# **Montana Invasive Species Council (MISAC)**

Meeting 3/24/15 Montana Wild, Helena, MT

#### **Council Attendees:**

Mark Aagenes - Trout Unlimited Gary Adams – USDA-APHIS-PPQ Jeff Baumberger – Bureau of Reclamation Steve Bekedam – National Park Service (Yellowstone) Tom Boos - Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Dave Burch – Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) Chas Cartwright – Flathead Basin Commission Bryce Christiaens – Missoula County Weed District Virgil Dupuis – Salish Kootenai College Amy Gannon – Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Lindy Garner – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Patricia Gilbert - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Steve Hertel – Private Landowner Jane Mangold – Montana State University Extension Mike Miller – Montana Department of Transportation Mark Reller – Bonneville Power Administration Floyd Thompson – U.S. Bureau of Land Management Steve Tyrrel – Industry representative Steve Wanderaas – McCone County Conservation District, via conference call Chip Weber – Flathead National Forest, via conference call

### **Other Attendees:**

Stephanie Hester – Montana DNRC Alicia Stickney – Montana DNRC Ray Beck – Montana DNRC Deputy Director John Tubbs – Montana DNRC Director Greg Ames – MDA Agricultural Sciences Division Administrator

# Introductions

Angela McLean, Lieutenant Governor, expressed the importance of the invasive species issue and support of the Governor's office for this council and its mission.

John Tubbs, Director of the Montana Department of Conservation, addressed the group regarding:

- Bureau of Reclamation vectors for AIS such as Lake Mead and Lake Powell
- Bucket biology problems
- Other complementary efforts in the state such as the drought resiliency initiative and private efforts such as Blackfoot Challenge (started to address weed issues, now grown much wider)

- The need to collaborate with federal agencies, and offered his connections from the time he worked in Washington at Department of the Interior.
- The need to tap in to agency resources and connectivity.

## What is an invasive species? Discussion

Tom Boos presented the following definition of an invasive species, from the National Invasive Species Council:

"Invasive species means an alien non-native species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health in Montana."

A white paper was presented to the group from the National Invasive Species Council.

Tom noted that the National Invasive Species Council has stopped using alien and is now using "nonnative."

The group discussed how to define non-native. What is the appropriate scale of definition? Native to Montana? Native to the region? Native to the USA? Native to North America?

Would it be appropriate to include native species that cause management issues, such as juniper or cedar encroachment in riparian areas, or pine beetles?

Steve Wanderaas asked about species such as burdock and Russian olive. Dave Burch clarified that although they are not on the State Noxious Weed list, they are not native. Some counties include these species on county noxious weed lists.

Amy Gannon thought this definition would expand the mission of the council too much.

Lindy Garner commented that with climate change, new problem species may start to occur.

Chas Cartwright thought that in light of limited resources, he agrees with Amy.

An example of a species that is native to North America, but is an invasive in Montana, is the bullfrog from the eastern U.S.

Tom Boos suggested that for now the council should stick to species that are not native to Montana.

Stephanie Hester pointed out that the Executive Order sunsets the council in December of 2016. What can the council accomplish in this time frame?

Mark Reller asked if "does or is likely to cause" in the definition above include species that are already here? Tom Boos and others thought yes it does.

Virgil Dupuis suggested that the definition of non-native should consider the bioregion and not be constrained by geo-political boundaries.

Mike Miller said that the focus should be Montana as the group is the <u>Montana Invasive Species Council</u>.

John Tubbs asked the council to consider "does or is likely to" as it pertains to risk to Montana over the next two years, until the council sunset.

Other considerations: Lindy Garner commented that the efforts and priorities of the Council would be different if they were aimed at prevention of invasives species versus managing what is already here.

Stephanie suggested the Council could think on these ideas and revisit later.

# **Affinity Mapping Exercise and Discussion**

Starting with the question: "What does success look like?" each council member wrote down brief definitions of success for each of the following: in the State, for the Council, in the region?

The discussion started at the scale of Council success:

- Internal communication and workings of the MISAC
- Education and outreach
- Establish a "state resource" to address invasive species
- Early detection and rapid response

Lindy Garner referred to the Governor's executive order for the mission of the Council:

- She felt that outreach and education are not in the executive order and may not be the Council's role. Other agencies are doing this.
- Maybe outreach and education are an integral component of all other parts of the mission.

