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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB 353
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Agriculture Program Coordinator/Animal Feed BRU: Agriculture Development
 Component: Agriculture Development

Sponsor: (S) HESS
 Requester: (S) RES Component Number: 455

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services	61.5	62.4	63.3	64.2	65.1	66.0
Travel	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Contractual						
Supplies	2.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	65.0	65.0	65.9	66.8	67.7	68.6

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	65.0	65.0	65.9	66.8	67.7	68.6
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	65.0	65.0	65.9	66.8	67.7	68.6

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: none
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY2003 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

One permanent full time Agronomist II program manager position and incidental operating costs will be necessary to implement a program to prevent the importation and spread of plant pests. This position would also establish regulations, implement and continue the organic certification program. Residents statewide will benefit from a successful weed control program in Alaska. The organic certification act recognizes products that have been produced, handled and certified organic under 7U.S.C. 6501 6522 as amended.

Prepared by: Robert Wells Phone 907-761-3867
 Division: Agriculture Date/Time 1-Apr-02
 Approved by: Pat Pourchot Date 2-Apr-02
 Agency: Natural Resources

Personal Services New Position Detail

DRAFT

Department of Natural Resources

Scenario: DNR FY2003 Fiscal Notes - for Positions (2481)
 Component: Agricultural Development (455)
 BRU Name: Agricultural Development (139)

PCN	Job Class Title	Time Status	Retire Code	Barg Unit	Location	Salary Sched	Range & Steps	Budgeted Months	Split / Annual Count	Annual Salary	COLA	Premium Pay	Annual Benefits	Total Costs
10-#073	Agronomist II	FT	A	GG	Palmer	2A	18A	12.0		43,908	926	0	16,671	61,505

Justification:

Fiscal Note position for proposed "Organic Food and Agricultural Products" legislation.

Funding Detail:

1004	General Fund Receipts	100.00%	61,505
Total Funding:		100.00%	61,505

Component Summary:

Total Now Positions: 1

Fund Description	Fund Percent	Fund Amount
1004 General Fund Receipts	100.00%	61,505
Total Funding:	100.00%	61,505

Note: If a position is split, an asterisk (*) will appear in the Split/Count column. If the split position is also counted in the component, two asterisks (**) will appear in this column.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SENATOR LYDA GREEN, CHAIR

Sponsor Statement SB 353

“An act An Act relating to the labeling of animal and poultry feeds and to the agriculture program coordinator; and providing for an effective date.”

Agriculture in Alaska continues to develop as a significant contributor to the state's economy. As this development continues, three areas of concern have become more important. These include:

- organic crop inspections
- feed labeling
- control of noxious weeds.

• If the organic label is to be used, Federal organic labeling laws require that an organic food inspector **may not** have a vested interest or participation in growing or processing the foods being certified. Either an outside inspector or staff person will need to be hired to determine that organic foods have been grown and processed according to standards in regulations.

• Alaska is the only state that doesn't enforce a standard for the labeling of animal feed. It is imperative that consumers know what is in the feed produced or mixed within Alaska. The state needs to enforce the national standards (already published and available) for animal feeds.

• Noxious and invasive plants are becoming a significant concern in Alaska. These plant materials are aggressive and have the potential to forever alter and impact native species. Hunting and fishing lands, agricultural production, recreational activities and tourism could be impacted. Several Western states currently have severe infestation of these weeds and spend millions of dollars per year on control measures. Fortunately, Alaska is in a unique position to avoid severe problems while our invasion is still at a manageable level and immediate eradication and prevention efforts can be utilized.

SB 353 speak to these three problems by requiring the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to: • appoint an agriculture program coordinator to oversee management of an organic crop labeling program, • adopt animal feed standards, and • implement the *Strategic Plan for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management aggressive control plan* as recommended by and developed in cooperation with federal, state, local and private agencies and groups.

SENATOR LOREN LEMAN, VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR JERRY WARD, SENATOR GARY WILKEN, SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS

Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM)

Legislative Position Paper #1

"Invasives (plants) are one of the most serious environmental threats of the 21st Century."

- Mooney & Hobbs, 2000

"We are losing the war against invasive exotic species, and the economic impacts are soaring. We simply cannot allow this unacceptable degradation of our Nation's public and private lands to continue."

