

Quagga and Zebra Mussel Prevention



2025-2027 Funding Request

\$7.2 million, ongoing



Quagga and zebra mussels pose an imminent threat to Washington's health, economy, and environment. Long-term mitigation and management costs of infestation are expected to exceed \$100+ million annually, disrupting hydropower production, agriculture, tourism, water supply, and fisheries including billions in investments in salmon recovery in the Columbia River Basin, freshwater ecosystems, and fish and wildlife resources. Recent discovery of quagga mussels in the Snake River underscores the urgent need to enhance our prevention measures and increase response planning and readiness activities. Swift and decisive action is crucial to prevent invasive mussels from establishing in Washington.



Prevention and readiness actions requested by the Legislature in Fiscal Year 2025 require ongoing funding. This request builds on the state's initial investment by supporting continual prevention, monitoring, and response planning efforts in partnership with tribal, state, and local agencies and the public. Additionally, state

investment will leverage funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Aquatic Plant Control (APC) Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) cost-share program, which requires a 50% cost-share of non-federal funds.

Idaho's recent detection of quagga mussels in the Snake River, despite implementation of a treatment plan after initial detection in 2023, demonstrates the importance of continual monitoring efforts. Free-floating mussel larvae can travel downstream from the detection site and into Washington within one week. Invasive mussels can also spread through human activity such as movement of aquatic construction equipment or recreational boats. The Snake River is a popular destination for Washington boaters, increasing the possibility of invasive mussel transportation. Since 2020, more than 248,000 watercraft have been inspected at Washington's borders, intercepting 121 invasive mussel fouled vessels.

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2025-2027 Fiscal Summary

Prevention
\$4,841,600

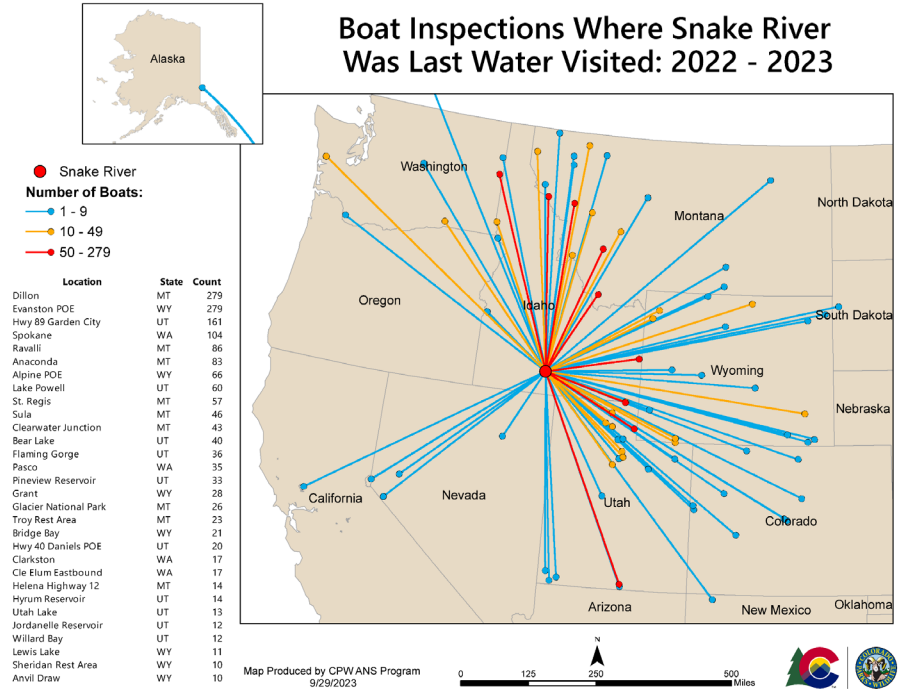
Readiness
\$1,210,400

Outreach, Education, and Public Engagement
\$764,000

Local Government and Tribal Capacity Building
\$424,000

Total 2025-2027 and Ongoing
\$7,240,000

Boat Inspections Where Snake River Was Last Water Visited: 2022 - 2023



Quagga and zebra mussel prevention is vital to protecting Washington’s human health, economy, culture, and environment. If unsuccessful or not feasible, the Department must have ample early detection monitoring practices in place to detect the first case of establishment and take swift action to eradicate them. This package provides ongoing investment to maintain and increase prevention and response readiness efforts necessary to address this imminent threat.

