

**From:** Dennis Hanson  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** ais funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2018 12:09:49 PM

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

I'm opposed to this funding plan as is: This whole a i s prevention plan was to hopefully keep all our hydro dams mussel free----- and now you don't need any help from them---what lobbyist proposed this plan????just about like not taxing the tobacco companies for lung cancer. No individual should get hit twice with a fee--- an angler should not have to pay for fishing and hit again with a boat fee. With the way they are wasting our tax dollars at Tiber I believe some of our local legislators aren't to thrilled to fund the circus going at tiber.

Dennis Hanson

Chester, Mt.

Reg. 4 C A C

**From:** memkp  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS program funding  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2018 5:22:31 PM

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Thank you, EQC, for keeping the promise of not charging the hydroelectric fee in 2019. Kathy

**From:** lbona@missoulaeduplace.org  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS FUNDING PROPOSAL  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2018 5:22:05 PM

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This is a comment regarding the EQC's funding proposal.

I think the proposal is missing a huge user group by letting hydroelectric off the hook. They should be at the funding table along with all the other water users and beneficiaries of clean water.

Thank you,

Lindsey Bona-Eggeman

Missoula County Weed District

**From:** Darryl James  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on OHV1 / Snowmobile 1 / AIS Program Funding bill drafts  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2018 5:08:54 PM

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Ms. Stockwell –

The Montana Infrastructure Coalition respectfully submits the following comments to apply broadly to the following proposals in front of EQC:

- **OHV1** – increasing the gas tax revenue allocated to the off-highway vehicle program within the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks from 1/8 of 1% to 23/50 of 1%
- **Snowmobile 1** - increasing the gas tax revenue allocated to the snowmobile program within the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks from 15/28 of 1% to 9/10 of 1%
- **Aquatic invasive species (AIS) program funding**: The EQC proposes a new funding structure for Montana’s AIS programs. Currently, hydroelectric fees provide \$3.7 million in annual funding and the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass purchased by anglers generates about \$3 million per year. The EQC instead proposes using a combination of general fund, gas taxes generated by motorboat use, and angler and watercraft fees to provide future funding. Hydroelectric fees would not be collected.

The Infrastructure Coalition opposes any attempts to divert fuel tax revenues for any purposes other than those explicitly allowed under our state Constitution, namely roads and bridges. As the Council will recall, the Infrastructure Coalition worked extensively with the Legislature in 2017 to increase the gasoline and special fuels tax by modest amounts to provide a long-overdue increase in revenues for Montana’s aging transportation infrastructure. This increase was proposed in response to an undeniable need (represented in both the state’s abysmal safety statistics as well as sheer backlog of deferred maintenance as documented by national third-party research), an inability to meet federal match requirements for state system roadways, and an inability for local governments to generate revenue for local roadway projects.

These bill drafts propose to divert revenues from Montana’s core residential, business, commercial and industrial transportation needs and direct that money to exclusive recreational uses. Leaving aside the perplexing prioritization of wants over needs in these bills drafts, there appears to be a disconnect in the rationale for the increase. To date, proponents of these three bills have pointed to dated research conducted by BBER to justify increased revenue for recreational facilities. It is important to note that over the last 15 years, fuel tax revenues have increased by roughly 18 percent. The allocation to the Highways Special Revenue account has increased by about 17 percent, while the allocations to the OHV account and the Snowmobile account have increased by 15 and 17 percent, respectively. Thus, the allocations to these two accounts has increased at or very near the same rate as the overall increase in fuel tax revenues. With this perspective, there is no justification for a larger percentage diversion to the OHV or Snowmobile accounts.

It is also troubling to the Infrastructure Coalition that proponents of this diversion are prioritizing increased expenditures on recreational facilities but did not support an increase in funding for local roads and bridges critical to the safe and efficient movement of Montana residents and businesses. The cumulative rationale would seem to support a zero (0) percent increase for local transportation

and an increase in recreational spending at a rate higher than that either collected or spent on statewide transportation needs. The Coalition views this as a dramatic departure from the explicit language in the Constitution.

To the greatest extent possible, the Infrastructure Coalition has supported revenue generation for infrastructure that connects the cost to the cost-causer. The fuel tax is a direct user fee. The Coalition understands and appreciates that some gasoline is being consumed by vehicles other than cars and trucks on our state and local roads and bridges. The question is one of priorities, and whether users are being appropriately taxed for their impact and/or the actual cost of the facilities provided. With the fuel tax increase provided by HB 473, the state of Montana will still be left with a transportation infrastructure deficit. Additional revenues will be required within the next 10 years. The legislature will need to take a harder look at fuel taxes, registration fees, licensing fees, and possibly other funding mechanisms to keep pace with the rate of decline in both revenues and the physical state of our transportation infrastructure. The Coalition would likely support legislative measures that connected the cost of the impact to OHV and snowmobile trails directly to those users, such as increased licensing and registration fees, but will stand opposed to further diversions of revenues intended for critical roads and bridges.

The Coalition stands opposed to using fuel tax revenues for AIS program funding as well, and for very similar reasons. The revenues for Montana's critical transportation infrastructure is already insufficient. If there is growth in tourism around the state, then new revenue sources should be sought that target those recreational users.

In the end, the Coalition has demonstrated to the legislature that infrastructure funding in general is insufficient to address the mounting needs. Splitting an already undersized pie into smaller pieces does not solve any problem in the long run. The Infrastructure Coalition stands ready to work with legislators to craft long-term solutions to address priority projects with the understanding that sound infrastructure provides the foundation necessary for safe and healthy communities to raise our families and to grow businesses and a vibrant economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. We look forward to further discussion on this and other important infrastructure matters.

Respectfully,

**Darryl James, Executive Director**  
**Montana Infrastructure Coalition**

*Darryl L. James Consulting, LLC*

PO Box 1203  
Helena, MT 59624  
(406) 441-9100 office  
(406) 459-6574 mobile

**From:** Tom McDonald  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2018 10:24:21 AM

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I appreciate the current funding proposal's variety of revenue streams, but I would again recommend the Council look at other water users such as hydropower, irrigation and community surface water systems for additional revenue. I would also restate the need to have an adjusted boat fee based upon the type of watercraft AIS carrying risk and inspection time beyond the proposed motorized vs non-motorized fee schedule. Having those boats with internal water bladders, large surface areas, multiple live wells, etc., pay higher fees would better serve the time and risk factors within the AIS program. Tom McDonald, 721 6th Ave. Ronan, Mt.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Marc Golz  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Date:** Monday, July 09, 2018 9:05:24 AM

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Legislative Services Division  
Attn: Hope Stockwell

Comments regarding AIS funding proposal.

I have a few comments as follows:

1. Why would the fee on hydroelectric facilities be eliminated? Maybe the share collected from them should be decreased, but eliminating it is not credible. Hydroelectric structures provide a place for AIS to colonize and thrive. Hydroelectric facilities also will benefit from prevention efforts.
2. Anglers/AIS prevention pass should Not generate the bulk of the funding. Anglers indeed are one pathway for AIS to migrate, but are likely not the predominant path.
3. Watercraft likely are the predominant path for AIS to migrate. I recommend increasing all watercraft fees to offset a decrease in revenue collected from anglers. Specific fee recommendations:  
Resident motorized watercraft fee = \$30/year  
Nonmotorized watercraft fee: Resident = \$15, Nonresident = \$20  
Nonresident motorized watercraft fee = \$72/year
4. How would the watercraft-generated gas tax be implemented? If it is a general tax added to all fuel sold, then I am opposed to it. If it can be targeted and applied to watercraft fuel sold, then I am for it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Marcus Golz, PE  
552 Hillside Street  
Helena, MT

**From:** Mike Cuffe  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Cc:** [matt.morrison@pnwer.org](mailto:matt.morrison@pnwer.org)  
**Subject:** AIS funding  
**Date:** Sunday, July 08, 2018 8:04:13 PM

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Hope and EQC Committee,

In general, you have covered most of my points in regard to AIS funding proposals. .

I definitely feel that General Fund should be included, just as it was in my 2013 legislation. Also, I haven't heard any accounting for receipt and/or expenditure of federal matching dollars received. In my thinking, those federal dollars had to be spent, so there should have been state money collected for AIS prevention that should be held in reserve. I am thinking we should have received two payments of \$1.8 million and another of \$1,9 million, for a total of \$5.5 million. Another payment is in federal legislation, and I am told it likely will continue through the pipeline. These federal payments came directly through efforts of PNWER folks, including myself.

FWP may already covered the federal money in a report. Also, at one point Sen. Vincent had a plan of storing this money for future use.

In regard to out of state fishing fees, we went way too high on this and I hope it could come down below \$10.

Final comment: This a good committee. Keep up the good work.

Thanks for the chance to comment,  
Rep. Mike Cuffe  
Montana HD 2



**From:** JPANP  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Program Funding  
**Date:** Sunday, July 08, 2018 7:49:21 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Hi,  
Please convey my appreciation to the Environmental Quality Council for a draft funding mix that would keep the promise made by legislators to end the AIS hydroelectric fee in 2019.  
Thanks,  
Audrey Neuharth-Ponaski  
Box 7272, Kalispell MT 59904  
(406) 752-5652  
stepup@centurytel.net

**From:** Upper Columbia Conservation Commission  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding  
**Date:** Sunday, July 08, 2018 6:03:33 PM



### The Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) Urges Public Participation in AIS State Funding Option Discussion

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) recently circulated its proposal to continue funding the state's AIS Program. Currently, the \$6.5 million program is funded by a mixture of hydroelectric fees and an angler 'prevention pass,' though this is being reevaluated for the 2019 Legislative session.

