



NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ACT

Position Statement 08-PS9B-06

North American Weed Management Association

Situation

Senate Bill 241 Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act was introduced to the Senate on January 10, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The Committee approved it without amendments on January 31, 2007 and placed it on the Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders, Calendar No. 35 on February 15, 2007.

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land on the inside and outside of units of the national Park System.

Sponsor: Senator Ron Wyden (OR) - introduced 1/10/2007

A companion bill (H.R. 658) was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on January 24, 2007 and passed the House on March 19, 2007.

Sponsor: Congressman Jon Porter (NV)

Summary

This act would authorize the Secretary of Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with state, local or tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or willing private landowners to protect natural resources of the units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of the National Park System units.

This act sets forth the terms, conditions, and limitations that such an agreement shall contain, including that the agreement provide for; (1) the preservation, conservation, and restoration of coastal and riparian systems, watersheds, and wetlands; (2) preventing, controlling, or eradicating invasive exotic species that occupy land within a unit of the National Park System or adjacent to such a unit; or (3) restoration of natural resources, including native wildlife habitat.

It limits funds from being used for land acquisitions, regulatory activities, or the development, maintenance, or operation of infrastructure.

Position

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) are becoming the standard tactics for managing invasive species on a landscape basis. This approach brings all land managers and other interested parties to the table to cooperate across jurisdictions and property boundaries for maximum effectiveness and long term success.

Other federal agencies currently have the authorization to enter into cooperative agreements with state, local, or tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or willing private landowners to protect natural resources. The National Park Service should have the same authorization.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THIS BILL AND URGES ITS PASSAGE IN ITS PRESENT VERSION.

Distribution:

Personal legislative visits during NIWAW
House Committee on Resources
Department of Interior – Secretary Dirk Kempthorn

National Park Service – Fran Mainella, Director
USDI Invasive Species Coordinator – Gordon Brown
FICMNEW Co-Chairs – Peter Egan and Mike Ielmini

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