

Flathead Lakers AIS Response:

**Together, we are protecting our lake and watershed from invasive mussels!**

Preventing zebra and quagga mussels from infesting Flathead Lake and our watershed has been a priority for the Flathead Lakers for the past decade. Since we learned about the discovery of invasive mussels in Tiber and Canyon Ferry reservoirs, we:

- created a new video, *Be a Montana Super Hero*, to make more people aware of the threat and what they can do to help,
- helped craft and supported legislation to improve statewide and Flathead efforts and funding to prevent the spread of invasive mussels,
- provided information about the threat to all Flathead-area legislators and encouraged them to support strong containment and prevention measures and funding,
- sent email alerts to members and spoke with other groups about opportunities to voice support for important aquatic invasive species legislation,
- supported the Governor's emergency order and shared with him the steps we believe are essential to protect the Flathead's mussel-free waters,
- created a new invasive mussel fact sheet,
- provided funding to the Flathead Lake Biological Station for eDNA analysis of water samples collected from high risk areas around Flathead Lake
- featured a panel discussion on invasive mussels at our January Science on Tap.

The Flathead Lakers have participated in the Flathead AIS Work Group since its inception. This group of agency, nonprofit, and education partners developed the first Flathead AIS Plan in 2010 and recently updated it. The Lakers developed and posted "Tiny Critter – Huge Threat" invasive mussel warning signs at boat ramps, provided presentations to community groups, helped fund a boat inspection station, provided information on invasive mussels to Flathead Lake marinas and local boat dealers to share with their clients, and more.

We are grateful to our members, partners, local legislators (especially our bill sponsor, Rep. Mark Noland of Bigfork), and to everyone who has taken action to help thwart invasive mussels.

***Together***, we can protect Flathead Lake and the waters that feed it.