

Fed Gov Strengthens Rapid Response to Invasive Mussels to Protect Western Waters

U.S. Department of the Interior
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WASHINGTON – The Trump Administration announced on Nov. 18 a new interagency conservation agreement to protect western water supplies, power generation, outdoor recreation and aquatic ecosystems by strengthening efforts to combat invasive mussels.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, and six Department of the Interior bureaus focuses on boosting federal coordination, communication and collaboration to enhance the capacity of federal, state and tribal agencies to rapidly respond to discoveries of invasive mussels in western states.

“This MOU helps protect the economy and environment of the West by emphasizing preparedness and prompt response to invasive species outbreaks,” said Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Scott Cameron. “Early action can avoid costs later. The MOU complements Interior’s ongoing work with states, tribes and other federal agencies and partners to protect the West from harmful impacts of invasive mussels and other invasive species.”

“Invasive mussels and other invasive species pose a significant risk to the Forest Service’s ability to

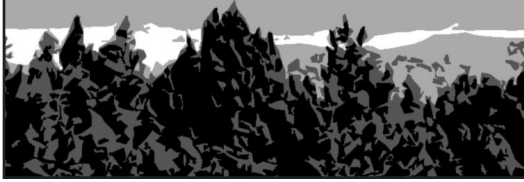


Invasive quagga mussels covering hydroelectric systems on Lake Powell.

meet our stewardship mission on national forests and grasslands, and across the landscape,” said Chief Vicki Christiansen of the USDA Forest Service. “Healthy streams, lakes, and rivers benefit Americans in a myriad of ways, from clean drinking water to important native species to diverse recreational opportunities. One in five Americans relies on water that comes from National Forest System lands, and we are committed to working with our partners to protect and sustain the nation’s vital aquatic resources.”

After prevention, rapid response is the most cost-effective action to eradicate newly arrived invasive

Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition



Our Mission

The mission of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is to restore the dynamic, diverse, resilient landscapes of the arid and semi-arid West for present and future generations through education, research, advocacy, partnerships, and the implementation of on-the-ground projects.

Our Vision

We envision a future where the ecosystems of the arid and semi-arid West thrive. Functioning, diverse ecosystems will be the result of restoration achieved and maintained with naturally occurring disturbances such as fire, in combination with other management prescriptions, including traditional uses. The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, will be a recognized contributor and leader in this effort for future generations of Americans.

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Thoughts From the Barn

Betsy Macfarlan, Executive Director



Greetings from eastern Nevada. After more than six months without any measurable precipitation we finally got a nice snowstorm which was rapidly absorbed by our parched soils.

We are into the final quarter of what has been a crazy, upside down year. COVID has put a crimp in

ENLC's activities but we were able to get quite a bit accomplished despite the shutdown last spring and the on-going restrictions. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our spring CWMA meetings and it is looking too risky to have face-to-face fall meetings. I will try to at least have a phone conversation with each Chairperson this fall. We have also decided to cancel the January 2021 Winter Weed Conference and resume the conference in January 2022.

ENLC was successful in securing several new cooperative agreements with both the BLM and the Forest Service this year. We also secured our second Seeds of Success contract at the end of September. ENLC staff continue to work on a variety of projects from assisting the BLM with restoration and stabilization after wildfires to noxious and invasive species inventories and control and assisting the BLM with data analysis and cleanup. All the CWMAs have continued their efforts at controlling noxious and invasive weeds, despite reduced funding for some of them and the challenges of working with COVID-19 hanging over our collective heads.

The big news (at least for me) is that this will be my last column in this newsletter. I have decided to retire as of December 31. Nineteen and a half years ago I assumed this position and opened ENLC's doors for the first time. We have come an awfully long way from the days where it was just me and my dog in the office. Over the years more than 250 individuals have worked for us, many of them for multiple seasons or even many years. I have enjoyed working with all the ENLC employees over the years. I have also enjoyed working with the professionals at the BLM, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Energy, Tri-County Weed Program, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and Nevada Department of Wildlife. I am proud that many of ENLC's former employees have moved on to professional careers working for these agencies. Lastly I have enjoyed the friendships that have grown out of hundreds of meetings, phone conversations, and miscellaneous get togethers over the years, both

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Rapid Response to Invasive Mussels to Protect Western Waters

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species before they spread and cause harm to infrastructures, ecosystems and economies. Many waterbodies in the West remain free of invasive mussels; however, with infestations in the Colorado River Basin including Lake Mead, Lake Powell, Lake Mojave and Lake Havasu, the risk is high that mussels may hitchhike on watercraft and be introduced to uninfested waterways.

