

THE STATE OF MONTANA'S AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN^{AFS}

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In 1990, the Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) was passed by Congress to address aquatic nuisance species (ANS) problems in the United States. This legislation provided an opportunity for federal cost-share support for implementation of state plans. The reauthorization of NANPCA in 1996 into the National Invasive Species Act (NISA) established a goal of preventing new ANS introductions and limiting the dispersal of existing ANS in all of the states. NISA specifies, among other things, that state plans identify feasible, cost-effective management practices and measures that can be implemented by the state to prevent and control ANS infestations in a manner that is environmentally sound. Throughout 2001 and 2002 development of a Montana ANS plan was conducted by a diverse group of public and private entities. The ANS Task Force has approved Montana's plan, making Montana eligible for federal cost-share funding in 2003. When fully implemented, this plan provides a comprehensive approach to dealing with ANS in Montana.