

Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach and Prevention

An annual review of outreach and prevention projects implemented by Josh Abrahamson- 2022
Big Sky Watershed Corp Member

This 2022 Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) position split time between the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) and the Missoula County Weed District (MCWD). With the goal of being the boots of the ground for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) industry outreach and education for the Upper Columbia River Basin located in western MT.



Events

Twelve different education events were attended. With this Josh reached people with quality education on local and national AIS issues that have impacts on Montana. These events included:

- UM Earth Day
- 3 Mussel Walk events
- Family Forestry Expo
- Frenchtown Paddle Days
- Bigfork Whitewater Festival
- Clark Fork Coalition River Clean Up
- City of Missoula Storm Water Utilities River Clean up
- Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Rendezvous
- Western Montana Fair



Field work

A large portion of the BSWC members term was spent on AIS prevention field work. During this time the member was able to accomplish the following:

- collected 71 samples for invasive mussel monitoring on 5 different waterbodies
- Vegetation monitoring on three waterbodies for Fragrant water Lily
- Treated 75 miles of the Clark Fork River Invasive riparian weeds



Industry Outreach

The main project during their term of service was industry outreach. Traveling across the western side of the continental divide talking with water based businesses about AIS. In total BSWC Member traveled 2,000+ miles for industry outreach and events. Through this project 65 different businesses were reached. As well as two staff trainings.

