

**Chris Taggart**

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**From:** Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AIS Newsletter for July



## Aquatic Invasive Species **NEWSLETTER**

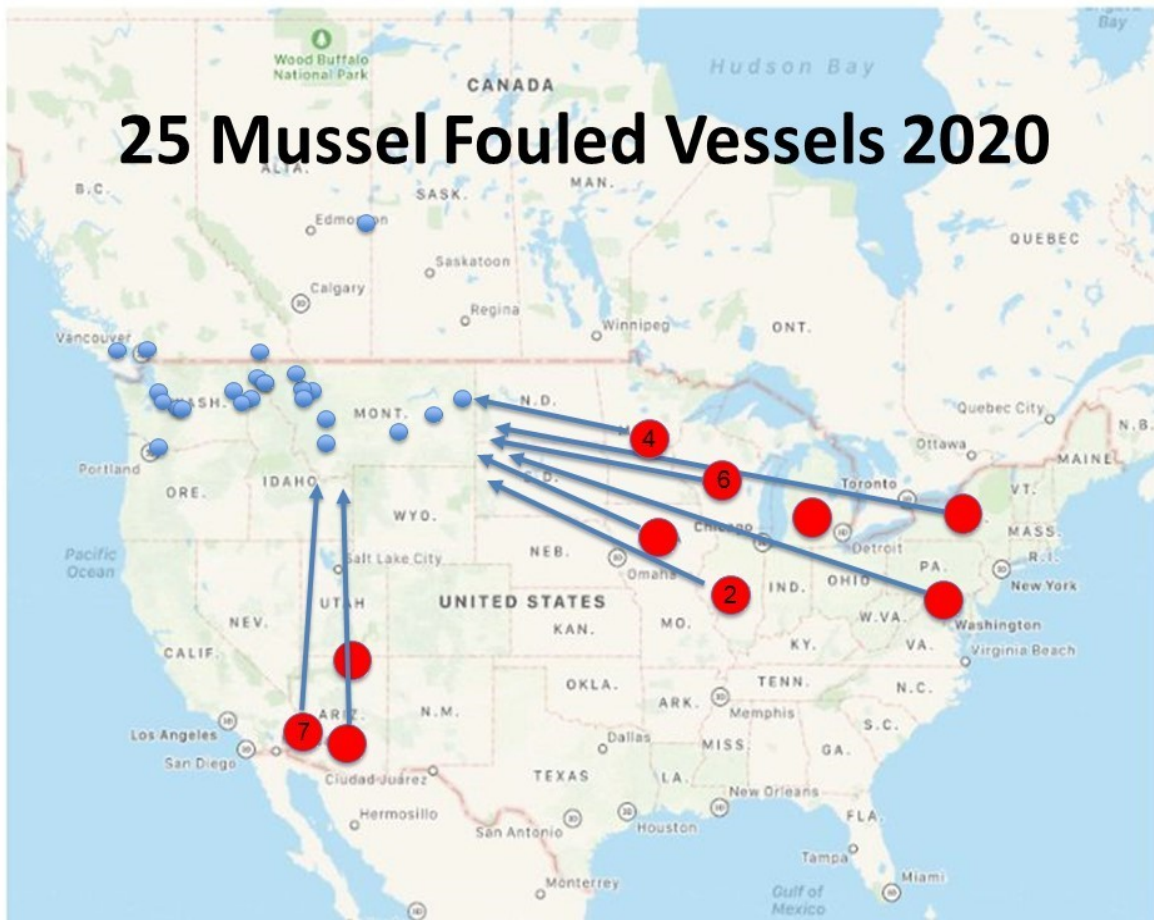
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### Over 90,000 Watercraft Inspections

All watercraft inspection stations are open except for the Eureka station due to the ongoing border closure with Canada. Most stations are operating during daylight hours seven days a week. See the watercraft inspection schedules at [www.CleanDrainDryMT.com](http://www.CleanDrainDryMT.com)

A record number of watercraft have been inspected this season with over 90,000 inspections and high levels of out of state boat traffic. Watercraft inspection data is available on the [AIS Dashboard](#).

25 mussel fouled vessels have been intercepted at the Anaconda, Dillon, Flowing Wells, Hardin, and Nashua watercraft inspection stations.



## Monitoring at Tiber, Noxon, Beaver Lake

Over 800 AIS early detection samples have been processed so far this season. No invasive mussels have been detected to date. Monitoring staff are assisting with the following efforts:

- **Tiber Reservoir:** During the week of July 6th, FWP, Flathead Lake Biological Station and Bureau of Reclamation teamed up to sample Tiber for the presence of Dreissenid mussels. Samples for microscopy and environmental DNA (eDNA) were collected. All the microscopy samples have been processed with no mussels detected. Results from the eDNA are expected in August.
- **Noxon Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM):** In early July, FWP in partnership with the Sanders County Invasive Plants Task Force, completed Eurasian watermilfoil surveys on Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge reservoirs. These surveys support annual treatment of high-traffic areas of the reservoirs where boaters are most at risk of transporting invasive plants to other waters. EWM treatment will be conducted by Sanders County in August.
- **Beaver Lake:** Eradication efforts of Eurasian watermilfoil continue at Beaver Lake, near Whitefish. Crews from the FWP dive team worked on the lake in July, placing bottom barriers to prevent plant growth, removing EWM and conducting a lake-wide survey



*Sampling at Tiber Reservoir*

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## AIS Outreach Activities

**ISAN:** Matt Wilhelm serves over 8,000 kids a year as a visiting educator in Montana schools. Matt and the Invasive Species Action Network staff developed a series of **distance learning lessons** when in-school visits were derailed due to Covid-19. Topics included riparian food webs, keystone species, AIS, zebra mussel overview, aquatic macroinvertebrates, hydrologic cycle, water distribution, and a **four-topic virtual field trip**.



**FWP Enforcement:** Montana wardens have done outstanding work this season supporting compliance at watercraft inspections stations and helping ensure boaters

follow AIS requirements. An **FWP Outdoor Report** highlights enforcement efforts at the Anaconda inspection station.

**Montana Trout Unlimited:** Working with area resource managers, TU is stenciling the “Clean-Drain-Dry” message on boat ramps and other structures around the state, including at the Clearwater Junction inspection station and the Shannon boat ramp at Canyon Ferry.



*TU volunteers at the Shannon boat ramp.*

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## Meet the AIS Staff



When the St. Xavier watercraft inspection station was established in 2019, Ashley Blake was one of the first inspectors hired at the station located near the Bighorn River in southeastern Montana.

Read her story in the [newsletter](#).

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