

The Invasive Species Threat



The National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management



*-Forests Out of Balance-
The Impact of Invasive Plant
Species*



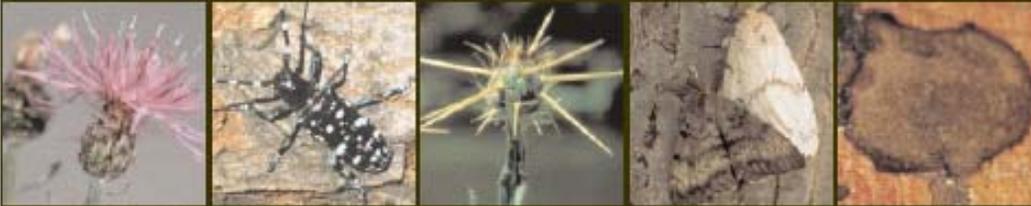
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National Strategy and Implementation Plan



for Invasive Species Management

A Line in the Sand

“We need to stop these non-native invasive species from entering our aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, contain and eradicate existing infestations, and move swiftly to take back those degraded ecosystems and restore their health and function.”



Clear and Present Danger?

- ✓ Invasive exotic species spreading in all ecosystems throughout the nation. A global threat!
- ✓ Decreasing health and function of forested, rangeland, and wetland ecosystems. Invasive species negatively affecting many resource stewardship activities.
- ✓ Reduction in availability and quality of fish and wildlife habitats. Invasive species are affecting 34-42% of listed T&E species.
- ✓ Negative impacts on public health, water quality, recreation, forage, and timber production, and the National ECONOMY.

Challenges?

- ✓ Public recognition of the direct and indirect links between invasive species and the fire/fuels issues with forest health.
- ✓ Increasing public demand for Federal support to prevent and control invasive species. The Public expectation for Forest Service action, particularly for National Forests, is increasing respectively.
- ✓ Process, administrative, and legal hurdles which prevent rapid and effective management of invasive species.
- ✓ Significant limitations on funding, personnel, time, and materials to get the job done.

What Do We Have?

- ✓ Strong leadership direction and priority emphasis on the invasive species threat within the Forest Service.
- ✓ Departmental and interagency support for a national focus on invasive species prevention and control, supported by Executive Order.
- ✓ Wide range of biological, technical, and managerial expertise throughout the Forest Service for management of invasive species across the landscape.
- ✓ Increasing national-, regional-, and Forest-level desire to build a stronger “results oriented” invasive species program for the National Forest System.

What Do We Have?

- ✓ Broad array of internal and external partners who share the same interests related to invasive species management, including local, State, Tribal, corporate and Federal organizations.
 - ✓ Congressional interest and support for finding new solutions to the invasive species problem and for enabling the Forest Service to become more effective in managing invasive species in the U.S.
 - ✓ An increasing public understanding of the threat from invasive species.
 - ✓ Improvement in coordination and information sharing between the Forest Service and other invasive species management stakeholders at various levels.
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Invasive Species Program

The Goal

"To reduce, minimize, or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships."



USDA Forest Service Invasive Species Program

Our Strategic Focus:

- **Internally** – Working with partners to aggressively fight aquatic and terrestrial invasive species problems across the National Forest System
- **Externally** – Supporting stewardship work on State, Tribal, and Private partner lands



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National Strategy

Guiding Principles

Implementation of an invasive species management program will follow the guiding principals:

- ✓ Science-based prioritization of invasive species problems,
- ✓ Enhanced collaboration on the solutions to those problems, and
- ✓ An improved system improved of accountability that ensures the most efficient use of limited resources at all levels of the organization.

National Strategy

Common Themes



- ✓ *Partnerships and Collaboration*
- ✓ *Scientific Basis*
- ✓ *Communication and Education*
- ✓ *Organizing for Success*

National Strategy

Program Elements

Prevention –

Keep out invasive species.

Early Detection and Rapid Response –

Detect and eradicate invasive species to stop them from spreading.

Control and Management –

Apply integrated control techniques to manage the problem

Rehabilitation and Restoration –

Heal, minimize, or reverse the harmful effects from invasive species

Strategic Actions

Prevention

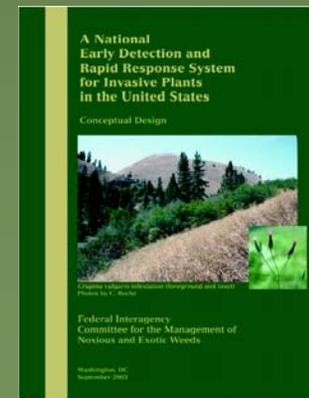
- ✓ With partners, build awareness of invasive species and their threat at all levels and across all jurisdictions.
- ✓ Work with public and private partners to conduct pathway and species risk assessments for terrestrial and aquatic pests (plants, animals, insects, and pathogens) to identify priority invasive species for management action.
- ✓ Based on risk assessments and methods, develop and implement invasive species prevention programs for targeted areas.
- ✓ Improve and integrate invasive species management information applications and databases for tracking invasive species management threats.



