

AIS Subcommittee #1 Meeting Summary

DECEMBER 3, 2025

CHELAN FIRE STATION, 232 E WAPATO AVENUE + CALL-IN OPTION

Attendees:

In person: Elle Robinson (CCNRD); Stephen Lesky (CCNRD); Mike Kaputa (CCNRD); Clay Patmont (Anchor QEA/LCRI); Brian Patterson (Lake Chelan Conservancy Board); Richard Ulhorn (All Things Lake Chelan); Gretchen Muller (Cascadia); Anna Galipeau (LCRI); Nate Hough-Snee (Meadow Run Env.)

Online: Alex Safiq (WDFW); Justin Bush WDFW (AIS); Kelsey Mach (Aspect); Sarah Peck (Chelan PUD); Wes Glison (Ecology); Gina Hoff (USB); Alex White (Chelan PUD); Brian Frahm (Parks); Amber Brooks (WDFW); Hugh Anthony (NPS); Phil Long (LCRI); Adam Pfleeger (Chelan Co Noxious Weed Dept)

Action Items:

1. Complete [survey](#) by December 12 (Friday) if not yet completed.
2. Provide additional resources to contribute to the resource library.
3. Reach out to Stephen if you're interested in participating in/supporting the AIS watercraft inspection program outreach events (more information to come in the new year)

Decisions Made: No decisions made this meeting

Agenda Items:

Context Setting for the AIS Plan

An overview of where the AIS Subcommittee/Lake Chelan AIS Management plan fits into the larger Lake Chelan Watershed Restoration Planning Effort was provided. AIS was identified as one of the key issues facing Lake Chelan and therefore was the first LCC subcommittee established.

There was input from the group on why they joined the group and what AIS issues are important to them. Including impact on infrastructure operations, state listed noxious weeds are currently in lake and how water quality changes in lake may influence AIS risk.

There was discussion around how the group wants to define "AIS", using the State definition or other.

Goals and Objectives of the AIS Subcommittee

Nate of Meadow Run Environmental discussed the general goals and objectives of the AIS subcommittee. The primary goal being comprehensive planning for AIS prevention, detection, and management in the context of larger Lake Chelan Watershed Plan. The AIS Management Plan will be an appendix to the larger Watershed Plan document; it will be approved by the larger LCC and should create a roadmap and templates for individual AIS prevention, detection, and eradication efforts

There was discussion around what the plan is not setting out to cover which includes AIS impacts to water quality, ecology, recreation/tourism and the economy. The plan will make assumptions that AIS are bad

and have the potential to cause significant harm. The plan will also be consistent with language and messaging for existing programs at the state level (WDFW).

The group will work to identify the priority AIS to include in the plan including species that are known to be in the lake or probable introductions. This effort will reference existing literature for Lake Chelan, the Columbia Basin and Statewide resources. There was discussion about also including AIS that are longer-term threats such as golden mussels.

There was discussion about ongoing AIS efforts by LCC members such as Chelan PUD's Rocky Reach Project AIS Program which conducts Quagga and Zebra mussel monitoring.

Feedback was provided related to the AIS plan recommending a communication outreach strategy/relying on broader community help with AIS prevention efforts, and incorporating goals related to education in the plan. WDFW mentioned other lesser-known AIS entry points including illegal introductions of fish for the purpose of recreational opportunities (northern pike) or pet releases.

There was a recommendation for the plan to develop a localized metric/framework for tracking ecological /economic metrics that could be given to other groups in Washington who want to use the Lake Chelan AIS plan as a basis for another location specific plan.

Technical Discussion – Identify Key AIS Issues

An overview of the State of the Science/existing AIS information was shared and additional resources were shared by the group (links below). Knowns and unknowns related to AIS in Lake Chelan were also discussed. There was discussion of key data gaps, including bathymetry in shallow parts of the lake, and that the USGS has not released their lake bathymetry dataset publicly.

It was mentioned that there is a newly approved weevil (*Bagous nodulosus*) for flowering rush which has not been released in WA yet but is being reared at WSU with sites being selected for test release.

The initial results of the AIS survey were discussed.

Technical Discussion – Watercraft Inspection Program

Stephen from Chelan County Natural Resources Department gave a presentation on the results of the voluntary watercraft inspection program and the work planned to be completed early 2026 for long-term planning for the watercraft inspection program. There was discussion on long-term funding needs and options. Justin at WDFW mentioned how important this type of program is if the "State-wide perimeter" is compromised.

There was discussion around upcoming outreach events for the water craft inspection program and it was suggested to share information to All Things Lake Chelan when dates/locations are known.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

- Upcoming outreach events for the watercraft inspection program. Additional information on dates/locations will be provided in early 2026.

- Reach out to Stephen at CCNRD (<mailto:stephen.lesky@co.chelan.wa.us>) if interested in supporting the outreach events, if you have information to support development of the water craft inspection program plan, or if you're interested in supporting development of the AIS Management Plan Outline.

Upcoming Meeting Date:

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Time: 10 AM – 12 PM

Location: TBD + Call-In Option

Resources Shared:

- [SharePoint Resources Folder](#)
- Trailered CD3 unit available on loan for events - [WISC - Washington Invasive Species Council](#)
- Northern pike information - pike.nwcouncil.org, map: [Monitoring Data](#)
- [Early Detection and Rapid response Best Practices](#)
- 2025-2030 state invasive species strategy - invasivespecies.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025-WISC-Strategic-Plan-for-DIGITAL-1.pdf
- [WISC - Washington Invasive Species Council - Invasive Species Management Priorities](#)
- [Microsoft Word - prioritization_final_2_.doc](#)
- Another invasive species ranking effort was implemented by WaDNR last year (and is ongoing). It is focused solely on invasive plants and includes aquatic species: [WA Invasive Ranking System | Department of Natural Resources](#).
- [Flowering rush Bagous nodulosus FONSI](#)
- [Aquatic invasive species | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- [State of Washington Interagency Zebra and Quagga Mussel Rapid Response Plan | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- Golden Mussels
 - [Golden mussel | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
 - [Golden mussel \(Limnoperna fortunei\) Aquatic Invasive Species: Risk Screening Summary | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#).
 - MAP: [Map Viewer](#)
 - Golden Mussel Photo library: [Pixel - California Department of Water Resources](#)
- Fouled fish facility louvers: [Pixel - California Department of Water Resources](#)
- State watercraft inspection information: [Watercraft inspection stations | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- Information on FERC requirements for lake levels, annual forecasts, etc: [Lake Chelan Lake Levels](#)