



Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies Working Together in Emergency Response Management

Date June 23, 2022

NRCG Memo# 2022-006

To: Northern Rockies Interagency Wildland Fire Community

From: Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Subject: AIS Decontamination/Prevention Methods for Air and Ground Wildland Fire Water Delivery Resources

The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group's (NRCG) Aviation and Equipment Committees were tasked with developing a protocol for preventing the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by wildland aviation & fire equipment. A mandatory protocol was developed and approved by the NRCG Board in 2018 and has since been updated.

This updated protocol is based on the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)'s 2017 "[Guide to Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Transport by Wildland Fire Operations](#)" (PMS 444). The intent of this NRCG guide is to provide a more prescriptive protocol intended for a fire management audience, and to increase compliance and consistency of best management practices related to preventing AIS. The protocol applies to both ground operations and aviation and is mandatory in the Northern Rockies region. This protocol is demonstrated via a "[How to Guide](#)," which includes detailed instructions for ordering, set up, and assembly of AIS decontamination stations; options for products/equipment based on site specific conditions; and best management practices for drafting water, which can prevent the risk of most AIS being transported or spread via wildland fire equipment. Fire management agencies in the west are taking the threat of AIS seriously and have committed to decreasing the possible risk of introduction and spread by fire management personnel.

Josh Harvey
Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG)