Strategic Actions

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- ✓ Establish and expand capability to implement EDRR activities for plants, vertebrates, invertebrates, and pathogens in partnership with local and regional organizations.
- ✓ Process (NEPA) streamlining for rapid response to new infestations.
- ✓ Establish Western and Eastern Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Centers (Oregon and North Carolina)



Strategic Actions

Control and Management



- ✓ Complete the comprehensive (all invasive species) inventory and mapping for all national forest land and water, including neighboring land where appropriate.
- ✓ Place specific emphasis on control of noxious weeds and other aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in national forests and associated areas.
- ✓ Through research and other means, develop additional tools, such as biological, cultural, chemical, and physical controls, for priority species; identify mechanisms involved in their expansion.
- ✓ Monitor long-term invasive species population trends and the effectiveness of treatments. Make this information readily available to all stakeholders, public and private.

Strategic Actions

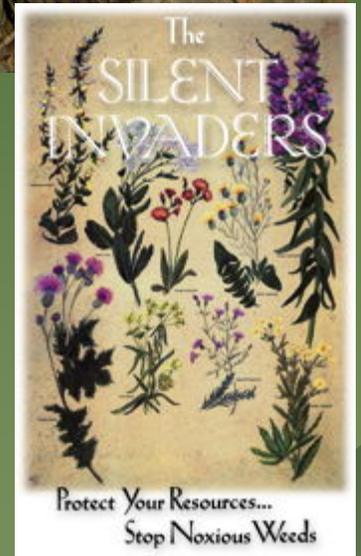
Rehabilitation and Restoration

- ✓ Continue or increase number of acres treated under the authorities of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, and other authorities
- ✓ Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) program addressing invasive species
- ✓ Native Plant Policy development



Which Offices? Which Positions?

- ✓ National Level Programs and Offices
- ✓ Research Stations, Attached Units and Regional Offices
- ✓ Forests, Districts, and support offices



Where does Invasive Species Management Fit?

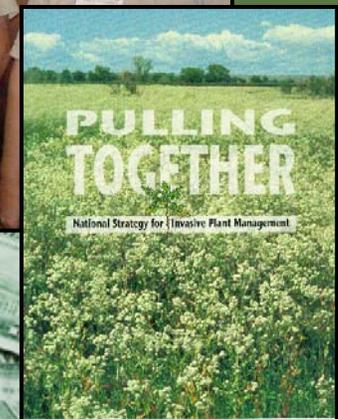
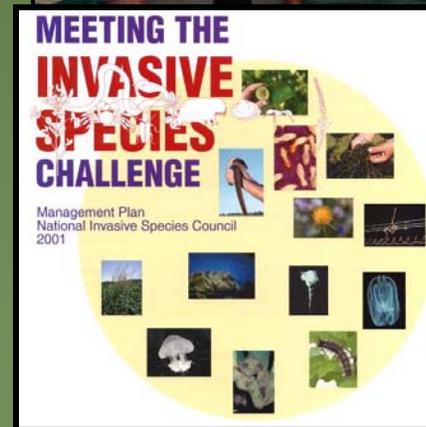
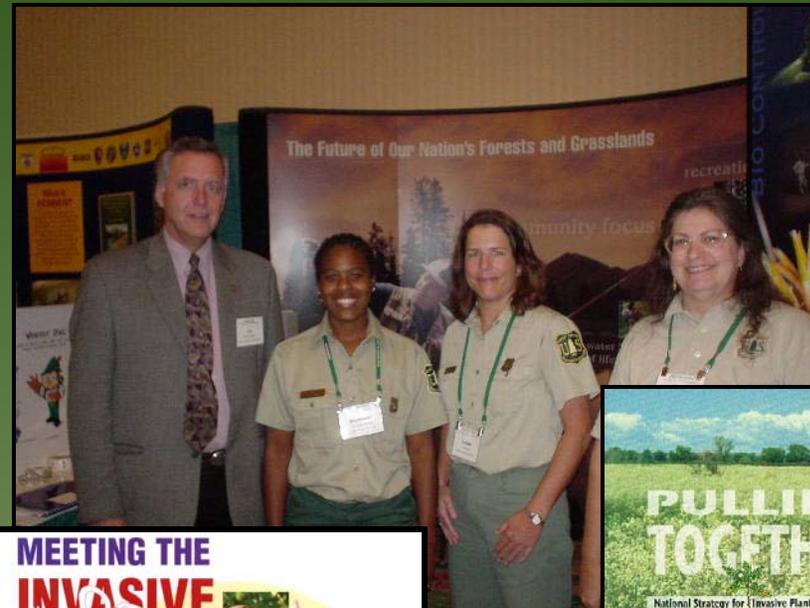
The image features a word cloud of various environmental and management terms. A large red prohibition sign (a circle with a diagonal slash) is superimposed over the center of the cloud, specifically covering the words "INVASIVE" and "SPECIES".