The EQC is currently proposing to take the hydroelectric fee out of the budget, make slight adjustments to the angler 'prevention pass' (decrease non-resident fee by half, bringing it down to \$7.50 per license), adding a watercraft decal user fee (\$25 resident motorized; \$60 non-resident motorized; \$10 all non-motorized) and an annual general fund appropriation. Under this new proposal, the breakdown to reach \$6.5 million includes:

- Angler 'prevention pass': \$2,079,120
- Watercraft fee: resident motorized: \$1,734,250
- General fund (statutory appropriation): \$1,160,000
- Watercraft fee: non-motorized \$640,350
- Motorized watercraft generated gas tax \$500,000
- Watercraft fee: non-resident motorized; \$386,280
- Commercial watercraft fee (\$100/year): TBD

While the UC<sup>3</sup> is not making a recommendation regarding funding at this

time, we encourage stakeholders and citizens with an interest in the AIS funding mechanism to provide input on this important issue. Comments will be accepted through **MONDAY JULY 9<sup>th</sup>** on the proposal. The EQC will review comments at its July 25-26 meeting in Helena as it considers whether to move this concept forward for consideration by the full legislature in 2019.

Send comments to: Legislative Services Division, Attn: Hope Stockwell PO Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620 or [hstockwell@mt.gov](mailto:hstockwell@mt.gov) (include 'AIS funding proposal' in the subject line).

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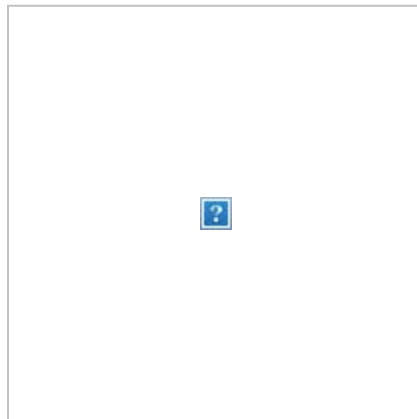
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Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) | 1539 Eleventh Ave., Helena, MT 59601

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Sent by [lori@whitefishlake.org](mailto:lori@whitefishlake.org) in collaboration with



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**From:** Brian Green  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, July 08, 2018 8:01:44 AM

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#### Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Proposal Comment:

The current EQC proposal for new funding sources for the AIS programs has several flaws in my opinion. As a fisherman I understand the need to pay for the costs of this program. Generating AIS program revenues from motorized and nonmotorized watercraft fees makes sense. My main concern is how the fee structure will be set up and enforced. I own two motorized watercraft and eight nonmotorized watercraft (four canoes, three inflatable kayaks and one raft ). Under the current proposal my watercraft fees each year for AIS purposes will be a total of \$130.

In my mind that fee structure is excessive and unfair to owners with multiple nonmotorized watercraft. The watercraft fee structure for nonmotorized boats should follow the example used currently in Oregon for AIS funding. In Oregon, nonmotorized boat owners can purchase a single \$7.00 AIS permit that is transferrable to other another nonmotorized watercraft owned by the owner. In Oregon motorized watercraft fees cannot be transferred to another motorized watercraft. This type of fee structure is much more equitable than the current EQC proposal for individuals who have multiple nonmotorized watercraft toys.

The \$1,160,000 general fund appropriation component in the current EQC proposal is set too low. Under this funding proposal all Montana taxpayers would be assessed an "AIS fee" that covers only 17 percent of implementing the \$6.5 million dollar AIS program. If mussels become established in Montana it will have devastating impacts on tourism, agricultural interests, fishing, water based recreation and the hydropower system ratepayers. Surely we can do better to spread the AIS program costs to a wider base of program supporters. In Idaho their AIS program receives \$3.2 million in state general funds to help support a \$5.4 million dollar AIS program effort. Montana should have a higher level of program support for AIS funding contributed by state general funds than the current proposal.

The EQC proposed nonresident AIS prevention pass fee of \$7.50 should be raised to a higher level. Current AIS prevention fees for out-of-state tourists are \$15. Lowering this cost to \$7.50 does not make sense to me. Most tourists will not bring an out of state boat into Montana to fish our waters and thus the AIS program will be unable to collect a fee on the watercraft side. Nonresidents can do more to support AIS program costs by paying a fee higher than the \$7.50 proposed to keep our world renowned fishing intact for all users. I don't buy the argument that higher AIS nonresident fees are the sole cause for the reduction in nonresident Montana fishing license sales in 2017. The reduction in nonresident fishing license sales last year was likely due to a variety of factors such as the extreme wildfire season experienced in 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EQC aquatic invasive species funding proposal.

Brian Green  
5051 Prospector Gulch Rd  
Helena, MT 59601

**From:** David & Carolyn Villa  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AIS  
**Date:** Saturday, July 07, 2018 7:54:27 PM

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**From:** David & Carolyn Villa [mailto:npwe.via@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 7, 2018 7:53 PM  
**To:** 'hstockwell@mt.gov.' <hstockwell@mt.gov.>  
**Subject:** AIS

***Dear Ms. Stockwell:***

***I would like to suggest that the fees to battle invasive aquatic mussels, not exclude the owners of hydroelectric plants in Mt. It benefits them greatly as well, and since their GOP passed the Tax Reform Act that saves Corporations amazing amounts of money, they may want to share some to save their dams and machinery from mussels. We can all pay more for fishing licenses, or increase the cost to register boats, or ad a small fee at all State ramps to launch boats. I can understand that. We tend to love walking along creeks and rivers, skipping rocks, cooling off on hot days even without a boat. I am willing to pay for that privilege. I realize that in 2019 the hydroelectric dam owners will see their contribution to this action to maintain our waterways as completed. But it won't be completed until we can be assured that the threat is gone.***

***It benefits the hydroelectric dams greatly....that is a major part of their product for which they charge their customers as much as they can legally. It is in their best interests to make sure they don't suffer damage due to The mussels, thus they need to contribute to the clean up as well.***

***Thank you.***

***Carolyn M. Villa  
Yellowstone Valley Elec. Coop.***

**From:** Joann Wallenburn  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding public comment  
**Date:** Saturday, July 07, 2018 8:57:10 AM

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Hello Hope,

First I want to thank you for all the research and analysis you have done to help bring forward this proposal.

I agree with the many faceted approach. All Montanans will be (have been) negatively impacted by AIS in general, but most especially by Dreissenid mussels. Therefore, it is appropriate that part of the funding to combat AIS come from the General Fund.

When we examine the risk of introduction, we are looking at human vectors. Since anglers and boaters comprise by far, the biggest piece of the risk pie, they should also specifically bear part of the financial burden. It is this demographic that can alter its behavior and take the necessary measures to greatly reduce the risk of introduction. It is easy to assume that costs will only go up if there are additional introductions, so it is in their best interests to sufficiently fund a prevention program now. I agree with the boat fees and angler fees.

I also agree with not charging hydroelectric. There is nothing they can do to prevent an introduction, but they will - and all their customers will - suffer the financial consequences from the spread of the mussels.

I encourage the EQC to send this proposal forward to legislature.

Sincerely,  
Joann Wallenburn

--

Joann Wallenburn  
Clearwater Resource Council  
Aquatics Program Director  
PO Box 1471  
Seeley Lake, MT 59868-1471  
(406) 210-8453  
[crcmt.org](http://crcmt.org)



**From:** Mary Dianne Schmautz  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding  
**Date:** Saturday, July 07, 2018 1:43:59 AM

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Thanks for working on the important problem of AIS. I do disagree with one thing. Even though it would affect me in multiple ways. I think Hydroelectric utilities should still have to pay SOMETHING, even though it will be passed on to me in the rate I pay. I feel we are the biggest winners because IF we can prevent contamination by an AIS it will prevent our rates going up because of that contamination.

I know the co-op won't appreciate my attitude, but that is how I feel.

Sincerely,  
Mary Schmautz



**From:** Cathy Seilstad  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 8:56:49 PM

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Ms Stockwell and members of the EQC,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EQC funding options. We are all in agreement that the spread of Aquatic Invasive species would be devastating to Montana waters and to the users. I am writing to voice my support of option number 3, using gas tax monies and the AISPP to fund the program. If we are going to make a concerted effort to keep these species out of our waters we need to fund the program appropriately. It appears to me that option 3 does exactly that; it raises several more millions than the proposed option. We heard this summer how we could not open all the boat ramps on Tiber because we didn't have the man power or the money. I would hate to see us fund a program and find out later it was not sufficient and need to implement new sources.

I have been through public comments enough to know that if a preferred option is being talked about there is little we can do to change it. With that being said, if you do not go with option 3, I would have some less favorable suggestions, however I will offer them for consideration just in case. These suggestions are to try to persuade you not to go with a yearly sticker on boats.

Make out of state boats pay \$100.00 for a sticker to enter the state. Where are these species originating from, out of state. This year already we have caught boats at our check stations entering the state that have had Zebra Mussels on them.