- 500 Scientists and Resource Managers, Letter to U.S. Vice-President, 1997

Noxious and invasive plants are becoming a significant concern in Alaska. They are aggressive and highly competitive for available space and nutrients and thus have the potential to destroy vast areas of native plant and animal habitat. Left unchecked, they potentially could forever alter the scenic landscape of our state's public and private lands. Western states, such as Idaho, Washington, Montana and Oregon, spend several million dollars in tax revenue each year attempting to control severe infestations of noxious and invasive plants. These states realize the negative impacts of invasive plants on hunting and fishing grounds, agricultural production, recreational activities and tourism. To date, control efforts in Alaska, have been accomplished through volunteerism and local grass roots programs. However, these programs have their limitations.

Fortunately, Alaska is in a unique position to prevent severe problems from noxious and invasive plants. Current infestations in Alaska are still at a manageable level where immediate eradication and prevention efforts can dramatically reduce the future financial burden of controlling widespread infestations. Prevention is much cheaper than control. The time for action is now. Identifying outbreaks early and responding to them quickly can reduce management costs. This takes coordinated efforts among many groups. This is the focus of the *Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious and Invasive Plants in Alaska*.

The Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management is seeking a **Resolution of Support** recognizing Alaska's noxious and invasive plant problem and the need for implementation of our Strategic Plan, which was developed by representatives from state, federal, local and private agencies and groups.

A Resolution of Support for the *Strategic Plan for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management* helps to Promote:

- **Coordination:** Leadership, Partnerships and Cooperation
- **Education:** Awareness, Understanding and Participation
- **Inventory and Monitoring:** Databases, Inventories and Mapping
- **Research:** Biological Impacts, Economic Impacts, Management Options
- **Management:** Affordable, Effective, Acceptable

Developed in cooperation with the following federal, state, local and private agencies and groups:

University of Alaska
Cooperative Extension Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
AK DNR Division of Agriculture
AK Department of Fish and Game
US Army Corp of Engineers
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Alaska Dog Mushing Association

Bureau of Land Management
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
AK Soil and Water Conservation Districts
AK Department of Transportation
US Forest Service
The Nature Conservancy
Alaska Plant Material Center
Alaska Farm Bureau

Annual amount spent by State on control efforts:

Washington - \$1.3 million
Oregon - \$1.9 million
Idaho - \$10.4 million

Montana - \$1.7 million
Colorado - \$1.2 million
Alaska - \$10,000 (a one time grant in 2001)

Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM)

Legislative Position Paper #2

"The invasion of noxious weeds onto private and public lands causes substantial economic loss and ecological damage. At risk are forests, wilderness areas, parks, recreational sites and agricultural lands." UAF, Cooperative Extension Service (FGV-00144)

All Western States, except Alaska, provide annual funding and statutory support for a state agency to conduct noxious and invasive plant management. Alaska has provided statutory support for management activities through AS 03.05.010 and AS 44.37, which authorize the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, to prevent the importation and spread of pests that are injurious to public interest and for the protection of the agricultural industry. Statutory support is expanded in AAC Title 11 Chapter 34 with regulations for noxious weed control and rules for the establishment of quarantines, inspections, noxious weed lists and control measures. To date, funding support has not followed these important legislative actions.

In addition to noxious weed management, there is a need to fund the management of the federally mandated Alaska Organic Foods Certification Program (AS 0358.010 – 060). It is the consensus of the Division of Agriculture and the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management that these two concerns can be addressed by a single position within the Division of Agriculture, which will economize meeting both of these important needs.

The Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management supports the creation of a **Noxious Weed and Organic Program Coordinator** position within the DNR, Division of Agriculture and that this position be funded from monies outside the Division of Agriculture's current operating budget.

Noxious Weed and Organic Program Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities:

- Enforce the existing state statutes regarding noxious and invasive weeds and sale and certification of organic foods.
- Develop and disseminate noxious and invasive plant educational material focused on increasing public awareness and prevention and control measures.
- Inspections and quarantines.
- Inventory, monitoring, mapping and database management.
- Assist in the development and support of Plant Management Areas (PMA).
- Coordinate state, federal, local, private and volunteer management efforts.
- Facilitate and monitor the production and sale of Alaskan organic foods.
- Develop chemical and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs to control noxious and invasive species.
- Facilitate and monitor the production and sale of Alaskan organic foods.
- Seek additional funding through grants and cooperative efforts with other agencies to help implement and support the noxious weeds and organic foods programs in Alaska.

Expected funding needs: \$65,000

Note: The amount requested is for salary, benefits and employer share taxes. Travel, office overhead and other associated costs will be funded by the Division of Agriculture's existing budget.

