

Update on Federal Funding through the Army Corps of Engineers for Invasive Quagga/Zebra Mussel Prevention



*Pacific NorthWest
Economic Region*

BACKGROUND ON AIS FEDERAL FUNDING

- In 2015, Congress appropriated \$4 million through WRRDA 2014 to the four Northwest states of ID, MT, OR, and WA, for watercraft inspection stations. These funds were released to the States on April 5, 2017, in time for the 2017 watercraft inspection season (through the US ACE and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission).
- In December 2016, Congress authorized early detection, rapid response, and monitoring through WIIN 2016.
- In April 2017, Congress appropriated \$5 million for FY2017 for the four NW states.
- Total Funding: **\$9 million already appropriated to 4 States**
- For FY 2018, PNWER requested \$6 million for this appropriation.

UPDATE ON MONTANA INVASIVE MUSSELS

- In October 2016, invasive mussel larvae were discovered in Montana. Governor Steve Bullock declared a state of emergency and released \$750,000 in emergency funds to combat the spread of invasive mussels. The Montana Mussel Response Team was formed to address the urgent situation.
- In 2017, the Montana Legislature voted to increase Montana's aquatic invasive species prevention funding from \$2.2 to \$13 million for the 2017-2019 biennium. Montana is critical as a "firewall" to the region.
- **No new mussels were discovered in 2017.**

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE FOR WA, ID, MT, OR

Federal Funds Spent in 2017

- In 2017, the four States spent \$3.7m on watercraft inspections (FY16 funds) and \$373,000 on monitoring (FY17 funds)
- Allocation of federal funds in 2017
 - MT - \$1.9m
 - ID - \$1m
 - OR - \$450,000
 - WA - \$250,000

Funds Requested for this year

- In 2018, approximately \$5m of federal funds is expected to be available (minus the \$373,000 already spent for monitoring in 2017)
- The 4 States are requesting a total of \$4.1m out of the remaining \$4.627m
 - MT - \$2m
 - ID - \$1m
 - OR - \$550,000
 - WA - \$450,000

CONTAINMENT AT THE SOURCE

- Lake Mead (NV,AZ) is the primary source of contaminated watercraft entering Washington and the Pacific Northwest region.
- The most effective prevention method is to stop contaminated watercraft at the source.
- PNWER has been asking Sec. Zinke and Department of Interior to require mandatory inspections at Lake Mead.
- Washington State recently signed an MOU with National Park Service (NPS) at Lake Roosevelt.
- DOI is pushing NPS at Lake Mead in Nevada and Arizona to develop similar MOU's for mandatory inspections.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INVASIVE SPECIES TO WASHINGTON STATE

- A quagga/zebra mussel infestation would cost the region **\$500 million/yr.**
- The cost to Washington state alone would be **\$100.5 million/yr.**, according to a 2017 economic impact study by Washington agencies.
- PNWER works closely with the Washington Invasive Species Council to combat invasive species
 - Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator, Washington Invasive Species Council