

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 19-2016**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN THE
STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, invasive *Dreissenid* mussel larvae, commonly referred to as zebra and quagga mussels, have been detected in bodies of water in the State of Montana;

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2016, I issued Executive Order No. 18-2016, proclaiming an Invasive Species Emergency to exist in the State of Montana and directing a coordinated and rapid response effort from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and ordering full cooperation from other State agencies;

WHEREAS, subsequent to the issuance of Executive Order No. 18-2016, the Directors of the Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation have confirmed the presence of *Dreissenid* mussel larvae in the bodies of water in the State of Montana and consulted with diverse experts to develop an initial response plan that provides for control, containment, and best practices to limit the further spread of this species;

WHEREAS, if left unchecked, this infestation presents an imminent and grave threat to the waters and economic resources of the State of Montana and neighboring lands;

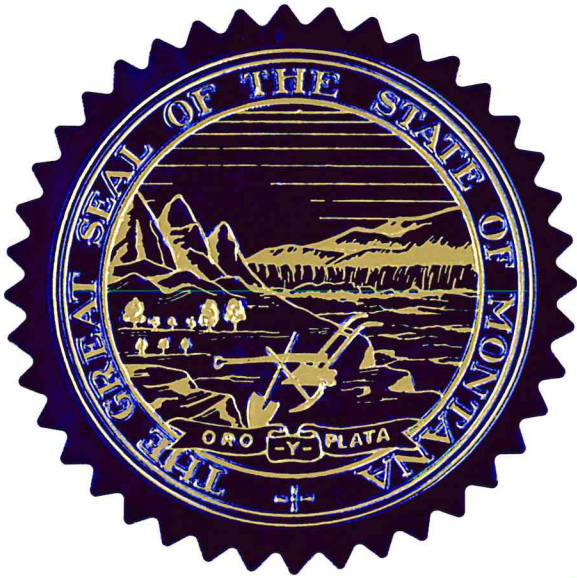
WHEREAS, it is essential to contain this infestation where detected and prevent any spread into other bodies of water including neighboring states, provinces, and the Columbia River Basin;

WHEREAS, a continued rapid response and execution of protective measures is of the utmost importance in safeguarding the interests of the State of Montana from harm; and

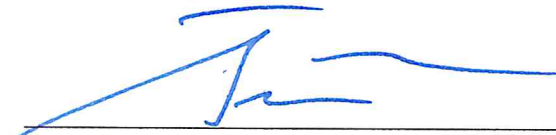
WHEREAS, pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. §§ 10-3-104 and 10-3-303, the Governor has authority to proclaim a disaster when there is an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or manmade causes including infestations and may spend funds to meet the needs that arise from this disaster pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-312.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution and laws of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim a Disaster to exist in the State of Montana, as defined in Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-103(4) and hereby authorize the continued mobilization of state resources to protect the water bodies and economic interests of the citizens of Montana, and further authorize the continued incurring of liabilities and expenses to be paid as claims against the State pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-312.

This Order is effective immediately.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 20th day of December, 2016.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:



LINDA MCCULLOCH, Secretary of State