Agencies and Groups that will work with and provide support to a Noxious Weed and Organic Program Coordinator:

University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Cooperative Extension Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA, Forest Service
US Forest Service
Alaska Farm Bureau
Alaska Organic Association
National Park Service
The Nature Conservancy in Alaska
North Star Borough
Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Bureau of Land Management
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA, APHIS
Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Alaska Plant Materials Center
Alaska Seed Growers Association
US Geological Survey
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Alaska Dog Musers Association
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Cost/Benefit Analysis:

Historical experiences from other Western States have shown that there is a "*Pay a little now, or a lot later*" component to the cost/benefit analysis of noxious and invasive plant management. Alaska has a small window of opportunity to effectively and aggressively deal with these plants through prevention and small scale control efforts. If this opportunity is not seized upon, over time, these infestations will create significant economic impacts to Alaska and cost the legislature millions of dollars in management cost, like those seen in other Western States. It is quite clear, the time to act is now.

Additional fiscal responsibility is achieved through combining noxious weed management with organic certification. The state can effectively address both issues through the funding of one position.

**Cooperative Extension Service**

Delta Junction District
P.O. Box 349, Jarvis Building
Delta Junction, AK 99737
(907) 895-4215, fax (907) 895-4210

March 22, 2002

Representative John Harris
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Harris:

There is no question noxious and invasive plants will have an impact on Alaska and it's people. One simply needs to take note of the dandelion infestations in Denali National Park and the efforts being made to limit their spread to realize that even in spite of Alaska's relative isolation it is not immune to introduced species. Simply put, plants move, and more often than not it is human intervention which is responsible for their transfer. With this in mind, several potential means of introduction include but are certainly not limited to: the importation of contaminated hay, straw, or livestock feeds as well as the planting of non-certified seed; coastal communities maybe impacted by contaminated ballast water; or, a tourist may pick a bouquet of "wild flowers" in the Lower 48 or Canada and a week later discard the now mature wilting bunch out the window of their RV while traveling one of Alaska's scenic highway.

The importance of this concern is that invasive plants can not be considered "just weeds". They possess any number of physical characteristics that allow them to out-compete native plants. Their aggressive nature and often times lack of predators enables them to displace native plants and animal habitats thus dominating an ecosystem. Left unchecked, the resulting monoculture could forever alter the scenic landscape of Alaska's public and private lands.

Coastal ecosystems, lakes and wetlands likewise are prone to threats by invasives that may be transported in ballast water or on sport fishing boats. Aquatic invasives such as purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicari*), which has been reported in South

Central Alaska, can multiply into a dense infestation which can impede water flow in streams and reduce fish and wildlife habitat. Also, fish migrations, and recreational and transportation corridors can be negatively impacted.

Granted not all introduced plants are invasive. A statistic you will hopefully have an opportunity to read in the *Strategic Plan for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management in Alaska* is that 15% of approximately 4500 plant species that have been introduced to the U.S are causing severe harm. This accounts for approximately 675 species in the U.S. Another alarming figure is that worldwide annual economic impacts total more than 20 billion dollars.

A number of western states view the problems of invasive plants as one of their top natural resource priorities. Various states are spending millions of dollars annually attempting to gain control of an increasing problem. They are trying to regain the devastating loss of valuable rangeland, wildlife habitat, forest, recreational, and agricultural areas. In some of these areas those individuals dealing with the control efforts will quickly admit that at this point they are losing the battle.

This is where Alaska is in a unique situation. It is probably safe to say that Alaska is 20 to 30 years behind other western states in severity of infestations. Currently, control measures are being made by local grass roots organizations such as the Delta Farm Bureau's Noxious Weed Program, the Japanese knotweed control program in Sitka, and the Fairbanks and Homer Soil and Water Conservation District's cost share on weed control programs. These groups realize the importance of aggressive control efforts with the hopes of eradicating the invasives before they become too wide spread. However, these groups have their limitations, and the inaccessibility to much of this vast state creates numerous challenges for control measures if and when infestations occur.

The Alaska Committee for the Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) came into formation in June of 2000 to address the statewide growing concern of invasives. This is a multi-state and federal agency as well as private and non-profit organizations group committed to broadening the awareness of this problem. Through workshops offered in 2001 and 2002 by CNIPM, individuals from around Alaska contributed their knowledge as to how these awareness efforts should best be focused. High on the priority list is the creation of a position within Alaska's Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture for a Plant Pest Coordinator. Also, this plan is consistent with other western state's noxious weed programs, which have these positions within their departments of agriculture. Among other duties, it is hoped this individual would implement the five main

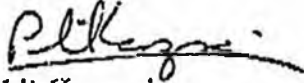
issues of the Strategic Plan for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management in Alaska, which has been developed by CNIPM. It is felt that these five issues are essential for a successful control program.

