

## Chris Taggart

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**From:** Montana FWP <montanafwp@announcements.mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 3:32 PM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Boaters can help protect Montana from aquatic invasive species / Madison River Work Group to meet May 26 in Bozeman



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

## Boaters can help protect Montana from aquatic invasive species

*9,800 watercraft inspected so far this year*

HELENA  $\frac{1}{2}$  Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start to summer in Montana, and all aquatic invasive species inspection stations are now open on major routes of travel in the state. As boaters venture out to our rivers and lakes, please keep in mind the rules aimed at protecting our waters and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

- Be sure to always [clean, drain and dry](#) your boat and stop at inspection stations this holiday weekend.
- All boats must stop at all open [watercraft inspection stations](#) they encounter. Failure to stop at inspection stations could result in a fine of up to \$500.
- Non-residents transporting watercraft into Montana must purchase a [Vessel AIS Prevention Pass](#) before launching. The fee is \$30 for motorized and \$10 for nonmotorized watercraft. The pass is valid until Dec. 31.
- Inspection is required before launch IF: the boat is entering the state, crossing west over the Continental Divide or entering the Flathead Basin.  $\frac{1}{2}$

More than 9,800 watercraft have been inspected so far this year, 16 of which were mussel-fouled. FWP works closely with other state AIS programs when mussel-fouled boats are destined for other states.

When a mussel-fouled boat is intercepted, Montana inspectors typically clean it, lock it to the trailer to prohibit launching and contact the destination state so they can

arrange for follow-up and, if needed, a full decontamination when it reaches its destination.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and partner agencies operate more than 25 road-side watercraft inspection stations across the state. Typically, boat inspections are brief and include a short interview and check to make sure watercraft are not transporting mud, water, plants, or invasive organisms. Larger or more complex boats may require additional time for an inspection.

To find a watercraft inspection station or to learn more, go to [CleanDrainDryMT.com](http://CleanDrainDryMT.com) or call the FWP Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau at 406-444-2440.

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## Madison River Work Group to meet May 26 in Bozeman

**BOZEMAN** ½ The Madison River Work Group will hold its next meeting Thursday, May 26, at 5:30 p.m., in Bozeman at the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 3 Headquarters office, 1400 South 19th Ave. The meeting will be livestreamed on the [FWP website](#).

Agenda items include:

- Final recommendation on commercial management plan
- Final recommendation on commercial rivercraft rental delivery ½ Lower Madison
- Final recommendation on non-commercial recreational use permitting
- Public comment (in person)

The 12-member work group was organized by the Fish and Wildlife Commission and tasked with providing recommendations for commercial and recreational use on the Madison River. The work group is tentatively scheduled to present its recommendations at the June commission meeting.

This is the ninth meeting of the work group. The group will not meet again until the fall. For more information on the work group, including videos of their past meetings, visit [fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/madison-river-workgroup](http://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/madison-river-workgroup).

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