



DIY Flathead Lake Mussel Walk Challenge 2022

Why should we care?

Early detection is key to prevention.

Early detection of invasive mussels is key to preventing an infestation. Once mussels are established, it is nearly impossible to get rid of them. A mussel infestation would have devastating effects on the ecology and economy of this beautiful area.

Help continue our community effort to keep a watchful eye on Flathead Lake and Watershed, and participate in the DIY Mussel Walk Challenge!

What can you do?

DIY Flathead Lake Mussel Walk

Help us continue to monitor our watershed for aquatic invasive species. Participate in this community citizen science project this April and May.

- Pick a beautiful day, and go to your favorite spot on Flathead Lake.
- Slowly walk a stretch of shoreline, turning over rocks and inspecting docks and seawall structures.
- Feel free to bring gloves and a garbage bag, and clean as you go.
- Look for anything suspicious.
- If you have children, take them along! Share the instructions and encourage friends and family to go out as well.
- Record your location, note and collect anything suspicious.
- Take a photo or video, and SEND IT TO US!
- Submit your results at our website www.flatheadlakers.org.



All participants who submit their results will receive a Lakers thank you surprise in the mail. For more information, contact Hilary Devlin at hilary@flatheadlakers.org or call 406-883-1341.

Mussel Identification

Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Zebra Mussels: Color varies from black-brown to white-yellow, with a zigzagged pattern. Shell is D-shaped, and sits upright when placed on a surface.

ZEBRA MUSSEL



Quagga Mussels: Color is light tan to almost white, usually with dark concentric rings on the shell, paler in color near the hinge. The shell is rounder in shape and doesn't sit upright when placed on a surface.

QUAGGA MUSSEL



Both are usually smaller than 5 cm, with byssal threads that allow them to attach to many different kinds of surfaces.

Find something?

To report something suspicious, contact:

CSKT Natural Resources Department: 406-883-2888,
www.csctnomussels.org

Montana FWP Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau:
406-444-2440, www.cleandraindry.mt.gov

UM Flathead Lake Biological Station: 406-872-4500

Spread the message, not the mussel.

Clean, drain, and dry your boat and water sports equipment every time you move it.

Remind your friends and guests to have their boats inspected before launching in the Flathead Watershed.



LEARN MORE

Montana Mussel Response

cleandraindry.mt.gov

Flathead Lake Biological Station

flbs.umt.edu

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

fwp.mt.gov

CSKT Natural Resources Department

csctnomussels.org

Flathead Lakers

flatheadlakers.org



**FLATHEAD
LAKERS**
DEFENDERS OF THE WATERSHED

The Flathead Lakers, with over 1,500 members, has been working to protect clean water in Flathead Lake and its watershed since 1958.

PO BOX 70 | POLSON, MT 59860
406.883.1346 | FLATHEADLAKERS.ORG