



UC3 Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Contract Progress Report October 28, 2019

WLI and the Flathead Lake Biological Station hosted a second lake monitoring training on Friday, October 4 at the Philipsburg Theatre near Georgetown Lake. Inclement weather precluded us from a hands on training out on the water. Presenters included Craig McClane (FWP), Phil Matson (FLBS), Cynthia Ingelfinger (WLI) and Allison Pardis (USFS) and covered key information related to water quality monitoring, aquatic invasive plant identification and management efforts, and training on how to use FWP's Survey123 data collection app. The key components of successful monitoring were also discussed including: plankton tow sampling techniques (horizontal, vertical hauls), sample site selection criteria, equipment needs, sample preservation, ancillary data collection, and equipment decontamination procedures.

Groups attending included MT Department of Environmental Quality, Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, Big Hole River Foundation, Georgetown Lake Association, Blackfoot Challenge, and University of Montana Western's Ecology and Fisheries class.

To date, 4 kits have been distributed to:

- Dave Shively – University of Montana Geography Department and Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council (1)
- Karen Wickersham – Thompson Chain of Lakes (2)
- Jennifer Schoonen – Blackfoot Challenge (1)

WHO I SPOKE WITH

The agency person contact I know of for Painted Rocks is Larry Schock with DNRC (lschock@mt.gov).

Now that I'm thinking of contacts, a person associated with Lake Como would perhaps be John Crowley (Phone 406-961-1182). He is manager for the Bitterroot Irrigation District who are the irrigators who use the water out of Lake Como and manage the dam.

WLI has also partnered with the Flathead National Forest for increased eDNA monitoring on four lakes on National Forest lands in 2020. We will collect ten samples at Hungry Horse Reservoir, three samples at Tally Lake and Ashley Lake each, and two samples at Upper Stillwater Lake. The samples will be analyzed for zebra mussel, quagga mussel, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed.

2020 outreach efforts will focus on identifying incubator groups around Lake Kookonusa, the Yaak Valley, McGregor Lake, Georgetown Lake and the Bitterroot valley. It will also focus on enabling existing groups on Ashley Lake, Little Bitterroot Lake and Lake Mary Ronan to conduct additional sampling.