

March 3, 2010

Executive Committee

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John Wullschleger
National Park Service

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

Dear ANS Task Force:

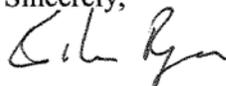
On behalf of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (WRP), I am pleased to present the final Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters (QZAP). An initial draft plan was presented at the May, 2009, ANSTF meeting in Bozeman, Montana, and the final draft plan was conditionally approved at the November, 2009, ANSTF meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland. This final plan includes edits requested by the ANSTF at the Silver Spring meeting including: 1) adding language about the emergency situation and what the use of the word emergency means; 2) changing the language in action A.1 to reflect that state and interstate ANS management plans are foundational and breaking out the requested dollar amount per plan; 3) clarifying that funding estimates are subject to appropriations and that the plan is not a budget request or justification of funds; and 4) supplementing the economic and ecological portion of the document.

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 and it is not a budget request. As implementation and response to this challenge is an ongoing issue in the west, the Panel requests that the Plan be viewed as a 'living document' that will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

The WRP thanks you for the conditional approval of the plan at the November 2009 meeting and respectfully requests final approval of this version of the plan. We would also like to reiterate our interest in providing a WRP representative to the ANSTF Coordination and Implementation Team and that we request a plan implementation discussion at the each ANSTF meeting.

Thank you as well for your thoughtful discussions of the plan as it was being developed and for your support in developing the plan. The Panel looks forward to continuing to work with you on addressing this critical issue in the West.

Sincerely,



Eileen Ryce