

HB

330

Changes from HB 330 to CS for HB 330

Original HB 330 formed Article 2 in AS 41.10. This would be in Chapter 10, Soil and Water Conservation of Title 41, Public Resources.

The original bill formed a board and identified the powers and the duties of the board. It delineated advisory groups of the board, agency cooperation and joint operations. The original HB 330 also formed a noxious weed and invasive plant management fund.

The CS for HB 330 reincarnates as a state coordinator employed or appoint by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. It is now in Title 3, Agriculture and Animals, Chapter 5, Powers and Duties of Commissioners of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. It forms a new section, 027.

This bill will allow the Commissioner of Natural Resources to employ or appoint a state coordinator for noxious weed, invasive plant, and agricultural pest management and education. This coordinator will work through the Division of Agriculture along with state departments, agencies and institutions. This person will bring together the afore mentioned entities in addition to the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts. Through this coordination the State of Alaska will develop a strategic plan. More importantly, a start toward limiting economic loss and adverse effects to the state's agricultural, natural, and human resources because of the presence and spread of noxious weeds, agricultural pests, invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants in the state.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

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State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
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MEMORANDUM

February 4, 2008

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary (HB 330) (Work Order No. 25-LS1062\E)

TO: Representative Craig Johnson
Attn: Jeanne Ostnes

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *AB*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Adds a new article to AS 41.10 (Soil and water conservation) entitled: "Article 2. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants."

41.10.200. States that it is the purpose of the article to limit economic loss and adverse effects to the state resulting from noxious weeds and invasive plants.

41.10.210. Establishes a Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board.

41.10.220. Provides for board membership.

41.10.230. Establishes that board members are not entitled to compensation other than per diem and travel expenses.

41.10.240. Provides for board meetings.

41.10.250. Provides that the board will choose a presiding officer from its members.

41.10.260. Allows the board to employ staff and contract for services relating to matters within its authority.

41.10.270. Establishes the powers and duties of the board.

41.10.280. Provides that the board may establish advisory groups.

41.10.290. Provides that state efforts shall be in cooperation with federal noxious weed and invasive plant laws and initiatives.

41.10.300. Establishes that state departments, agencies, and institutions shall cooperate with the board.

41.10.310. Provides that the board may engage in joint operations related to noxious weeds and invasive plants with other persons, political subdivisions of the state, Native villages or regional corporations, the federal government, or Canada.

41.10.320. Creates a noxious weed and invasive plant management fund as an account within the general fund.

41.10.330. Directs the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of fish and game, the commissioner of environmental conservation, and the commissioner of transportation and public facilities to adopt regulations to implement the article.

41.10.399. Defines terms.

Section 2. Provides for the initial terms of board members.

Section 3. Establishes a deadline for the board's first meeting.

Section 4. Instructs the Revisor to amend AS 41.10 to conform with the Act's creation of a new article.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TLAB:med
08-079.med

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 330(RES)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/21/08

Identifier (file name): HB330-DEC-SW-1-28-08 Dept. Affected: DEC
 Title: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants RDU: Environmental Health
 Component: Solid Waste Management
 Sponsor: House Resources Committee
 Requester: House Resources Committee Component Number: 2344

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of / current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The bill will have no fiscal impact on the Division of Environmental Health, DEC.

Prepared by: Kristin Ryan, Director
 Division: Environmental Health
 Approved by: Larry Hartig
Department of Environmental Conservation

Phone: 907-269-7645
 Date/Time: 1/28/08 12:00 AM
 Date: 1/31/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: CSHB 330(RES)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/21/08

Identifier (file name): HB330-DFG-SF-02-07-08 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants RDU: Sport Fisheries
 Component: Sport Fisheries
 Sponsor: House Resources Committee
 Requester: House Resources Committee Component Number: 464

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Passage of this bill will not have any fiscal impact on the Department of Fish and Game.

Prepared by: Charlie Swanton, Director
 Division: Sport Fisheries
 Approved by: Tom Lawson, Director
Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game

Phone 465-6184
 Date/Time 2/7/08 11:00 AM
 Date 2/7/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3
 Bill Version: CSHB 330(RES)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/21/08

Identifier (file name): HB330-DOT-TMS-02-07-08 Dept. Affected: DOT&PF
 Title: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants RDU: Admin & Support DOT&PF
 Sponsor: Rep. Johnson Component: Transportation Mangement & Security
 Requester: House Resouces Component Number: 2607

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There will be no fiscal impact to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Prepared by: Mary Siroky
 Division: Commissioner's Office, DOT&PF
 Approved by: Nancy Slagle
Director, Administrative Service, DOT&PF

Phone 465-4772
 Date/Time 2/7/08 8:30 AM
 Date 2/7/2008

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: CS HB 330 (RES)
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): HB330CSRES-DNR-AgPMC-02-21-08 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants RDU: Agriculture Development
 Component: Plant Materials Center
 Sponsor: House Resources
 Requester: House Finance Component Number: 2204

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	75.1		75.1	75.1				
Travel								
Contractual	3.9		3.9	3.9				
Supplies	1.0		1.0	1.0				
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	80.0	0.0	80.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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	80.0		80.0	80.0				
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	80.0	0.0	80.0	80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	1		1	1				
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

One new position, a Research Analyst II (range 16) will be established to serve as the statewide coordinator for noxious weeds as identified in the bill. This will be a state employee performing the duties as prescribed by the board, including providing information to the public on topics of weed and pest control, doing limited applied research on weed and pest control and representing the Division of Agriculture/ DNR in the area of invasive species issues.

This legislation sunsets on June 30, 2011.

Prepared by: Franci Havemeister, Director
 Division: Agriculture
 Approved by: Tom Irvin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

Phone 761-3867
 Date/Time February 21, 2008
 Date February 21, 2008

FISCAL NOTE

REPLACED W/2-21-08
NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 4
 Bill Version: CSHB 330(RES)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/21/08

Identifier (file name): HB330-DNR-AgPMC-02-07-08 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants RDU: Agriculture Development
 Component: Plant Materials Center
 Sponsor: House Resources
 Requester: House Resources Component Number: 2204

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	100.6		100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6
Travel	5.0		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Contractual	30.0		30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
Supplies	8.0		8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Equipment	6.0		3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	149.6	0.0	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6

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	149.6		146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	149.6	0.0	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6	146.6

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

One new position, a Natural Resource Specialist III (range 18) will be established to serve as the statewide coordinator for noxious weeds as identified in the bill. This will be a state employee performing the duties as prescribed by the board, including providing information to the public on topics of weed and pest control, doing limited applied research on weed and pest control and representing the Division of Agriculture/ DNR in the area of invasive species issues. This position will cost \$79.9. In addition, the Plant Material Center will add four staff months to a seasonal laborer position (PCN 10-3078) to provide the new position with technical and labor support. This will cost \$20.7.