Alicia Stickney stated that DNRC would appreciate input on prioritizing aquatic invasive species grant requests because DNRC has more \$ request than we can fund.

Bryce Christiaens asked, what is the status of invasive species and their management in the state? Where is overlap? Who is doing what?

Amy Gannon commented that Objective 6 in the executive order is to report to the Governor's office on status of control & prevention efforts statewide.

What is the role of the coordinator? Needs to be defined. Funding for a coordinator is included in HB2. Stephanie Hester does not want the coordinator to be strictly a meeting organizer.

Lindy Garner (?) asked, what does "status of control & prevention" mean? What components would be included?

Bryce Christiaens said that a similar report was prepared to address the status of control and prevention for mussels and to summarize all efforts. Stakeholder meetings could be held to bring people together,

and to look at what resources are available. What are holes in resources or other needs? Where are there already Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)? What other needs?

Tom Boos: A strategic plan for all taxa is needed. Most of the issues already brought up with the Affinity mapping exercise would fit in to the overall process of preparing a strategic plan. Preparation of an all taxa strategic plan would be a big endeavor but has been done elsewhere, with a known process. If council can develop the plan then can ask in a couple of years, as time of sunset, to help implement.

Mark Reller: The executive order lists 9 duties but they are not listed in order of priority nor are they in order of logical progression. Can't make policy recommendations until have a plan.

Dave Burch: Based on experiences with the Weed Summit Advisory Committee, he said the Weed Committee had subcommittees that addressed subgroups. State has a noxious weed plan already and an AIS plan, there are probably others. All need to be drawn together as an overarching plan. This could be done in a limited amount of time. This overarching all taxa plan would provide the framework.

Amy Gannon: An all taxa plan would need to be a multi-agency plan. Would need MOUs.

Tom Boos: There are examples of all taxa plans, and other states have used a process to prepare them . Components: Prevention, Detection, rapid response, goals , objectives, actions. Developed sub groups.

Lindy Garner: Planning takes a long time. She can provide input, but can't commit resources to write a plan or a section of a plan.

Chas Cartwright: Would the Council be writing a plan or only recommending that a plan be completed? This is a big difference.

Stephanie Hester: What is the Council structure going to be? Refer back to the 9 duties in the EO.

Chas Cartwright: Could the council recommend a plan with specific side boards? Who is responsible for managing the resources that address invasive species? This is a state responsibility, the state needs to coordinate their agency resources. Federal managers manage their own land and it is their responsibility too.

Virgil Dupuis: What is the commitment of the other entities to addressing invasives? Agencies? Tribes?

Chip Weber: The USFS supports addressing invasives, but what does that support look like? General support yes, but more specifics are needed.

Tom Boos: Internal communication is key. Tom is wondering how FWP can communicate with the Council?

Stephanie Hester: Suggested that the council consider if they only want to make recommendations vs. work on the ground.

Steve Wanderaas: The council needs to define its mission.

Stephanie Hester: Do you want to continue discussion of mission or talk about structure?

Mike Miller: Does the Council need a consultant to develop a framework for a strategic plan? Then have a consultant put together the plan? How much would it cost?

Others threw out information:

A species-specific plan in Idaho cost \$10,000.

A plan in Alberta for mussels cost \$20,000.

MT Weed Council spent \$25,000 a few years ago for the noxious weed plan.

Some thought it would be better to have consultant write a plan.

Chas Cartwright thought it might cost \$60-\$75,000 to write a comprehensive plan. He thought the council needs to decide if they would assess the need for a plan, or rather what a plan what might include.

Steve Bekedam: would a plan include all 9 executive order components?

Tom Boos: A management plan would be different than a strategic plan

Stephanie: Part of a plan could be a gap analysis

Dave Burch: The Council could revisit the concept of an all taxa plan in May. A plan is important, but first need to set up a structure, mission statement, find out if have coordinator \$ after all (depending on HB2).

Mark Reller: He would like to find out what everyone does.

- What invasive species does your organization work with?
- What is your jurisdiction?
- What management plan do you work under?
- What laws and policies does your organization work under?
- What are strengths or deficiencies in your program?

Mark will send out an information request for others to fill out and send him. He will compile the information and redistribute to Council members.

