



Invasive Species in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

Know Before You Go

Invasive species threaten to fundamentally alter ecosystems and put the native plants and animals of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) at risk. Invasive species are organisms or pathogens that are introduced to an ecosystem outside their historical natural range. They frequently cause irreversible ecological and economic damage or harm to human health. Preventing new introductions and the spread of existing invasive species is a fiscally responsible and ecologically important task that requires the help of all visitors and parties within the GYE.

WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE RECREATION?

In terms of invasive species prevention, this means you are taking steps to make sure you aren't moving or introducing invasive species to the environments in which you are recreating. By taking a few easy steps, we can all do our part to ensure the GYE is preserved for generations to come.

IMPACTS OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Wildlife & Fisheries: Invasive species outcompete native species for available food and habitat resources, change or damage habitat structures, or reduce overall habitat quality.

Recreational: Invasive species impede stream and river access, reduce streamflow, increase soil erosion, and alter fire regimes.

Agricultural: Some invasive species reduce soil quality, change flood and fire regimes, and block water access for grazing livestock.

Municipal & Industrial: Invasive species can damage irrigation and water infrastructure, reduce tree cover, alter fire regimes, and reduce community resilience to climate change.



THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem includes more than **15 million** acres of federal lands, over **30,000** square miles and **11** mountain ranges.



Scan Code TO REPORT

REPORTING

Monitoring and reporting are an important part of controlling invasive species. Monitoring can identify new populations of invasive species while they are still small and able to be managed. The sooner you report weeds the better for a chance of control. Use EDDMapS West or call your local weed management agency.



Funding provided in part by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, a cooperative effort of agencies and organizations working in the GYE.

Terrestrial Invasive Species

Terrestrial Invasive Species live on land and include plants, insects, and mammals. Plant seeds can be moved around by hitching a ride on our boots/sandals, bikes, and pets. Insects move through infested firewood.



Already numerous invasive plants are established in parts of the Greater Yellowstone Area, and new species are discovered almost every year. They grow quickly and are nearly impossible to eradicate once established. Whether we are playing outdoors with our families, hiking, hunting, boating, gardening, or horseback riding, we can ALL do our part to prevent the spread of invasive species! **Prevention is our best option.**

HOW TO PREVENT TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

- ✓ **Remove** plants, animals, and mud from boots, gear, pets, and vehicles
- ✓ **Clean** your gear before entering and leaving a recreation site
- ✓ **Stay** on designated roads and trails
- ✓ **Use certified** or local firewood and hay
- ✓ **Don't** move firewood

ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR BOOTS!

There are several boot brush stations placed at trailheads and other recreation access points in the GYE. To find boot brush stations in your area, click the buttons below.



MAP 1

MAP 2



CLEANING OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

1. Precleaning inspection
2. Presoak your vehicle
3. Scrub off dirt
4. Rinse
5. Dry it off

ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR BOOTS, BIKES, OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, & OTHER GEAR!

For more information on terrestrial invasive species and a full GYE invasive plant identification pocket guide visit www.fedgycc.org/terrestrialinvasivespecies

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic Invasive Species live in the water and include fishes, snails, clams, mussels, aquatic weeds, amphibians, and diseases.



Aquatic invasive species are primarily moved between waterbodies by hitching rides on boats. Motorized (wakeboard/ski boats, bass boats, and speed boats) and non-motorized (canoes, kayaks, drift boats, stand-up paddleboards, rafts, and tubes) boats can move aquatic invasive species.

HOW TO PREVENT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- ✓ **Clean.** Remove any mud or visible debris using the water you've just boated in.
- ✓ **Drain.** Drain standing water out of your watercraft or gear.
- ✓ **Dry.** Towel dry or leave in the sun to dry.

For more information, please visit:

cleanboater.org

IT'S THE LAW TO STOP AT WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

Watercraft inspections are the most widely used tool for preventing the movement of AIS. For a map of watercraft inspection sites in the GYE, click the button below.



MAP



EXTRA CARE FOR WADERS

For most fly anglers, waders are the most likely way they will transport AIS. Felt sole boots are banned in YNP because they are particularly susceptible to transporting AIS.

MORE INFO

THE MINIMUM ACTION THAT EVERYONE SHOULD TAKE AFTER EVERY TRIP TO A WATERBODY IS TO CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY.

For more information on aquatic invasive species and a full GYE aquatic invasive plant identification pocket guide visit www.fedgycc.org/aquaticinvasivespecies