Every year we have to buy a fishing license. Could we pay more for the AISPP. I realize this only targets the Anglers and not all the watercraft.

If we are absolutely forced to buy boat stickers please:

Make it a multi-year sticker and charge more for the sticker. This would also save money in making new stickers every year. If an individual has more than one boat have a discounted price for additional stickers.

Make the sticker run in conjunction with the registration stickers we currently have. They would always come due at the same time so we could remove and replace them together. I would then ask the question if they could be one of the same sticker to save money.

Carl Seilstad  
PO Box 3  
Roy, Mt. 59471  
(406)672-3751

**From:** William Stavers  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS program funding  
**Date:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 7:17:17 PM

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I wish to thank the EQC for the draft funding mix to prevent AIS in our waterways that would keep the promise made by the legislators to end the AIS hydroelectric fee in 2019.

William Stavers  
3937 Grassland Dr.  
Missoula, MT 59808

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William Stavers <[stavers@gmail.com](mailto:stavers@gmail.com)>

From: Phyllis Ferrier  
To: [phyl@stockwell.com](mailto:phyl@stockwell.com)  
Subject: AIS program funding  
Date: Thursday, July 05, 2018 5:24:20 PM

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Thank you for drafting the mix to end the funding as set by legislature to end AIS hydroelectric fee.

Phyllis Ferrier

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**From:** Tom Morarre  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Program funding  
**Date:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 3:48:41 PM

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I am writing to thank the EQC for a draft funding mix that will keep the promise made by state legislators to end the AIS hydroelectric fee in 2019.

Sincerely,

Tom Morarre, Lolo, MT



**From:** Karen McElvain  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS program funding  
**Date:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 1:35:38 PM

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After reading the article in 'Rural Montana', I would like to thank you for a draft funding mix to end the AIS hydroelectric fee.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** David Kemp  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Program Funding  
**Date:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 9:43:07 AM

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Dear Hope,

Please accept this email as a comment submission regarding the proposed shift in AIS prevention funding.

It is my position to disagree with the proposal being brought forth to the EQC for consideration.

All parties who have stake in this matter should be required to support the AIS program with money to be used in preventing the spread or establishment of AIS. Industry should not be exempt from this burden. As a sportsman myself, I understand I must carry some of this burden too; however, I know I must look to all other affected members of my community (the State in this matter) as part of the solution. Thus, all parties are laden with monetary responsibility— industry not withheld under the false pretense of distributing the task to those labeled as cost-causers— for it is industry who will inevitably pass the cost of their operation onto the same parties proposed for further financial segregation should AIS take hold.

Have we not seen the outcome of such policies before, both domestically and abroad in these matters? A simple review the relevant literature will draw a linear relationship between all impacted parties and the shared burden of fiscal responsibility.

The risk of further burdening select parties increases with the concomitant espousal of such notions as the present proposal.

May I suggest instead that the legislature, through the widespread engagement of all impacted parties, devise a plan that more appropriately distributes the cost of AIS prevention among the aforementioned parties?

Regards,

David  
Great Falls, MT

**From:** Marv & Sherry  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, July 05, 2018 8:10:11 AM

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Ms. Stockwell,

Please accept this email as our comment on the AIS funding proposal. We are in favor of Scenario #3, as it raises the most funds.

Thank you,  
Marvin Edeler/Sherry Hoekema  
Bozeman, MT



**From:** Jerry Collins  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 2:42:05 PM

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Hope I'm Jerry Collins commissioner from Garfield Co. with Hell Creek Rec. area being the southern most popular way to get on Fort Peck lake the mussels are a major concern for our part of the state and the Garfield Co. conservation dist. Is working with Fish and Game and are manning the Flowing Well check station. We also Supported HB473 to use on the county roads so I'm having a hard time deciding which way to comment on the issue but if the amount was never higher than 500.000 dollars I would be okay with the use even though HB473 was for infrastructure of county roads and the Recreation public uses those roads so benefit from the gas tax that way since it was brought up in the E,Q.C. meeting how they contribute to the tax with gas that's used in boats I still think they are getting the benefit of the tax on roads. Long story short to help stop the mussels I would support funding of AIS with gas tax dollars. Watching what you do to help the committees you work with and the information that you gather so they can make an informed decision boggles my mind but I think you are a great asset to the state and the legislature Thanks Jerry Collins

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** Dennis Smith  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 1:12:23 PM

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Surface water irrigators should be contributing to this?

I have two motorized boats and one single person raft. Looks like \$64 fee annually to me. Ridiculous.

**From:** KEVIN MATHEWS  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 11:34:00 AM

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All Montanans have a shared responsibility to maintain a healthy ecosystem, so all Montanans should share in the cost of doing so. Invasive species control should be implemented by the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department, and associated costs should come from their operating budget. If the additional costs are more than their traditional budget allocation can bear, the budget should be increased accordingly. State-wide taxes should be set to a level that adequately addresses this and all other important state government obligations.

Kevin Mathews  
231 Anderson Blvd.  
Helena, MT 59601

**From:** Dennis Smith  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS fee proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 7:50:10 AM

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I object to the new proposal. Letting the big boys off the hook and sticking it to the little guy.

**From:** Robert Redinger  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS program funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 7:33:51 AM

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Our thanks to the EQC for acting on the AIS problem.

Robert & Dorothy Redinger  
Kalispell, MT

**From:** Jim Gillespie  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 04, 2018 4:54:23 AM

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Hi Hope Happy Fourth of July, Hi my name is Jim Gillespie and I am President of the Upper Missouri River Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited. I would be in favor of Using the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass and Gas Tax Document . Seems to me as the only far way to generate some funds to help with preventing any of our states water ways from being contaminated... Thanks for Taking the time to read this, and a again Happy Fouth , Jim!!!

**From:** Gary Aitken  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** Aquatic invasive species (AIS) program funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 03, 2018 8:34:26 PM

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Dear Environmental Quality Council Members:

I understand the reasoning behind an AIS fee for boats; that's fine and appropriate if it is not too high. But discontinuing the assessment on hydropower generation is a bad idea. Hydropower facilities, many of which are for-profit quasi-monopolies, stand to bear huge maintenance fees if invasive mussels colonize their facilities. Under a normal market economy, they would voluntarily be spending money to prevent this. Their assessment should continue. As a customer of these companies, I do not wish to have my power bill go up as a result of treatments for invasive mussel contamination; I would much rather pay for prevention.

Thank you,

Gary Aitken  
Ovando

**From:** Robbi R  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 03, 2018 3:42:44 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

My opinion on the funding proposal are more in the negative vein than positive. To levy all the funding on fisherpersons and boaters is not at all fair. We are not the only group of people that would be affected should mussels or other invasive species take hold in Montana. This is a statewide problem that will have far reaching effects on everyone living in the the state, from ranchers, to hydro plants, to sportsmen to casual recreationists.

Fishermen that fish from boats such as myself will have multiple hits, first by buying a fishing license and again by owning a boat let alone the gas tax. I have no qualms about doing my part, however the burden should not fall directly on our shoulders. I think we're being demonized because there is a perception out there that we are the ones spreading AIS. Although it's plausible that our risk is higher due to the passion we pursue, it's not the only way or means of spreading AIS. Much like the anti gun activists that would punish the whole for a few that do bad.....the state cannot and should not take on that attitude. Personally I have never transported AIS to my knowledge, but to assume I will and making me pay up front for it is wrong.

I understood last year when the commission had to make a knee jerk decision on how to fund AIS that they did it the most expeditious way possible and although not fair, it had to be that way. This year the current proposals should be thought through and a more equitable solution needs to be found. To let the hydro companies and others completely off the hook is ridiculous.

Gordon Robinson  
1426 6th Ave N  
Great Falls, Mt 59401



**From:** Gary Wiens  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, June 28, 2018 9:02:38 AM

---

Dear Hope,

I am writing to thank the Environmental Quality Council for developing an AIS funding proposal that is consistent with the commitment made by the 2017 Legislature. The commitment was to allow the AIS fee on hydropower to end in 2019.

Montana's electric cooperatives did not oppose the fee during the 2017 session because — as stated by legislators on both the House and Senate floors — the AIS hydropower fee was intended to provide bridge financing to the next session when different, permanent funding sources could be selected.

Thank you to the EQC for a proposal that helps the Legislature keep its promise!

*Gary Wiens*

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

(406) 868-9177 (c)

(406) 761-8333 (o)

(406) 761-8339 (f)

**From:** Richard Tramp  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** ASI funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 27, 2018 4:53:14 PM

---

Dear Sirs

The proposed funding for ASI is not fair to boat owners.. ASI is a problem for everyone that benefits by the surface waters of Montana. So the cost of the program should be shared by everyone to include: farmers, ranchers, power company's, water recreation, guides. The list is very long.

I believe this should be added to the state of Montana's annual budget. Yes a added tax.

Thank you;

Richard P. Tramp

[tramprichard@gmail.com](mailto:tramprichard@gmail.com)

**From:** PAULA HILL  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Program Funding  
**Date:** Monday, June 25, 2018 8:59:57 PM

---

Thank You for supporting the sunset date for electric cooperative funding to the AIS Program.