Prepared by: Stoney Wright, Manager Plant Material Center
 Division: Agriculture
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

Phone 745-4469
 Date/Time February 7, 2008
 Date February 7, 2008

FISCAL NOTE #4

**STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. CSHB 330(RES)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Travel estimates are for meetings throughout the state and for weed research project travel.

Contractual costs reflect costs of a new position for basic operations such as phones, core service charges to DOA for accounting, mail, human resources, telecommunications-ETS, computer services-ETS, and a share of facility operating expenses. In addition this will be a new program, in a sometimes controversial role, and working with new regulations. We expect a portion of the budgeted contractual funding will be dedicated to the Department of Law for regulation review and support.

Supplies, tools, and equipment are required for research and include weed killing tillers and chemicals.

FISCAL NOTE

VOID

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 5
 Bill Version: CSHB 330(RES)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/21/08

Identifier (file name): HB330-DNR-NRCDB-02-04-08
 Title: Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants

Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 RDU: Resource Development
 Component: Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board
 Component Number: 2633

Sponsor: House Resources
 Requester: House Resources

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	44.0		44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0	44.0
Travel	27.0		27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0
Contractual	15.0		5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Supplies	1.2		1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
TOTAL OPERATING	87.2	0.0	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2

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	87.2		87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
TOTAL	87.2	0.0	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2	87.2

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation establishes a Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board in Alaska. The costs associated with implementation of this legislation are added to the existing budget component for the Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board.

This fiscal note addresses the cost for the department to support the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Management Board, including travel/per diem for board meetings/hearings, and providing for a full-time shared director located in Anchorage.

Prepared by: Shana Joy, Executive Secretary
 Division: Office of the Commissioner
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

Phone 269-8432
 Date/Time February 4, 2008
 Date February 4, 2008

FISCAL NOTE #5

**STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. CSHB 330(RES)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

It is anticipated that the existing support position for the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board (NRCDB) will also serve the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board (NWIPB) in the same capacity. The additional cost of \$44.0 under personal services reflects the increase in salary and benefits of the existing (currently vacant) Project Assistant position (Range 16) to an Executive Director (Range 23).

Travel up to \$27.0 annually is anticipated at \$3.0 per board member (9 members). Travel to meet with municipal, state, and federal agencies as well as for training is anticipated.

Supplies are costs associated with producing meeting packets, reports, management plans and other related materials utilized for board business. The costs are estimated at \$1.2 per year.

Services include initial development and implementation of a statewide noxious weed and invasive plant management Internet website to centralize and coordinate efforts to share information. An initial cost of \$15.0 is expected followed by annual maintenance and updating of \$2.0 to \$5.0.

Section 41.10.320 reflects creation of a noxious weed and invasive plant management fund. We can't determine the actual fund source to be used or the amount of grants that may be made under this section at this time, therefore the fiscal note reflects general funds for the estimated cost to DNR of supporting this new board. The amount of any grant funding necessary beyond the expenses described in this and accompanying fiscal notes are indeterminate at this time.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House Resources Committee

Carl Gatto, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 108

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone (907) 465-3743

Fax (907) 465-2381

Rep. Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us



Craig Johnson, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 126

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone (907) 465-4993

Fax (907) 465-3872

Rep. Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us

Sponsor Statement

An Act relating to Noxious Weed, Invasive Plant and Agricultural Pest Management and Education CS for HB 330

In recent years, well established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants have been documented in Alaska. These species pose a serious threat to Alaska's agriculture, tourism, wildlife, fisheries, land values, and subsistence resources. Alaska is in a unique position to avoid the scope of problems now impacting all 48 contiguous states and Hawaii.

Many of the invasive plants in Alaska are not yet widespread and can be controlled relatively quickly and more cheaply by taking action now. Alaska needs an updated state noxious weed list, updated state regulations, and a designated state agency with the resources to adequately address this emerging issue. A need exists to build upon the strength of existing programs, to improve areas that are weaker, and integrate efforts into an efficient unified state response to the threat.

Private, local, state, and federal organizations and citizens' groups are working together to raise awareness about invasive plants and keep our communities invasive weeds-free. Representatives of public and private organizations with an interest in controlling and preventing the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant continue to need a mechanism for cooperation, collaboration, and development of statewide plans of action to meet this threat.

This bill will allow the Commissioner of Natural Resources to employ or appoint a state coordinator for noxious weed, invasive plant, and agricultural pest management and education. This coordinator will work through the Division of Agriculture state departments, agency and institutions. This person will bring together the afore mentioned entities with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts. Through this coordination the State of Alaska will develop a strategic plan. More importantly, a start toward limiting economic loss and adverse effects to the state's agricultural, natural, and human resources because of the presence and spread of noxious weeds, invasive terrestrial and aquatic plants in the state.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Fax (907) 269-0204
Rep_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us



Session:
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4993
Fax (907) 465-3872

REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 28

Sponsor Statement **Establishing the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board** **and a Management Fund** **HB 330**

In recent years, well established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants have been documented in Alaska. These species pose a serious threat to Alaska's agriculture, tourism, wildlife, fisheries, land values, and subsistence resources. Alaska is in a unique position to avoid the scope of problems now impacting all 48 contiguous states and Hawaii.

Many of the invasive plants in Alaska are not yet widespread and can be controlled relatively quickly and more cheaply by taking action now. Alaska needs an updated state noxious weed list, updated state regulations, and a designated state agency with the resources to adequately address this emerging issue. A need exists to build upon the strength of existing programs, to improve areas that are weaker, and integrate efforts into an efficient unified state response to the threat.

Private, local, state, and federal organizations and citizens' groups are working together to raise awareness about invasive plants and keep our communities invasive weeds-free. Representatives of public and private organizations with an interest in controlling and preventing the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant continue to need a mechanism for cooperation, collaboration, and development of statewide plans of action to meet this threat.

This legislation provides for a nine member Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide policy direction and planning for combating harmful infestations throughout the state and for preventing the introduction of others that may be potentially harmful. A coordinator would be tasked to write a statewide action plan and pursue grants from Federal landowner Agencies. The Board would also make recommendations to the governor and legislature to limit economic loss and other adverse effects to Alaska's agricultural, and human resources

Further the Board would:

- conduct surveys and investigations relating to noxious weeds and invasive plants, including surveys and investigations relating to necessary preventative and control measures, that consider the views, research, and reports of advisory groups, as may be established by the board under AS 41.10.280, and the views, research, and reports of individuals and other groups active in the state;

- annually review and make recommendations to state departments and agencies concerning revisions of state regulations and statutes, including revisions to state noxious weed lists, addressing noxious weed and invasive plant species;
- develop and annually review a comprehensive state strategic plan for the management of noxious weeds and invasive plants based on resources and priorities identified by the board in consultation with federal, state, municipal, and public groups, including the conceptual design for a national Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants;
- develop and maintain a statewide noxious weed and invasive plant management Internet website to centralize and coordinate efforts to share information;
- define geographic areas of the state to be used for noxious weed and invasive plant management, databases, research, and predictive purposes;
- consider federal law and congressional intent relating to noxious weed and invasive plant management;
- cooperate and coordinate with, furnish assistance to, and enter into agreements with users of the land or water, public groups, state agencies, and federal agencies operating within the state as is necessary and practical for carrying out the purposes of AS 41.10.200 - 41.10.399;
- identify and recommend responses to outbreaks of noxious weeds and invasive plants to land and water users, organizations, or agencies that have jurisdiction of the affected land or water;
- designate a person to serve as a statewide coordinator for noxious weed and invasive plant management and education and perform additional duties prescribed by the board;
- assist in the establishment of local weed management programs within the geographic areas defined under (5) of this subsection; and
- recommend to the commissioner objectives, criteria, and allocation guidelines for grants made from the fund established under AS 41.10.320.
- follow proceedings with the administration's sub-cabinet for climate change.