Thoughts From the Barn

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with agency staff and private landowners and managers throughout the West, but primarily in Nevada. Thank you for all your help and patience with me over the years.

I believe I will be leaving ENLC in outstanding hands. Our core staff, Leah Cripps – finance and HR; Paula Day – administrative assistant; Julie Thompson – ecologist; Patrick Hellman – ESR and SOS coordinator; and Lara Deresary – fire rehab specialist, are all staying on. The ENLC Board conducted a diligent search over several months and interviewed two candidates for my position. I am pleased to announce Eric Horstman accepted the position and has been shadowing me since late October. We will work the position jointly through the end of December and I will try to pass as much of my knowledge about ENLC's ins and outs to him as possible. Eric will introduce himself in the next newsletter.

So, thanks again for a great ride. I will still be around as I am now one of the co-chairs of the PlayCleanGo Committee for the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) and I am still chair of the White River CWMA.

Happy Holidays and thank you for all your support over the past two decades.

Betsy

Invasive mussels annually cause more than \$1 billion in economic impacts and management costs nationwide. The MOU leverages efforts at local, regional and national levels to promote coordinated rapid response capabilities and advances such actions as training through in-field and table-top exercises, monitoring waterbodies to enable early detection, pursuing more efficient compliance with environmental regulations so paperwork does not get in the way of problem-solving control measures, and sharing data and available resources, including staff, equipment and funding. In addition, the MOU emphasizes federal agency commitments to working closely with states, tribes and other partners.

The MOU extends efforts led by the Administration under Interior's Safeguarding the West initiative, launched in 2017. The Safeguarding the West initiative focused on strengthening coordination among federal, state and tribal governments to prevent, contain and control invasive mussels and protect hydropower and water supply, water-based recreation and aquatic ecosystems in the West.

Invasive quagga and zebra mussels clog hydroelectric facilities and municipal and irrigation water supply systems, degrade recreational opportunities, and damage aquatic ecosystems. In the Great Lakes region, invasive mussels cause more than half a billion dollars of damage a year and have dramatically changed the ecosystem. They pose a similar threat across the West—particularly in the Columbia River Basin—and in others including the Colorado River Basin.

More broadly, invasive species cause damages that impact the global economy, including an estimated \$120 billion in environmental damages and economic losses annually in the United States. The Trump Administration has taken significant actions to more effectively manage invasive species, which impact water supplies, impair hunting and fishing opportunities, interfere with energy production, exacerbate wildfires, damage America's agriculture and drive native species to extinction.

Weed News You Can Use

Managing Canada Thistle in Lawns

Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) is a very persistent, perennial forb that is listed as a noxious weed in Montana and in many other states. It is challenging to control, in part because it has a large underground root system that allows it to store resources and re-sprout after control efforts. Management efforts should aim to deplete the root system over time. Controlling Canada thistle in lawns is possible, but it will take repeated efforts over consecutive years. Using an integrated approach by applying more than one management technique will improve chances of success. Cultural, mechanical, and chemical control options are all available for lawns.

Cultural Management

One important aspect of managing Canada thistle in lawns is making sure the lawn itself is healthy and competitive. Fertilize and water the lawn properly and consider using techniques like overseeding with a desired turfgrass species if needed. Using mechanical or chemical control efforts will be much more successful if Canada thistle must compete with healthy grass. See the MSU Extension publication “Maintaining Successful Lawns in Montana” for more information.

Mechanical Management

If there are only a few plants, hand-pulling or digging Canada thistle can be useful. During the growing season, pulling or digging will need to be repeated about every two or three weeks or whenever re-sprouting stems are visible. Dispose of plants in the trash as Canada thistle can reproduce by root fragments.

Chemical Management

Herbicides labeled for use in lawn and ornamental settings are available for controlling Canada thistle.