# **Council Structure Discussion and Leadership Appointments**

Bryce Christiaens: What is the structure of the Council? What will be the Charter? Bryce sent out information about a charter based on Interagency Grizzly Bear committee.

One possible structure would be: a Chair for larger committee, then subcommittees (ex. aquatic, terrestrial, outreach and education, diseases, insects)

Stephanie Hester suggested that subcommittees could have members who are not on the council. Tap in to other resources and people. There were 2x as many applicants as spots on the council, and many of these applicants expressed interest in serving on subcommittees

Lindy Garner: Would subcommittees not be species driven?

Bryce Christiaens thought not because when he was first thinking of subcommittees he had a longer timeframe than the sunset date of December 2016 in mind. The group agreed that subcommittees would be on an as needed basis. Subcommittees could sunset if fulfilled a role.

Jane Mangold: The council would need to define the task of the subcommittees.

Traditional structure: Group seems to like the structure with a Chair and a handful of vice chairs. Plus a secretary.

Role of secretary: take notes, make sure accurate, ship out in timely manner.

Lindy Garner: note taker should be outside of the council for a more objective recorder. Really capture discussion.

Stephanie willing to be secretary. But can't be note taker and facilitator at the same time.

IF chair is facilitating then Stephanie could take the notes.

Consensus: Nominate today: Executive committee: Chair and vice 1 and vice 2.

In May will know if Stephanie has funding . Will decide on need for a Secretary at that time.

Should vice chair 1 and 2 represent terrestrial and aquatics? Then add disease/ pathogens and bugs?

Start with chair, then ask chair what support they need. How many vice chairs.

Role of chair: include all committee members?

Discussion went back to 1 chair and 2 vice chairs. Vice chairs do not represent any particular interest.

How vote? Voice? Papers?

Dave Burch wondering if private landowner would be most appropriate to be the chair. No agency.

Some concern about federal agency.

Steve Hertel: He is not concerned about what agencies people represent.

Mark Aagenes nominates Bryce Christaiens for chair.

Tom Boos nominated as vice chair.

Steven Tyrrel does not want to be on executive committee.

Steven Hertel is willing also to serve as vice chairman.

What is the term? Unknown.

Need an ad hoc committee to work on bylaws, etc.

Chip Weber wants to be more involved with the "tasky" side of invasive issues on both aquatics and terrestrials. Steve Wanderaas agrees with Chip.

Consensus was reached on the executive council leadership.

Steve Hertel works with both terrestrial and aquatic issues. Does not have a preference.

Lots of positive comments on the involvement of the local grass roots component. Thanks to Steve Hertel for stepping up as vice chair.

There is a need for bylaws.

## WRRDA Funding for Regional Defense Strategy

Tom Boos brought up a time-sensitive issue in re Funding: WRDA \$20 million to Columbia River basin to combat AIS in region. Should council take this on as a first step for action. Write a resolution a "joint memorial" in support, all the other region states already have done this.

Should the Governor's office send the WRDA "joint memorial" or "joint resolution" support letter? The legislature to send the letter? Would need sponsors if legislative, and go through the whole Legislative approval process. May not matter if Governor or Legislature sends the letter with regard to Montana supporting the need for funding.

Does council want to ask the Governor to sign this support letter?

All 5 states are included, no fiscal agents yet, no plan yet how \$ would be spent. Geared to perimeter defense.

Tom Boos: This may be council's first recommendation to the Governor. No cost involved. This issue is important. All the other states have supported the WRDA funding.

Chip Weber: I think we should move this forward.

Tom: The \$ has been authorized but not appropriated. May be dropped to \$4 million.

Has Western Governor's association supported? Tom Boos does not know.

Stephanie will work with Governor's office and Bryce on a support letter.

# **Council Budget**

What is the available \$ for the Council?

- \$10,000 from Missoula Co
- \$10,000 from DNRC via grant to DNRC
- Some \$ from Avista.

Can other entities chip in? Most say maybe but need specific needs and amounts.

Federal agencies need an MOU in place and specific projects to contribute funding

Bryce will think about funding needs.

# **Meeting Wrap-up and Final Thoughts**

Next meeting date: Bryce can rent a facility with his funds if necessary. Other communities have free meeting spaces at agency offices.

Steve Wanderaas expressed the need for good teleconference equipment.

Stephanie will send out a doodle poll from May 20 through the following week. Decided to meet in Helena .

