

Aquatic Invasive Species: Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Quagga and Zebra mussels are highly invasive non-native species that could threaten the integrity of Ada County waterways. These mussel species were first found in the United States in the mid 1980s, and have rapidly spread throughout eastern states since. In early 2007, Quagga Mussels were found in Lake Mead in Nevada and Arizona, which sent western states into an alarm, working together to prevent the species from spreading into other areas.

These mussels have no natural predators, so it's important Ada County residents educate themselves about these species to ensure they don't inadvertently introduce the mussels to Idaho waters. Adult mussel species attach themselves to boats, trailers and other aquatic equipment, and can live out of water for weeks in the right weather conditions. This brochure explains how you can help keep Ada County waterways mussel free.



This flip-flop sandal, is now completely over-run with mussels.

Ada County
Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement

975 E. Pine Avenue
Meridian, ID 83642

Aquatic Invasive Species: Mussels



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Don't Move A Mussel -

Learn to prevent invasive aquatic mussel infestations

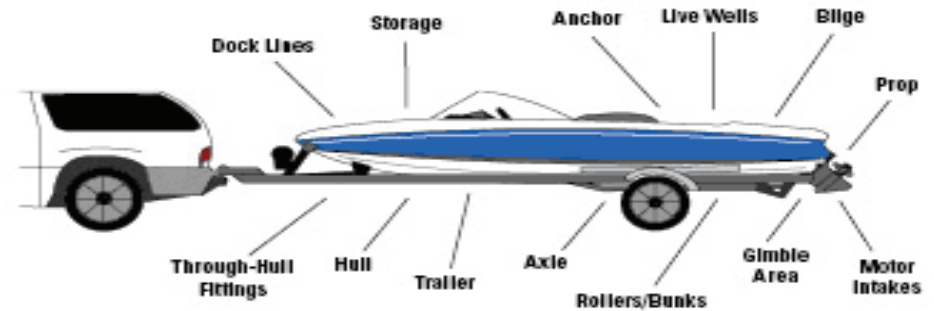
At Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement we are concerned with the growing threat of invasive aquatic animal species destroying the integrity of Idaho's waterways, so we've teamed with local and state agencies to spread public awareness about the dangers of these non-native invasive species.



Above are examples of how Quagga and Zebra mussels can attach themselves and completely overwhelm a submerged object.

Quagga and Zebra mussels are species originally from Eurasia that have hitchhiked across the United States by invading ponds, lakes, rivers and streams along the way. Because these mussel species cluster and proliferate by the millions, they rapidly infest a body of water. The mussels adhere to anything submerged and can quickly take it over – they can clog pipes, cement to boat motors or cooling systems and destroy ecosystems. Furthermore they can clog power plant and public water intakes and pipes, so essentially these little mussels can affect everything, from recreation to necessities of everyday life.

Before launching and before leaving...
Inspect everything!



Proper cleaning of equipment:

Zebra and Quagga mussels can attach to your boat or aquatic recreational equipment easily and likely without detection. Adult mussels grow up to two inches long, yet mussel larvae are microscopic. It's imperative to clean your equipment of plant parts, animals (like the mussels) and mud. Wash all your equipment, including all crevices and hidden areas on your boat, trailer and other recreational equipment. Drain all water from wells, ballasts and engine cooling systems before leaving the area. Before you cast off make sure your boat has completely dried from your last water adventure.

If you suspect your boat or recreational aquatic equipment has been in waters infested with these hazardous mussels and you CANNOT perform the precautionary steps listed above, have your boat professionally cleaned before venturing into Idaho's waterways.



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975 E. Pine Ave., Meridian, ID 83642 : 577-4646