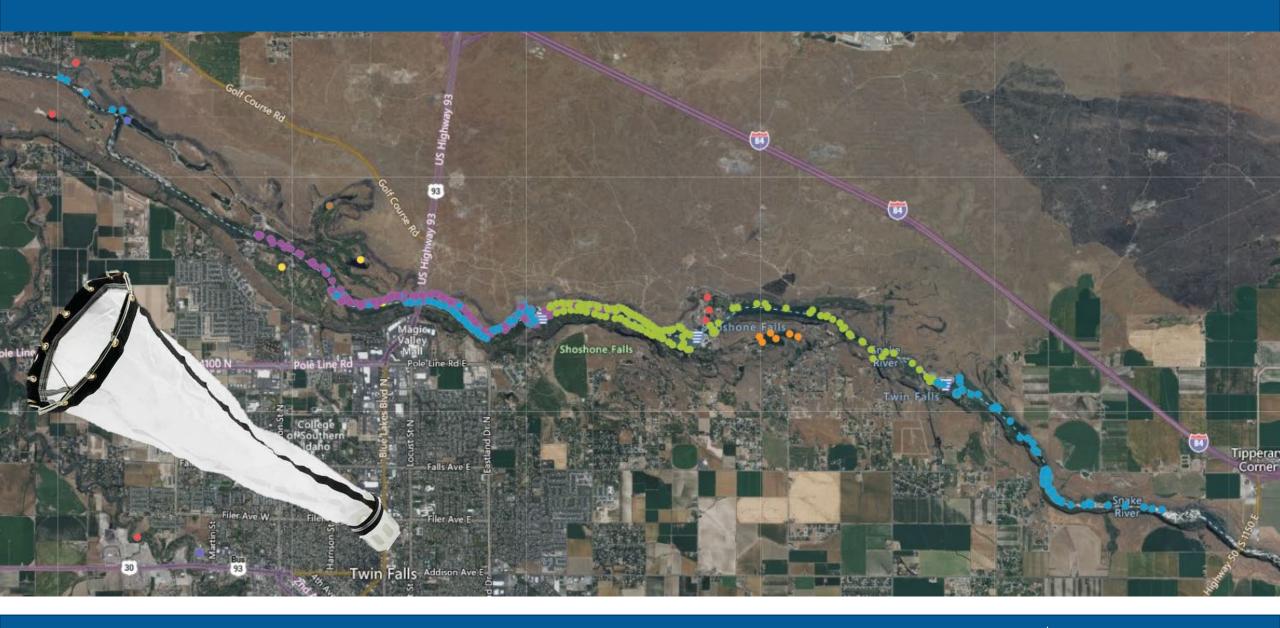




# Conduct Delimiting Surveys

- Initial veliger plankton tow delimit from Twin Falls Reservoir to Centennial Park
  - Start upstream, new net, tow across flow
- Extended delimit upstream to American Falls
  - Is there anything upstream?
- Extended delimit downstream to CJ Strike
  - Downstream movement?









## Product Selection

- Natrix (Chelated Copper)
  - Labeled for use site
  - Registered for use in Idaho
  - Product manufacturing was available for the quantity needed
  - Target rate 1ppm for 96hr treatment
- Additional site-specific data needed
  - Depth profile, bathymetry
  - Flow rate (CFS)
  - Water chemistry (PH, Ca)
  - River Flow characteristics and access



#### Natrix<sup>®</sup>

For the control of mollusks in still or flowing aquatic sites including: golf course p ornamental ponds, fish ponds, irrigation and fire ponds and aquaculture including fis shrimp; fresh water lakes, ponds, and fish hatcheries; potable water reservoirs; and cro non-crop irrigation and drainage systems (canals, laterals and ditches) and chemiq systems.

