



## **Alaska Invasive Species Partnership (AKISP) Legislative Priorities, 2025–2026** **Prepared by AKISP Governmental Relations Committee**

### What is the issue?

- Invasive species threaten Alaska's economies, ecosystems, culturally significant ways of life, and resources relied on for food security, harvest, recreation, and tourism
- Invasive species can increasingly survive, spread, and cause harm in Alaska due to climate change and habitat disturbance
- Invasive species spread and impacts outpace updates to policies and regulations, and investment in management
- Unlike at least 10 other western states, Alaska lacks an invasive species council to shape policy, prepare plans, and define actions for state agencies to proactively mitigate concerns

### What are AKISP Legislative Requests?

- *Pass House Bill 191 and Senate Bill 174 to create an Invasive Species Council*

### Why does Alaska need an invasive species council?

- Ensure invasive species management actions are prioritized and accomplished
- Improve communication and engagement across sectors and resource managers
- Make recommendations for updates to controlled or prohibited species lists
- Increase capacity for rapid response, including funding and grant administration
- Reduce redundancy by coordinating response across departments
- Provide reports to the legislature on council activities and arising concerns
- Establish management targets through a statewide strategic plan
- Advocate for improved policies to advance management objectives

### What is Alaska currently lacking?

- Collaborative representation to ensure invasive species work is not fragmented
- Coordinated focus on prevention, early detection, and rapid response by existing authorities
- Consistent participation by public and private entities
- Sustained funding and staffing for council administration, species-specific response plans, and resource allocation
- Personnel and adequate state agency resources to prioritize high-risk species and pathways, and harmonize data and risk assessments
- Agency support to update policies and regulation

*Learn more about AKISP at [www.alaskainvasives.org](http://www.alaskainvasives.org)*

