

CURTAILING THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

(No general fund dollars requested.)

Description of issue and how recommending the agency's request furthers the agency's mandates:

The Department has developed, funded and implemented an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program over the past eight (8) years (A.R.S. §17-255). AIS continue to be a serious threat to Arizona both economically and environmentally. AIS are invasive plants (e.g., giant salvinia, hydrilla) and animals (e.g., quagga mussel, Asian carp, red claw crayfish) that are transported and released, intentionally or unintentionally, in Arizona's lakes and waterways. Once established, there are few things that naturally stop the rapid spread of AIS, resulting in a permanent alteration of Arizona's waters. Many AIS prove exceptionally difficult and costly to control or remove.



Some AIS obstruct waterways, which in turn reduces delivery of water for municipal, industrial, and irrigation purposes. The result is increased costs for labor, operation and infrastructure maintenance, leading to increased costs to the consumer/end users. Continued degradation of Arizona's lakes and waterways by AIS also threatens recreational fishing and boating opportunities and increases the risk of wildlife and human health problems.

The goal of the Department's AIS Program is to stop movement of all AIS from infested waters to areas where they are not present. The additional cost of maintenance to Arizona's water conveyance infrastructure due to AIS is estimated to be in the millions annually. Spread of AIS to new waters will further increase this cost, which again will be passed on to end users, and reduce opportunities for boating and fishing. Fishing alone generates \$1.47 billion dollars annually to Arizona's economy and more than \$62 million in tax revenue.



Proposal:

1. Stop the spread of AIS, and where possible, remove AIS already present in Arizona lakes and waterways.

- Develop and implement cooperative public/private partnerships with land management agencies, marina operators, and businesses to implement AIS containment and removal (e.g. utilizing private contractors or marinas to operate mobile decontamination units to clean boats).

2. Prevent the introduction of new AIS into Arizona.

- Through a multi-faceted outreach effort, communicate with and educate our boating and fishing public about Arizona AIS laws/rules and what Arizonans are required to do to help stop AIS from getting into our lakes and waterways.



3. Increase public compliance with AIS Laws and Rules.

- Conduct additional enforcement patrols at AIS-affected waters.

4. Measure success.

- Investigate/research the effectiveness of new ways to stop the spread of established AIS in Arizona.
- Pursue the technology for electronic databases and scanning equipment to allow for better data collection
- Increase the coordinated use of data among state/federal partners also working to stop the spread and negative impact of AIS in western North America.

NOTE: Implementing the proposed solutions will require receiving the complete budget requested. The base increases are necessary to increase enforcement and support the public/private operation of equipment identified for purchase through one-time increases.

Performance measures to display the effects of the proposal:

Key Goal: Healthy People, Places & Resources

State Key Function: Championing the Health of People and Resources

Agency Key Function:

1. Setting health and natural resource policy
2. Promoting active and healthy people
3. Conserving resources for multiple benefits

Lead Measure:

- i. Hunt/fish license sales

Mission Measures: Healthy Outcomes

- b. Sustainable water supply
- d. Parks and outdoor recreation

Key Goal: Safe Communities

State Key Function: Protecting Life and Property

Agency Key Function:

2. Enforcing laws
3. Deterring criminal activity
7. Mitigating risks through prevention and education

Key Goal: Strong, Innovative Economy

State Key Function: Driving Economic Opportunity

Agency Key Function:

7. Providing and managing critical infrastructure and assets

Lead Measure:

- e. Visitors
- h. Infrastructure investment (water, energy, transportation, communications)

Mission Measures: Economic Outcomes

- g. Visitor spend

Department Scorecard and Measures

Agency Scorecard:

- Educational outreach

Operational Objectives:

- Implement new AIS eradication, containment and prevention projects in at least three regions per year.
- Increased law enforcement field presence
- Focus on spread of AIS by transported watercraft and other unintended introductions into state waters.

Alternatives considered and reasons for rejection:

Do nothing: Current funding levels will not cover the need for expanded services to the residents of Arizona. More Arizona waters and waterways will become home to AIS, resulting in additional operation and maintenance costs for water conveyance and electricity generation. Ultimately this will lead to higher utility costs for Arizonans.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

Partner with Salt River Project and Central Arizona Project: Additional funding may be provided by water and power supply agencies. Unfortunately, these annual costs will likely be transferred back to the citizens of Arizona through higher utility costs.

Impact of not funding this fiscal year:

Failure to support this budget request will result in: 1) increased infestation and degradation of Arizona's waters and waterways; 2) increased costs to water deliverers and hydropower producers that will be passed on to customers; 3) human health and safety concerns; and 4) reduced recreational opportunity for anglers and boaters resulting in dissatisfaction.

Statutory reference:

- HB2157 - The 2009 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Act legislatively mandated an AIS Program and makes transport of AIS a violation.
- A.R.S. § 17-255 Article 3.1 Aquatic Invasive Species; AIS Director's Orders.
- A.R.S. § 5-233 makes Watercraft Licensing Fund monies eligible for appropriation for the administration of the program described in A.R.S. § 17-255.
- R12-4-1101 & 1102; Article 11 Aquatic Invasive Species; AIS Rules (all watercraft owners leaving an AIS-listed water must "Clean, Drain, and Dry" their boats and pull their boat's drain plug before transport).

Equipment to be purchased:

Six (6) additional mobile decontamination units will be purchased and be housed at marinas throughout the state (used to clean boats leaving AIS-affected waters; cost per unit approximately \$16,000 - \$20,000).

Classification of new positions:

No new Full Time employees are included in this budget request.

Budget Request:

Watercraft Licensing Fund	\$228,800 – Base Increase – Public/Private Partnership
	\$185,000 – One-Time Increase – Equipment and Training (Proposed Solutions: #1 and 2)
	\$151,500 – Base Increase – Increased Law Enforcement Presence
	\$250,000 – One-Time Increase – Outreach and Education (Proposed Solutions: #2 and 3)
	\$100,000 – One-Time Increase – Continued Research, Partnering (Proposed Solution: #4)
	Total for Curtailing the Spread of AIS
	\$915,300