The Alaska Committee for
Noxious & Invasive Plants
Management

Jamie Nielsen, UAF Cooperative Extension Service

Telephone: (907) 786-6315

Email: ffimn@uaf.edu

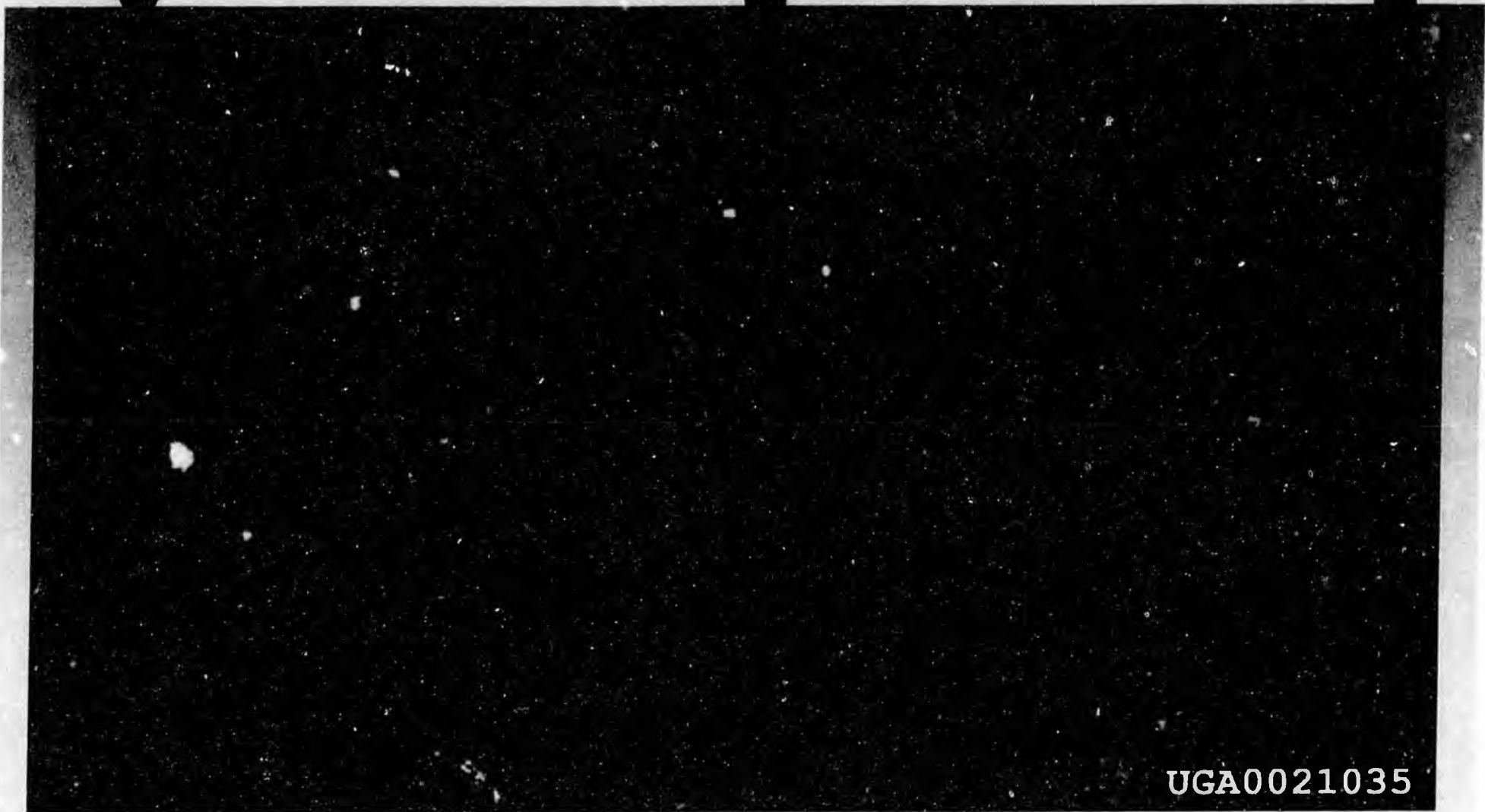
Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Telephone: (907) 354-1227

Email: gino graziano@alaskaswcds.org

Invasive Plants IMPACTS

- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Subsistence Resources
- Land Values
- “...economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” (Executive Order 13112)



UGA0021035

Norman E. Rees, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Spotted knapweed

- Costs the state of Montana 14 million per year in direct economic impacts. Now spread over nearly 6 million acres.

WETLAND LOSS

- Control efforts cost US economy \$45 million per year
- Clogs wetlands, blocks fish passage

