

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14-2016**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING AN INVASIVE SPECIES EMERGENCY TO
EXIST IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has investigated and confirmed reports of numerous dead Mountain Whitefish and smaller numbers of other native fish along the Yellowstone River in Park, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, and Yellowstone Counties;

WHEREAS, sampling and laboratory testing has verified that the cause of fish mortality is due to the presence of the non-native parasite *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae* introduced to the waters of Montana, and exacerbated by low water flows and high temperatures;

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Commission has issued a temporary emergency closure to all public occupation of the waters of the Yellowstone River and its tributaries from Gardiner to the Highway 212 bridge in Laurel;

WHEREAS, the closure was necessary to protect the Yellowstone River fishery and help limit the risk of spreading the parasite to adjacent waters through watercraft, waders and other human interaction;

WHEREAS, the presence of the parasite is causing harm to the environment, and the required closure is causing harm to the economy and recreational opportunities in the area;

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, businesses and communities will be economically affected by the closing of the Yellowstone River;

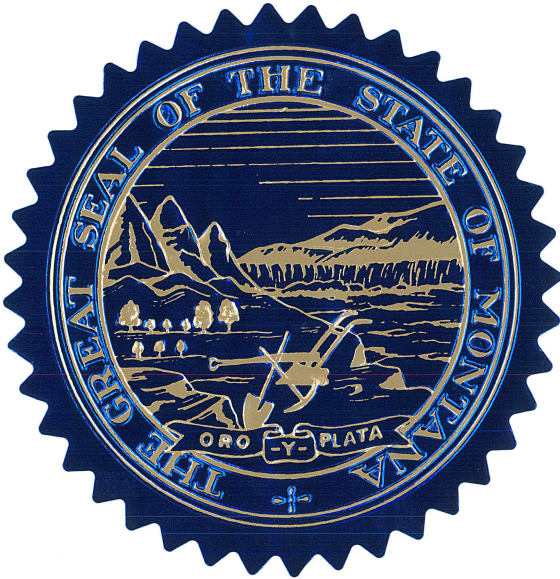
WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Industry offers a variety of programs, such as unemployment insurance compensation and worker retraining, to workers negatively affected and displaced by the Yellowstone River closure;

WHEREAS, the Department of Commerce offers a variety of programs, such as the TSEP Emergency Grant Program and CDBG-ED Worker Retention Program to assist businesses and communities negatively affected by the Yellowstone River closure; and


WHEREAS, the Governor has authority under Mont. Code Ann. § 80-7-1013(1) to declare an invasive species emergency and may expend funds to meet needs that arise from this emergency pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-302 and § 10-3-312, and take other necessary action.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare that an invasive species emergency exists, as defined in Mont. Code Ann. § 80-7-1013.

This Order is effective immediately.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 24th day of August, 2016.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:



LINDA MCCULLOCH, Secretary of State