



FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Position Statement 08-PS2-01

North American Weed Management Association

Situation

It is estimated that 30 million acres of the 775 million acres of federal land in the United States are infested with noxious weeds. Data from the federal government indicates that 4,600 acres are lost each day to noxious weed invasions. Progress in stopping or slowing noxious weed invasion has been slow and inconsistent throughout the agencies. Some areas have very active programs; while others have limited resources and/or interest in developing much needed programs. Part of the problem lies in the fact that federal agencies don't have sufficient funding or personnel to manage public lands including the fight against established noxious weeds and the prevention of new noxious weed invasions. What 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 land management agencies. Invasive weeds impact range, forestry, recreation, riparian areas and wildlife. The policies, plans and activities for federal lands also have a great impact on adjacent state, local and private lands.

Position

The North American Weed Management Association believes that noxious weed management and prevention is an essential part of protecting the natural resources of the United States. Every land management agency should address noxious weeds in each of their programs. Every noxious weed that is not controlled or not prevented from invading will cause exponential type growth in the cost of future control efforts required as well as in the cost of the adverse impacts. A dollar spent wisely now in noxious weed management, control and prevention will save thousands in the future.

Federal land management agencies should request full funding for their noxious weed fighting efforts, congress should budget funds in such a way that they are not diverted from their intended purpose, then the agencies should work with local weed control staffs to assure weed management funds are being spent in the most effective manner.

NAWMA would like to request that agency representatives be prepared to discuss there budgets and future funding plans for invasive plants.

Distribution:

Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

USDA Invasive Species Liaison – Hilda

Diaz-Soltero

Department of Interior

National Park Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Indian Affairs -

USDI Invasive Species Coordinator – Gordon Brown

Department of Defense

Armed Forces Pest Management Board

FICMNEW Co-Chairs – Peter Egan and Mike Ielmini

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