

# AIS Program Coordination Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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*Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks*

**INSPECT. CLEAN. DRY.**

# FWP Authority

- Aquatic Invasive Species Statutes (MCA 80-7-1001 to 1014)
  - Three Departments (MDA, FWP and DNRC) working cooperatively
  - Rule making authority
  - Management area designations
  - Penalties – Felonies for intentional introductions

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# FWP Authorities (cont.)

- Importation, Introduction and Transplantation of Wildlife Statutes. MCA 87-5-701 to 87-5-721
  - Authority to regulate importation, introduction and transplantation of wildlife species, including aquatics. Classification of exotic wildlife.
- Fish Health and Import Statutes. MCA 87-3-209 to 277
  - Requires permits for importation, including AIS and fish health certificates.
  - Provides for inspection, quarantine and disinfection of fish culture facilities.

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# FWP AIS Jurisdiction

- All Aquatic Invasive Species with the exception of aquatic noxious weeds; e.g.:
  - Zebra/Quagga Mussels
  - Asian Carp
  - Fish pathogens (Whirling Disease, VHS virus)

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# AIS Management Plan

- AIS Management Plan since 2002
  - Currently being revised
- Program Priorities
  - Regional and Statewide Coordination
  - Education
  - Control and prevent spread
  - Monitor and detect
  - Rapid response
- AIS Workgroup

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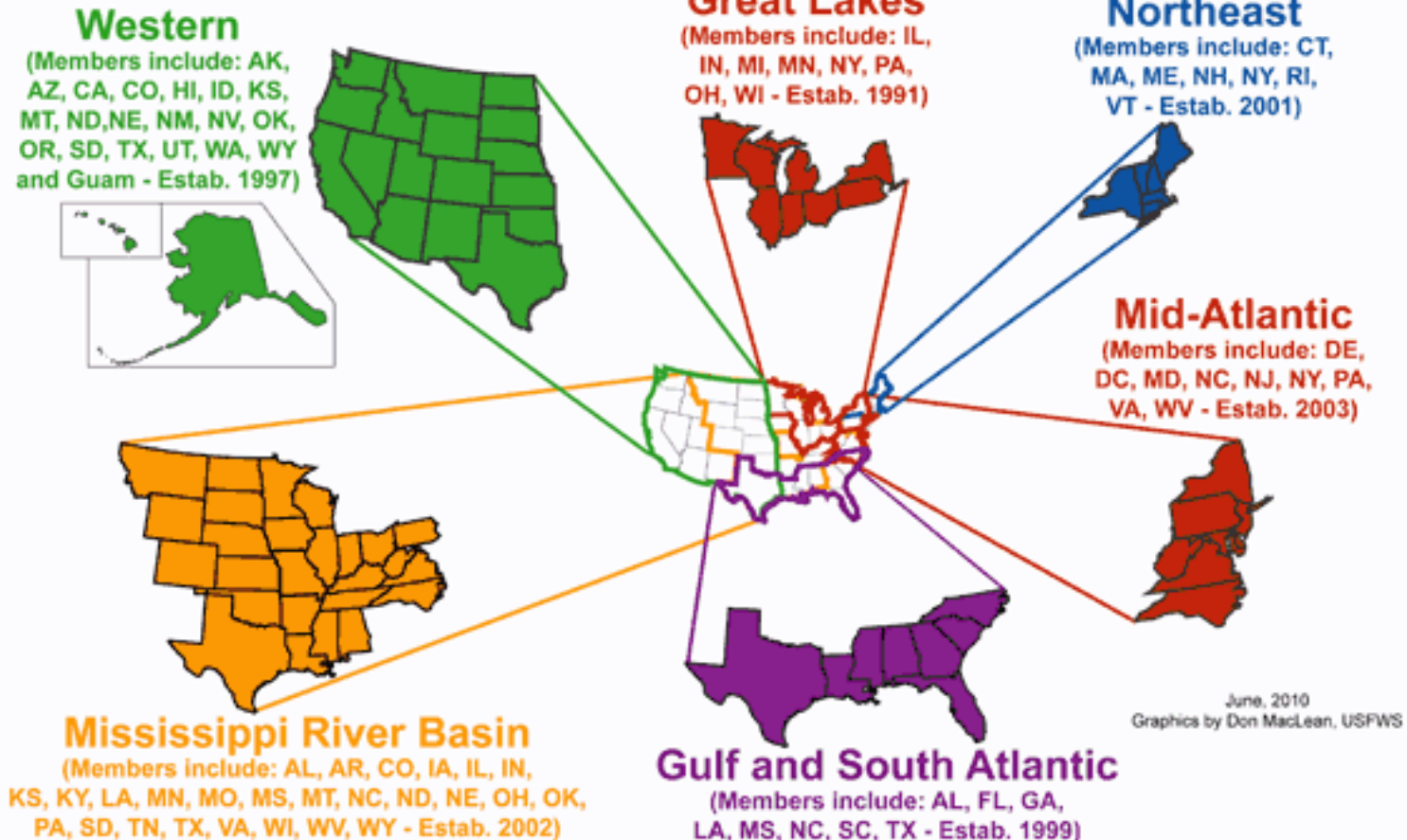
# FWP AIS Program Structure

- AIS Coordinator (vacant)
  - Oversees implementation of the program
    - AIS Specialist (Linnaea Schroeer)
      - Facilitation with state agencies and stakeholder groups
    - AIS Technician (Stacy Schmidt)
      - Coordinates field activities statewide and manages lab
    - Western District AIS Specialist (Vacant)
      - Implementation in Western District (R1 and R2)

# Regional Coordination

- Western Regional Panel of the ANS Task Force
  - 19 Western States
- Mississippi Regional Panel of the ANS Task Force
  - 28 States
- 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian Initiative
  - Columbia River Basin
  - Missouri River Basin
- Watershed groups, eg:
  - Flathead Basin
  - Greater Yellowstone

# The Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force



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# Discussion Questions

- How to increase coordination in-state and regionally?
- How to achieve better communication and transparency?
- How to effectively involve partners and increased volunteer involvement?