



**UC3 Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Contract Progress Report
FINAL REPORT 2021
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Since the spring of 2019, The Upper Columbia Lakes Network has grown into a geographically comprehensive network of volunteers who are trained and equipped to monitor their local lakes for AIS. WLI staff continued to distribute kits and conduct additional individual trainings to interested volunteers in 2021. Trainings covered identifying aquatic invasive plants, water quality monitoring and plankton tow sampling and decontamination techniques and protocols.

In 2021, seven new volunteers from three partner groups have been trained and equipped with monitoring kits. New lakes added in 2021 include Savage and Milnor Lakes, Lake Mary Ronan, and Lindbergh Lake. From July through September 2021, twelve volunteers collected 27 samples from fourteen lakes. All samples were sent to FWP's lab in Helena, and all sampling data was uploaded into FWP's AIS Survey 123 database. All samples have been found to have no invasive mussel veligers present.

Current participating groups include:

- Avista (Noxon and Cabinet Reservoirs)
- Clearwater Challenge (Lakes in the Clearwater drainage)
- Friends of Echo Lake
- Friends of Lake Mary Ronan
- Friends of Savage Lake
- Lindbergh Lake homeowners
- Little Bitterroot Lake Association
- Thompson Chain of Lakes (Middle Thompson and Crystal Lakes)
- United State Forest Service (McGregor Lake)
- Yaak Valley Forest Council (Alvord, Spar, Vinal and Kilbrennan Lakes)

Additional guidance and needed equipment will be provided by WLI program staff for continued sampling in 2022. Many groups plan to expand to new lakes and increase their sampling frequency as well. This program has created an educated and engaged group of citizens and lake associations working to protect their lakes from AIS and participate in the statewide effort led by FWP to keep AIS out of lakes in the Upper Columbia Watershed of Montana. WLI appreciates the opportunity to lead this program.