



PULLING TOGETHER INITIATIVE

Position Statement 07-PS1C-00

North American Weed Management Association

Situation

Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) provides a means for federal agencies to be full partners with state and local agencies, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy. The goals of PTI are: 1) to prevent, manage, or eradicate invasive and noxious plants through a coordinated program of public/private partnerships; and 2) to increase public awareness of the adverse impacts of invasive and noxious plants.

PTI provides support on a competitive basis for the formation of local weed management area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships are financed by funds from federal agencies together with matching funds from state, local, and private partners. Proposal submission is invited and encouraged nationwide. The successful projects serve to engender public awareness and increase interest in further partnership projects.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that forms/develops/nurtures cooperative partnerships to conserve fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitats on which they depend. The Foundation works with its grantees and conservation partners to stimulate private, state, and local funding for conservation through challenge grants.

The Federal Matching Funds awarded are provided by annual Congressional appropriations from and agreements with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA-Forest Service.

[Several PTI grantees have reported problems in delayed issuing of contracts due to communication difficulty with appropriate NFWF staff.]

Position

In order for this initiative to reach its full potential, additional funding is needed from existing and new partners. The North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) seeks the continued and increased support of current funding partners and asks the following federal agencies and departments to also consider funding this initiative:

**Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
National Park Service
US Corps of Army Engineers**

[We ask that NFWF to review their management of grants to streamline the issuance and improve communication between appropriate staff and grantees and report the results to NAWMA and PTI steering committee.]

Distribution:

Department of Defense
US Corps of Army Engineers
Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Forest Service
Department of Interior
National Park Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Bureau of Land Management
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
USDA Invasive Species Liaison – Hilda Diaz-Soltero
USDI Invasive Species Coordinator – Gordon Brown
FICMNEW Co-Chairs – Peter Egan and Mike Ielmini

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