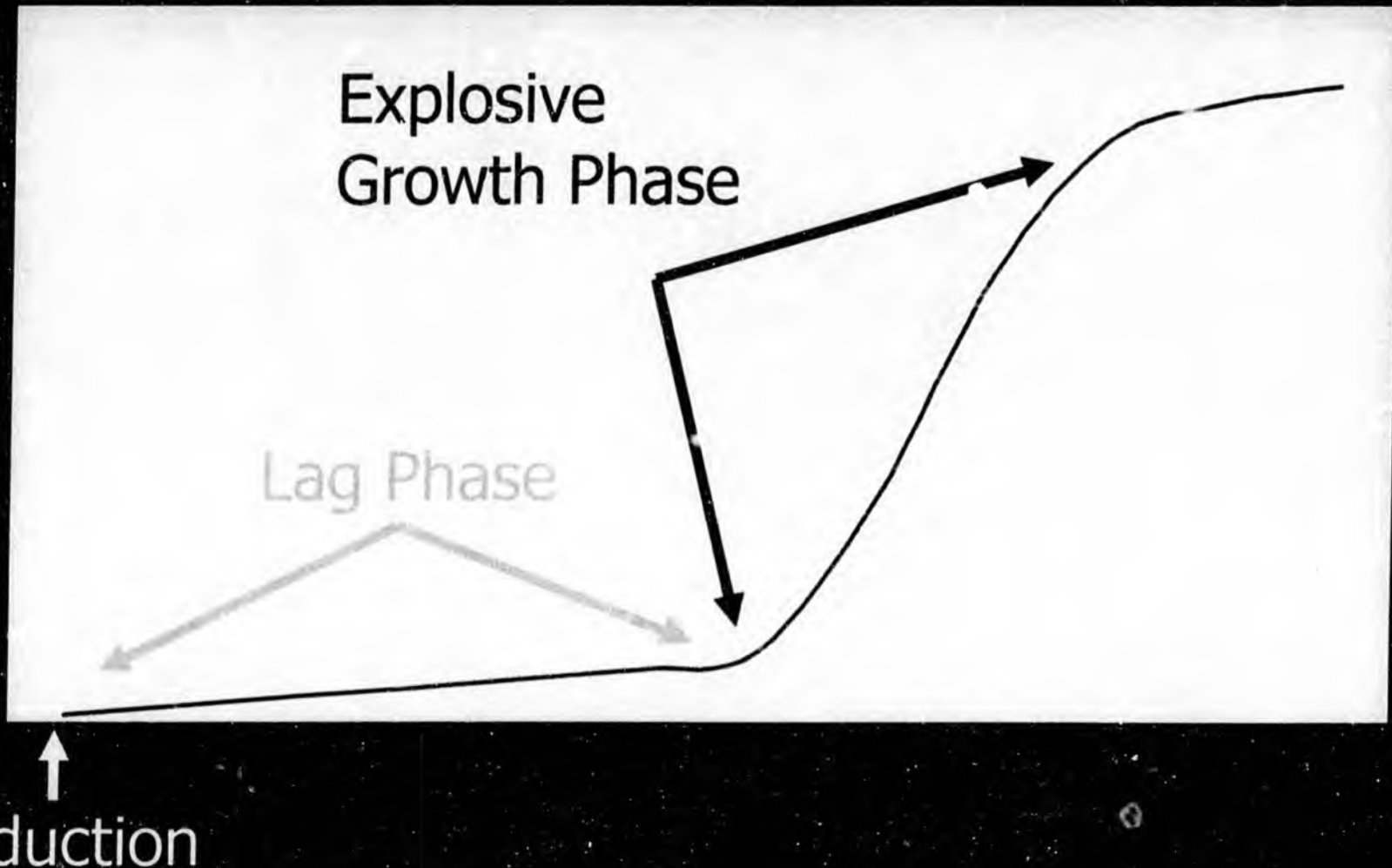


Leary Spurge

- Costs agricultural producers and tax payers in the Dakotas, Montana, and Wyoming \$144 million per year.
- Caustic latex (sap) causes blisters, blindness



Weed Invasion Curve



Introduction

Laying the groundwork for
successful invasive plants
prevention and management:

WHAT, WHERE, WHY



Weed Ranking Project
 Alaska Natural Heritage Program
 major funding from
 US Forest Service, State and Private Forestry
 in cooperation with
 National Park Service, Alaska Support Office
 USDA, Agricultural Research Service
 UAF, Cooperative Extension Service
 US Geological Survey, Alaska Biological Science Center



[Home](#)

[Workshop & Training Presentations](#)

[Alaskan Non-native Species Literature and Websites](#)

[Collaborators](#)



Below are two tables: The [first table](#) lists non-native species present in Alaska the [second table](#) lists non-native species currently not recorded in Alaska

They are also available below as MS Excel tables:

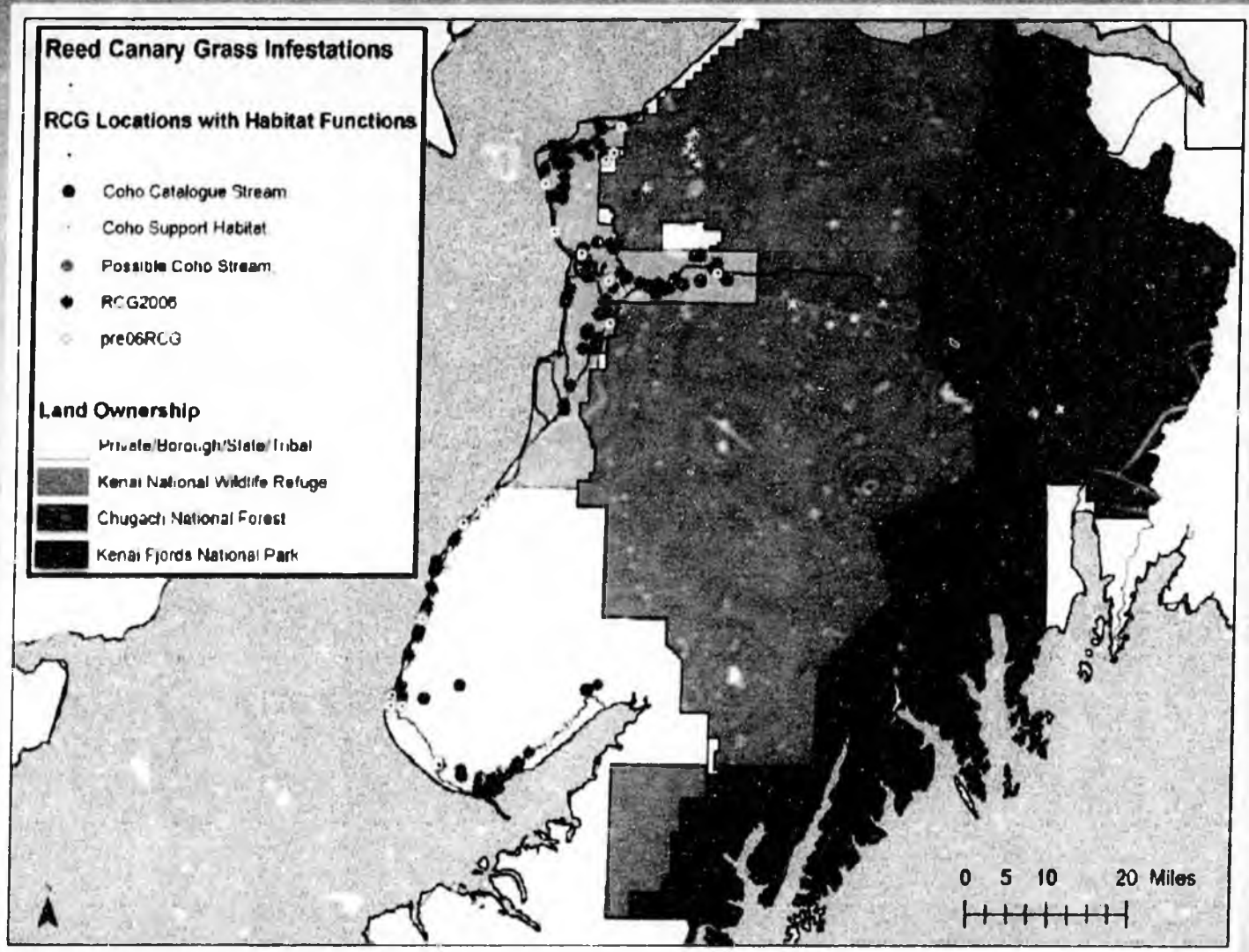
[Non-native species present in Alaska \(Excel table\)](#)

