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U.S. SENATOR *for* COLORADO

Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2022
Senator Michael Bennet

SUMMARY: *This bill seeks to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species in Western states, like zebra and quagga mussels. It authorizes the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service to better coordinate and partner with states, Tribes, local governments or local NGOs on the inspection and decontamination of watercraft.*

BACKGROUND

This bill authorizes the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management to assist local partners in inspecting and decontaminating watercraft entering and leaving Federal land and water located within a river basin that contains a Bureau of Reclamation reservoir. Additionally, it requires consultation with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. This will help improve the detection and management of invasive species on federal land and waters, while minimizing disruptions to public access for boating and recreation.

The bill also authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to purchase, establish, operate, or maintain watercraft inspection and decontamination stations to prevent and respond to the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Additionally, the bill authorizes \$25 million annually for carrying out assistance to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Finally, the bill clarifies the eligibility of the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for watercraft inspection station funding.