Mussels and Mutts: The Alberta Conservation K-9 Program

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Invasive Mussels
Estimated Annual Costs of an Alberta Invasive Mussel Infestation

$75 Million Per Year
Irrigation in Alberta
Alberta Prevention Program

- Response
- Inspections
- Provincial AIS Prevention Program
- Policy & Legislation
- Monitoring
- Education & Outreach
Inspections

- 3rd season
- Standards and Protocols
- K-9s
21,450 Inspections
11 Interceptions
Boat Traffic Coming Into Alberta
Why Dogs?

Credit: Frani Halperin, H20 Media, Ltd
1. 2014 Alberta / Montana K-9 Pilot

2. 2015 Snowbird K-9 Inspections

3. Alberta Conservation K-9 Program
What Makes a Good Detection Dog?

- Ball drive dog
- HART
- Hilo
2014 Alberta / Montana K-9 Pilot
Comparison Trial

Credit: Frani Halperin, H20 Media, Ltd
Results:
Byssal
2015 Snowbird K-9 Inspections
Night Inspections Pilot
The Alberta Conservation K-9 Program
California Dept. Fish and Wildlife
You’ve Been Sniffed!
WHAT THE DOGS ARE LOOKING FOR:

INVASIVE MUSSELS

WHAT THE DOGS ARE NOT LOOKING FOR:

EVERYTHING ELSE
Mussel Detection
Conservation K-9 Team
Next Steps
Thank You

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