[Non-native species NOT recorded in Alaska \(Excel table\)](#)

Non-native species PRESENT in Alaska

Species Biography	Risk Assessment Report	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank 0-100 (low-high)	Climate similarity of Alaska ecoregographic regions and areas where the species occurs		
					South Coastal	Interior Boreal	Arctic Alpine
ACMIM-bio	ACMIM-rank	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> var. <i>millefolium</i> L.	common yarrow	48	Yes	Yes	Yes
ACPT-bio	ACPT-rank	<i>Achillea ptarmica</i> L.	sneezewort	46	Yes	Yes	Yes
ALPE-bio	ALPE-rank	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i> (Bieb.) Cavara & Grande	garlic mustard	70	Yes	No	No
ANCO-bio	ANCO-rank	<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	Mayweed chamomile, dog fennel	41	Yes	Yes	No
BRIN-bio	BRIN-rank	<i>Bromus inermis</i> ssp. <i>inermis</i> Leyss	smooth brome	62	Yes	Yes	Yes
BRTE-bio	BRTE-rank	<i>Bromus tectorum</i> L.	cheatgrass	78	Yes	Yes	Yes
CARA-bio	CARA-rank	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i> L.	Creeping bellflower	64	Yes	Yes	Yes
CABU-bio	CABU-rank	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> (L.) Medik L.	shepherd's purse	40	Yes	Yes	Yes
CAAR-bio	CAAR-rank	<i>Caragana arborescens</i> Lam	Siberian pea shrub	65	No	Yes	Yes
CEEL-bio	CEEL-rank	<i>Centaurea biebersteinii</i> DC	spotted knapweed	88	Yes	Yes	No
CEFO-bio	CEFO-rank	<i>Cerastrium fontanum</i> ssp. <i>vulgare</i> (Hartman) Brieger & Burdet & <i>C. glomeratum</i> Thell	mouse-ear chickweed, big chickweed & sticky chickweed	39	Yes	Yes	Yes
CHAL-bio	CHAL-rank	<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	lambquarters	35	Yes	Yes	Yes
CIARA-bio	CIARA-rank	<i>Cirsium arvense</i> L. Scop	Canada thistle	76	Yes	Yes	Yes
CIVU-bio	CIVU-rank	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> (Savi) Ten	bull thistle, common thistle	61	Yes	Yes	Yes
COAR-bio	COAR-rank	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> L.	field bindweed, morning glory	38	Yes	Yes	Yes
COCO-bio	COCO-rank	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> L.	common brassbuttons	42	Yes	No	No
CRTE-bio	CRTE-rank	<i>Crepis tectorum</i> L.	narrow-leaf hawk's beard	43	Yes	Yes	Yes
CYSC-bio	CYSC-rank	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> (L.) Link	English bloom, Scotch broom	69	Yes	No	No

Laying the Groundwork - The Wildlife AKEPIC: The Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse



<http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/>

High-priority Wetland Infestations of Reed Canary Grass
Recorded on Western Kenai Peninsula, 2006

Norman Bell & Walter Coors as 1151181 District
251424th St. Seattle WA
March 2006



Laying the Groundwork
Public Awareness



CNIPM Website: www.cnipm.org

CNIPM Recommendations

- I. Develop a Noxious and Invasive Plant Management Program within the Department of Natural Resources



CNIPM Recommendations

II. Appoint a State Weed Coordinator for the program and provide administrative support



CNIPM Recommendations

III. Create a **State Weed Board** with representatives from a broad range of stakeholders to:

- Provide recommendations to state agencies
- Develop a **Statewide Weed Management Plan**
- Seek outside funding for state weed prevention and management efforts

Need for a Weed Board

- Coordination Imperative- weeds don't respect boundaries
- Groundwork has been laid, now we need an overarching system of support from the state
- Don't need to reinvent the wheel- other states provide lessons, templates, and examples
- Act now to safeguard AK resources and economy- never cheaper than TODAY



Citizens are
working
in their
communities,
but...





“It takes a State to stop a weed”

-Anchorage residents Troy and Lori Zaumseil



The Alaska Committee for
Noxious & Invasive Plants
Management

Jamie Nielsen, UAF Cooperative Extension Service

Telephone: (907) 786-6315

Email: ffjmn@uaf.edu

Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Telephone: (907) 354-1227

Email: ginoqraziano@alaskaswcds.c.org



Invasive Plants

A Growing Threat to Alaska's Ecology and Economy

Issue

In recent years, well established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants have been documented in Alaska. These species pose a serious threat to Alaska's agriculture, tourism, wildlife, fisheries, and subsistence resources.

Alaska is in a unique position to avoid the extensive invasive plant problems that plague the rest of the U.S.

Addressing this situation NOW will yield benefits for years to come.

Most introduced plant species are beneficial to Alaskans. We enjoy them in our gardens and they are agricultural staples.

However, a small subset of introduced plants is invasive. These non-native plants aggressively spread into places where they are not wanted.

People and vehicles generally spread invasive plants from human habitation centers outwards along transportation routes (roads, airports and float ponds, trails and rivers) as they move materials and goods.



Japanese knotweed taking over a salmonberry patch in Juneau, AK.



Invasive plants threaten riparian areas and the species that depend upon them.

Facts

- Invasive species threaten Alaska's ecosystems by displacing native plants, reducing wildlife forage and shelter, altering ecosystem dynamics, and in some cases permanently changing environmental conditions.
- Annual damage from invasive species worldwide estimated at \$1.4 trillion.
- Idaho is estimated to spend \$300 million per year on invasive species control.
- One weed – spotted knapweed – now costs Montana over \$14 million/year and covers over 5 million acres. In Alaska, this species has been found at over 10 sites from Ketchikan to Anchorage.
- The number of new invasive plants found in Alaska continues to rise each year.
- Many of the invasive plants in Alaska are not yet widespread and can be controlled quickly and cheaply by taking action NOW.

Alaska—To Do List

Prevention

There are many ways that invasive seeds and plant materials are introduced to Alaska. Educating land managers, industry, and the public about the introduction and spread of invasive plants will pay huge dividends in protecting property values, agriculture, industry, wildlife, and wild lands. The adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is especially true for invasive plants.

Regulations for Alaska

The State Division of Agriculture is now considering adding new species to the prohibited weed seed list. CNIPM* supports more extensive changes to the regulations that will better serve Alaska's natural resources, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, fisheries, and other industries. The current regulations have not been changed since 1983. It is time to update the laws for Alaska's future.

Early Detection System

Create a system for rapid identification of new invasive species so that they can be controlled quickly and effectively.

Funding

In Alaska, no state agency currently has the funds or staffing to adequately address this emerging resource issue. We support the development of an Invasive Plants Program for Alaska to prevent the explosion of invasive plants that now plague the other states. Alaska must have a state program in order to obtain federal funds available under the Federal Noxious Weed Act.

Control of invasive plants

Facilitate greater cooperation among land owners and agencies to develop the best Alaska specific control strategies for the invasive plants of greatest concern.



