

2017 LEGISLATIVE SNAPSHOT

Natural Heritage Program Invasive Species

From the Montana State Library

1515 E 6th Avenue
Helena MT 59620-1800
(406) 444-3115
msl.mt.gov



SNAPSHOT #9

In 2016, signs of invasive quagga or zebra mussels were detected in Canyon Ferry and Tiber reservoirs. The recreational, physical and economic impacts of invasive species can't be overstated. The Montana Natural Heritage can play a key role in identifying, preventing, eliminating, reducing and mitigating the impacts of invasive species in Montana, and its partner agencies are supporting a request to provide funding to the Heritage Program to manage information on invasive species.

Already, the Heritage Program has well-developed databases that manage information on the distribution, status, and general biology of species and habitats, with websites that receive more than 1.3 million page views annually. Funding would:

- Help create a separate online field guide for invasive and biocontrol species
- Add accounts to the Montana Field Guide for all noxious weed, aquatic invasive, and other exotic species
- Add observation and survey data for high-priority invasive species into Heritage Program databases
- Create predictive distribution models for invasive species with existing data to identify areas that potentially are of greatest concern for future invasion;
- Bundle invasive species distribution and management information with the Heritage Program's standard environmental summary reports to ensure that invasive species can be managed in the context of native species across the state.

Example of Content in a Natural Heritage Program standard environmental summary report

What's in your backyard?

An environmental summary report for the requested area from the Natural Heritage Program contains summaries for: (1) animal and plant observations; (2) animal and plant species that can potentially occur; (3) structured surveys capable of detecting species; (4) percentages and acreages of land cover; and (5) biological reports.



Species Summary

SOC / SSS / IAH

M - Canada Lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	SOC
M - Fisher (<i>Pekania pennanti</i>)	SOC
M - Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)	SOC
M - Little Brown Myotis (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>)	SOC
M - Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	SOC
B - Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	SSS
B - Boreal Chickadee (<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>)	SOC
B - Brown Creeper (<i>Certhia americana</i>)	SOC
B - Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	SOC
B - Evening Grosbeak (<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>)	SOC
B - Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	SOC
B - Harlequin Duck (<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>)	SOC
B - Pacific Wren (<i>Troglodytes pacificus</i>)	SOC
B - Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	SOC
B - Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	SOC
B - Varied Thrush (<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>)	SOC
A - Western Toad (<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>)	SOC
F - Bull Trout (<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>)	SOC
F - Pygmy Whitefish (<i>Prosopium coulteri</i>)	SOC
F - Westslope Cutthroat Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii lewisii</i>)	SOC

Land Cover Summary

85% Forest and Woodland Systems

71% Conifer-dominated forest and woodland (xeric-mesic)
26% (8,263 Acres) Rocky Mountain Dry-Mesic Montane Mixed
24% (7,756 Acres) Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce
21% (6,794 Acres) Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest
<1% (3 Acres) Rocky Mountain Subalpine Woodland and F
11% Conifer-dominated forest and woodland (mesic-wet)
7% (2,266 Acres) Rocky Mountain Mesic Montane Mixed Coni
4% (1,296 Acres) Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce-Fi
2% Deciduous dominated forest and woodland
2% (735 Acres) Aspen Forest and Woodland
1% Mixed deciduous/coniferous forest and woodland
1% (169 Acres) Aspen and Mixed Conifer Forest

5% Wetland and Riparian Systems

3% Floodplain and Riparian
3% (860 Acres) Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane I
2% Open Water
2% (697 Acres) Open Water
<1% Wet meadow
<1% (37 Acres) Alpine-Montane Wet Meadow
<1% Bog or Fen