

Keep your boat  
and gear clean  
and free of debris.

INSPECT FOR:



MUD



WATER



PLANTS



STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!

With just three easy steps, you can do  
your part to help **stop the spread** of  
aquatic invasive species like plants,  
mussels and whirling disease:

INSPECT.

CLEAN.

DRY.



Aquatic invasive species degrade ecosystems, damage community water  
supplies, and take away our fishing, floating and boating opportunities. You can  
help stop the spread of these aquatic hitchhikers with just **3 EASY STEPS:**

INSPECT. CLEAN. DRY.

A message brought to you in partnership by  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Montana Department of Agriculture



STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!

### **Aquatic invasive species (AIS)**

are organisms that are unintentionally brought into Montana from other places. These include clams, fish, mussels, plants, weeds, and disease-causing pathogens.

### **AIS are not wanted here.**

They overwhelm lakes and rivers, kill fish and plants, and damage the delicate ecosystem that keeps our waters clean. AIS harm our recreational and agricultural resources by damaging boats and gear, clogging water pipes and hydropower facilities, jamming community water sources and choking off irrigation systems.

### **AIS can be spread**

when anglers, boats and other watercraft move from one body of water to another.

**With just three easy steps, you can do your part to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species:**

**INSPECT. CLEAN. DRY.**

### **1. INSPECT.**

After leaving a lake or stream, inspect your boat, engine, trailer, anchor, waders, and other fishing and boating gear for mud, water, and vegetation that could carry aquatic invasive species.

### **2. CLEAN.**

Completely remove all mud, water, and vegetation you find. Boaters should use a pressurized power sprayer, found at most do-it-yourself car washes. The hot water helps kill organisms and the pressure removes mud and vegetation. No need to use soap or chemicals.

### **3. DRY.**

Aquatic invaders can survive only in water and wet areas. By draining and drying your boating and fishing equipment thoroughly, you will kill most invasive species. The longer you can keep your boat, trailer, waders and other equipment outside in the hot sun between fishing trips, the better.

