



# Aquatic Invasive Species Southwest Region



Quagga Mussels



Zebra Mussels



Giant Salvinia

## SOUTHWEST REGION FACTS

- The Southwest Region consists of four states: Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico
- Our waters are shared with all bordering states in the U.S. and Mexico: California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas.
- We share recreational boaters, who may spread invasive species, with locations all over North America.
- We have administered grants totaling approximately \$5 million since 2012 to help stop the spread of invasive species.
- **Prevention** – preventing the introduction or spread of invasive species is the most effective way of protecting our aquatic resources. Prevention is less costly than eradication.
- **Control** – controlling invasive species usually means containing an existing infestation through perpetual management actions, but may include reducing invasive populations, and sometimes, eradicating them.
- **Outreach** – the general public is our greatest asset in protecting our resources. An informed public is key to preventing the spread of unwanted organisms.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Who We Are

Led by an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, the program is augmented by fisheries biologists at all of the Southwest Field Stations who share the common goal of protecting our native aquatic resources from invasive species that threaten native species and inhibit recreational opportunities. The Southwest Aquatic Invasive Species Program coordinates closely with similar programs in all other U.S. Fish and Wildlife regions and with our headquarters near Washington, D.C.

## How We Help

The Southwest Aquatic Invasive Species Program provides biosecurity for resources needed for fish and other aquatic wildlife. Invasive species in the Southwest are potentially damaging to the environment, businesses, and recreation. These include giant salvinia, New Zealand mudsnail, zebra mussel, and brown tree snake. Our goal is conservation through cooperative actions with partner agencies and organizations at all jurisdictional levels by leveraging resources, sharing responsibilities, and coordination and implementation of management plans. The program focuses on three

primary areas: prevention, control, and outreach.

## Key Initiatives

- Regional Panels (Western, Gulf and South Atlantic, Mississippi River) on Aquatic Invasive Species, advisory panels to the federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
- 100th Meridian Initiative – a partnered group of agencies and organizations with a common goal of protecting the western United States from zebra/quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species
- HACCP – Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point planning, an international standard (ASTM E2590 - 09) for reducing or eliminating the spread of unwanted species by natural-resource-management activities

## Activity Highlights

- 100th Meridian Initiative
- ANS Task Force
- Interagency Giant Salvinia Control Team
- North American Brown Tree Snake Control Team
- HACCP for Natural Resource Management

Road sign for the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Outreach Program

