



Information Bulletin

For Immediate Release

Parks Canada takes action to protect ecological integrity of Waterton Lakes National Park

Motorized and trailer-launched watercraft prohibited in the park to prevent the spread of invasive mussels

March 16, 2017

Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta

Parks Canada Agency

In managing national parks, Parks Canada maintains or restores ecological integrity of both land and water. To ensure the ongoing protection of Waterton Lakes National Park against invasive aquatic mussels, the use of motorized and trailer-launched watercraft in the park is no longer authorized.

In November 2016, it was announced that invasive aquatic mussel larvae were found in the Tiber Reservoir in Montana, U.S., less than a half-day's drive from Waterton Lakes National Park. Invasive mussel infestations have devastating and permanent ecological effects and economic impacts on infrastructure including irrigation networks and water treatment facilities.

The most common methods of spreading contamination are along downstream currents from established populations of invasive mussels or through the transport of infected power boats and trailer-launched watercraft. The most effective method to safeguard the ecological health of Waterton Lakes National Park is to restrict motorized and trailer-launched watercraft in the park's waters.

Human-powered watercraft, including canoes, kayaks and other hand-launched watercraft will continue to be permitted, however, a mandatory self-inspection program will be implemented for these hand-launched watercraft. Motorized watercraft required for management purposes as well as the commercial boat tour operation will continue to operate on Upper and Middle Waterton Lake. These watercraft will be managed to ensure no risk of invasive mussel contamination.

Parks Canada is collaborating closely with the U.S. National Park Service and Alberta Environment and Parks to monitor for invasive mussels.

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Associated Document

Backgrounder: Invasive Mussel Prevention in Waterton Lakes National Park

Contacts

John Stoesser
Communications Officer
Waterton Lakes Field Unit, Parks Canada
403-859-5127
john.stoesser@pc.gc.ca

Media Relations
Parks Canada Agency
855-862-1812
pc.media@pc.gc.ca