

Montana Irrigators



Please join us in informal group discussion

Thursday, October 25th

4:00—8:00pm

The Montana Club

907 Smelter Ave NE

Great Falls, MT

John Curwin from Madison, WI and **Larry Pennington**, from Idaho will join us as invited guests to talk about invasive species issues, specifically mussels and other aquatic invasive species that are impacting irrigation in their regions.

Larry Pennington managed the second largest irrigation system in ID (150,000 - 170,000 acres). He did extensive research on invasive mussels and visited Nevada and Southern California several times to see what people there are doing. He found that irrigation systems there are not actually dealing with invasive mussels - either they irrigate from a mussel-free source, or, those who use an infested water source are finding that the water is so warm that the mussels don't survive. In cases where the water is warm, mussels are beginning to survive further and further down the canals. So, the mussels are adapting. The plan that they came up with in ID for immediate treatment in the case of discovery is to use copper in the canals. This required a special use permit from the ID Dept of Ag for chemical.

John Curwin manages a large irrigation system near Madison WI, where he has been dealing with invasive mussels and other invasive aquatic plant species.