Paula Hill

**From:** Bob & Kate Bahr  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** Attention Hope Stockwell  
**Date:** Monday, June 25, 2018 6:30:59 PM

---

**I guess I do not understand the new funding proposal. It seems that you want the people who own boats and who fish to pay for the majority of the AIS program. You are blaming the people that use our lakes and waterways for a nation wide problem. Everyone that uses electricity and water in any fashion could be affected and should be concerned . Do you have a an EIS on the money that will be lost if this program is implemented? Many people will stop buying fishing licenses they will stop coming to Montana to fish and use our waterways . I believe this proposal would hurt many small businesses that rely on out of state fisherman and water users. It will discourage tourists from coming to Montana and spending money. This is everyone's problem and everyone should help. For many of us that are on a fixed income this would be another added expense. Times are tough enough already. Please find a better solution one where everyone pays a little. Thanks for your time**

**Bob Bahr  
404 VanBuren  
Great Falls Mt  
59404  
406 965 2915**

**From:** Doug Hardy  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Cc:** [Gary Wiens](#)  
**Subject:** EQC AIS comments  
**Date:** Monday, June 25, 2018 3:40:51 PM

---

I am responding to express my appreciation for the EQCs efforts to look at funding for the prevention of Aquatic Invasive species spread into Montana waters. I especially appreciate that they are honoring the assurances made to Electric Cooperatives in the 2017 legislative session that funds from those with over 50% hydro be a bridge to a more equitable funding mechanism. Clearly AIS is a societal problem brought in by a few individuals in specific industries, none of which are hydro.

The fact is that with the exception on a small project or two, rural electric cooperatives are not the owners of hydro in Montana, and do not own or operate any of the large dams with hydro generation.

Thanks to the EQC for recognizing that there are no investors of rural electric cooperatives that make profits that would be affected positively or negatively, we only have only the Montana Electric Cooperative rate paying citizens to pay costs.

Additionally, this is especially important for businesses and schools who tend to be larger users and are hit disproportionately by funding through electric rates. Low income people who may not have as efficient housing can also be disproportionately affected by funding if through electric rates.

For all the reasons above and more, we are greatly appreciative that the EQC is looking for funding for the AIS prevention program from cost causers and general funds.

Thank you,

Doug Hardy  
Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative  
501 Bay Drive  
Great Falls, Montana 50404

**From:** Monte Briggs  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 13, 2018 5:37:06 PM

---

I do not feel this proposal is fair to boaters, I believe the current revenue resourced by hydro electric and other users of water systems should remain. Increase to 4.00 AIS pass fee would be appropriate for all users of water systems

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**From:** scott adams  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** Ais funding proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, June 14, 2018 2:24:03 PM

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As an angler I am against this proposal not because I am against protecting the waters, but by the way this is trying to be solved through funding. At what point is the right dollar amount? I vote no.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Kent Gilge  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Saturday, June 16, 2018 11:09:41 AM

---

After looking over the proposed funding proposal for AIS, it is evident to me this is an extreme government over-reach for a problem not yet determined to exist. Some caution needs to be taken and the first funding item on the list (license tack-on) is the only somewhat reasonable suggestion. All the other items for consideration are onerous and will end up hurting our state fisheries due to loss of angler participation and subsequent Dingell-Johnson reduction in funding.

Six Million dollars annually? Really!

--

From Kent Gilge  
4145 70th Ave W  
Havre, MT 59501  
406 262-9755



**From:** Janet Jones  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS proposal  
**Date:** Monday, June 18, 2018 7:11:41 PM

---

We are against the new fee proposal to boat owners.

Sent from myMail for iOS

**From:** Gene McGlasson  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** ais program funding  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:34:10 AM

---

Thanks for any help you can give leading to the electric coops not being burdened with the cost of dealing with the AIS.

Gene McGlasson  
[gene@bythebook.com](mailto:gene@bythebook.com)

**From:** Larry & Doris Jess  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:06:47 AM

---

We would like to thank the EQC for a draft proposal that excludes hydroelectric generation from continuing to pay for the state's aquatic invasive species prevention program. This should end in 2019 as originally proposed.

Larry & Doris Jess

**From:** Christopher  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS program  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 10:44:32 AM

---

Dear Hope,

It has come to my attention that the Montana Rural electric cooperative is attempting to remove themselves from the issue of paying for aquatic invasive species control.

I feel that they play a very important role in the control of these species.

Hydroelectric dams provide a very economical source point for the injection of controlling substances.

Taking the Long view ,hydroelectric plants have a very vested interest in the control of invasive species.

I purchase my electricity from the Park Electric Cooperative and I am an active member of their cooperative.

I feel that electric cooperatives should continue to contribute to the cost of controlling aquatic invasive species.

Thank you for your time.

Christopher Spogis

**From:** Phyllis Anderson  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** Thank You  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 12:42:35 PM

---

I am a member of Flathead Electric Cooperative in Kalispell. I would like to thank you for your committee's draft proposal that excludes hydroelectric generation from continuing to pay for Montana's aquatic invasive species prevention program.

Phyllis Anderson  
Bigfork, Montana

**From:** D.Grob@flathead.coop  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS prevention costs  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2018 9:17:30 PM

---

Dear Ms, Stockwell,

As President of Flathead Electric Co-operative, I ask you to be certain the sunset clause causing Western Montana CoOops from paying the past assigned cost.

These costs further exacerbate the wholesale cost situation of Bonneville Power Administration being able to sell power to Western Montana's Co-ops due to the above market cost of this power.

It is further an issue of fairness. Our dams have no part in the migration of Aquatic Invasive Species. This spread across our nation has been caused entirely be boaters and other watercraft and sport persons carrying these noxious mussels in conjunction with their craft and gear crossing river divides from the St Lawrence seaway across our nation.

Finally, it is very questionable if Western Montana Co-ops will even be able to purchase Bonneville generation when contract time comes due in the near future. Please do not be part of what makes Federal Columbia River Power Supply unaffordable to Western Montana rate payers.

Sincerely,  
Douglas E. Grob  
President, Flathead Electric Co-operative

This message has been scanned for malware by Forcepoint. [www.forcepoint.com](http://www.forcepoint.com)

**From:** Maunder, Jim  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Program Funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 6:56:53 AM

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Good morning Ms. Stockwell,

As the Manager of Member Services of a rural electric cooperative that purchases clean renewable hydro-electricity for our members. I'd like to thank you and the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) for excluding hydro-electric generation from continuing to pay for the state's aquatic invasive species prevention program. I concur with the EQC to establish a broad based funding mechanism for the AIS. All Montana's should be part of the solution to fund the AIS program and I Thank You.

--

**Jim Maunder**  
Manager of Member Services  
[jmaunder@ravallielectric.com](mailto:jmaunder@ravallielectric.com)  
(406) 961-3001 ext. 224

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**From:** Jeri Cote  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:25:56 PM

---

Hi,

I appreciate holding the line on making sure the Electric Coops do not continue to pay for the Aquatic Invasive Species Fund.

Thank You,

Jeri Cote



**From:** Colleen & Dick Hoffman  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 6:56:48 PM

---

I am not for any increases in funding for the cause. I hardly ever put my boat in montana waters anymore. Ever since the state decided to eliminate walleyes from the upper Missouri and the western region by using over fishing and total eradication measures, I have started to fish Washington state fisheries. I simply will not pay fees for waters in which I don't have my boat in very much.

Sincerely;

Dick Hoffman  
Florence, Mt

**From:** herberts@nemont.net  
**To:** [hstockwell@mt.gov](mailto:hstockwell@mt.gov)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Project  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 8:35:02 AM

---

Hope:

Please thank the EQC for drafting a funding proposal that will keep the legislature intend to sunset hydro power from funding AIS past 2019.

Doreen Vaira-Herbert

**From:** Craig Herbert  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Project  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 8:36:32 AM

---

Hope:

Please thank the EQC for drafting a funding proposal that will keep the legislature intend to sunset hydro power from funding AIS past 2019.

Craig Herbert



**From:** John L Sokoloski  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#); [Gary Wiens](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:23:23 AM

---

Hope,

I just wanted to drop a short note and thank you and the EQC for the draft proposal that excludes hydroelectric generation from continuing to pay for the state's aquatic invasive species prevention program. We appreciate being excluded as promised a year ago.

John L. Sokoloski, General Manager  
Goldenwest Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 177  
Wibaux, MT 59353  
(406) 796.2423  
gwec@midrivers.com

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**From:** Hugo Anderson  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 11:17:19 AM

---

Members of Glacier Electric are happy with the decision to honor our commitment to fund AIS into 2019 but not beyond. As you may be aware our members are poor and they struggle to find extra dollars to pay for electricity. Again, thank you.

**From:** Rick Harman  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS funding proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 3:06:46 PM

---

Dear Hope;

The proposal to charge Montana registered motorized boat owners \$25.00 per year per boat is not what I want to see. Montana boaters did not necessarily cause this problem. Out of state people bringing in boats that are contaminated or contractors bringing in dredge or barge equipment may have been part of the issue also. Putting this much of the burden on boat owners is not right. By dividing 1,734,250 by 25 you are saying there are only 69,370 registered motorized water craft in Montana. Every year another sticker would be necessary. Only boats that use Tiber or Canyon Ferry would need such stickers in my mind. Boats that do not use those waters are being penalized for no usage in those waters.