Aim for a 5 hour meeting?

Patricia Gilbert suggested that the Council should meet as long as necessary to get the job done. Meeting time should be driven by the agenda.

How often should the group meet? Determine by the next meeting. Summers are hard to schedule.

Work plan will drive the meeting frequency. May not meet over summer field season?

Tom Boos: What is the level of commitment to the Council? Wants to schedule monthly meetings. Scheduling in May for summer may be too late. He does not want the group to lose momentum.

Some think monthly is too frequently. Meetings need to have a purpose. Every other month seems to be good for most people. 3 months seems too long.

Jane Mangold: What is cost to meet each time? How would the group like to spend their \$? All for physical meetings? A summer meeting might be an opportunity for a field trip to learn about an issue.

Steven Tyrrel suggests coordinate a field trip with outreach and education.

Steve Wanderaas mentioned the tour at Toston Res last summer, saw EWM and examples of Mussels.

Steve Bekedam – thought Affinity exercise brought up good, raw ideas,

Tom Boos: To accomplish outside of meetings, and use doodle polls or email, need to specify deadlines, etc.

Gary Adams: need contact information, who you network with? Add in report to Mark Reller. Gary Adams also asks, can a proxy go to table and have a vote?

Mark Aagenes thinks no because council is appointed by Gov.

Will look at Governor's council handbook. Does Governor's office have a policy on that? Stephanie will ask Stacey or Ivy.

Is a Website needed? Does the Council have \$ or technical support to maintain? Could DNRC host it?

Mark Reller's information request and assessment will start to identify gaps.

Turn in travel forms.

# **Sorting Sticky Notes:**

Want to revisit each priority in EO and sort out. They are written vaguely. When they refer to agencies, what agencies do they mean?

What does each one mean? Where is the overlap? Where are the gaps?

How do these 9 items lead to action items?

How much can the group take on?

Who are the stakeholders? How do the MISAC or the subcommittees reach out to stakeholders? Do the stakeholders even know who they are?

Stephanie will get direction from Governor's office on intent of responsibilities

# **Next Steps**

Executive committee to work on drafts of foundational documents for next meeting

- Charter
- Mission statement
  - Include a Statement of agreement or Statement of Commitment (council members commit to how they are going to participate)
- Bylaws

Stephanie will use sticky notes from the Affinity Exercise to gather ideas that were presented and will send out in the meeting notes—done

Biography exercise: Mark Reller will send information request on what each agency is doing and deadline

Stephanie will check with Governor's office on:

- Intent of responsibilities. Fulfill all, prioritize, etc?
- Proxy voting
- Website

#### Affinity Mapping Brainstorming Exercise Raw Data

#### Affinity Mapping Results Summary/Highlights

- MISAC has a short window of time to produce results. The group needs to identify a few top priorities and produce real deliverable(s)
- Permanent and expansive funding is needed for invasives. An AIS trust fund and permanent funding (as opposed to one-time-only) were identified as top priorities.
- MISAC is charged with providing policy recommendations. Ideas ranged from increasing a presence in D.C. to quarantine regulations
- Assessments and gap analysis are needed in order to develop management plans and an ultimate strategy for MT Invasives Species.
- Prevention was noted as a top priority for many members and includes watercraft inspection, EDRR, and perimeter defense strategies.
- There is a large gap in terms of coordination among the varied stakeholder groups. Creating processes and tools to leverage resources, avoid duplication, and respond rapidly were noted as critical needs.





Organized by 9 responsibilities as outlined in charter:

- 1. To provide policy level recommendations, direction and planning assistance for combatting infestations of invasive species throughout the state and preventing the introduction of others;
  - Expand sunset date indefinitely of MISAC
  - Create comprehensive invasive species rules—all taxa
  - Enforcement of existing legislation or laws
  - Establish trust fund for aquatics
  - Lobbying power in D.C.
  - Creation of Montana Invasive Species Management Plan-all taxa
  - Complete an independent statewide assessment of our aquatic and terrestrial invasive species management programs
  - Implement an effective watercraft inspection program to include addressing education and law enforcement in a comprehensive plan
  - Review of state invasive programs by external entities
  - Develop strategic plan for Montana
  - Restrict movement of untreated firewood
  - Reconcile & coordinate federal, state, and local mandates and weed management authorities
  - MDOT participation and oversight of border inspection stations
  - Quarantine regulations
  - Maintain existing markets and re-open lost markets
  - Develop policy and regulations to prevent feral hogs and deal with invasions
  - Develop 1-2 tangible products that can be enacted statewide

