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 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.