Educating Alaskans about the threat of invasive plants.

Summary

Alaska is in a unique position to avoid the enormous costs of widespread invasive plants, now impacting all 48 contiguous states and Hawaii. Early intervention in Alaska can prevent the deterioration of the state's wealth of natural resources. The increasing impacts of invasive plants on agriculture, subsistence resources, fisheries and tourism industries, urban areas, wildlife and ecosystems require coordinated prevention and control actions on the part of all agencies, partners and the public. Prevention and early eradication have repeatedly been shown to be far cheaper and more effective than large-scale control efforts once populations have gotten out of hand.

More Information

Jamie Nielsen

CNIPM – Chair
Invasive Plant Program
University of AK Fairbanks
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Gino Graziano

CNIPM – Vice Chair
Invasive Plant Program
Alaska Association of
Conservation Districts
(907) 354-1227
e-mail: cwna@ak.net

* The Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM)

A group of professionals and individuals from over 35 different State and local organizations, citizens groups, and federal agencies was created in 2000. The yearly conferences now draw 120+ participants, and the 2006 conference was opened by the Mayor of Anchorage.

Agriculture, Department of

Decision Unit Summary

Decision Unit	Agency Request			Governor's Recommendation		
	FTP	General	Total	FTP	General	Total
3.00 FY 2008 Original Appropriation	237.25	20,533,300	47,284,600	237.25	20,533,300	47,284,600
4.10 Reappropriation	0.00	0	44,000	0.00	0	44,000
4.30 Supplemental	0.00	0	0	0.00	9,000,000	9,000,000
4.60 Deficiency Warrants	0.00	255,000	255,000	0.00	255,000	255,000
4.70 Revenue Adjustments	0.00	(255,000)	(255,000)	0.00	(255,000)	(255,000)
5.00 FY 2008 Total Appropriation	237.25	20,533,300	47,328,600	237.25	29,533,300	56,328,600
7.00 FY 2008 Estimated Expenditures	237.25	20,533,300	47,328,600	237.25	29,533,300	56,328,600
8.10 FTP or Fund Adjustments	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
8.20 Object Transfers	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
8.30 Transfer Between Programs	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
8.40 Removal of One-Time Expenditures	(1.00)	(8,286,000)	(9,165,700)	(1.00)	(17,286,000)	(18,165,700)
9.00 FY 2009 Base	236.25	12,247,300	38,162,900	236.25	12,247,300	38,162,900
10.10 Employee Benefit Costs	0.00	229,900	537,600	0.00	221,900	518,800
10.20 Inflationary Adjustments	0.00	63,900	150,800	0.00	17,900	104,800
10.30 Replacement Items	0.00	509,600	1,142,700	0.00	110,800	695,900
10.40 Interagency Nonstandard Adjustments	0.00	2,500	5,300	0.00	2,500	5,300
10.60 Change In Employee Compensation	0.00	54,400	167,300	0.00	272,000	836,500
11.00 FY 2009 Total Maintenance	236.25	13,107,600	40,166,600	236.25	12,872,400	40,324,200
Administration						
12.01 Ag in the Classroom	0.00	0	75,000	0.00	0	0
Animal Industries						
12.01 Animal Programs	0.00	200,000	200,000	0.00	0	0
12.02 Rangeland Monitoring	0.00	50,000	50,000	0.00	0	0
12.03 Removal of Limited Service Positions	0.00	0	0	(3.00)	0	0
Agricultural Resources						
12.01 Governor's Initiative - Water Projects	0.00	0	0	0.00	5,000,000	5,000,000
Plant Industries						
12.01 Plant Investigator	0.00	89,600	89,600	0.00	0	0
12.02 Eurasian Water Milfoil	0.00	4,000,000	4,000,000	0.00	4,000,000	4,000,000
12.03 Invasive Species	0.00	89,100	129,100	0.00	86,500	126,500
12.04 Gypsy Moth Survey	0.00	77,000	99,500	0.00	77,000	99,500
12.05 Gov's Initiative - Garden	0.00	0	0	0.00	1,500	1,500
Marketing and Development						
12.01 Idaho Rural Partnership	1.00	135,000	310,000	1.00	135,000	310,000
12.02 RediFit	0.00	0	55,000	0.00	0	55,000
Soil Conservation Commission						
12.01 NRCS Rent	0.00	40,000	40,000	0.00	0	0
12.02 Water Quality Program	0.00	425,000	425,000	0.00	0	0
12.03 Loan Program	0.00	500,000	500,000	0.00	0	0
12.04 Insurance For Districts	0.00	35,000	35,000	0.00	0	0
12.05 District Audits	0.00	60,000	60,000	0.00	18,000	18,000
13.00 FY 2009 Total	237.25	18,808,300	46,234,800	234.25	22,190,400	49,934,700



Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

1700 E. Bogard Rd. Suite 203 • Wasilla, AK 99654
907-373-7923 • fax 373-7192

Eric Wade, Executive Director
aacd@mtaonline.net

Representative Craig Johnson
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Craig Johnson,

The board of the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) voted to support House Bill 330 (HB 330):

“An Act relating to management of noxious weeds and invasive plants; establishing the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board; and establishing the noxious weed and invasive plant management fund.”

As an organization that promotes development of natural resources in manners that conserve their use for future generations, the AACD is concerned with the effect that unmanaged invasive plants will have on natural resources. The AACD has responded by funding an Invasive Plant Program with support from the USDA Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and others. A noxious weed and invasive plant management board will provide the structure and direction needed for the state to lead efforts in noxious weed and invasive plant management.

Noxious weeds and invasive plants have proven worldwide as a threat to natural resources by displacing native and desirable plants, reducing forage and wildlife shelter, altering ecosystems and in some cases permanently changing environmental conditions. Worldwide, estimated annual costs for invasive species are \$1.4 trillion. Idaho spends \$300 million a year on invasive species control, and Montana spends \$14 million a year on just one weed, spotted knapweed. In Alaska, spotted knapweed has been found at just more than 10 sites. Other invasive plants are similarly in small populations that will expand without management. Alaska has a unique opportunity to avoid losses in resource production and costs of management that other states such as Montana are experiencing.

AACD fears Alaska's unique opportunity to manage invasive plants in a relatively inexpensive manner is departing with each passing summer. Over the last 8 years professionals have discovered well established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants in Alaska. These highly invasive plants are a threat to natural resources related to agricultural production, forestry, fisheries, tourism, subsistence resources, water fowl, large and small game, and non-timber forest products such as wild berries. All of these resources are keystones to Alaska's natural resource based economy and subsistence uses. State support of organized efforts to prevent new

introductions and manage invasive plants that are already here will prevent impacts to the economy from invasive plant related losses in natural resource production.

