



Resolution 26-12

Resolution type: Legislative Directive

Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Frontline

Submitted by: Big Horn CD

BACKGROUND DESCRIBING ISSUE

The Big Horn Conservation District is among several districts across the state of Montana that partner with Fish, Wildlife and Park in operating Aquatic Invasive Species check stations. The threat of invasive threats grows continuously, with just last year adding the Asian Golden Mussel to our watchlist. The purpose of these stations is to protect Montana from not only environmental and agricultural disruption, but economic strain. Irrigation, municipal water sources, hydroelectric power, and economic gain from tourism would all be affected exponentially should Montana become invaded. It only takes one.

LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN LEGISLATION DRAFTED BY MACD

The Big Horn Conservation District would like to resolve that the state of Montana fully funds the operation of the Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Stations.

SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE

The Conservation Districts currently partner with Fish, Wildlife and Parks and are funded through the Federal and State economy.

HOW WILL YOUR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, BE INVOLVED WITH, AND TRACK THIS RESOLUTION BEFORE AND DURING THE UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION?

The Big Horn Conservation District will continue to operate our two stations and work alongside Fish, Wildlife and Parks for as long as funding through them is available. Our hope is with the help of MACD, we can aid in the lobbying.

ARE THERE ANY EXISTING MACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH?

Not to our knowledge.

HOW WOULD THIS POLICY IMPACT MACD?

This initiative would require lobbying, which would impact staff time and MACD's budget. The Big Horn Conservation District is willing to fund any travel and staff time on our end to aid in pushing this resolution.

WOULD THIS POLICY STATEMENT IMPACT THE STATE BUDGET? IF SO, HOW?

This initiative would directly impact the state budget. For the 2026 season, the budget for the Big Horn Conservation District to operate both the Fly Creek and St. Xavier stations were \$310,000.00. Due to inflation, the District is currently assessing a necessary growth to our operating FY 2027 season.

MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY

August 6, 2026

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S)

Steve Schanaman, Big Horn CD Chair

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