

# MOST UNWANTED



*D. L. Gustafson/Montana State University*

*New Zealand Mudsnails (20X).*

## **ALERT!** Dangerous Invader. . . the New Zealand Mudsnail!

### MUDSNAILS AND THEIR THREAT

The tiny New Zealand mudsnail is an invasive species discovered in Idaho in the 1980s. It is not in Alaska yet, but it is spreading rapidly among rivers in the Lower 48 – especially trout streams!

#### *Facts about New Zealand mudsnails:*

- 🍳 Average 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch long, but can be smaller
- 🍳 Live in all types of water, from warm to freezing, from heavily silted to crystal clear
- 🍳 Reproduce asexually (it only takes one) and reach densities over half a million per square yard
- 🍳 Eat the food that would otherwise go to insects and larvae that trout and juvenile salmon eat
- 🍳 Will pass through a trout's gut and survive

### WHAT TO KNOW AND DO

New Zealand mudsnails can survive for more than a week out of water attached to damp boots, waders, trailer pads, or other fishing and boating gear.

#### *Prevent the spread of New Zealand mudsnails:*

- 🍳 Clean all mud and weeds from all gear, AND
- 🍳 Submerge in hot (120°F) water for 5 minutes, OR
- 🍳 Rinse well with high pressure sprayer, OR
- 🍳 Let all equipment dry for several days, OR
- 🍳 Freeze gear for several hours, OR
- 🍳 Spray with disinfectant and let dry in hot sun for several hours (dry heat kills them)

*Taking these precautions will help stop the spread of other aquatic invaders as well!*



# New Zealand Mudsnail

Do not transport from your gear. . .



D. R. Lassuy/USFWS



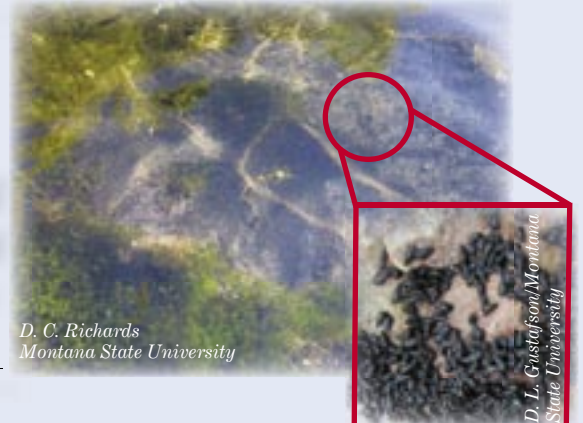
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*If this river (left) was invaded by New Zealand Mudsnails, it could end up like this. . .*



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New Zealand Mudsnails

## HELP PROTECT ALASKA'S WILD TROUT AND SALMON WATERS FROM THIS **INVADER!**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1 800/344 WILD  
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Visit these invasive species websites:  
<http://invasivespecies.gov>  
<http://anstaskforce.gov>  
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>  
<http://www.esg.montana.edu/aim/mollusca/nzms>  
<http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/invasive/invasive.php>