We motorized boat owners are only some of the users. Cities, irrigators, fishermen, water craft, recreationists and power plant operators all use the water in Montana and all users have a vested interest in keeping the problem out of the rest of the system. The lack of participation in all of these entities that use the water robs you of income necessary to monitor and prevent the spread of AIS. I see nothing in your plan about fines for boats coming into Montana that are found to be contaminated with AIS. It is my thoughts to stop them from coming into the state and to allow no barges or dredges to come into the state.

I hope that we can continue to work on this without penalizing a small group of users.

Richard Harman

**From:** Dale Gilbert  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** AIS Funding proposal  
**Date:** Friday, June 08, 2018 4:29:36 PM

---

I am adamantly opposed to your current funding proposal that would assess each motorized watercraft \$25/ year.

That puts 26.67% of the total coming from owners of motorized watercraft which is grossly unfair.

I license on the average three boats motorized watercraft a year and also have a canoe in Montana so it would cost me \$85 per year. That is not right.

The AIS Invasive species is not just a boater problem. Anyone who accesses the water can be a part of the problem, boaters as well as people rafting, wading, or even hiking. So it is not fair to place so much of the burden on watercraft..

Please look for an alternative that would more equitably share the burden with all the stakeholders and don't penalize the motorized watercraft owners.

Dale Gilbert  
PO Box 91  
Ulm, MT 59485

406-788-3824

Sent from my iPad



P.O. Box 70 · Polson, MT 59860  
(406) 883-1346  
Fax (406) 883-1357  
lakers@flatheadlakers.org  
www.flatheadlakers.org

**Flathead Lakers:**  
*Working for clean water, a healthy  
ecosystem, and lasting quality of life in  
the Flathead Watershed*

July 9, 2018

Environmental Quality Council  
Attention: Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division  
Helena, MT 59620  
via email: hstockwell@mt.gov

Re: Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Proposal

Dear Hope and Members of the Environmental Quality Council:

Thank you for your efforts crafting a funding structure to support continued funding for state aquatic invasive species (AIS) programs. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft funding proposal.

The Flathead Lakers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting clean water, healthy ecosystems and lasting quality of life in the Flathead Watershed. Our organization was founded in 1958 and currently has over 1,500 members.

The Flathead Lakers have been concerned about and working to thwart aquatic invasive species for over a decade. Our members are extremely concerned about the threat of invasive mussels reaching Flathead Lake, the Flathead watershed, and other Montana waters.

Since preventing the spread of AIS in general and invasive mussels in particular is far less costly than the numerous impacts of infestations, we support stable, long-term funding for prevention, monitoring, law enforcement, and education. We appreciate your review of ways other states are funding AIS programs and your evaluation of motorized watercraft fuel consumption and the gas tax revenue it generates.

We support an AIS program funding structure that includes a significant contribution from the general fund complemented by fees assessed on various sectors that pose a risk of spreading AIS or that gain specific benefits from the absence of invasive mussels and other AIS. We believe it is important to have cooperation from various sectors for a long-term funding plan and, therefore, it is important that the people engaged in the various sectors believe everyone is paying their fair share. Some education may be needed to ensure those affected understand the gravity of the threat, the importance of the programs, and how their sector benefits from contributing to funding the programs.

We support and recommend the following:

Hydropower: We appreciate that the funding contribution from the hydropower sector provided a significant portion of total AIS funding approved in the 2017 Legislature. With increased contributions from other sectors in the proposed funding structure, we believe it is reasonable to reduce, but not eliminate, the contribution from hydropower. Hydropower operations and its customers realize substantial financial benefits from protecting mussel-free waters.



Motorized watercraft-generated gas tax: We applaud including the gas tax revenue generated by motorized watercraft use in the funding structure. The \$500,000 currently included in the proposed funding structure is a conservative amount when compared to the amounts in the Estimated Gas Tax Revenue Generated by Motorboat Use in Montana, FY 2020 table. We recommend increasing the contribution from this source to *at least* the amount estimated for “net new revenue available for AIS FY 2020” in the most conservative estimate of gallons/year fuel use by boats using the 1977 fuel use estimate based on 2017 motor boat numbers (\$1,657,727). The significance of the impacts of new invasive mussel infestations, including the significant impacts on motorized watercraft users warrants using the tax dollars resulting from motorboat use for prevention programs.

Watercraft fees: We support fees for both resident and nonresident watercraft, both motorized and nonmotorized watercraft, and commercial watercraft. Everyone who uses watercraft has a vested interest in keeping our waters free of invasive mussels and other harmful AIS.

Anglers / Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass: We support continuation of the successful prevention pass. This relatively small fee yields significant funding for the program, and anglers also have a vested interest in protecting Montana waters from AIS.

Certified Boater Program: Certified “local” boaters gain convenience in access to water bodies designated as “suspect” or “positive” for invasive mussels. Because they do pose a risk of spreading invasive mussels should they travel to other waters without getting a boat inspection and decontamination, because they are allowed launch access at sites not open to all boaters, and because there are significant costs for maintaining inspection and decontamination stations and monitoring at the “suspect” and “positive” water bodies, we support adding a certified boater program fee to the funding structure to help fund AIS programs.

Irrigation and Municipalities: We recommend investigating opportunities for a fee on other significant water users that benefit from mussel-free waters and from AIS prevention and control efforts, such as irrigation districts and municipalities.


Since the proposed funding structure presumes that federal funding will continue to approximately match total state funding, a contingency plan should be developed for the possibility that the amount of federal funding may decrease in the future. One component of a plan could be to provide biennial state contributions to the AIS Trust Fund to build this reserve, and include this in the annual funding structure.

Continuing to fund and improve state AIS programs is essential for protecting our priceless Flathead and Montana waters from invasive mussels and other AIS threats.

Thank you,



Robin Steinkraus  
Executive Director



Steve Rosso  
President



P.O. Box 7186 Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 543-0054

9 July 2018

Re: Support AIS funding for the next biennium

To the Environmental Quality Council:

Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU), on behalf of more than 4,500 statewide members, would like to thank the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) for addressing AIS funding for the next biennium. Like many Montanans, our members prize our wonderful native and wild trout fisheries, as well as Montana's recreational opportunities. MTU agrees with the members of the EQC that a strong, comprehensive funding structure is essential in order to protect our state's streams, rivers and waterways. We appreciate the EQC taking proactive measures to combat AIS for our freshwater systems, irrigation facilities, municipal water supplies and hydropower.

MTU further encourages the EQC to work along with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Montana Department of Agriculture in order to grasp the full scope of the AIS problem and better understand where the funding is most necessary. We are equally willing to work collaboratively with the interim committee and these state agencies in order to ensure that a sound and robust funding structure is brought to the full legislature for consideration in 2019.

With respect to the current proposed funding structure, MTU agrees that the best way forward is to have a diverse group of sources funding the Montana AIS program. This issue is not likely to go away soon and it affects anglers, farmers and ranchers, as well as industry and the general public alike. Therefore, the burden should be carried by the entire state of Montana as we move forward with an AIS plan.

Thank you for considering our input on this important issue. Montana Trout Unlimited very much appreciates the hard work of our citizen legislature and the Environmental Quality Council.

Sincerely,

Brian Ohs  
Southwest Montana Coordinator  
Montana Trout Unlimited

July 6, 2018

Dear Environmental Quality Council,

Our Association, Greater Prickly Pear Mountaineering and Mad Dogging Association (GPPMMDA) is writing to you about the AIS Funding Proposal. The GPPMMDA is in opposition to the AIS Funding Proposal as written. We feel certain sportsmen and anglers have been unfairly burdened in the funding of AIS Fund. We are approaching the anniversary of the fee increase for the AIS Prevention Pass and frankly it feels no better one year later. Is there timeframe that this fee increase is expected to be in place or is this a permanent increase to licensing and a permanent requirement for an additional sticker? Our main point is the singling out of fishermen and select boat owners to pay a fee while many others who enjoy our waterways pay nothing extra.

We feel that if some boat owners are responsible for the annual sticker then all boat owners will be responsible. Additionally, it seems that there would be a higher likelihood of an invasive species being transported from a boat not registered in Montana. The proposal does not address how an out of state boat utilizing Montana waterways would acquire the \$25 sticker.

We also find putting the burden of the \$4 fee on to anglers is unfair. There are many other recreational users of Montana waterways. Is a fly fisherman more likely to transport invasive species than an individual floating on an innertube?

In conclusion we would like to restate it does not appear sportsmen and recreationalists are adequately represented in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Casey  
GPPMMDA President



Senior Water Rights Coalition  
PO Box 7325  
Helena, MT 59604  
(406) 439-2215

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To: Environmental Quality Council

From: Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition

RE: Aquatic Invasive Species Funding

Date: July 8, 2018

The Senior Water Rights Coalition is a coalition of senior water right holders including irrigators, stock water users, and hydropower facilities. The Senior Water Rights Coalition works to protect the property rights of senior water right holders in Montana.

SrWRC appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed AIS Funding mechanism. As you are aware, the hydro power and fishing industry bore a significant amount of the cost for the last two years. While we are all willing to pay our fair share we believe that a more equitable solution is appropriate.

