

# Preventing the Spread of AIS



# Flathead Basin Commission

- Created in 1983
- Statutory mission
- Commissioners
- Non-regulatory/  
transboundary focus



# Geographic Context



# Historical Context



- Getting Started
  - 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> legislation
  - Limits of legislation
  - Taking care of our own house

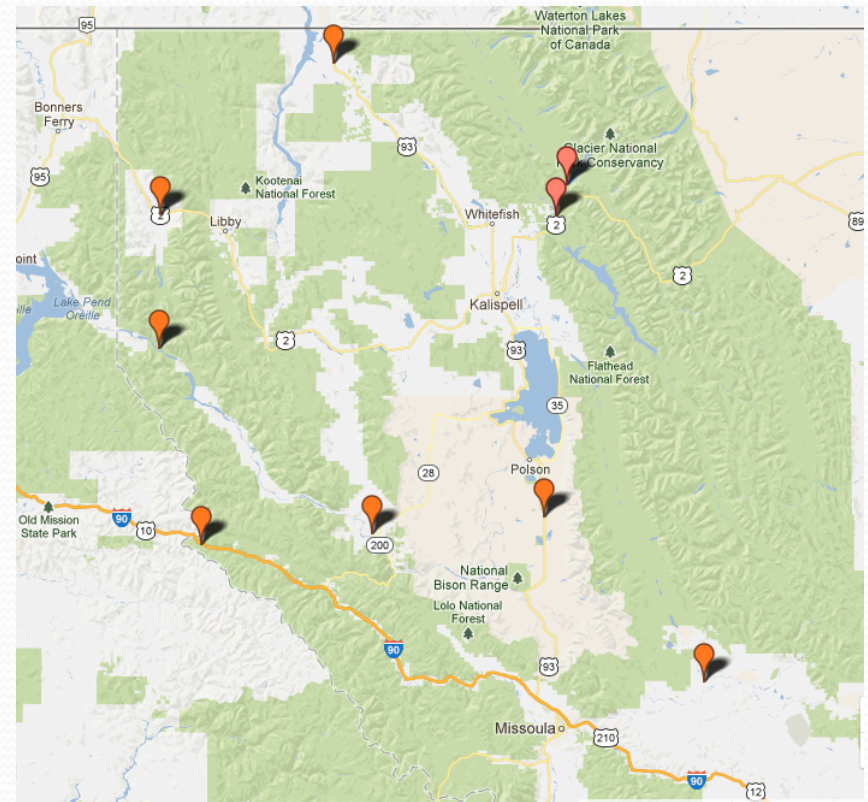
# Flathead AIS Prevention

- Flathead AIS Work Group 2009
  - Federal
  - Tribal
  - State
  - County
  - City
  - Non-profits
  - Legislators
  - Industry



# Flathead AIS Strategic Prevention Plan (2010)

- Education
- Monitoring
- Perimeter defense
- Control Efforts
- Rapid Response
- **Flathead AIS Fund**



# The latest, but not the greatest

- Veligers in Tiber
- K-9 units and divers did not find adult mussels, though dogs detected at both locations
- Fouled waters closed initially but now reopened
- ICS revised state program



# Flathead AIS Strategic Prevention Plan Update (post Tiber)

- Management area
- Inspection before launch program
  - Address limitations of the firewall/perimeter WISs
  - Address limitations of containment/local boater progr.



# Flathead AIS Strategic Prevention Plan Update (cont.)

- Incr. seasons/hours at WIS, w/greater enforcement
- Increased monitoring (eDNA)
- Rapid Response Plan
- Preemptive measures



