Draft Agenda

**WGA Invasive Mussel Leadership Forum**

*Springhill Suites by Marriott 2989 Paradise Road*

*Las Vegas, Nevada*

*August 27-28, 2019*

*Meeting Goal -- To collectively determine common interagency priorities for the prevention and containment of invasive zebra and quagga mussels in the Western U.S. and identify a shared interagency strategy to address these priorities.*

*Meeting Format – Federal, state, and tribal leadership will participate in a moderated conversation about invasive mussel management in the West. Conversation will be advanced by presentations and dialogue with subject matter experts in attendance.*

*Moderated by John Freemuth, Cecil D. Andrus Endowed Chair for Environment and Public Lands*

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| **Tuesday, August 27** | |
| 7:00 am | **Registration and Check -In** |
| 7:30 am | **Light continental breakfast served in Grand Ballroom** |
| 8:00 am | **Welcome, Opening Remarks, Forum Overview**   * **John Freemuth**, Cecil D. Andrus Endowed Chair for Environment and Public Lands |
| 8:10 am | **Session 1: The Issue: Quagga and Zebra Mussels**  *This session will provide a brief overview of the threat, impact, and prevalence of quagga and zebra mussels in the West. Experts will present on the history of quagga and zebra mussel management in the U.S., including an update to regional mussel management plans.*  Topics and presenters:   * History and current status of invasive mussels in the Western U.S.   + **Elizabeth Brown**, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Western Regional Panel on ANS * Tribal perspective   + **Presenter to be determined** |
| 9:00 am | **Load buses and travel to Lake Mead** |
| 9:15 am  10:15 am  10:55 am  11:10 am  11:20 am | **Depart for Lake Mead site visit via Boulder City Entrance**  The goal of the site visit to Lake Mead is to give federal and state decision makers a first-hand look at the interagency mussel containment program at the park. Attendees will gain a greater appreciation for the size of the park, volume of use on the launch ramps, importance of the federal-state-concessioner partnerships that make the program effective, past and present successes, and challenges to the current and future containment programs.  Itinerary:  Arrive at Lake Mead’s Water Safety Center via Boulder City Entrance   * Disembark Buses/Restroom/Water Break (10 minutes)   Informal Panel including Questions and Answers (30 minutes):   * Lake Mead National Recreation Area Superintendent * Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) (Title) * Arizona Game & Fish Department (Title) * Authorized Concessioner Marina Owners   Demonstration of vessel decontamination (NDOW – 15 minutes)  Load Buses and Depart for Hemenway Harbor Launch Ramp  Drive by Launch Ramp, Boat Wash Station, and Marinas   * Possible Group Photo |
| 11:30 am | **Travel to Las Vegas (to-go lunches provided)** |
| 12:30 pm | **Break** |
| 1:00 pm | **Session 2: Legal Authority**  *In this session, panelists will discuss agencies’ authorities to conduct mussel management actions, including actions related to boat inspection and decontamination, quarantine, and rapid response. Short presentations will include authorities, gaps, and options to address those gaps, including those identified in reports by the* [*National Sea Grant Law Center*](http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/projects/model-legal-framework/files/state-comparison.pdf) *and the* [*National Invasive Species Council Secretariat*](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/2015_federal_lands_policy_options_for_addressing_the_movement_of_ais_onto_and_off_of_federal_lands.pdf)*. Presentations will be followed by facilitated discussion with leadership and attendees.*  Topics and presenters:   * The importance of consistency in state and federal laws and regulations for effective implementation of prevention and containment programs at multi-jurisdictional waters.   + **Nate Owens**, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources * Federal policy options for the movement of Watercraft onto and off of federal lands and waters.   + **Stas Burgiel,** National Invasive Species Council * Model legislative provisions, model regulations, model MOU and gap analysis.   + **Stephanie Showalter Otts,** National Sea Grant Law Center |
| 2:00 pm | **Session 3: Sustainable Funding and Staffing Capacity**  *This session will examine how invasive mussel management, including rapid response actions, are funded and staffed, as well as a discussion of funding and staffing challenges and opportunities to leverage existing resources. Short presentations will be followed by facilitated discussion with leadership and attendees.*  Topics and presenters:   * Federal funding and capacity for invasive mussel management in the West   + **Scott Cameron**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior   + U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Presenter to be determined   + **Mike Ielmini**, National Invasive Species Program Manager U.S.D.A. Forest Service * State funding and capacity for western zebra and quagga mussel management   + **Reid DeWalt**, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Colorado Parks and Wildlife * Tribal Perspectives on Staffing and Capacity   + Presenter to be determined |
| 3:15 pm | **Break** |
| 3:30 pm | **Session 4: Containing the Lower Colorado River Infestations**  *Short presentations on current efforts to contain invasive mussels in the Colorado River Basin, followed by a discussion of the common interagency priorities for invasive mussel containment*   * + Presenter to be determined |
| 4:55 pm | **Daily Summary and Discussion** |
| 5:00 pm | **Adjourn and Reception** |
| 5:30 pm –6:30 pm | **Reception** |
| **Wednesday, August 28** | |
| 7:30 am | **Light continental breakfast served in Grand Ballroom** |
| 8:00 am | **Welcome and Agenda Review for Day** |
| 8:05 am | **Session 5: Protecting the Uninfested West from Eastern Mussel Infestations**  *Short presentations on efforts to prevent the movement of invasive mussels from eastern states to western states, followed by a discussion of possible common, regional prevention strategies.*   * + Presenter to be determined |
| 9:30 am | **Session 6: Early Detection Monitoring**  *A discussion of how and where monitoring is conducted and used to inform prevention, containment, and response actions. Short panelist presentations will discuss the importance of monitoring and will identify current efforts, gaps, and opportunities to strengthen monitoring going forward. A moderated discussion with leadership and attendees will follow.*  Topics and presenters:   * Federal early detection monitoring across the Western U.S.   + **Yale Passamenek**, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation * Western Regional Panel field standard protocols and Building Consensus in the West monitoring decision items   + **Leah Elwell,** Western Regional Panel on ANS/ Invasive Species Action Network * State early detection monitoring efforts   + Presenter to be determined |
| 10:45 am | **Break** |
| 11:00 am | **Discussion on Alternatives and Solutions**  *A facilitated discussion with leadership and attendees on the issues presented in the forum, focused on developing a shared interagency strategy to address these priorities.* |
| 12:15pm | **Summary of Events and Next Steps** |
| 12:30 pm | **Adjourn** |
| 1:30 pm | **Time for Optional Work Sessions**   * Session on implementation of WRDA/ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Watercraft Inspection Station Programs * Other work sessions, as needed. |