The SrWRC believes that a majority if not all of the funding for Aquatic Invasive Species should come from the state General Fund and Federal Funds. If AIS becomes established in Montana the impact will be felt by all Montana citizens and visitors as well as those in the other Northwestern states. As such, it is only appropriate that Federal Funds are contributed in recognition of the significant level of protection that is provided to down stream states, water users, and citizens due to Montana's diligence in protecting our water bodies.

We also support EQC's proposal of assessing fees on the most likely sources of introduction including out of state water craft and other probable sources entering the state as well as in state water craft that leave and reenter the state. We look forward to working with the committee to finalize legislation.

## Comments submitted to the Environmental Quality Council

**Subject:** AIS Funding Structure Proposal

**From:** Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

The Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) is comprised of the 15 conservation districts that border or contain the main stem of the Missouri River in Montana. As such, we have been involved in aquatic invasive species outreach and education since mussel larvae were first discovered in Tiber Reservoir and Canyon Ferry. The subsequent lack of adult mussels and further mussel larvae in Tiber and Canyon Ferry, suggest that Montana may be given a second chance to keep our waters clean, and secure borders, along with an aggressive education and outreach campaign, are the most effective solution.

We understand the importance of protecting the Columbia River Basin and contend that this can be done most effectively by preventing mussels from entering the state in the first place. The majority of mussel fouled vessels are found entering the state through our eastern and southern borders, and ensuring that these inspection stations are fully staffed, sensibly located, and effectively enforced is the first, and most crucial step in keeping waters like the Yellowstone River, the Musselshell River, and the Missouri headwaters free of invasive mussels.

To fund such endeavors, we support a balanced approach that focuses on vector industries to bear the brunt of the financial burden. Given the marked decline in 2-day out of state fishing license purchases over the past 2 years, (130,015 in 2015 down to 107,111 in 2017), we support reducing the obligation on fishing licenses and augmenting the funding through a watercraft fee. We believe this approach to be more equitable, and to better target the vectors that move aquatic invasive species. The motorized watercraft generated gas tax is also an essential piece of the funding legislation, and is supported by MRCDC.



July 9, 2018

*Submitted via electronic mail to [hstockwell@mt.gov](mailto:hstockwell@mt.gov)*

Ms. Hope Stockwell  
Legislative Services Division  
PO Box 201704  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Comments concerning revised 2019 AIS Funding Proposal

Dear Ms. Stockwell:

Please accept these comments on behalf of Upper Missouri Waterkeeper and its members. We are a Montana nonprofit river conservation non-profit focused on protecting fishable, swimmable, drinkable water throughout the 25,000 sq. miles of Montana's Upper Missouri River Basin. To fulfill this mission we use science, the law, and opportunities for citizen action to best improve and protect our shared water resources.

Hundreds of our members use Montana's waterways for a variety of business and recreational pursuits and therefore we are concerned about revisions to the state's Aquatic Invasive Species policy, and in particular changes to how this important effort is funded.

### **The AIS Program Is Critical to the Long-Term Health of Montana Waterways**

As the Legislative Services Division knows well, protecting our waterways from invasive aquatic species is a critical 'pay-it-forward' effort. In short, invasive mussels are harmful bioengineers. They form mats of shells physically changing the structure of lakes and rivers they infest. They re-route nutrients, which alters capacity of habitats to sustain native species. They reduce food for fish, kill native mussels, crayfish and snails, foul plants and industrial infrastructure, beaches, boats, lifts, docks and swim platforms, and clog water intakes.

### **Ecological Impacts**

Mussels are filter feeders. They strain water for the food they need. Unwanted food is rejected and bound into mucous pellets called pseudofeces. Vast amounts of pseudofeces in heavily colonized areas provide food for native as well as other aquatic invasive species. For example, an adult zebra mussel can filter more than one liter of water per day during which types of phytoplankton, bacteria and some small zooplankton are consumed. Small fish, such as young sportfish or forage fish like minnows, depend on these foods for survival and growth. Feeding by invasive mussel populations can remove so much microscopic plants and animals from the base of the food web that they can starve native fish and wildlife in lakes and rivers.

Similarly, native North American mussels and clams have suffered greatly when they are encrusted with zebra mussels. Sometimes several thousand zebra mussels can be found on a single native mussel. As they spread, zebra mussels threaten the extinction of at least 30 freshwater mussel species. Losses of crayfish and snails have also been implicated by invasive mussel colonization. Thirty years ago, the extent of profound impacts due to zebra mussels could not have been predicted. Today, scientists know that zebra mussels can cause increases in toxic blue-green algae, including *Microcystis*, which produces a poison that causes liver damage when ingested by humans and wildlife. Decaying algae can make waters uninhabitable by causing low levels of dissolved oxygen that result in fish kills. Since 1998, induced algae blooms can trigger botulism type E outbreaks that have killed tens of thousands of loons and other waterfowl.

### **Industrial & Recreational Impacts**

In addition to ecological impacts invasive mussels also threaten industry and recreation. Because zebra mussels prefer hard surfaces at moderate water depth, water intake structures, such as those used by power plants and city treatment plants, are susceptible to clogging by zebra mussels. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, some municipal drinking water facilities located on Lake Erie reported major reductions in pumping capacity and occasional shutdowns caused by encrusted zebra mussels. Control costs are operation specific. A drinking water plant may spend about \$320,000 per year while a power plant may spend \$2 million per year for zebra mussel control and maintenance.

Recreational users of waters infested with invasive mussels can also be harmed. Unprotected docks, breakwalls, boat bottoms, and engine outdrives can provide hard surfaces invasive mussels need to colonize and grow. Across the country, there have been many reports of boat engines overheating because cooling water inlets are clogged by invasive mussels. Lastly, invasive mussels can bioaccumulate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals due to their filtering capacity. As a result, this has implications for human health. PAH concentrations in some recreational fish have increased 11 to 18 fold in Lake Erie, which approach limits for fish consumption advisories. Research also shows that concentrations in waterfowl increased.

By keeping our waterways free from invasive species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, we protect the quality of our waterways and the important outdoors and energy based economies such clean, readily available water supports. The proposed changes to funding AIS mitigation, however, dramatically and unfairly change the apportionment of and ultimate fee structure.

### **Hydropower and Utilities Should Remain An AIS Policy Funding Source**

In the AIS program's first years hydropower and utilities funded approximately half the program's start-up and initial operations. This made sense in that decisionmakers had not fully explored other funding options and the experience of other freshwater states has been that an initial and primary negative cost of aquatic invasive species, in particular zebra mussels, has been in terms of clogged water pipes and other infrastructure, especially those at dams, reservoirs, and public utilities. For example, the average female zebra mussel, which is ready to reproduce in its first year of life, can release 30,000 to 40,000 eggs per year. After hatching, the planktonic larvae, or veliger, can not only move great distances in flowing water, but can also easily invade small places in both natural systems and industrial systems that draw from infested waters. And once mussels settle, their colonies build up very quickly. It has been reported that these mussels have been able to clog a 3ft- diameter pipe in less than three months (U.S.

Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory [NETL] 2006). AIS can cause industry and utilities direct costs (maintenance), decreased productivity (from maintenance), and even reduced demand. Invasive mussels are indisputably a huge threat to industrial interests and utilities.

Insofar as the Missouri River Basin possess several large hydropower operations – not to mention those in the Columbia River Basin – and these and public utilities cumulatively reap enormous benefits from the use of a public trust resource – waters of the state of Montana – it made sense for large beneficiaries of an aggressive AIS program to heavily invest in its success. We are concerned therefore that the proposed AIS program funding shift of fee burdens from 50% on hydropower and 50% on the prevention pass to 100% on anglers, boaters, and to a lesser extent commercial boats and taxpayers, with zero hydropower or utilities contribution, is unjust, impractical, and bad economic policy.

As noted above and clearly documented in scientific literature in the U.S., hydropower and utility operators and owners control and benefit the most from mussel-free waters in the state of Montana. From a practical perspective it is inappropriate to not have interest groups who substantially benefit from AIS control policies be a part of the solution. Indeed, as state budgets continue to tighten and funding resources become ever more constrained it makes zero economic sense to exempt wealthy industries with diversified assets – i.e., hydropower and utilities - from paying a fair proportion of the annual AIS program.

Any suggestion that continuation of AIS fees on hydropower and utilities makes energy more expensive for Montanans or is unjust for those interests is a red herring. As Mr. Holter of Flathead Electric Cooperative has stated on the record the contribution of utilities/hydropower to AIS funding created insignificant changes in rate-payer fees, and utility opposition to continuing hydropower/utility contributions to the AIS program is based on “principle.” Waterkeeper also disagrees with the alleged characterization of the AIS challenge as being one that rests solely on the shoulders of boaters because they are the causal agents or “vectors” bringing invasive mussels to Montana. While education, outreach, and prevention with boaters and anglers is critical and will always need to be a part of the AIS program, so too do beneficiaries of Montana’s AIS program need to be a part of the solution.

