

Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team Program Coordinator

Program Background:

The discovery of invasive mussels in the Missouri River system of Montana triggered an unprecedented response and implementation plan by the natural resource agencies of the state. Foremost in this plan is containment of the mussels and prevention of infestation of other waters within the state. The agriculturally important waters of the Musselshell and Milk Rivers and the spectacular fisheries in the Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers are in need of protection from aquatic invaders. Maintaining the virtue of those water bodies not infested with mussels and working alongside FWP and DNRC to provide education and outreach to Central and Eastern MT was the focus of this project.

In response to the concern about the spread of invasive mussels, FWP expressed the desire to work with stakeholders in Eastern Montana to identify regional needs. Conservation District representatives and watershed coordinators for the Missouri, Musselshell, Milk, Yellowstone, and Big Horn Rivers coordinated the efforts to establish stakeholders for their area and solicit stakeholder input for their own regional needs. Collectively, these watershed groups formed the Central and Eastern MT Mussel Response (CEMMR) which has evolved into the Central and Eastern MT Invasive Species Team (CEMIST).

Purpose

The Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team is a grassroots effort to provide a coordinated network for invasive species prevention.

Vision

CEMIST fosters thriving landscapes through collaborative efforts for the prevention and management of invasive species.

Mission

The CEMIST mission is to protect and preserve the economy and natural resources of communities east of continental divide by facilitating cooperation and coordination at the local level to reduce the threat and impact of invasive species.

Core Values

- **Unify** forces to fortify defenses through local knowledge and expertise
- **Strengthen** local communities by amplifying the collective voice
- **Protect** native ecosystems

Overview of the Threat

An invasive species is defined as 1) nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration, and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic, environmental, or social harm. This threat is further complicated by the rural nature of Central and Eastern Montana.

Job Title: CEMIST Program Coordinator

Job Description:

The Petroleum County Conservation District (PCCD) will hire a coordinator to be based in either Winnett or Lewistown to coordinate Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) efforts. This person will work with CEMIST members and a professional facilitator to create a strategic plan and action plan and then work towards completing that action plan.

The Program Coordinator will expand the capacity and effectiveness of CEMIST through providing additional administration of CEMIST activities. These activities will focus on education and outreach opportunities to spread the message of prevention and treatment of invasive species.

Responsibilities: Develop partnerships and build capacity for community-based invasive species prevention and treatment.

Organizational Duties:

- Work with CEMIST members to implement the CEMIST action plan.
- Coordinate the re-creation of the Montana Salt Cedar Team
 - Participate in determining the role of the Salt Cedar Team within CEMIST
 - Coordinate a Salt Cedar Summit to discuss the creation of and direction for the Montana Salt Cedar Team
 - Support the work of the Salt Cedar Team as directed by the strategic plan and action plan.
- Working with the Steering Committee, develop an agenda and facilitate a monthly meeting to report on progress made and get further instructions as needed.
- Working with the Steering Committee, develop an agenda for bi-annual CEMIST Partner meetings.
 - Provide follow-up to these meetings as needed.
- Look for and apply for funding opportunities for the CEMIST organization.

Outreach Duties:

- Provide education to the Montana Legislature as needed.
- Provide input on State programs.
- Provide information and assistance to State programs as requested.
- Work with the Montana Invasive Species Council and Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to create educational material, identify outreach needs, and provide needed outreach.
- Attend Trade shows and education and outreach events as needed and directed by the CEMIST Program Coordinator.

Monitoring Duties:

- Assist the Program Coordinator in working with FWP to host monitoring training.
- Create monitoring substrate kits and distribute these monitoring kits across central and eastern Montana.
- Other duties as assigned.

Necessary Skills and Knowledge:

- Knowledge of invasive species in Montana.
- Knowledge of the structure for prevention and treatment of invasive species in Montana.
- General knowledge of central and eastern Montana.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Comfort with public speaking and making presentations.
- Excel, Word, Powerpoint and general computer skills.

It is expected that the coordinator will work from an office space in Winnett, Lewistown, or other central Montana community. The coordinator will use his/her own vehicle; however, approved travel costs will be paid by the PCCD at the state mileage and per diem rates.

Term: The position is up to full-time for 15 months.

Salary \$18.50-22.00/hour DOQ. Applications due September 26 by 5 p.m. MST. All documents should be emailed to petroleumcd@macdnet.org. Visit petroleumcd.com or call 406-429-4832 for more information.