- 2. To foster cooperation, communication and coordinated approaches that support international, federal, regional, state, local, and tribal initiatives for the prevention, early detection and control of invasive species;
  - Reconcile & coordinate federal, state, and local mandates and weed management authorities
  - Help coordinate efforts
  - Establish internal communication network
  - Supporting interests of each other's positions
  - Establish a state resource to effectively address invasive species
  - Real deliverables (pick a few key options)
  - Develop resource list/database
  - Cooperation among stakeholders & interest groups
  - Cooperation with surrounding IS Councils
  - Liaison with non-Montana groups
  - Always create opportunities for more partners—federal, non-profits, etc.
  - Establish effective communication lines with adjacent state and provinces
  - Better coordination between state agencies
  - Remove boundary lines among landowners—i.e. federal, state, private
  - Exchange ideas with other similar councils
  - Functional working relationships across jurisdictions
  - Seamless interface with local communities
- **3.** To serve as a nonpartisan forum that would achieve a science-based, interdisciplinary and comprehensive understanding of the current status, trends and potential threats of invasive species in Montana;
  - University research and education funding for IS
  - Recognize that certain fish species are invasive species
  - Support research to manage invasive species
  - Understand economic impact of invasives to Montana
  - Recognizing threats of IS not yet present in state and practice prevention
  - ID immediate info needs relative to high-priority species and their distribution and abundance
- 4. To identify priorities for prevention and control of invasive species in Montana;
  - Identify an achievable targeted set of goals—don't overreach
  - All taxa considered
  - Identify threat vectors for both aquatic and terrestrial invaders. Develop policy to manage.
  - Develop landscape priority areas for prevention
    - All hands on deck to keep certain clean areas clean
    - o Define by geography or natural areas or economically important areas
  - Identify and list all authorities
  - Prioritization of IS based on impacts to state economy, human health, and environment
  - Prevention of introductions
  - Eradicate IS when they are found in isolated instances
  - Perimeter defense for invasives

- Prioritize early detection and funding for rapid response
- Prevention, prevention, prevention—no new invaders
- Prevention of new introduction
- Support for county weed coordinators & status reporting information on species distribution and abundance
- 5. To recommend and take measures that will encourage prevention, early detection and control of harmful invasive species in Montana;
  - Restrict movement of untreated firewood
  - Prevention of introductions
  - Eradicate IS when they are found in isolated instances
  - Perimeter defense for invasives
  - Prioritize early detection and funding for rapid response
  - Rapid delimitation surveys
  - Tools and resources to provide mitigation impact
  - State emergency response capabilities available to county level –funding, environment, technical compliance
  - Continued mussel check stations
  - Create a tested rapid response plan
  - Creating a communication network that can marshal resources when a new IS is found
  - Train all potential responders in ICS
  - Embrace an early invader tracking system to prevent new invaders
  - Recognizing threats of IS not yet present in state and practice prevention
  - Effective containment of new introductions
  - Rapid coordinated response
  - Early detection
  - Shared EDRR Plan
  - Develop MOU(s) for sharing resources
  - Prioritize 2-4 more EDRR species and develop program for partnership response—report out—similar to dyer's woad task force
  - Develop phone tree communication plan

#### 6. To report to the Governor's Office on the status of control and prevention efforts statewide;

- Provide the governor with a science-based comprehensive program to ID, prevent, eliminate, reduce and mitigate the impacts of invasive species in MT
- 7. To champion priority invasive species issues identified by stakeholders to best protect the state;
  - Recognizing threats of IS not yet present in state and practice prevention
- 8. To advise and work with agency personnel, local efforts, and the scientific community to implement program priorities. Likewise, agency personnel will provide technical expertise as requested and as staff resources are available; and
  - Assist governor in putting pressure on federal government to help keep invasives out of MT

#### 9. To work toward establishing permanent funding for invasive species priorities.

• Prioritize early detection and funding for rapid response

- AIS trust fund
- Develop a funding source for protects that address interstate efforts
- Engagement by federal partners—funding
- Full funding for the AIS trust fund and not from a single source
- Work toward the establishment of funding for invasive species priorities
- Determine funding required to implement policy
- Increase funding through legislature
- Permanent funding for invasives management in MT
- Enhanced county funding

