



Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management

December 3rd, 2010

State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
3rd Floor State Capital

Subject: continue funding for AS 03.05.027 and remove sunset clause

Dear Governor Parnell:

Compared to the lower 48, Alaska has far fewer non-native invasive plant species. With swift and strategic management of our invasive weeds, Alaska has a rare opportunity to avoid severe economic and ecological impacts that have occurred in other parts of the country.

The Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) appreciates the excellent work that has resulted from AS 03.05.027, which pertains to Division of Agriculture's invasive weed and agricultural pest program. Since signing this statute into law, the Division of Agriculture has undertaken a significant role in collaboration and management of high-priority invasive plant species in Alaska. Unfortunately, AS 03.05.027 will sunset in the spring of 2011. CNIPM supports continued funding of AS 03.05.027 and recommends the removal of its sunset clause.

CNIPM is composed of concerned citizens, scientists, and land managers that volunteer or work for non-profit, tribal, local, state, and federal agencies across Alaska. The goals of CNIPM are to heighten the awareness of problems associated with invasive plant species and to bring about greater statewide coordination, cooperation, and action to halt the introduction and spread of these undesirable plants. To learn more about the mission and goals of CNIPM, please visit www.uaf.edu/ces/cnipm.

Without continued funding of AS 03.05.027, CNIPM believes regular review of regulations and the strategic plan generated from this statute will cease and quickly become outdated. When signing AS 03.05.027 into law, the state recognized that pre-existing invasive plant regulations were outdated and ineffective and that the creation of a strategic plan with updated regulations would increase efficacy of invasive plant management in Alaska. As the type and abundance of invasive weeds are constantly changing in Alaska, the state should regularly review both documents. Consistent review will increase the likelihood of the state pursuing the most urgent and meaningful management priorities for invasive plant species in Alaska.

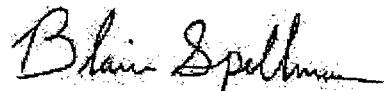
CNIPM greatly appreciates the new level of cooperation and coordination from the state government, which we feel is a direct result of AS 03.05.027. In years past, CNIPM had

minimal contact with the DNR, likely a result of state employees having a full load of job duties. AS 03.05.027 created a dedicated invasive plant management position within the Division of Agriculture. As a result, CNIPM now has a DNR contact that regularly attends monthly teleconferences and collaborates on education and management projects.

CNIPM is particularly pleased with Division of Agriculture leading projects that involve private industries and state-wide management efforts of notorious invasive plant species. First, Division of Agriculture is leading a CNIPM subcommittee geared towards the creation of a weed free gravel certification program. Second, Division of Agriculture is working with the horticulture industry to find solutions to state-wide invasive plant issues. Finally, Division of Agriculture is leading efforts in the state-wide eradication of spotted knapweed, giant hogweed, and regional management of Canada thistle, all of which have a serious potential to impact economies in Alaska.

While much work remains, CNIPM believes that AS 03.05.027 has resulted in Division of Agriculture making valuable contributions to invasive plant problems across Alaska. In particular, CNIPM feels AS 03.05.027 has directly improved invasive plant species regulations and strategic planning, DNR coordination with CNIPM, collaboration with private industries in the pursuit of solutions to invasive plant problems, and management of notorious invasive weeds. To continue and progress on the great work accomplished by Division of Agriculture, CNIPM urges for continued funding of AS 03.05.027.

Sincerely,



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