Repeated applications over multiple years will be necessary. For best results, apply herbicides when plants are actively growing, usually in spring to early summer or fall. Herbicides that contain the active ingredients (a.i.) 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPA, and

fluroxypyr or triclopyr can be effective when applied at the right time. Examples of trade names for lawn and ornamental herbicides include Foundation™, Escalade 2®; and SpeedZone®*. Make sure to follow all label instructions and take precautions to avoid injuring desired plants in the landscape. For example, do not apply these herbicides too close to trees or ornamental flowers. To limit the risk of injury to desired plants due to exposure via drift, do not use the herbicides mentioned above on windy days or if daytime temperatures rise above 80 degrees.

Some active ingredients like dicamba can volatilize (change from liquid to vapor) when applied during high temperatures. Spraying when cooler will not only increase efficacy of the herbicide on Canada thistle, but it will limit risk of injury to non-target plants due to drift of volatilized active ingredient.

** Herbicide recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registration, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned. The authors and Montana State University assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.*



US Forest Service Announces Key NEPA Changes

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Contact: press@oc.usda.gov

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 2020 – The USDA Forest Service today announced the publication of a final rule implementing key changes to its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The changes include new tools and flexibilities to tackle critical land management challenges as part of a broader agency effort to better serve the American people through timely, high-quality management decisions affecting infrastructure, permitting and restoration of natural resources on their national forests and grasslands.

“These changes will ensure we do the appropriate level of environmental analysis to fit the work, locations and conditions,” said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. “The new categorical exclusions will ultimately improve our ability to maintain and repair the infrastructure people depend on to use and enjoy their national forests – such as roads, trails, campgrounds and other facilities.”

Categorical exclusions are a type of analysis for certain activities that typically do not have significant environmental effects. The rule establishes new or revised categorical exclusions that eliminate redundant efforts, allowing for previous environmental analyses to be used to support new decisions under certain circumstances, among other efficiencies.

The Forest Service finalized the regulations following its review of extensive public engagement and decades of experience complying with NEPA, one of the nation’s foundational environmental laws. The changes will allow Forest Service officials to concentrate resources on projects that are potentially more complex or have greater public interest, while also meeting NEPA requirements and fully honoring the agency’s environmental stewardship and public engagement responsibilities.

The updated regulations will be published Nov. 19 in the Federal Register and will take effect immediately. For additional details about the rule, visit www.fs.fed.us/emc/nepa/revisions/index.shtml.

Ely BLM Christmas Tree Permits



ELY, Nev. – The Bureau of Land Management Ely District Office is making Christmas tree-cutting permits available to the public. Permits cost \$4 each with a limit of 10 per purchaser. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the public may purchase permits at the Ely District Office by appointment only, email, or by telephone.

To ensure that you receive your tag in time to cut your tree this holiday season, please submit your request no later than Friday, Dec. 18. To purchase permits over the phone using a credit or debit card or to make an appointment, call 775-289-1800. Appointments will only be taken at the Ely District Office, located at 702 N. Industrial Way, in Ely, Nev. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Email requests to blm_nv_ely_do_otc_sales@blm.gov. Email requests should include a name and daytime contact number. Allow one week for processing.

Christmas trees may be harvested on all BLM-administered lands except those designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. The Ely (District) Resource Management Plan also prohibits Christmas tree harvesting in the Blue Mass, Highland Range, Lower Meadow Valley Wash, Mount Irish, Shoshone Ponds and Swamp Cedar areas of critical environmental concern. Only pinion-pine, juniper and white fir may be harvested. The cutting of all other trees is prohibited.

Robbie McAboy Selected as District Manager for the Ely District

ELY, Nev. – The Bureau of Land Management has selected Robbie McAboy as its new Ely District Manager. McAboy assumed her new post on August 17.

A longtime member of the BLM Nevada team, Robbie was previously the Associate District Manager for the Winnemucca District and has held several federal positions in the BLM and U.S. Forest Service.

“I am extremely excited to have Robbie as our District Manager for the Ely District,” said Jon Raby, BLM Nevada State Director. “The Ely District is a dynamic area of the state and the team there has a diverse set of roles and responsibilities in managing the public’s lands. Whether it is responding to wildfires, authorizing mining and grazing actions, managing important fish and wildlife habitat, reducing wildfire threats through hazardous fuels reduction, managing wild horses and burros, supporting the local community and economy, or contributing to the many recreational and public events, this is an important mission and a great team. Robbie is an outstanding and proven leader who can take the Ely team into the future.”

