



GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Participating Agencies

US Department of the Interior National Park Service

Grand Teton National Park
John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
Memorial Parkway
Yellowstone National Park

US Fish & Wildlife Service

National Elk Refuge
Red Rock Lakes
National Wildlife Refuge

Bureau of Land Management

US Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Beaverhead-Deerlodge
National Forest
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Custer National Forest
Gallatin National Forest
Shoshone National Forest

Chair

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Interagency News Release

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Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee Promotes Awareness of Aquatic Invasive Species

Jackson, WY – Curbing the spread of invasive species is a high priority for the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC).

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native species that have been introduced or have the potential to be introduced from waters in surrounding areas. They threaten to forever change aquatic ecosystems, put at risk native plants and animals, and impact the economy of the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

Preventing AIS in the GYA requires a focused, coordinated effort. Consequently, the GYCC assembled an Aquatic Invasive Subcommittee to develop ecosystem-wide strategies for limiting the spread of established populations of AIS into uninfested waters.

AIS may be tiny and hard to see, but they can live in mud, dirt, sand, and on plant fragments. The Subcommittee advises boaters and anglers to – CLEAN, INSPECT, DRY– to prevent introduction of harmful aquatic plants or hitchhikers. Before leaving any water, boats, motors, trailers, anchors, decoys, floats, nets, boots, and waders should be inspected for visible plants, fish, mud or attached animals, and then thoroughly washed, drained, and dried. If possible, allow for 5 days of drying time before entering new waters.

Comprised of federal, state and local agencies, conservation organizations, companies and private citizens, the Subcommittee demonstrates that cooperative efforts make a difference. This year, work has already begun to protect waters from invasive species. For instance, the State of Idaho began opening watercraft check stations in early February. Through April 27, 2012, State employees had intercepted 11 watercraft contaminated with zebra/quagga mussels at its watercraft inspection stations and Ports of Entry. Five of the boats were from the Great Lakes and six from the Lower Colorado River. Other GYA units are in the process of implementing watercraft inspection stations to help intercept AIS before they are introduced.



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ABOUT THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE COORDINATING

COMMITTEE: The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC) includes federal land managers from national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands across the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) – the largest, essentially intact natural area in the lower 48 states. Together, these agencies manage 15 million acres of federal land. The committee was formed to pursue opportunities of mutual cooperation and coordination in the management of core federal lands within the GYA.

Participating federal land managers administer three national parks (Yellowstone, Grand Teton & John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway), two national wildlife refuges (National Elk Refuge, Red Rock Lakes), six national forests (Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Shoshone, Gallatin, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, & Custer), and BLM lands in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Information about the GYCC and links to member agency websites are available at: <http://www.fedgycc.org/>

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