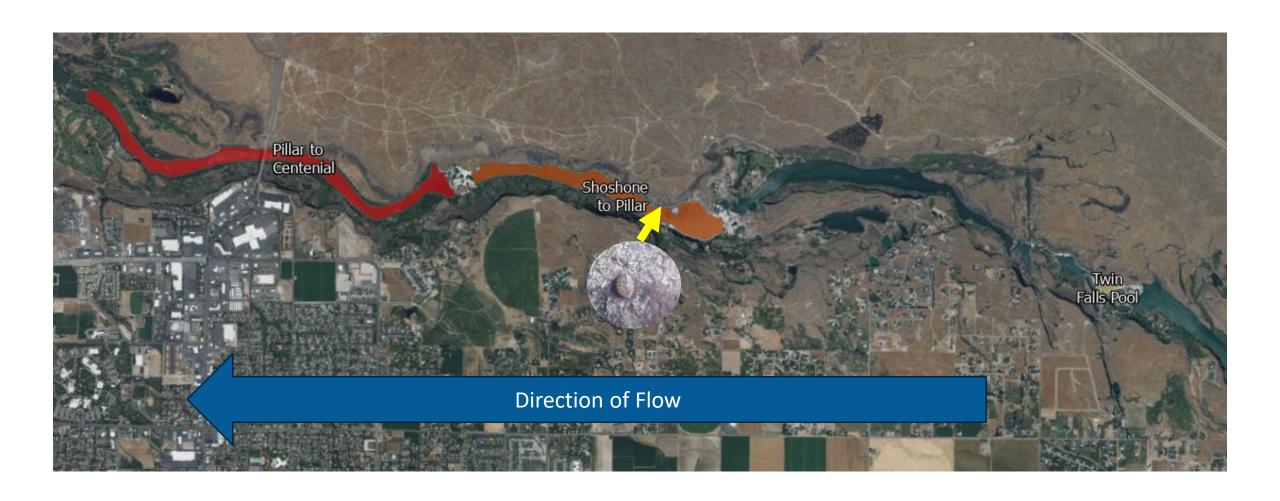
#### 

†Metallic copper equivalent = 9.1%

## WARNING / AVISO

Si usted no entiende la etiqueta, busque a alguien para que se la explique a usted en detalle. do not understand the label, find someone to explain it to you in detail.)







#### **Treatment Plan**

Each section evaluated for average CFS, PH, and average depth.

Downstream movement to distribute molluscicide throughout target area for the full duration of 96-hours.

Metered gravity boxes placed at key mix points to deliver molluscicide to the Snake River.

CFS X 1 ppm = quarts per hour



# Treatment Notifications

- Worker Protection Standard bilingual warning signage
- Message boards
- Paid advertisements (radio, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor)
- Coordination with HOAs with private docks
- Door-knocking to stakeholders with water-front access
- Public Treatment Town Hall Briefing





## Perform Treatment

- Treatment Started on October 3
- Treatment continuous for 192 hours
- Treatment ended on October 13
- 46,475 Gallons of Natrix® applied
- Copper actively monitored until recorded as back to base levels on October 18, 2023





# Post-Treatment Monitoring

- Treatment did impact the adult mussel and sentinel species
- Preliminary sample results indicating that treatment has impacted veliger populations
- Veliger sampling until water gets below 10° C.



# Future Efforts Moving Forward

- Program shift from prevention state to prevention/containment state
- Mandatory inspection and decontamination for the Mid-Snake
  - Centennial Park (Open, decontamination open when park is open)
  - Shoshone Falls (Closure in effect)
- Mandatory Inspection for Out of State Watercraft
- "Pull the Plug" law
- Budget enhancement
- 2 additional FTE staff for Invasive Species

# 2024 Early Detection Monitoring

#### **Double Monitoring Efforts Statewide**

Veliger Monitoring (microscopy)

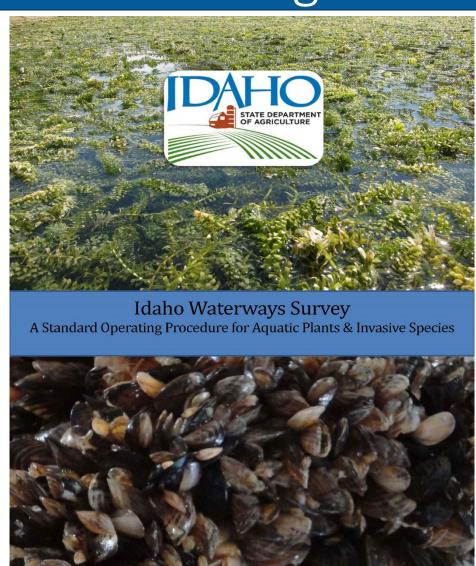
- ~ **3,000** plankton samples collected from **80** waterbodies)
  - Multiple sample events, bi-weekly, per waterbody
  - Priority overnight shipment
  - 2 week turnaround for lab analysis

