

## Handshake Partnership Program Report FY 2014 Recipients

**1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Fort Peck Lake

**2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake:** Omaha District, Northwestern Division, Fort Peck Project

**3. Handshake Project Name:** Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Station

**4. What has been accomplished?** The Fort Peck Information Station received improvements that included new windows, doors, paint, flooring, roof, water hydrant, and a vault toilet. This building, previously vacant, is now being used as a base station for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MTFWP) as an Invasive Species Check Station in an effort to educate recreationists about aquatic invasive species, prevent the spread of them to other water bodies and to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species into Fort Peck Lake. The following is a summary of activity at the Fort Peck AIS Check Station:

- 2013: 1,845 boats inspected, # failed is unknown
- 2014: 1,443 boats inspected, 5 failed
- 2015: 3,652 boat inspections, 11 failed
- In 2013 Fort Peck ranked 3rd as a point of destination following an inspection.
- In 2014 Fort Peck ranked 4th as a point of destination following an inspection.
- In 2015 Fort Peck ranked 6th as a point of destination following an inspection
- In 2015, 110 inspections were high risk. Boats that are considered High risk are ones that have been in Zebra/Quagga infested States within the past 30 days.

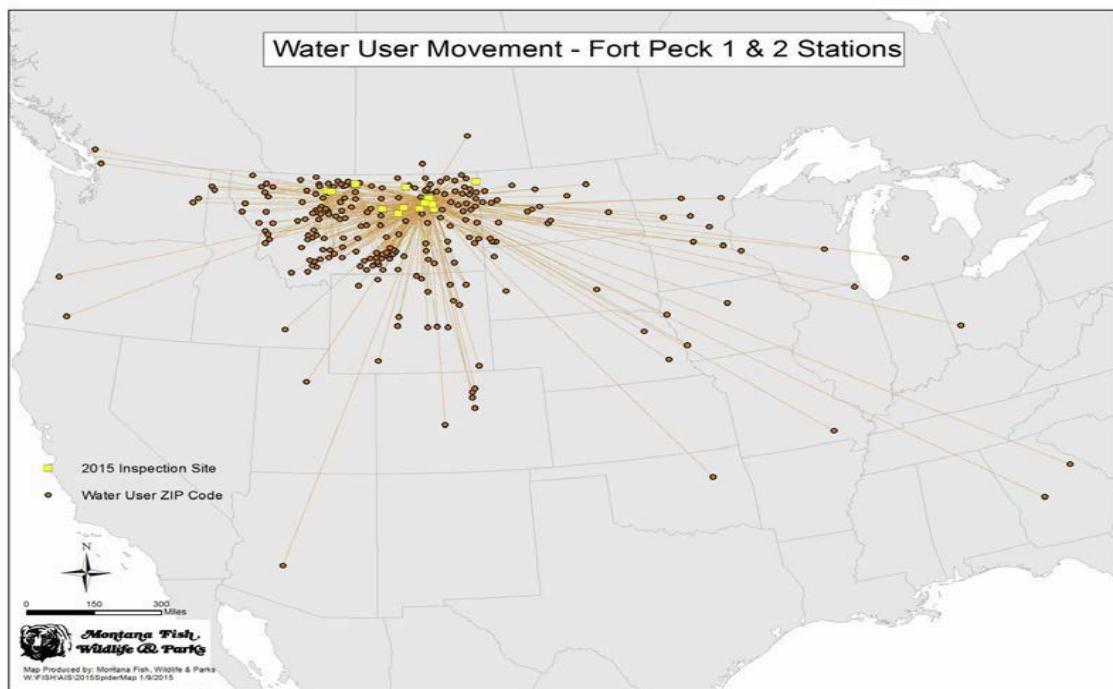


Figure 7. Surveyed Water User Movement into Fort Peck Roving Stations in 2015.

## Detailed breakdown of expenditures

	<b>Local Corps Office</b>	<b>Handshake Funds</b>	<b>MTFWP 2013</b>	<b>MTFWP 2014</b>	<b>MTFWP 2015</b>	<b>Total</b>
Salaries	\$1,000	N/A	\$35,000	\$41,000	\$46,500	\$123,500
Travel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$500	\$30,000	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$32,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$41,000</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>	<b>\$167,000</b>

## 5. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.

**A. Comments About Handshake Program:** This program provided an excellent opportunity to leverage funds with MTFWP and at a time when funding for this program was insufficient.

**B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement:** The agreement worked out great for both COE and MTFWP.

**C. Recommendations:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate one-page newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under [Handshake Success Stories](#).

## **News Articles**

### **Billings Gazette**

Boat owners and operators are reminded that they are required to stop at a state-run aquatic invasive species check and cleaning station that will be operating in the Fort Peck Information Center parking lot from Thursday through the Labor Day weekend.

Staff members from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and other agencies will inspect boats and other types of personal watercraft and trailers for a variety of invasive species, including plants, fish and mussels that could accidentally be introduced into Fort Peck Reservoir, the lower Missouri River and other area water bodies. The check station will be located off Montana Highway 24, just east of the Gateway Inn.

