

**Western Regional Panel Activities**  
**Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting, Arlington, Virginia**  
**October 28-29, 2008**

**Western Regional Panel Coordinator**

Retiring Coordinator: Tina Proctor, FWS Region 6 AIS Coordinator  
Congratulations and Best wishes to Tina. We'll miss you!

New Coordinator: Erin Williams, FWS Region 6 AIS Coordinator  
Email address: erin\_williams@fws.gov

2008-2009 Chair: Eileen Ryce, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
2008-2009 Vice Chair: Karen McDowell, San Francisco Estuary Program

**High-Priority and/or Emerging Regional Issues:**

- For the upcoming year the highest priority that the panel will be working on is developing regional recommendations to the states on boat decontamination protocols along with strategies on how boats should be certified as "clean" or "decontaminated". A committee has been established and the work will be carried out in collaboration with the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative. It is likely that from this work, recommendations to the Task Force will be presented during the Spring meeting.

**Key ANS activities from May 2008 to October 2008:**

**Panel**

- The WRP held their annual meeting in Ft. Collins, Colorado on September 9-11. A day-long field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park to hear about control of non-native trout and stocking with native cutthroat trout started the meeting. The theme was control of ANS and some of the topics were New Zealand mudsnail control in hatcheries, quagga mussel control at Reclamation dams on the lower Colorado River, Asian Clam control at Wolf Creek Nuclear Operation. The Panel also visited the USDA-APHIS lab in Ft. Collins and heard presentations on invasive species control. The 2009 meeting is scheduled for September 8-10<sup>th</sup> in Seattle, Washington.

**State/Interstate**

- Several states within the panel have developed or are developing new rules and legislation to deal with aquatic invasive species. Most new rules and legislation are based around enforcement activities to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- More states within the panel have now developed ANS Management Plans, which will greatly help coordination of ANS activities among the states throughout the region.
- Quagga and zebra mussels expanded throughout the Southwest during 2008. They are now found in several locations in California, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. Efforts throughout the west are still centered around prevention of further introductions and spread.
- On July 15, 2008, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District sponsored a one day meeting on "Preparing for the Invasion: Monitoring, early Detection/Rapid Response, Control and Management of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in Utah Water Treatment Facilities." A CD/DVD boxed set was created of all the presentations as well as all the PowerPoints. In September, four reservoirs in

northeast Utah were found to be infested with zebra/quagga mussels and boat inspections were immediately put in place. One of the reservoirs, Midview, on the Ute Indian Reservation, was shut down to boating immediately.

- In mid-September, Offut Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska, applied copper sulfate crystals to their Base Lake to obtain 1.0 part per million copper concentration. One more application will occur in spring 2009. This is an attempt at total eradication of the zebra mussel population in the lake. There are no other known zebra mussel infestations in Nebraska.
- Zebra/quagga mussels have been identified in three lakes at the headwaters of the Colorado River in Colorado: Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Reservoir and Grand Lake. Water from these lakes flow into the Colorado River and there is a trans-mountain diversion taking water into the Big Thompson River. Many reservoirs east of the Front Range in Colorado receive water from the Big Thompson.

### **Biological Curriculum Committee**

The WRP dissolved its work group on the school science curriculum pathway based on completion of all the original objectives. The work group's recommendations were forwarded to the ANS Task Force and were assigned to the joint ANSTF/NISC prevention committee. The initial efforts of the work group also culminated in the successful funding of a multi-region Sea Grant project to further evaluate this pathway and develop a set of prevention tools in cooperation with the biological supply house industry. Members of the original WRP work group will continue to provide support to the Sea Grant project.

The WRP acknowledged the work group as a model example of a local problem of broader significance being explored by a regional panel through an annual meeting session and an associated ad hoc work group, leading to national-level recommendations to the ANSTF and ultimately helping promote a national-level solution. This model will now be applied to the new work group on harmonizing boat inspection/decontamination approaches within the West.

### **New Committees for 2009:**

- 1) Work Plan Committee: Chair, Blake Feist (NOAA, Northwest Fisheries Science Center)
- 2) Climate Change Committee: Chair, Louanne McMartin (USFWS, Region 8)
- 3) Boat Inspection Regional Protocols Committee: Chair, Elizabeth Brown (Colorado Division of Wildlife)

### **Projects funded for 2009**

- 1. Surveying, evaluating and identifying car washes as approved ANS cleaning stations.**  
Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species, Livingston, MT, Bob Wiltshire, PI.  
Project partners: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- 2. Using the river float permitting process to educate recreational boaters about ANS.**  
Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species, Livingston, MT, Bob Wiltshire, PI.  
Project Partners: Colin Maas, Smith River Manager, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.
- 3. Water Trail Users' ANS Prevention Workshops and Regional Model.** Dept. of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Montana State U., Carla Hoopes, PI.

Project Partners: 9 partners including 4 national forests ranger districts, 1 state agency and 4 nonprofits.

### **Projects completed in 2008**

- 1. Workshop to Develop Research Priorities for Invasive Aquatic Plants.** Portland State University, Mark Sytsma, PI. The workshop was held in 2005. Four papers from the workshop were published in the Journal of Aquatic Plan Management. 46:2008.
- 2. Train the Trainer: Master Gardeners Prevent Aquatic Invasive Plant Introductions through Community Education and Outreach.** U. of California, Davis, Ted Grosholz, PI.
- 3. Professional Awareness of Flowering Rush in the Headwaters of the Columbia River System.** U. of Montana, Peter M. Rice, PI.
- 4. ANS Early Detection Program – Developing a Prototype for Watershed Groups,** San Francisco Estuary Project, Karen McDowell, PI.  
This project was funded in 2005 and the product, a binder including both fresh water and marine species was produced in early 2008.

### **Panel Recommendations to the ANS Task Force:**

- The WRP has no recommendations for the Task Force at this time.