

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR INVASIVE NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Position Statement 09-PS2-01

Situation

Data from the federal government indicates that 4,600 acres are lost each day to invasive noxious weed invasion. It is estimated that 30 million acres of the 775 million acres of federal land in the United States are infested with noxious weeds. Wildfire, water quality and human health impacts are occurring. The negative economic impact is over \$120 billion to land assets, agricultural and natural resources.

Inconsistent efforts occur throughout the federal agencies. Agency programs are designed to meet their management goals and to support state, county and private land owner efforts in controlling invasive plants. Federal agencies do not have sufficient funding or personnel to manage public lands including control of established noxious weeds and prevention of new noxious weed invasions. *Funds that are budgeted for invasive plant control and management are often diverted to other uses.*

Noxious weed management is critical to many of the objectives of research and land management agencies. Invasive weeds impact range, forestry, recreation, riparian areas and wildlife. The policies, plans and activities for federal lands have a great impact on adjacent state, local and private lands.

Position

NAWMA is a network of public and private professional weed managers who are involved in implementing any phase of a county, municipal, district, state, provincial or federal noxious weed law. There are active state weed and roadside vegetation associations and societies devoted to weed science organizations. Other organizations focus on federal legislation and others are comprised of federal and state middle level managers. County structure and policy is driven by state legislated laws and funding with support of the State Department of Agriculture.

Prevention is an essential part of protecting the natural resources of the United States. Research and land management agencies should address invasive noxious weeds in each of their programs and request full funding for noxious weed management. Every noxious weed that is not controlled or not prevented from invading will result in exponential spread of weeds and the cost of future control efforts. Every dollar spent now in invasive noxious weed management, control and prevention will save thousands in the future.

Recommendation

NAWMA requests Congress take action to develop a line item budget dedicated specifically to Invasive Noxious Species in order to insure funds are not diverted from their intended purpose. Agencies should then work with state and local weed control programs to assure weed management funds are being spent in the most effective manner. As a goal, 65% of the funding should be used for on the ground efforts to achieve measurable control results.

www.nawma.org

NAWMA, P.O. Box 687, Meade, KS 67864

Phone (620) 873-8730; Fax (620) 873-8733, E-mail nawma@sbcglobal.net