

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE

State of Colorado Invasive Species Program

Rocky Mountain National Park ANS Shoreline Surveys

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Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Invasive Species Program – ANS

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Purpose

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) receives a high amount of visitors from across the country and world every year. The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) program had not previously surveyed the waters within the park's boundaries to assess the presence of any invasive species, and if any are detected to implement measure to prevent their spread.

Methods

On July 26th and 27th, 2016, an ANS sampling crew conducted shoreline surveys in accordance with the CPW Shoreline Survey protocol described on pages 16-18 of the "*ANS Sampling and Monitoring Manual 2016*" in several rivers and lakes throughout RMNP that are believed to have heavy visitor use, the specific locations of which are shown in Figures 1-3.

Results

A total of twenty-three shoreline surveys were conducted throughout the park and the results from each are presented on the following page in Table 1. No invasive species were detected in any of the surveys. Pea clams (*Pisidium* spp.) were the most common native mollusks that were encountered, and indigenous snails from the genera *Physa* and *Gyraulus* were also encountered.

Table 1. Rocky Mountain National Park Mollusks

Survey Date	Waterbody	Unique ID	Species Detected	Species Collected
26-Jul-16	Fall River	04-10900-001-16	None	None
26-Jul-16	Fall River	04-10900-002-16	None	None
26-Jul-16	Fall River	04-10900-003-16	None	None
26-Jul-16	Fall River	04-10900-004-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Fall River	04-10900-005-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Fall River	04-10900-006-16	None	None
26-Jul-16	Roaring River	04-13069-001-16	None	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-001-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-002-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp., <i>Gyraulus</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-003-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp., <i>Physa</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-004-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-005-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp., <i>Gyraulus</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-006-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp., <i>Gyraulus</i> spp., <i>Physa</i> spp.	None
26-Jul-16	Sprague Lake	03-57491-007-16	<i>Physa</i> spp.	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-001-16	<i>Pisidium</i> spp.	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-002-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-003-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-004-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-005-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-006-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-007-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-008-16	None	None
27-Jul-16	Big Thompson River	04-12372-009-16	None	None

Recommendations

No invasive species were encountered during our surveys so no immediate actions are needed. Subsequent surveys should be conducted when possible to check for future introductions, as well as expanding surveys to other locations of RMNP to get a more comprehensive distribution of the aquatic invertebrate species present within the park.





