



# STOP the Invasion!

## Invasive species are everyone's problem.

Invasive species are animals, plants and disease-causing pathogens that are “out of place.” They ~~usually~~ are not native to the habitat and have no natural competitors and predators. Without these checks and balances, the invaders are able to reproduce rapidly and out-compete native species. Invasive species damage Colorado's lands and waters, hurt the economy, ruin recreation opportunities, and threaten human well-being.

### Economics

In the United States, ecological damage and control of invasive species costs \$137 billion per year and is increasing. We must protect Colorado environment that draws tourists, brings business, and supports agriculture.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH BROWN, COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

### Health

Sharp zebra mussel shells can cut the feet of unsuspecting swimmers and waders.



PHOTO BY JASON GOEBLER, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

### Recreation

Hunters, anglers, hikers and

birdwatchers may no longer be able to enjoy their favorite natural areas. As habitat is destroyed by invasive species, the wildlife that depends on it disappears as well.



PHOTO BY MICHIGAN SEA GRANT

### Ecology

About 42 percent of the species on the federal Threatened or Endangered species lists are at risk primarily because of invasive species.



PHOTOS BY VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE

## Everyone deserves to enjoy Colorado's great outdoors.

Whether you take to the woods or the waters, climb the mountains, or just enjoy your own backyard, there are some simple steps that you can take to prevent the spread of invasive species.

- Landscape and garden with native plants
- Do not release pets, aquatic plants, or aquarium water into the wild.
- Clean your watercraft, trailer, waders and fishing equipment
- Control the spread of invasive weed seeds by removing them from ATV or trailer tires and hiking boots.
- Buy firewood where you intend to burn it. Do not bring firewood from the forest to urban areas as it can harbor invasive insects that can decimate neighborhood trees.
- Equestrians—feed your horses weed free hay.
- Learn to identify and report invasive species. Early detection is crucial to stopping an invasive from becoming permanently established!



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH BROWN, COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

**To report invasive species, call 303-291-7362.**

*Keeping Colorado Wild*



[www.colorado.gov/wildlife](http://www.colorado.gov/wildlife)