#### Education (responsibility not included in charter but added to list)

- Regional outreach for educated public (and government)
- Increase awareness (develop metrics to measure)
- PSA campaigns—how invasives effect you
- Public education and outreach
- Ongoing sustainable education program
- Website
- Educate every 4<sup>th</sup> grader on how they can prevent weed introductions
- 1 in 5 Montanans are aware of invasives
- Education—start in primary grades
- Education at all levels—students, commercial, governmental

# Organized by categories that naturally evolved from exercise: MISAC

- Extend sunset date of MISAC
- Develop 1-2 tangible products that can be enacted statewide
- Real deliverables—pick a few key options
- Liaison with non-Montana groups
- ID achievable targeted set of goals. Don't overreach
- Provide governor with report outs

## Funding

- Establish trust fund for aquatics (3)
- Permanent funding for invasive species priorities (3)
- Enhanced funding for counties
- University research and education funding for invasive species
- Prioritize EDRR for funding
- Tools and resources to provide mitigation of impact
- Secure funding from federal partners
- Develop funding source for interstate efforts
- Determine what adequate funding would mean

#### Policy

- Create comprehensive invasive species rules—all taxa
- Enforcement of existing legislation/laws

- Increase lobbying efforts in D.C. (2)
- Restrict movement of untreated firewood
- Develop policies and regulations to prevent feral hogs and deal with invasions
- MDOT participation and oversight of border inspection stations
- Quarantine regulations
- Maintain existing markets and re-open lost markets
- Remove boundary lines among landowners, i.e. federal, state, private
- Develop policy re: invasive species vectors
- Prioritization of IS based on impacts to state economy, human health and environment
- Eradicate IS when they are found in isolated areas

#### Planning/Strategy Documents

- Creation of Montana Invasive Species Management plan—all taxa
- Complete an independent statewide assessment of our aquatic and terrestrial invasive species management programs
- Review of state invasive programs by external entities
- Develop strategic plan for Montana
- Reconcile & coordinate federal, state, and local mandates and weed management authorities
- Understand economic impact of invasives to Montana
- ID immediate info needs relative to high priority species and their distribution and abundance
- ID threat vectors for both aquatic and terrestrial invaders
- ID and list all authorities
- Rapid delimitation surveys
- Create rapid response plan for all (also coordination)

#### **Education and Outreach**

- Regional outreach for educated public (and government)
- Increase awareness (develop metrics to measure)
- PSA campaigns—how invasives effect you
- Public education and outreach
- Ongoing sustainable education program
- Website
- Educate every 4<sup>th</sup> grader on how they can prevent weed introductions
- 1 in 5 Montanans are aware of invasives
- Education—start in primary grades
- Education at all levels—students, commercial, governmental

#### **Prevention, EDRR**

- Implement an effective watercraft inspection program. Including addressing education and law enforcement in a comprehensive plan (2)
- Develop landscape priority areas for prevention
  - 1. All hands on deck to keep certain clean areas clean
  - 2. Define by geography or natural areas or economically important areas
- Prevention of introductions. Prevention, prevention, prevention (3)

- Prioritize perimeter defense for mussels
- Train all potential responders in ICS
- Embrace an early invader tracking system to prevent new invaders
- Prioritize and know EDRR species and develop program for partnership response (e.g. dyer's woad taks force) (2)
- Coordinated/shared EDRR Plan (3)

#### **Communication & Coordination**

- Help coordinate efforts
- Create internal communication network
- Supporting interests of each other's positions
- Develop state resource to effectively address invasive species
- Develop resource lists/database/website
- Cooperation among stakeholders
- Cooperation/coordination with surrounding invasive species councils (2)
- Create opportunities for partnering—federal, non-profits, etc.
- Establish effective lines with adjacent states and provinces (2)
- Better coordination between state agencies
- Seamless interface with local communities
- Support for county weed coordinators and status reporting info. on species distribution and abundance and emergency response support for counties (2)
- Create a communication network that can marshal resources when a new IS is found
- Develop MOU for sharing resources
- Develop phone tree communication plan

#### Research

• Support research to manage invasive species

#### Other

- Recognize that certain fish species are invasive species
- Effective containment of new introductions