Terms included in the word cloud:

- Water and Air Quality
- Wildlife
- Habitat Restoration
- Forestry
- Partnerships
- FIRE MANAGEMENT
- Habitat Protection
- Endangered Species
- INVASIVE SPECIES
- Sensitive Ecosystems
- Planning
- Recreation
- Rare Plants
- Streambank Stabilization
- Anadromous Fish
- Water Quality

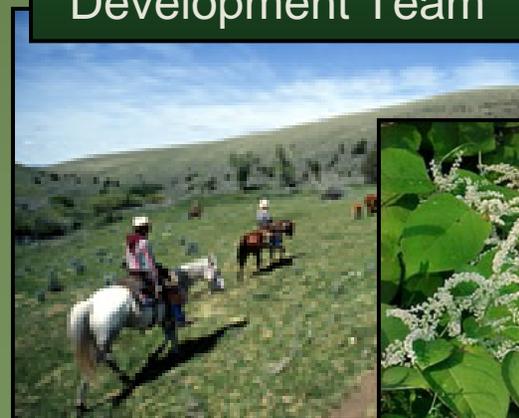
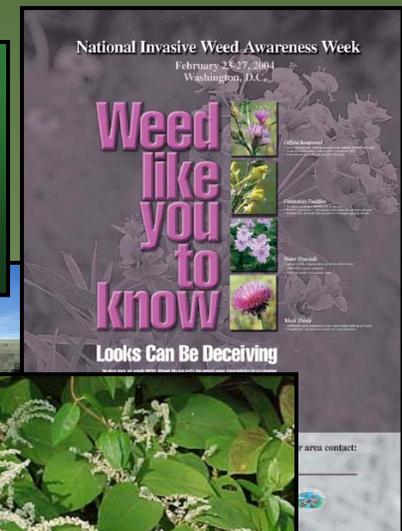
Increasing Program Emphasis

- ✓ Improving the coordination between all Forest Service programs and external partners.
- ✓ Clarifying National Policy and management guidance for invasive species activities.
- ✓ Pursuing opportunities to emphasize the invasive species issue in program budgets



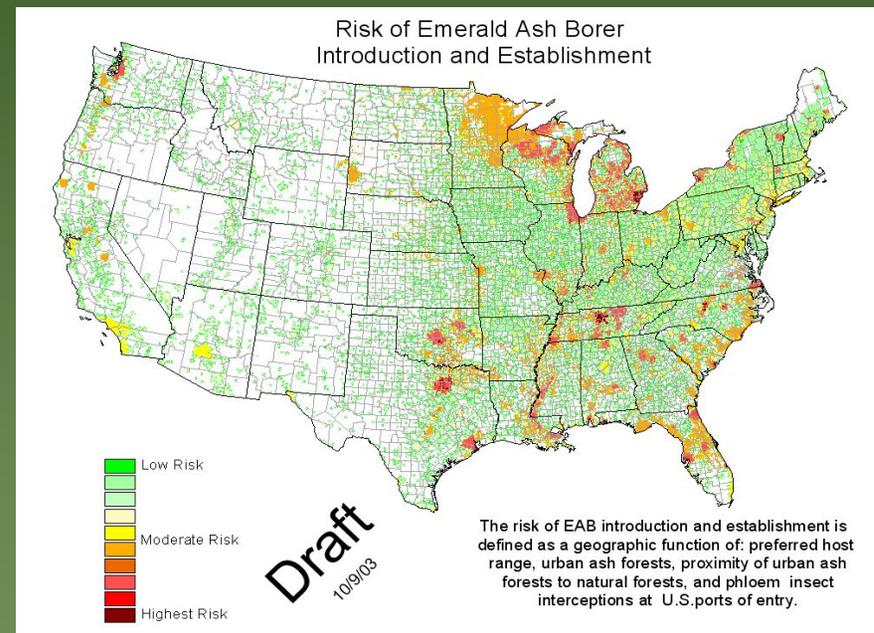
Increasing Program Emphasis

- ✓ Improving invasive species information management capabilities internally and externally
- ✓ Expanding invasive species outreach and education activities.
- ✓ Initiating a partnership-based cooperative weed management area mentoring program nationwide.



Increasing Program Emphasis

- ✓ Completed SOD and EAB Risk Map and continue to monitor those States at risk
- ✓ Compile existing risk assessments and develop priorities of forest pests.
- ✓ Expand EXFOR database; translate into French and Spanish.



The Basics of How We Can Make A Difference:

- ✓ Be Aware of the Threat
- ✓ Network and Share Resources
- ✓ Be Tenacious and Vigilant
- ✓ Plan and Act for the Long-Term





Weeds Won't Wait – Partnerships Now!!!

USDA Forest Service Invasive Species Program Website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/>

