

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

✓ **DRAIN**
✓ **CLEAN**
✓ **DRY**



What are they?

Aquatic invasive species can be animals, plants, even a disease that is introduced into a new environment and causes harm to the natural resources.



*Zebra/Quagga
Mussels*



Asian Carp



*New Zealand
Mudsnails*



Invasive Plants



Rusty Crayfish

How are they moved?

These species are often called “aquatic hitchhikers” because they can hitch a ride on your equipment, boats, and clothing used in the water and can be moved on these items from one body of water to another. Zebra and quagga mussels can actually attach to boats and equipment and travel thousands of miles to a new water. Aquatic diseases and invasive mussel larvae are microscopic and can be transported in water stored in boats or gear. Invasive plants can become entangled in boat motors and other gear and start new populations when a small piece of the plant is moved to a new water.

What are the impacts?

Many of these species permanently change stream and lake ecology, negatively affecting native species and our prized sport fisheries. Quagga and zebra mussels remove plankton from the water. Plankton are the primary food source for forage fish which are an important food source for many sport fishes. In addition, zebra and quagga mussels can attach to your boat and equipment and cause damage.

These species can impact power plants, municipalities, irrigation systems, and other water users. They impede water delivery and increase maintenance costs by clogging pipes, pumps, turbines, and filtration systems--costs that are all passed on to the consumer.

PROTECT YOUR WATERS

*What can YOU do to help?
Follow this simple protocol with
all gear, equipment, or boats
when you leave a water.*

✓ DRAIN Drain all water from your gear and equipment. This includes all types of watercraft, waders, boots, clothing, buckets-anything that comes into contact with the water. Leave any wet compartments open to dry.

✓ CLEAN Clean all plants, mud, and debris from gear and equipment. Never move a plant or animal from one location to another.

✓ DRY Dry everything thoroughly. In Wyoming, we recommend drying for 5 days in the summer, 18 days in spring or fall, or 3 days of freezing.

Spread the message

Share what you know about the harmful impacts of Aquatic Invasive Species and ways to prevent their spread with others who use Wyoming's water resources. Ongoing support from water users of all types is critical to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Be a good observer

If you see any suspicious plant or animal on your equipment, or notice something while you are out enjoying Wyoming's outdoors that you think may be invasive, please let us know. You can report a sighting at ReportAIS@wyo.gov or 1-877-WGFD-AIS

For more information about aquatic invasive species visit: wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS



Conserving Wildlife
Serving People

PHOTO CREDITS: Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant; Michigan Sea Grant Archives; Utah Dept. of Natural Resources; USGS; Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation; Mark Gocke.