- I. Coordination: Leadership, Partnerships, and Cooperation
- II. Education: Awareness, Understanding, and Participation
- III. Inventory and Monitor: Database Management, and Mapping
- IV. Research: Biological and Economical Impacts, and Management Options
- V. Management: Least Cost, Most Effective, and Acceptable Management Options

Creation of a Plant Pest Coordinator position will be a major step down the complicated path of noxious and invasive plant management. This is an important step toward responsible management of Alaska's natural resources.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,



Phil Kaspari

Agricultural Extension Agent

CNIPM Committee Member

Delta Farm Bureau Noxious Weed Committee Member and Advisor

Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource

committee on SB 353, dated 4/3/02
committee name
bill/subject

As a member of the Delta Farm Bureau Noxious Weed Committee, I support SB 353 which authorizes the Dept of Natural Resources to add an additional position, which among other duties, would oversee the control of invasive species (Noxious Weeds) in the State of Alaska. Noxious Weed, particularly Perennial Sow Thistle and Hemp Nettle cost Brasier Farms several thousand ~~dollars~~ dollars each year to control. Perennial Sow Thistle in the North Star Borough on both public and private property continues to spread into new area by wind, wildlife and vehicles. This position will also help control other invasive pest such as spruce beetles through out our state.

Signed: Lyall R. Brasier Jr.

Testifier
Brasier Farms

Representing (Optional)
P O Box 483 Delta Jct., AK 99737

Address
907-895-4961

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resource

committee on SB 353 dated 4/3/02
bill/subject committee name

April 3, 2002

Alaska State Legislators
State Capitol(AS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representatives,

I urge you to support Bills HB432 and SB353 which will establish a position to help prevent wide spread habitat destruction from noxious and invasive plants. The funding of this is vital to Alaska's future.

As a Delta farmer we have spent thousands of dollars on chemicals, time and equipment to try and control and eradicate this problem in our area. It is impossible for a few of us in the area to control this problem without the assistance of the legislators. The plants are aggressive and highly competitive and if left unattended they can destroy state and public lands.

The current infestations in Alaska are still at a manageable level where immediate eradication and prevention efforts can dramatically reduce the future financial burden of controlling widespread infestations. Prevention is much cheaper than control. The funding of this position is vital to Alaska's future. Identifying outbreaks early and responding to them quickly will greatly reduce the substantial economic loss and ecological damage that puts our agricultural lands at risk and also detrimental to our forests, wilderness areas, parks and recreational sites.

Recreational vehicles, horseback riding can spread the noxious weed at a very high rate.

Signed: E. L. Sillert
Testifier
A Delta Farmer
Representing (Optional)
HS Ln Box 4210 Delta Junction AK 99737
Address
907-895-4338
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TOTAL P.02

TOTAL P.02

Subject: SB- HB 432

Date: Tue, 02 Apr 2002 14:50:59 -0900

From: Mitch Michaud <mitchm@gci.net>

To: Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us

Senator_John_Torgerson

I am contacting you, asking your support for SB- ³⁵³~~HB-432~~, Ag. Prog. Coord/Animal Feed. The name of this bill is misleading but let me tell you a bit about myself.

I am a forester that works for USDA and both live and work on the kenai peninsula and I am also a dog musher the wife and i are also on the boards of the PSDRA and the T-200 dog racing committees.

As a forester, who worked in new england for 20 years, I see a threat from the introduction of noxious and invasive plants on the forest of alaska, as an employee of the USDA working in a farm office I also see the threat as it is expressed in the potential need for treatment for weeds that are already entering alaska that show up in hay field on the peninsula. We already have a few here..

Now for the dog musher part. The introduction of some weeds are a threat to dogs, really and reactive weed policies are damaging to. Jon Little, Kasilof resident had a dog that died last year during the iditarod, as you remember. I know Jon quite well and know the impact the death of Carhart had on him, but what provided closure to Jon was finally figuring out that a weed that was growing in his dog yard was the probably cause of the infection that killed the dog. Jon found out about this through the NRCS-USDA office and I think Dr. May from fairbanks confirmed what the UR infection was typical of what was caused by that weed, once inhaled.

Now one dead dog is nothing in the grand scheme of things, but the reaction to weed threats is great. I have heard that the nation parks service will be introducing a no weeds policy that will eliminate bedding and potential weed vector into Denali park. that will have a significant impact on horse people and dog musher.

I am suggesting that a state run weed program will slow the advent of new weeds, save farmers/hay growers some money, reduce restrictions to horse and dog musher.

mitch michaud
907 262-4977 907 252-5350 cell