



MONTANA OUTDOORS MAGAZINE LITERACY PROGRAM EVALUATION

“On the Prowl”

Name: _____

1. Which invasive species did Alicia Stickney discover along the shore of Beaver Lake near Whitefish in 2011?

2. Why was Alicia’s discovery so alarming?

3. Crews were able to kill the non-native milfoil and keep it from invading Whitefish Lake. What was the key to this success?

4. What is Craig McLane’s job title at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)?

5. Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge, two reservoirs on the Clark Fork River, weren’t so lucky. How is it believed that the invasive milfoil reached these two reservoirs?

6. What are the most dreaded of all the possible invasive species that could reach Montana waters (2 species)?

7. List what you think would be the two worst consequences if these crustaceans were to invade a Montana lake.

8. How did Montana’s legislature respond to the 2017 discovery of invasive mussel larvae in Tiber Reservoir near Shelby (and a suspected infestation at Canyon Ferry)?

9. What is the most common way that aquatic invasive species (AIS) reach North America?

10. How might AIS get from the Great Lakes to other bodies of water such as lakes in Montana?



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11. Explain how the FWP boat check stations work.

12. In addition to the boat check program, what else does FWP do to prevent AIS from becoming a major problem?

13. There are several criteria that AIS specialists consider when decided which 350-400 lakes to focus on. List three of those criteria.

14. List three collection techniques used every spring by early detection crews as they hunt for AIS?

15. Why has FWP stopped inspecting and decontaminating boats as they leave Canyon Ferry Reservoir near Helena?

16. Why was all the water let out of Lake Elmo in Billings?

17. What actions did FWP take when New Zealand mudsnails were discovered in a fish hatchery near Bridger?

18. What is the main point of the last part of the article, which has the heading "Just Out Fishing?"



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Teachers:

1. Begin by discussing invasive species. Here are some possible bell-ringers:
 - a. What are invasive species? Give two examples.
 - b. Why are invasive species bad?
 - c. How do invasive species travel from their native habitats to places where they don't belong?
 - d. Why are there boat check stations all over the state every summer?
2. Give students a copy of the article. Have them read it silently, read it as a class, or read it to them.
3. Give students a copy of the evaluation (worksheet), and have them answer the questions.
4. If the assignment seems to be too much for the grade level you teach, consider assigning a certain number of questions (you decide how many, and then each student gets to pick which ones they answer). Any questions they answer correctly beyond the required number can count as extra credit.

Answer Key

1. Eurasian watermilfoil
2. Beaver Lake is connected to Whitefish Lake, which is a very popular recreation lake.
3. The milfoils were discovered early, before they got out of control.
4. Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection and Monitoring Coordinator
5. The milfoils were transported in boats that had been in infested lakes in Idaho.
6. Zebra mussels and quagga mussels
7. Answers will vary, but should include two of the following: cover marina piers, jam boat engines, clog irrigation pipes, disrupt hydropower plant equipment
8. They voted to provide \$6 million to fight AIS.
9. They are transported across the ocean in the ballast water of ships that frequent the Great Lakes.
10. They cling to boats, canoes, kayaks, or wading boots. They also enter when people dump aquariums or bait buckets into the water.
11. Boats must be inspected before they enter a lake, and decontaminated if found to contain invasive species.
12. Crews go to lakes and collect samples that are then inspected for the presence of AIS.
13. Extensive boat use, known infestations, high calcium content, high use by boaters moving to and from other waters
14. Answers will vary, but should include three of the following: dragging thin-mesh plankton nets, kick nets, scraping mud samples from lake bottoms, rake up plant samples, scour shorelines, check under docks and rocks, dive under water to detect submerged AIS
15. No evidence of AIS was found in Canyon Ferry for three consecutive years.
16. An invasive species of clam was found there in 2019.
17. All the fish were destroyed and the facility was drained, decontaminated, and dried.
18. By reporting unusual plants and animals they see to FWP, people out enjoying Montana's lakes and streams can ensure that AIS are detected early enough for them to be controlled ~~be detected in time to be dealt with.~~