AIS species can overwhelm lakes, ponds, rivers and streams, kill fish and beneficial plants and damage ecosystems. Invasive species can also harm recreational and agricultural resources by damaging boats and gear, clogging water pipes and hydropower facilities, restricting flows at community water services and plugging up irrigation systems.

A roving AIS inspection crew will also be working at Hell Creek State Park and Rock Creek Fishing Access Site on the Big Dry Arm of Fort Peck periodically throughout the summer. Parts of the reservoir have already been heavily impacted by invasive Eurasian watermilfoil, and boaters there are asked to be especially careful about leaving the area with this plant material on their watercraft and trailers.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks will begin conducting checks on Fort Peck Reservoir and other waters across Northeastern Montana this weekend.

## Enforcement - Region 6

*Friday, June 26, 2015*

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is continuing to conduct Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspections on Fort Peck Reservoir and other waters across Northeastern Montana, as we move into the summer season.

AIS roving inspection stations will move around to various locations around the region. In addition, the border-check station at Culbertson is up and running at the Department of Transportation weigh station. All watercraft, including boats, canoes, kayaks, and jet skis, ARE REQUIRED to stop at the inspection stations as directed by the designated signs. Tickets can be issued for watercraft that do not stop.

Also, Inspection stations will be randomly set up at water-access points across region. The focus of these efforts are to assist boaters with self inspection procedures and educate them about the importance of cleaning watercraft, checking live wells, and to ensure that any watercraft moving to another water body is completely clean and dry of AIS.

“The most important part of this effort is education,” says Region 6 Warden Captain Mike Herman. “We want all watercraft users to take it upon themselves to be concerned about the quality of their waters, and to do their part to stop the spread of invasive species. It only takes a few minutes to ensure that your boat is clean and dry, every time you leave the water.”

In addition, AIS inspectors will be educating anglers on legal bait use. No live minnows can be brought in from out of state. If leeches are brought in from out of state, a receipt is needed to verify that the leeches came from an approved, disease free source.

Aquatic Invasive Species, such as the Eurasian watermilfoil plant, have become established throughout Fort Peck Reservoir and the Dredge Cuts below Fort Peck Dam. AIS efforts are in place to reduce the risk of spreading this to other Montana waters. Zebra and quagga mussels and the New Zealand Mudsnaails have not been discovered in the Fort Peck area, but New Zealand Mudsnaails have been found in Montana.

The recreating public is asked to help prevent the movement of all AIS by ensuring that watercraft and trailers are clean and dry when they leave the reservoir and other areas. If you have any questions, please call the Region 6 Headquarters in Glasgow at 406-228-3700. Remember: INSPECT. CLEAN. DRY



## **20 boats have failed invasive species inspections**

Jul 28, 2015, Billings Gazette

All boaters, including kayakers and rafters, must stop at aquatic invasive species check stations.

As of July 10, the Fort Peck roving aquatic invasive species inspection stations had checked 489 watercraft, five of which failed. At the Culbertson inspection station, 76 boats have been inspected and 15 have failed. Failed inspections were due to illegal bait or livewells that contained standing water.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' AIS roving inspection stations will continue to move to various locations around the region. Also, inspection stations will be randomly set up at water-access points. All watercraft, including boats, canoes, kayaks, and jet skis, are required to stop at the inspection stations as directed by the designated signs. Tickets can be issued for watercraft that do not stop.

The focus of these efforts are to assist boaters with self inspection procedures and educate them about the importance of cleaning watercraft, checking live wells, and to ensure that any watercraft moving to another water body is completely clean and free of aquatic invasive species.

Aquatic invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, have become established throughout Fort Peck Reservoir and the Dredge Cuts below Fort Peck Dam. Eurasian watermilfoil can, in nutrient-rich lakes, develop thick underwater mats of vegetation at the water's surface.

The public is asked to help prevent the movement of AIS by ensuring that all watercraft and trailers are clean and dry when they leave the reservoir and other areas.

Beginning on Saturday and ending Labor Day weekend, an AIS check station will be at the information booth on Highway 24 near Fort Peck, located at the turnoff to the Fort Peck Marina and cabin areas. All watercraft, including boats, canoes, kayaks and jet skis, must stop at the inspection station. One additional inspection station will be located in Culbertson at the Department of Transportation weigh station.



THIS LAKE HAS  
EURASIAN  
WATERMILFOIL !



• • • ***HELP Prevent the Spread  
of Invasive Species***

## **BEFORE Leaving the Boat Ramp:**

- **Inspect your boat, trailer and gear.**
- **Clean off all mud, aquatic plants and animals.**
- **Drain or flush water from live well, bilge, motor, etc.**
- **Dry your boat and equipment, this will kill most aquatic plants.**
- **Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash.**



### **County Weed Districts**

Fergus	406-535-3970
Garfield	406-557-2770
McCone	406-485-2493
Petroleum	406-429-5311
Phillips	406-654-2543
Richland	406-433-9047
Roosevelt	406-787-5312
Valley	406-228-6237