

# GYA-WIDE AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES STRATEGY

8 January 2009

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to work cooperatively to develop effective programs that address the threat of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA).

## GYA ANS STRATEGY GOALS

- Prevent new introductions of ANS into waters of the GYA.
- Limit the spread of established populations of ANS into uninfested waters.
- Abate harmful ecological, socioeconomic and public health and safety impacts resulting from infestations of ANS within the GYA.
- Provide a cooperative environment that encourages coordinated activities among all interested parties throughout the GYA.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTION ITEMS

Goal: Prevent new introductions of ANS into waters of the GYA.

- Develop a public (externally) that understands their role in ANS prevention
  - Teach people to inspect, clean, dry
    - Educational workshops
    - One-on-one contact with water users
    - School outreach
    - Integrate ANS outreach internally into the workplace.
  - Develop a marketing campaign that is consistent throughout the GYA
    - Develop an ANS reporting system
  - Encourage the development of ANS-free certification programs that help the public understand their role
- Develop an agency/organization understanding of ANS prevention
  - Institutionalize behaviors and procedures that reduce potential for spread, regardless of survey knowledge
  - Define and incorporate Best Management Practices into management actions
  - Identify opportunities to incorporate ANS management into agency/organization decision-making and plans.
- Identify and interrupt pathways of introduction
  - Identify and manage key ANS vector routes
  - Encourage the development of ANS-free certification programs
  - Develop a strategic network of cleaning/treatment infrastructure
  - Develop standard cleaning protocols
  - Develop a network of ANS experts
    - Train resource professionals to identify ANS in the field
    - Identify reference experts for advanced identification of ANS
  - Identify and develop consistent inspection protocols

- Identify and implement changes in authorities and procedures
  - Survey and document existing laws, regulations, and policies
  - Identify weaknesses, inconsistencies, or absences in authorities and procedures
  - Support and/or implement solutions that address the needs identified

Goal: Survey, report, and respond to ANS in GYA waters.

- Inventory and conduct ongoing surveys of all GYA waters to determine presence and distribution of ANS
  - Prioritize specific bodies of water for surveying
  - Identify existing survey methodologies.
  - Adopt and/or develop universal/consistent survey methodologies
  - Use existing databases to capture survey data.
- Develop and implement an early detection and rapid response system
  - Develop a communication structure within the GYA
  - Define authorities and responsibilities in a rapid response scenario
  - Define response protocol
  - Utilize current models of collaboration in a rapid response scenario
- Integrate efforts with existing national reporting systems

Goal: Abate ecological, socioeconomic and public health and safety impacts resulting from infestations of ANS within the GYA.

- Active management for containment of established populations
- Articulate what research and technology needs are within the GYA
  - Continue to encourage additional research
- Identify and publicize potential and existing threats
- Provide specific information to impacted industries, particularly those that may not think they have a stake in the ANS issue.

Goal: Provide a cooperative environment that encourages coordinated activities among all interested parties throughout the GYA.

- Pool resources where appropriate to achieve goals and eliminate duplicity/competition
  - Convene regular meetings to share information
  - Review annual GYCC project proposals for prioritization
  - Encourage projects that benefit the entirety of the GYA, not in competition
- Pursue project funding to implement this strategic plan
  - Develop list of potential funding sources for shared proposals
  - Identify internal funding sources for ANS management
- Encourage GYA organizations, businesses, and individuals to participate and support the ANS effort
  - Facilitate local cooperative partnerships where logical within the GYA
- Coordinate with national, regional, and local efforts