

BOZEMAN FISH TECHNOLOGY CENTER – AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES AND AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Linda Beck and Yvette Converse, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, 4050 Bridger Canyon Road, Bozeman, MT 59715, linda_beck@fws.gov

The USDI Fish and Wildlife Service - Bozeman Fish Technology Center (BFTC) added a new program to the facility in April, 2005. The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and Aquatic Animal Health Program mission is to increase knowledge of aquatic nuisance species threats to aquatic systems and promote aquatic health through research, outreach and technical assistance. There are five main goals of this program: 1. Improve ANS detection and identification of colonization pathways, 2. Acquire biological and ecological information on ANS and important indicators of aquatic system health, 3. Determine effects to natural ecosystems, threatened and endangered species and industry, 4. Disseminate information through education, outreach and technical assistance, and 5. Survey National Fish Hatchery water supplies and effluent systems to identify ANS and potential hazards. The BFTC has been working together with State and Federal agencies on a regional and national level to support the mission and goals of this program.