Because utilities and hydropower use a public trust resource – our rivers – for direct pecuniary benefit they should continue to be a part of the AIS solution that protects our rivers and, as the saying goes, “pay to play.” Indeed, recreation on our waterways is a right of citizens, a privilege of visitors, and is already regulated and taxed. Changing the AIS fee structure in a manner that results in citizens who own several boats being dinged for each boat, amounting to hundreds of dollars per year, rather than corporations paying a fair proportion of AIS costs, would be unjust and potentially create a chilling effect on water recreation in Montana. While AIS is rightfully a concern of all Montanans, taxpayers and recreationalists should not be on the hook, alone, for essentially the balance that utilities and hydropower could easily pay while remaining profitable.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In 2018 hydropower/utility AIS fees are approximately 2.8 million so far, whereas the new AIS structure would see approximately a new General Fund commitment of 1.16 million and 1.73 million additional fee on boaters.



## Conclusion

Waterkeeper strongly encourages the Environmental Quality Council and Legislative Services Division to reconsider its proposed 2019 fee shift to include a continued contribution from hydropower and utilities. Doing so will create a more diversified, sustainable, and just, fee structure that equitably funds a critical waterway protection effort.

Thank you for the careful consideration of our comments. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy Alsentzer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Guy Alsentzer  
Executive Director



To the Environmental Quality Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The Nature Conservancy has a long history of supporting strong and stable AIS programs in Montana. These programs protect freshwater ecosystems, hydropower facilities, irrigation infrastructure, municipal water supplies and our local economies. Montana's preventative programs are not only critically important throughout Montana, but due to our unique nature of being a tri-divide headwaters state, we serve to protect the entirety of the Pacific Northwest's freshwater systems, the Upper Missouri River Basin, and the St Mary River watershed which ultimately leads to Hudson Bay, Canada.

The Nature Conservancy adamantly agrees with all the members of the EQC that a robust funding plan for the AIS Program must be brought to the Montana State Legislature in the 2019 Session. We appreciate your proactive stance to ensure our state is well protected. Montana doesn't want to end up like other states who are struggling to deal with this devastating problem without adequate prevention and management strategies.

We urge the Council to listen to the Directors of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to fully understand where the funding levels should be set. We believe working collaboratively with their professional staff ensures a strongly defensible number will be recommended, and it will be one the Council can support.

In-regards-to a proposed funding structure, we hope the Council agrees that it makes the most sense to create a diverse portfolio of funding sources. No one or two user groups, nor single industry, should have to bear the entire burden. Invasive species are truly an everyone problem and therefore all Montanans should contribute fairly to protect our watersheds.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. The Nature Conservancy does appreciate how hard and complicated this funding process is, and we have faith the solution is within grasp. Our recreation and agricultural heritages, our local economies and drinking water supplies, and the vibrancy of our world-renowned rivers, streams and lakes are depending on the continuation and financial well-being of robust Montana AIS program.

Sincerely,  
Mark Agenes  
Director of External Affairs  
TNC in Montana

**The Nature Conservancy in Montana**  
32 South Ewing Street  
Helena, MT 59601

**Tel:** (406) 443-0303  
**Fax:** (406) 443-8311

[nature.org/montana](http://nature.org/montana)

## Flathead Wildlife, Inc. Comments on Invasive Species Funding Proposal, EQC

Flathead Wildlife, Inc. (FWI) has represented sportsman and women in northwest Montana for over 60 years. We focus on preserving our hunting and fishing heritage and preserving wildlife habitat and public access. FWI recognizes the threat Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) pose to our Montana way of life and we support efforts to prevent and control AIS. However, FWI does not think the current funding proposal in front of the EQC properly balances risk, responsibility and revenue.

Hydropower fees have been removed from current funding. We recognize hydropower would prefer not to pay, that said, all hydropower customers will be affected if certain AIS species get established and reduce hydropower efficiency. While hydropower should not have to pay half the funding as in the current biennium, paying toward prevention is an investment for the future by hydropower and some level of hydropower funding should be retained. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" as the saying goes.

Likewise, all Montanans have a stake in AIS prevention since AIS could impact hydropower, drinking water intakes, irrigation systems, boating facilities, recreation areas and fish and wildlife habitat. FWI feels that more revenue should come from the General Fund through statutory appropriation so all Montanans could help prevent and control AIS.

Anglers and boaters have a stake in the future of AIS in Montana. That said, it is not clear how much of a threat that general anglers pose in moving AIS and why the AIS Pass was created? In addition, boating anglers pay twice (AIS Pass and boat sticker) while non-angling boaters only pay once which is not equitable.

No one likes to pay more. The increase in the resident AIS Pass from \$2 to \$4 isn't excessive but will create resistance to any needed increases in fishing license fees in the future since most people will not discriminate between the two fee structures.

The reduction in the nonresident AIS Pass from \$15 to \$7.50 is needed. The addition of that fee on top of fishing license fees caused a substantial drop in nonresident fishing license sales when the total cost for a non-resident two-day fishing license increased from \$35 to \$50 two years ago. The drop in license sales reduced both AIS funding and revenue for fisheries management.

Watercraft fees pose the biggest financial hit to residents. Montanans like to play on water, the combination of fees on motorized and non-motorized watercraft could add up quickly. What constitutes non-motorized watercraft? Does that include personal pontoon boats and stand-up paddleboards? Canoes and kayaks? Float tubes? Inner tubes, tow tubes, air mattresses and other floating devices for floating and boating? There needs to be a clear definition what watercraft will be charged. Also, a boat that moves between drainages and especially out of state poses a higher risk than a boat that doesn't move far from its home base. Is there a way to capture that in fees? We suspect many watercraft only used on one or two waters will not be stickered unless there is a penalty provision.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Fishing Access Sites (FASs) are managed and paid for through fishing license fees. Non-angling boaters make up a significant part of FAS use but get a free ride. Requiring a sticker for watercraft will raise resistance for imposing similar FAS fees on non-angling boaters to pay for FASs.

An appropriation of \$500,000 from motor-boat gas tax is proposed. Will that be an additional tax on boat gas or a diversion of funding from an existing program? If it is a diversion that will impact public perception and acceptance.

Thank you for accepting comments on the AIS Funding Proposal. Flathead Wildlife, Inc. fully appreciates the threats posed by AIS and anglers and boaters stand willing to do their part to prevent and control AIS in Montana. But we think this proposal needs work to better balance funding with the interests of all Montanans.

Jim Vashro, President, Flathead Wildlife, Inc.

[jsvash@montanasky.us](mailto:jsvash@montanasky.us) (406) 270-9914

**To: Legislative Services Division**  
**Attn: Hope Stockwell**  
**Subject: AIS funding proposal**

The Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) feels strongly that the threat of AIS to Montana's waters, especially with the discovery of invasive zebra and quagga mussels in October 2016, requires an all-hands-on-deck approach to tackle this extreme threat, not only to waterbodies in our state, but to the Columbia River watershed as well.

Preventing the spread of invasive mussels, and the associated devastating impacts on our economy, requires an intensive and sustained public outreach and education effort; increased inspection and decontamination capacity; and maintenance of these measures in perpetuity. Funding appropriated during the 2017 legislative session helped, but a more robust and sustained funding effort is needed if we are going to successfully keep these dangerous invaders out of Montana's waters. AIS have long been a concern in our state – but the presence of invasive mussels is a game-changer that increases urgency and demands a swift and comprehensive response.

For that reason, we do not support the current funding proposal, which removes hydroelectric fees from the mix. More than almost any other industry, hydroelectric companies face enormous risks and costs if invasive mussels spread into Montana and the Columbia watershed. Like many Montana residents, anglers, conscientious boaters, and public water-users, hydroelectric companies may not have caused this threat, but they have much to lose, and will suffer the consequences of irreversible damage, if invasive mussels are allowed to spread.

This threat is bigger than a single user group and we must address it forcefully and collectively, and at a scale that realistically addresses the problem. The proposed funding strategy proposed by the EQC is flawed for several reasons.

- It removes a key source of funding (hydroelectric fees) that is needed to adequately address the extreme threat of invasive mussels in Montana and the Columbia watershed.
- It unfairly burdens boat-owning anglers by making them pay twice for AIS prevention.
- It fails to recognize the need for a collective, community-wide response to the severe threat of invasive mussels and other AIS to Montana's waters.
- It limits the flexibility to increase funding to levels needed to adequately address this threat. The funding need will only grow in the future, yet this proposal eliminates an essential funding source that would facilitate growth appropriate to address the risk at hand.
- It unfairly places the entire burden of prevention on the public; while one of the entities that will benefit the most from prevention is hydroelectric companies.

While the CFC appreciates EQC's proactive attempt to find a long term funding solution to this grave threat, we also understand the need to find a strategy that works for everyone and doesn't unfairly burden specific user groups.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on EQC's AIS Funding Proposal.

Alex Leone  
Clark Fork Coalition



7 July 2018

Legislative Services Division  
attn: Ms. Hope Stockwell  
PO Box 201704  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Hope:

I'm writing on behalf of our 800-plus members and Board of Directors of the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana (FOAM) to express our comments on the Environmental Quality Council's (Council) Aquatic Invasive Species funding proposal.

We fully support the Council's work and understanding to generate AIS Program funding through a more equitably-represented fishing license fee between resident and non-residents. The disproportionate fee significantly reduced sales of 2-day and 10-day non-resident licenses. Non-resident 2-day fishing license sales dropped from 130,000 in 2015 to 109,000 in 2017.

We also support the Council's pursuit of General Fund monies to generate Montana's AIS program funding. AIS are a concern that will affect all Montanans; therefore, using General Fund dollars to help fund Montana's AIS Program allows all that will be potentially affected to help fund the Program that will also provide the solution.

