

**Regional Panel Highlights of Activities and Recommendations
for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting
Portland, ME
May 5 and 6, 2010**

Regional Panel: Western Regional Panel

Submitted by: Karen McDowell, Vice-Chair

Key Panel Activities from November 2009 through May 2010

1) Finalizing the Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for the Western U.S. (QZAP)
The final plan includes edits requested by the ANSTF at the Silver Spring meeting including: a) adding language about the emergency situation and what the use of the word emergency means; b) changing the language in action A.1 to reflect that state and interstate ANS management plans are foundational and breaking out the requested dollar amount per plan; c) clarifying that funding estimates are subject to appropriations and that the plan is not a budget request or justification of funds; and d) supplementing the economic and ecological portion of the document.

2) Updates on Two Panel Supported Projects:

- a) Train the Trainer: dealing with Master Gardeners and invasive aquatic plants.
- b) Water Trail Users' ANS Prevention Workshops and Regional Model

Panel Recommendations to the ANSTF

The WRP requests that the Task Force address the following two items related to QZAP:

- Plan adoption: The WRP thanks you for the final approval of the plan and that it will be thought of as a 'living document' that will be reviewed and updated as necessary.
- Implementation and Coordination: We would also like to reiterate our interest in providing a WRP representative to the ANSTF Coordination and Implementation Team and that we request a plan implementation discussion at the each ANSTF meeting.

Thank you as well for your thoughtful discussions of the plan as it was being developed and for your support in developing the plan. The Panel looks forward to continuing to work with you on addressing this critical issue in the West.