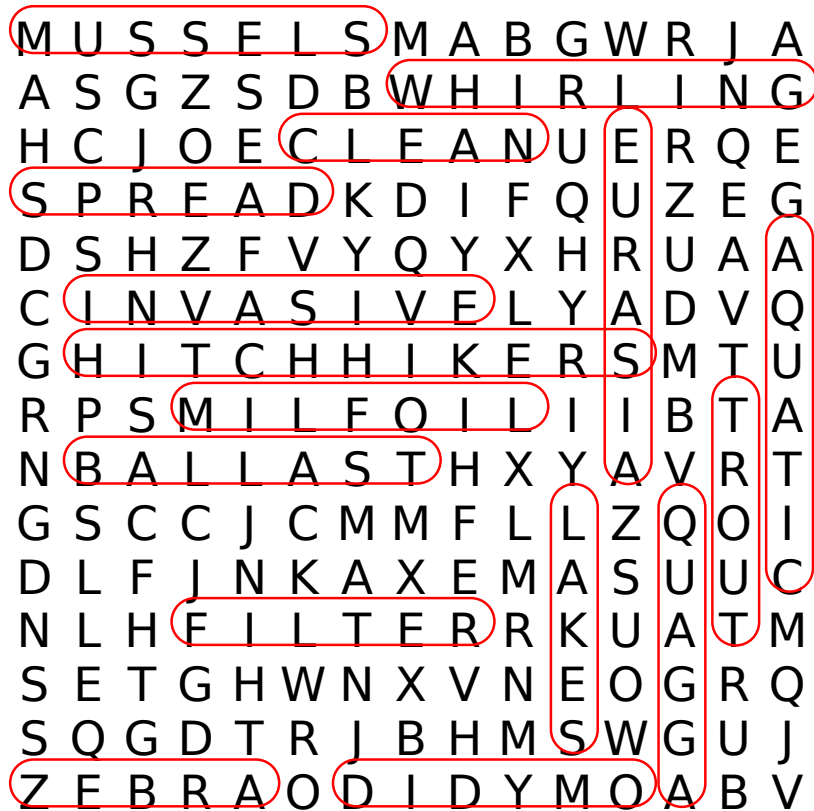


AIS Word Search



Search for the words in bold in the puzzle above. Words are arranged up, down, and backwards.

Aquatic **Invasive** Species (AIS) threaten to Montana's **aquatic** resources. Many AIS are from **Eurasia**. AIS reach North America as **hitchhikers** in the **ballast** water of ocean cargo ships. Most AIS are introduced to the Great **Lakes**. From there they spread to inland waters via recreational boaters. **Zebra** and **Quagga** mussels are two of the worst AIS. These **mussels** can attach to any hard surface and reach incredible numbers. These mussels are **filter** feeders and interfere with food webs and nutrient cycles.

Whirling disease is a parasite that effects young **trout** and can be spread by humans and animals.

Didymo is an algae that can blanket stream bottoms and lead to shifts in macroinvertebrate populations.

Eurasian water **milfoil** is an aggressive competitor that reduces native aquatic plant populations. It will **spread** by tiny fragments that attach to boats or boat trailers. Once AIS are established they are impossible to get rid of. AIS spread can be reduced if we **clean**, drain and dry our fishing or boating gear after each use.