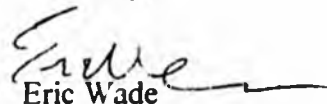
HB 330 will make significant advances in establishing invasive plant management in Alaska. Other states such as Oregon, Washington and Idaho are beginning to see success in invasive plant management from their established noxious weed and invasive plant boards. In Alaska, establishing a noxious weed and invasive plant management board with the proposed structure will ensure that the appropriate state agencies, producers of natural resources and experts in the field of invasive plant management are cooperating in planning for invasive plant management and developing inter and intra-agency policy changes.

HB 330 tasks the noxious weed and invasive plant management board with developing a strategic plan for invasive plant management. This plan will provide the direction to state agencies and local weed management efforts that is needed to coordinate their efforts. A strategic plan will initiate the state program that is necessary to acquire federal funds available under the Federal Noxious Weed Act. When applying for federal assistance, local efforts will benefit from a statewide strategic plan as it will demonstrate state commitment and cooperation with local efforts.

HB 330 establishes a noxious weed and invasive plant management fund to support the board and weed management efforts around the state. Federal funding sources expect state matching dollars towards projects. This fund will provide state matching dollars necessary to support local efforts in acquiring federal assistance.

The AACD board believes HB 330 represents the best structure to further state involvement in invasive plant management. This involvement is necessary to prevent losses to natural resources from invasive plants.

Sincerely,



Eric Wade

Executive Director

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts



Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management

House Resources Subcommittee,

The Board of Directors for the Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) would like to provide members of the House Resources Subcommittee with information about invasive plant threats to natural resources and invasive plant management efforts in Alaska and other states.

Noxious weeds and invasive plants have proven worldwide to be a threat to natural resources because they compete with crops and native plants, degrade fish and wildlife habitat, and can decrease property values. Worldwide, estimated annual costs of invasive species are \$1.4 trillion. Idaho spends \$300 million a year on invasive species control, and Montana spends \$14 million a year on just one weed, spotted knapweed. In Alaska, spotted knapweed has been found at more than 10 sites. Many other invasive plants have been found in Alaska in similarly small populations that will expand beyond control without prompt management. Managing invasive plants when they are in small, incipient populations is recognized by experts as the most cost effective way to prevent the problem from getting out of control. Alaska has a unique opportunity *in prevention*; to avoid natural resource losses, direct and indirect economic impacts and extensive herbicide use that others are experiencing.

Over the last eight years professionals and the public have discovered well-established and expanding populations of highly invasive plants in Alaska. These highly invasive plants are a threat to agricultural production, forestry, fisheries, tourism, subsistence resources, waterfowl, large and small game, and non-timber forest products such as wild berries. All of these resources are keystones to Alaska's natural-resource based industries and subsistence uses. Professionals in Alaska and outside can demonstrate that Alaska's invasive plant problem is growing. However, swift coordinated management will prevent major losses to resources and expenditures of state funds.

Other states such as Oregon, Washington and Idaho have established coordinated efforts for invasive plant management through the establishment of noxious weed and invasive plant boards. Successful invasive plant management boards include an appropriate range of stakeholders such as land managers from state agencies, representatives of industries affected by the issue and experts in the field of invasive plant management.

Noxious weed and invasive plant management boards develop and regularly review statewide strategic plans for invasive plant prevention and management. Plans provide coordination and direction to state agencies and local weed management efforts. Strategic plans are also pre-requisites to acquisition of federal funds available

under the Federal Noxious Weed Act. Strategic plans demonstrate state commitment and cooperation with local efforts.

State weed boards often establish funds to provide financial assistance for local weed management efforts. Federal funding sources expect state matching dollars towards projects. Federal funds are often ephemeral, and are selected through a competitive process at the national level. States with established invasive plant management funds have support that will allow for management to continue in the absence of available federal dollars or changes in federal priorities.

Questions have been raised whether the board to be created by HB 330 should cover all types of invasive species, including such organisms as marine zebra mussels and agricultural diseases such as potato blight. While this idea was considered it has shortcomings with regards to invasive plant management.

Several states with successful invasive species management efforts have a weed board dedicated to managing only invasive plants to simplify listing species for management, provide adequate number of appropriate experts and stakeholders, and facilitate coordinated management. There are numerous plant species of concern for Alaska, requiring input from plant experts and stakeholders. Coordination needs are unique with invasive plants due to their ability to quickly spread across multiple land ownership boundaries. Invasive animals and/or diseases also require significant coordination efforts. However, potato blight and zebra mussel, for example, require management efforts from a primary agency, in this case the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Agriculture and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), respectively. On the other hand, a single species of invasive plant may be found growing within the management purview of Department of Transportation, ADF&G, DNR, and private property holders.

Other states have advised Alaska that, in order for a state weed board to be successful, Alaska needs two things: knowledge of invasive plants that occur in or threaten the state, and established local management efforts. We have these things. A scientific ranking of over 100 invasive plant species located in the state is complete and available online alongside results of survey efforts for these invasive plant species. Local efforts to manage invasive plants have begun through all the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and five established Cooperative Weed Management Areas, regional groups that coordinate work across jurisdictional boundaries.

The background work has been done to pave the way for a successful state weed board in Alaska. The need is great and the opportunity to *prevent* major invasive plant problems in Alaska will not last forever. Now is the time to take action.

Thank you for your time on this important issue,

CNIPM board
Jamie Nielsen (Chair)
Gino Graziano (Vice-Chair)



Alaska Conservation Alliance

Uniting for Alaska's Future

February 15, 2008

Representative Johnson
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: **HOUSE BILL NO. 330** – Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board

Dear Representative Johnson

On behalf of the Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA), a consortium of 40 Alaska-based conservation groups, I want to acknowledge and applaud your foresight to create a Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board. Invasive species present not only an ecological hazard but a serious threat to our economy and quality of life in Alaska. While Alaska has largely been spared, many other states have been hard hit with the impacts of invasive species, and this proactive bill will help the state establish procedures and protocol to deal with both established and potential invasive plants and noxious weeds.

Given the environmental and economic importance of this bill, I would like to respectfully suggest the following additions in order to more effectively meet the bill's overall goals. ACA would strongly encourage that the Plant Board be required to take a least toxic approach to plant management. While herbicides can be effective at managing invasive plant species they do contaminate soil and water bodies, harm other plants and animals, and lead to bioaccumulation of toxics and herbicide tolerance. Since biological and mechanical weed control can often be both cost-efficient and effective we think it is good policy to use herbicides only as means of last resort and then when necessary use the least toxic herbicide in the least amount to be effective.

To accomplish this policy objective, we suggest amending Sec. 41.10.270 (3) to read as follows:

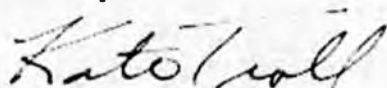
(3) develop and annually review a comprehensive state strategic plan for the management of noxious weeds and invasive plants based on resources including a least toxic approach to control and eradication, and priorities identified by the board in consultation with federal, state, municipal, and public groups, including the conceptual design for a national Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants;

This simple amendment directs the experts to develop the specifics of a least toxic approach to the control and eradication of invasive plants. More importantly including this policy directive will ensure that we don't exchange one set of environmental problems for another.

