





# Prevent the Spread of Unwanted Exotics

Invasive Species	Reason for Concern	How You Can Help
<p>Zebra mussels/quagga mussels</p>  <p>USGS photo</p>	<p>Invasions of these fingernail-size, freshwater shellfish have devastating ecological impacts. As filter feeders, they're capable of efficiently removing food and nutrients from the water column, leaving little for native aquatic species. Additionally, thousands of larvae can be found in 1 teaspoon of water, allowing for easy transport to new waters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove aquatic plants, animals, and sediment from boat, motor, and trailer.</li> <li>Drain water from equipment such as motor, bilges, live wells, bait buckets, and coolers.</li> <li>Clean (with high pressure hot water), dry, and inspect your boat before entering another waterbody.</li> </ul>
<p>New Zealand mud snails</p>  <p>USGS photo</p>	<p>Native to New Zealand, this small (1/8 in.), aquatic invader presently resides in several Montana waters. High reproductive rates allow mud snails to spread rapidly, overwhelming river ecosystems and replacing native aquatic invertebrates that fish and amphibians rely on for food. No known predators exist in the western United States.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove any plants, animals, and sediment on boat or equipment.</li> <li>Drain water from the motor, live well, and bilge.</li> <li>Clean (with high pressure hot water), dry, and inspect your boat before moving from one waterbody to another.</li> </ul>
<p>Eurasian watermilfoil</p>  <p>Richard Old, <a href="http://www.xdideservices.com">www.xdideservices.com</a></p>	<p>A submerged aquatic plant currently found in Montana near the Idaho/Montana border, this non-native species forms dense floating mats that can impede water flow, choke out native aquatic plants, impede recreational opportunities, and reduce oxygen levels in the water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean, dry, and inspect your boat, trailer, live wells, and other equipment.</li> <li>Remove all plant fragments before leaving and place in trash receptacle where possible.</li> </ul>
<p>Purple loosestrife</p>  <p>The Nature Conservancy</p>	<p>A showy plant with pink-purple flowers. Purple loosestrife invades wetland areas and displaces native plants, reducing essential wildlife habitat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report all sightings immediately.</li> <li>Hand pull young plants, removing all roots and underground stems.</li> </ul>

\*Other invasive species threatening Glacier National Park include yellow flag iris, flowering rush, and salt cedar. Each of these non-native invasive plants competes with native aquatic vegetation, reducing the availability of habitat and food for native wildlife.