We fully support funding Montana's AIS Program through a motorized watercraft-generated fuel tax. We commend Montana's Walleyes Unlimited for their innovation in bringing this potential source of funding to light.

We urge the Council to continue to fund a portion of the AIS Program with hydroelectric power funds. In state AIS programs across the country, Montana was unique in using hydroelectric fees to generate much of our AIS Program's funding. These fees not only provided much of our AIS Program's funding, but provided a necessary awareness to all users that could potentially be affected by an AIS invasion. We have been lucky that to date we have been unaffected by AIS at our power generation facilities. If AIS invades our waters, hydroelectric facilities would be greatly affected. What then? Reinstate a fee that has been previously omitted? We urge the Council to continue funding our AIS Program through this unique and innovative source.

We strongly urge the Council to not pursue any form of commercial watercraft fee to help fund our AIS Program. Just as the nonresident fishing license fee was a punishment towards nonresident anglers, this fee would be an unwarranted punishment to guides and outfitters across Montana that are our leaders in protecting our waters from AIS and bringing AIS awareness to our clients and so many others that use the waters of Montana for recreation. This unwarranted fee on commercial users would also be an additional financial burden adding to the fees already paid for a non-motorized or motorized, resident or non-resident watercraft fee, or their fees already paid for their resident or non-resident fishing license. Further, the fee would be an additional financial expense in addition to the fees paid by their resident or non-resident paying clients coming to Montana to experience our great water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on Council's AIS funding proposal. We commend their hard work and dedication to generate this proposal through long meetings over the last year. We eagerly look forward to working with you and the Council on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Bias".

Michael A. Bias, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



July 9, 2018

State of Montana Environmental Quality Council  
Subject: AIS Funding Proposal Request for Public Comment

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council supports Montana watershed communities across the state in locally led natural resource management. Watershed organizations are uniquely situated to work directly with citizens and water users at the most local level. These organizations have strong community relationships, and are essential for carrying out initiatives of private companies and government agencies across the state. It is therefore no surprise that local watershed organizations have taken a lead role in the last year in community based aquatic invasive species prevention activities, including:

- Coordination of volunteers for boat inspection stations,
- School based education and outreach, and
- Signage, advertising, and community level education and outreach campaigns.

Watershed organizations have been able to leverage local cash and in kind resources to maximize the impact of current AIS financial support. Funding made available through the State, no matter the source, is essential to the ability of these organizations to take on the challenge of preventing western Montana from the infestation of AIS.

Montana watershed groups are also tasked with improving water quality through non-point source reduction projects and activities. They also take the lead in managing for water quantity and water storage solutions at the community level. Therefore, financial support for AIS response needs to be provided in addition to, and not in competition with, the general funds that are provided for the wide range of activities that are essential to maintain healthy watersheds.

For more information on Montana's watershed communities, see the (attached) MWCC State of the Watersheds Report: <https://mtwatersheds.org/app/check-mwccs-state-watersheds-report-3/>

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important natural resource concern.

Sincerely,

Erin Farris-Olsen, Executive Director





Protecting Montana's wildlife,  
land, waters and hunting & fishing  
heritage for future generations.

Hope Stockwell  
Legislative Services Division  
PO Box 201704  
Helena, MT 59620

July 8th, 2018

Dear Ms. Stockwell,

The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is Montana's oldest and largest sportsmen-wildlife conservation organization. We work to protect Montana's public lands, clean waters, and abundant fish and wildlife for the benefit of the hundreds of thousands of Montanans and people all over the nation who hunt, fish, and value Montana's outdoor heritage. I would like to submit the following comments on the Environmental Quality Council's (EQC) proposal on AIS funding changes.

Aquatic Invasive Species present a major threat to Montana's fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation economy. Though we agree that Hydropower should not be held responsible for over half of the funding for current AIS prevention (\$3.7 million), we do not believe hydroelectric fees should be eliminated as seen in the proposal by EQC. Seeing that hydroelectric companies stand to lose the most in the case of certain AIS outbreaks and proliferation, we believe they should be invested in prevention programs that will protect infrastructure and all Montanans.

We support the increase in the resident AIS fee and believe that the decrease in the non-resident AIS fee from \$15 to \$7.50 is appropriate and will help with non-resident fishing license sales. Finally, the changes in watercraft fees should be clarified as to what defines non-motorized watercraft. Finding a way to incorporate funding from river users on inter tubes, float tubes, and other personal watercraft should be explored further as those vessels are also vectors for transporting AIS.

AIS is a threat to all Montanans and our state's economy. We appreciate the council's determination in finding an equitable balance for future AIS funding and the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Chadwick".

Dave Chadwick  
Executive Director

**From:** Greg & Patti  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AIS FUNDING PROPOSALS  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 03, 2018 11:45:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [ais-boat-fuel-use-estimates.pdf](#)  
[AIS-funding-scenarios.pdf](#)  
[boat-facts.pdf](#)  
[AIS Funding Proposal.pdf](#)

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July 3, 2018

Legislative Services Division

Attn: Hope Stockwell

## **AIS FUNDING PROPOSAL**

I've attached all the documents from the EQC meeting, proposal #3 in the "Use Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass (AISPP) and Gas Tax Document."

This is the most common sense means to raise the most funds (\$10.4 million) and does not cost boaters anything more than we already pay in motor boat fuel taxes. Whereas the EQC proposal will require stickers on our boats, will cost \$25 for each boat you own and raise less funds (\$6.5 million) than the scenario #3 proposal.

\$10.4 Million (#3) compared to a smaller amount of \$6.5 Million.

PLEASE LOOK AT THE ATTACHMENTS

Patti Buckingham  
East Helena Montana

**From:** Greg & Patti  
**To:** [Stockwell, Hope](#)  
**Subject:** FW: AIS Funding Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 03, 2018 11:50:29 AM  
**Attachments:** [ais-boat-fuel-use-estimates.pdf](#)  
[AIS-funding-scenarios.pdf](#)  
[boat-facts.pdf](#)  
[AIS Funding Proposal.pdf](#)

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Hope Stockwell

I've attached all the documents from the EQC meeting and the most logical proposal is scenario #3 in the "Use Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass (AISPP) and gas tax document. It raises the most funds **(\$10.4 million)** and does not cost us anything more than we already pay in motor boat fuel taxes. Whereas the EQC proposal will require stickers on our boats, will cost \$25 for each boat you own and raise less money **(\$6.5 million)** than the scenario #3 proposal.

This is a continual unfair punishment to boat owners, who already pay more in gas tax and recreational taxes and yet it raises less money than proposal number 3.

Greg Hahn  
East Helena Montana

## AIS Program Funding Scenarios

### Use Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass (AISPP) as vector for watercraft

Current	Sources	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
			If AISPP drops to \$2/\$2	If AISPP drops to \$2/\$7.50
\$ 3,700,000	Hydro	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 3,276,596	Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)	\$ 3,276,596	\$ 858,232.00	\$ 1,881,386.00
	Nonmotorized craft/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)*	\$ 271,226	\$ 128,070.00	\$ 188,636.00
	Resident motorized craft w/ registration (\$10)**	\$ 693,700	\$ 693,700.00	\$ 693,700.00
	Nonresident motorized craft/AISPP (\$15)*	\$ 96,570	\$ 96,570	\$ 96,570
	Boat-generated gas tax	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 6,976,596	Total	\$ 4,338,092	\$ 1,776,572	\$ 2,860,292.00

\*one/boat, \*\*based on Idaho

### Use decal as vector for watercraft

Current	Sources	Scenario D	Scenario E	Scenario F
			If AISPP drops to \$2/\$2	If AISPP drops to \$2/\$7.50
\$ 3,700,000	Hydro	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 3,276,596	Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)	\$ 3,276,596	\$ 858,232	\$ 1,881,386.00
	Nonmotorized craft decal (R&NR=\$7)**	\$ 448,245	\$ 448,245	\$ 448,245
	Resident motorized craft w/ registration (\$10)**	\$ 693,700	\$ 693,700	\$ 693,700
	Nonresident craft decal (\$30)**	\$ 193,140	\$ 193,140	\$ 193,140
	Boat-generated gas tax	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 6,976,596	Total	\$ 4,611,681	\$ 2,193,317	\$ 3,216,471.00

\*\*based on Idaho

### Use Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Pass (AISPP) and gas tax

Current	Sources	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
		150 gallons/boat/year	669 gallons/boat/year	500 gallons/boat/year
			If AISPP drops to \$2/\$2	If AISPP drops to \$2/\$2
\$ 3,700,000	Hydro	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 3,276,596	Anglers/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)	\$ 3,276,596	\$ 858,232	\$ 858,232
	Nonmotorized craft/AISPP (R=\$2, NR=\$15)*	\$ 271,226	\$ 128,070	\$ 128,070
	Resident motorized craft w/ registration (\$10)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Nonresident motorized craft/AISPP (\$15)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Boat-generated gas tax‡	\$ 1,657,727	\$ 12,849,060	\$ 9,317,435
\$ 6,976,596	Total	\$ 5,205,549	\$ 13,835,362.43	\$ 10,303,737.02

\*one/boat

‡ doesn't include gas taxes already allocated to state parks