Adult Monitoring (visual)

- ~ 3,000 surveys conducted
- •SCUBA, Reservoir drawdown, substrate and benthic grab sampling

Exploring other monitoring methods

eDNA

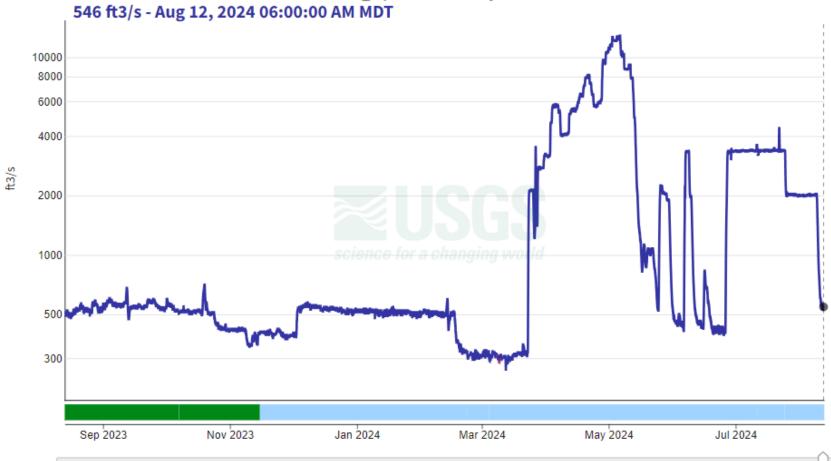




#### **Snake River NR Twin Falls ID - 13090500**

August 13, 2023 - August 12, 2024

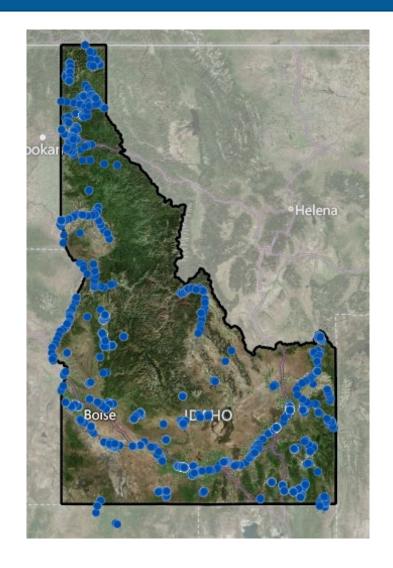
Discharge, cubic feet per second

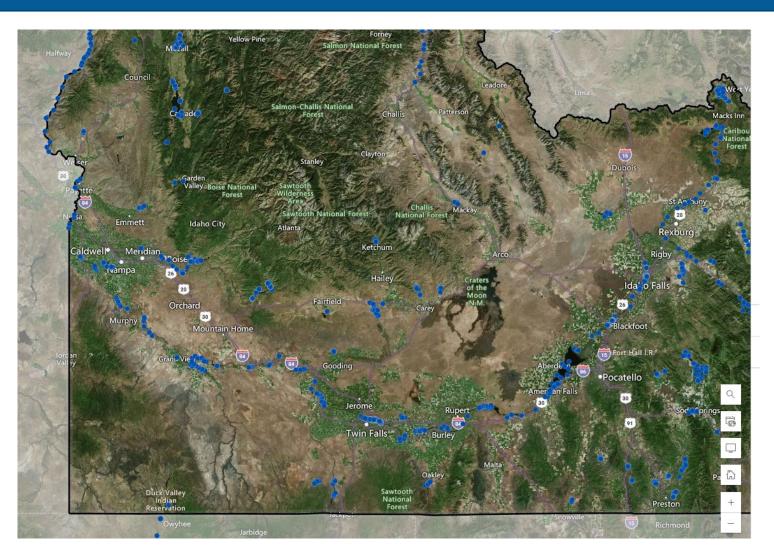


IMPORTANT Data may be provisional



# 2024 Monitoring Locations







# Education Campaign- Clean Drain Dry

- Revamp Website
- Revamp entire Clean, Drain, Dry campaign
  - Video
  - Radio
  - Social Media
  - Digital Display
  - Promotional Items
  - Outdoor Display
    - Billboard
    - Marina
    - Gas stations







