



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

MONTANA CHAPTER

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February 8, 2008

Senator Max Baucus
Federal Building
32 East Babcock, Suite 114
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Senator Baucus,

The Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MCAFS) appreciates this opportunity to offer our support for the appropriation request submitted to you for the development of the Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species (CANS) in Livingston, Montana. The American Fisheries Society (AFS), founded in 1870 is the oldest and largest professional society representing fisheries scientists. The mission of AFS is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals. The Montana Chapter, founded in 1967, is comprised of approximately 300 fisheries professionals representing state and federal agencies, tribal governments, universities, and the private sector.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) threaten the ecology and economy of Montana. Their ecological impacts, including loss of native species, environmental degradation, reduced populations of desirable species, impacted food webs and reductions in species richness, challenge our efforts to maintain Montana's high quality waters and fisheries. Once these species are established there are no practical management strategies for eliminating their impacts and every possible effort must be made to prevent the introduction of new species.

CANS will address the primary problems faced by those fighting to reduce the spread of ANS. Through targeted research, policy development and public outreach, CANS will provide new tools that will be widely adopted throughout both the private and public sectors. The need to combat these species is urgent and CANS represents a very effective method for addressing the unmet needs that have been so frequently identified by those working with ANS.

The MCAFS strongly supports the appropriation request submitted by CANS and we request that you provide the support of your office in advancing this proposal.

Sincerely,

David A. Schmetterling
President, Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