# Actualizing the Flathead Plan: HB 622

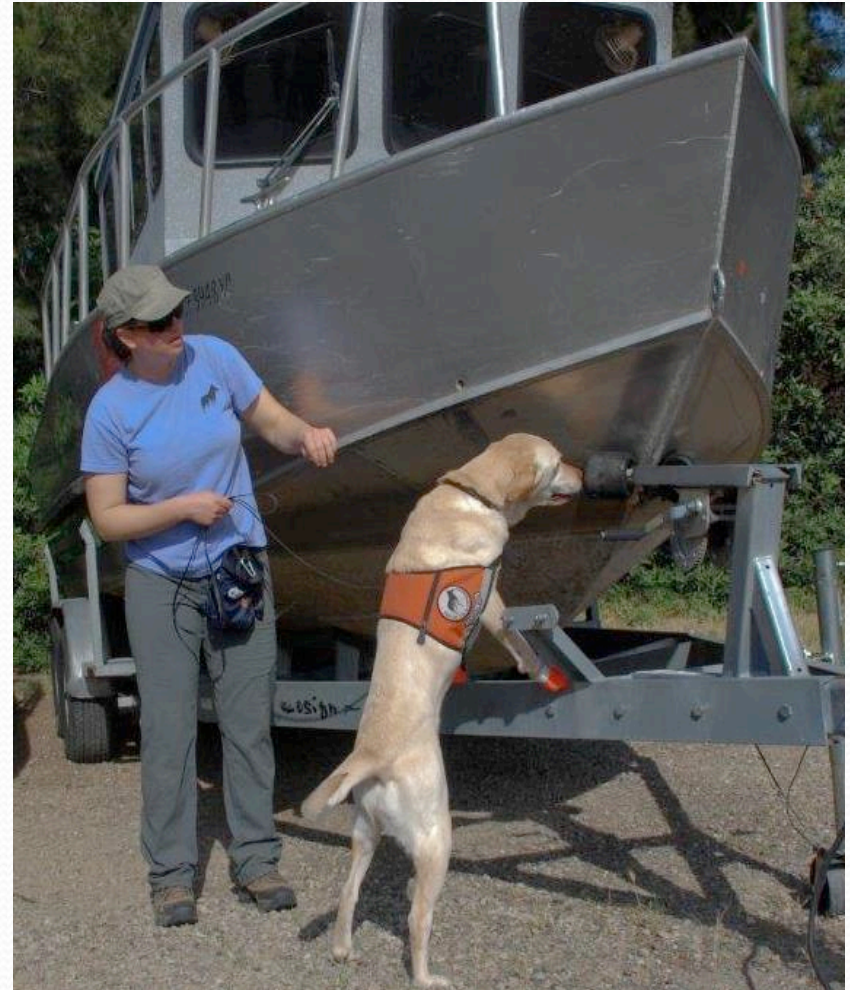
- **Upper Columbia Pilot Program**
- Certification stations
- Est. boat sticker program
- Automated inspections
- Petition FWP for rule-making:
  - IBL
  - closure of launch sites
  - prohibition or restriction of certain vessels and equipment



... coming in 2018!

# Flathead AIS Program(2017)

- Pre and post season WIS
- Kalispell station – public-private partners
- Tribal partnerships
- Monitoring
- Revisiting K-9 program
- Draft rule-making
- Lake County Ordinance and mill levy



# Russian nesting dolls



# CSKT: Modified IBL (to be amended for 2018)

- **Closures**
- **Flathead Residents:**  
Initial inspection  
required before launch  
on the south half of  
Flathead Lake/River
- **Non-residents:** IBL  
required each time these boaters launch



# FBC-Blackfeet Partnership

- Discussion commence January 2015
- FBC/Blackfeet MOU completed in March 2015
- Ordinance 113 in April 2015



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BLACKFEET NATION, AND THE FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2015 by the Blackfeet Nation and the Flathead Basin Commission.

### I. PARTIES

The Blackfeet Nation is responsible for maintaining fish, wildlife, and recreational opportunities on the Blackfeet Reservation and in that capacity is responsible for managing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) on tribal lands and in tribal waters.

The FBC is a non-regulatory organization whose mission is to protect the existing Flathead region aquatic environment and the natural resources and environment of the Flathead Basin.

### II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize the commitment of the Blackfeet Nation and the Flathead Basin Commission (FBC), hereinafter referred to as the Tribe and the FBC, respectively, to provide certain resources to operate an AIS Watercraft Inspection Station (WIS) on the Tribal Reservation in Browning on Highway 2. The purpose of the WIS is to provide boaters with information on the threats of AIS, and to physically inspect all watercraft (i.e., vessel as per 61-1-101, MCA) to minimize the risk of transporting AIS into the Reservation, into the Flathead Basin or between Montana water bodies.

# How it Works on the Ground

150001

## CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION

This Certificate is valid for seven days after: \_\_\_\_\_

This certificate is valid for seven days UNLESS watercraft is launched on any non-Blackfeet waters, at which time watercraft must be re-inspected upon reentry.

Name of Boater:

Boat Reg:

Band Number:

License Plate:

This certificate must be present and valid to launch on any Blackfeet Nation waters. Keep one copy of this certificate with the watercraft at all times and place the other on your dashboard before launching.



# Blackfeet AIS Program (2017)

## Inspection before launch

- 3 mandatory stations
- 2 certification stations
- 1 decon station
- Expanded hours/season
- Limitations on motorized boats
- eDNA Monitoring
- Ban on ballast boats/waders
- Enhanced enforcement

## By 2017

- 100% Tribal inspectors
- Tribal program manager
- 5 mussel fouled boats



# Glacier National Park



- A leader within NPS
- Triggering event
- Waters now closed to motorized boats
- eDNA testing
- Heightened educational efforts

# City of Whitefish – IBL gating program

- Both launch sites gated
- Decon (\$40) mandatory prior to launch for boats:
  - ballast tanks
  - launched in a mussel fouled water in the last 30 days
  - standing water
  - too dirty to inspect



# Conclusion



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- Rule-making will bring consistency and integration to the various Flathead AIS programs , while retaining the highest levels of protection
- Nested within the broader state program



# Thank you!

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