Raby also thanks Shane DeForest, who has served as the acting District Manager for most of the past year.

Robbie graduated cum laude from Alabama A&M University in 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in Forestry. Following graduation, she began her federal career on the Uinta National Forest. She went on to spend 10 years with the Forest Service before transferring to the BLM Southern Nevada District where she managed the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area and served as Site Manager for the Walking Box Ranch.

Prior to Winnemucca, Robbie served as the Elko District Manager and before that, she was the National Dingell Act Coordinator. Throughout her BLM career, Robbie has been entrusted to oversee a number of high-profile projects and initiatives and continues to answer the call to support BLM Nevada.

In her free time, Robbie enjoys hiking and spending time with family and friends.



Robbie McAboy, Ely District Manager

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In fiscal year 2018, the diverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generated \$105 billion in economic output across the country. This economic activity supported 471,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.

John Falen Receives Public Lands Council's 2020 President's Award

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WASHINGTON (Sept. 24, 2020) – The Public Lands Council (PLC) during the 52nd Annual meeting today, announced that John Falen was selected as the 2020 PLC President's Award. PLC leadership also announced they selected Aaron Schlager as the 2020 Friend Of PLC. Both awards acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to the public lands ranching community.

Each year, the current PLC President selects an exemplary member of the public lands ranching community who has made a notable contribution to promoting livestock production on federal lands. John Falen has more than 30 years of service to PLC and its affiliates, serving as PLC president, a regional representative for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and president of Nevada Cattlemen's Association.

"John is deserving of this award because of his dedication, commitment, and tireless service to the Public Lands Council and the livestock industry as a whole," said PLC President Bob Skinner. "During his years on the Executive Committee, he was an influential part in establishing the Public Lands Endowment Trust, served as a member of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee, and worked hard to defend the rights of the ranching industry. John has truly been a war horse for our industry and I am honored to be able to present him with this award,"

"During his years on the Executive Committee, he was an influential part in establishing the Public Lands Endowment Trust, served as a member of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee, and worked hard to defend the rights of the ranching industry. John has truly been a war horse for our industry and I am honored to be able to present him with this award."

-PLC President Bob Skinner

The Friend of PLC award recognizes a person outside of PLC, who has gone above and beyond their duties to help the mission of public lands ranchers. Aaron Schlager is a senior director at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and has provided logistics support to PLC for many years.

"We thank Aaron for his tireless help behind the scenes. Aaron makes himself available day-in and day-out to ensure our team is well-prepared and well-housed. Whether we need assistance with travel, getting out of a snow storm, or finding the best hotel rates, Aaron has always been there to help. Numerous events have only been possible due to his quick thinking and expertise. I can think of no other person more deserving of this award."

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Falen was one of ENLC's founding Board members and served on the ENLC Board for two years.

PLC represents public lands ranchers in Washington, D.C. Since 1968, PLC has worked with Congress and the federal land management agencies to maintain a stable business environment in which livestock producers can conserve the West and feed the nation and world. Visit www.publiclandscouncil.org to learn more.



**Eastern Nevada
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Calendar of Events

December 2	ENLC Board Conference Call
December 25	Christmas Day – ENLC Office Closed
January 1	New Year Day – ENLC Office Closed
January 6	ENLC Board Conference Call
January 6-7	Winter Weed Conference – POSTPONED to 2022
January 18	Martin Luther King Day – ENLC Office Closed

February 3	ENLC Board Conference Call
February 15	President's Day – ENLC Office Closed
February 17	S. NV CWMA Conference Call
March 3	ENLC Board Conference Call
March 5	White Pine County CRM Meeting – location and time to be announced
Sept. 27-30	NAISMA Conference, Missoula, Montana

ENLC Membership

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Business/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone _____

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Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Student (enrolled in school)	\$15
Senior (60+)	\$35
Individual	\$50
Restoration Partner and/or Nonprofit Org.	\$100-\$999
Corporate	\$250
Lifetime Restoration Partner	\$1,000+

Send your check and this form to:

**ENLC
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Ely, NV 89315**