



The Western Regional Panel
On Aquatic Nuisance Species

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Erin Williams, Panel Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

October 5, 2009

Dear ANS Task Force Members:

I am pleased to present the final draft of the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP) on behalf of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (WRP). The development of the QZAP was requested at the October 2008 meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF). An initial draft was presented at the May 2009 ANSTF meeting in Bozeman, Montana. The current draft represents substantial edits and additions as a result of the comments received from the ANSTF members.

The goal of the QZAP is to summarize current strategies to address the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels in the West, and to identify and prioritize the specific actions that are needed to comprehensively prevent the further spread of these mussels, respond to new infestations, and manage existing infestations. The QZAP is intended to serve as a common 'road map' of priorities for any water management or recreational watercraft entity and their partners for the next five years.

More details have been added to the plan on the current ANS activities in the West. Budget justifications have been added for each action item. Additional background information has been included and the format of the QZAP has been revised to make it simpler and easier to read.

The WRP now requests that the Task Force address the following:

- Plan adoption. The WRP requests that the ANSTF adopt the QZAP or provide guidance on an alternative way to formalize completion of the Plan.
- Implementation and Coordination. The WRP requests that the ANSTF discuss how to proceed with implementation and coordination of the Plan.
- ANSTF member agency involvement. The WRP requests that the ANSTF members recognize which of the action items in the plan their agencies will implement. Additionally, it is requested that all ANSTF members provide information at each ANSTF meeting on their implementation efforts.

A substantial amount of time and effort has gone into development of the QZAP. The WRP would like to see the QZAP become adopted and implemented as soon as possible, preferably before the 2010 boating season.

We look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Eileen Ryce
Western Regional Panel Chair