Second, the definition of invasive species should be amended so that it does not include species natural northern migration due to the effects of global climate change. As warming increases, a species former range may be extended northward; as such, it does not fit the typical definition of an invasive species. This could be accomplished by making sure that "alien" does not include indigenous species to Alaska that may be naturally extending their range in response to the effects of climate change.

I strongly encourage you and the Alaska Legislature to incorporate these changes and pass HB 330. This bill will help get us ahead of a troublesome and expensive curve. It is in the best, common interest of Alaskans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Troll".

Kate Troll
Executive Director

From: Bradleyhouse@acsalaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 2:41 AM
To: Rep. Craig Johnson
Cc: nakadaninja@msn.com
Subject: HB 330

Hi Craig-

I spoke with Nicole Syren, her family owns Bells Nursery/Mosesian Farms of Alaska. I asked she review the bill and give me her opinion.

She did offer a couple of observations.

- 1.) The definition of "invasive plant" – she is not comfortable with (line 13 – 14, page 6) "plant subspecies alien to the state". Her concern is some of the plants grown at the nurseries do not originate from Alaska and makes it subject to interpretation. She feels that could be taken out without affecting the goal of the bill.
- 2.) The conflict with this bill is pesticide regulations. The Mosesian Farms "sanitize" their soils before use to prevent weed growth. She stated that the regulation trend is for "watered down pesticide" use. As a result, they are becoming less effective in their fight to prevent weed growth. Responsible use of higher potency pesticides could greatly reduce the proliferation and increase of noxious weeds. (This comment is FYI.)
- 3.) The three appointed members of the board should be from the nursery/farm/greenhouse industries for knowledge and balance of debates due to the complexities of external influences others on the board may be unaware of that are not in the business.

Thanks for your work!

-Berni Bradley

Cc: Theresa, please forward this to Nicole

From: AKCANWIN@aol.com [mailto:AKCANWIN@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 9:15 PM

To: Rep. Carl Gatto

Subject: Invasive Weeds House Bill 330

Dear Representative Gatto

We are Troy and Lori Zaumseil. We have been very active around Alaska on the issue of invasive weeds and we are writing to ask for your support with **House Bill 330**. This bill addresses the threat to Alaska from noxious, invasive weeds that are becoming more and more established in Alaska. Invasive weeds have begun to compromise fish passage in Alaskan waterways, encroach onto agricultural acreage and overtake residential and public land. Each of these has the potential to affect Alaska through lowered property values, reduced wildlife forage and lower salmon harvests. We know that many legislators are talking about "holding the line on spending" and "being conservative with Alaska's finances" and that is always the right thing to do. But as Troy and I are speaking in front of community councils and other groups we are explaining that enacting this legislation IS the fiscally responsible thing to do. There is ample proof and forewarning that Alaska WILL incur losses and expense if we don't address invasive, noxious weeds and address it NOW. We must put the framework in place to prevent and control this threat and minimize these kinds of losses and resulting unavoidable expense--a formal weed program will do that, as well as make federal funds available to Alaska. Alaska is in a position to catch this problem in its early stages, we can not afford to squander that advantage. Representative Craig Johnson has been working with the Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) to develop **House Bill 330**. Troy and I have been speaking to community councils and other groups to make them understand why spending a dollar of their tax money now will save them thousands later. We have also been asked to speak at the Alaska Forum on the Environment and at the Alaska Botanical Gardens Spring Conference--the threat from invasive weeds is being recognized by citizens all over the state. Perhaps most important to us is our invitation to speak in Washington D.C. at the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week. We will be traveling to D.C. in a couple weeks to address the opening session and meet with Alaska's federal representatives on this issue. We want to carry the message that Alaska is fighting the good fight and responding to this threat to her ecology, economy and environment. Please add your voice and support to this important legislation and encourage other legislators to do the same. The up front expense is minimal compared to what we stand to preserve in natural resources and save in financial losses later.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Troy and Lori Zaumseil

January 29, 2008

Trish Wurtz
P.O. Box 82864
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Dear Ms Wurtz

Thank you for your comments regarding invasive plants in Alaska and HB330. It is critical that the public be able to share their opinions and comments to their representative and I truly appreciate your comments.

Invasive plants are a growing concern for Alaska, especially with global warming affecting migration. The proposed bill provides a means to limit the possible damage. The bill is scheduled to be heard in the House Resources Committee on February 11th at 1:00 p.m. You can send a letter of support or call in to testify during the hearing. I have also forwarded your information to the Committee to be included as part of the public testimony and debate.

As a member of the House Resources Committee, I will deliberate the bill and I will take your concerns under consideration in the committee and later on the House Floor.

I always enjoy listening to Fairbanksans and will work hard for our city. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in the future.

Working hard for Fairbanks families,

Representative Scott Kawasaki
District 9 Fairbanks

RES/CC JOHNSON



Invasive bird vetch covering a fence at the UAF experimental farm

Dear Rep. Kawasaki,

1/22/08

Invasive plants are not yet a big problem in Alaska, but there's cause for concern. About a hundred species that are known to be aggressive invaders elsewhere have been found in Alaska, and they are beginning to spread like crazy.

Alaska still has lots of pristine land left. We need the weed board that Representative Johnson has proposed in house bill 330. The weed board needs some start-up funds, too.

Alaska needs to act before invasive plants become a big problem here. We need to act now, before the big problems occur. Please support bill 330.

Sincerely,

Trish Wurtz

Trish Wurtz
Box 82864
Fairbanks, AK 99708

nice to see you
at Kenton's memorial
work party.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska Region

State & Private Forestry
3301 'C' Street, Suite 202
Anchorage, AK 99503-3956

File Code: 3400

Date: September 11, 2007

The Honorable Craig Johnson
Representative, House District 8
State House
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 640
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Representative Johnson:

Thank you for your interest and support of the Forest Service Invasive Plant Program in Alaska. Your e-mail inquiry regarding our Fiscal Year 2008 budget for this program was forwarded to me by Jeanne Ostnes of your staff. As you know we do not yet have an appropriation, but have no reason to assume that funding will be different from previous years. In Fiscal Year 2007, the Alaska Region of the Forest Service was allocated \$243,000 for invasive plants management on non-federal lands. All of those funds were distributed to cooperators and partners, such as University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, Alaska Natural Heritage Program, and the Municipality of Anchorage. With these funds, and others leveraged from cooperators, 110 acres of treatment were planned for accomplishment.

I plan to attend the September 20 meeting to discuss invasives in Alaska and look forward to a dialogue with representatives from your office and others. Our long standing partner and grant recipient in the invasive plant program, the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, will also be represented by Jamie Nielsen. Additionally at that time, I expect to be able to announce the selection of our new Invasive Plant Program Coordinator for Alaska.

If you need additional information, please contact me at (907) 743-9451.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN E. PATTERSON
Acting Director, State & Private Forestry

cc: Jeanne Ostnes



Letter to State Legislators

We are Troy and Lori Zaumseil. We live in Anchorage, we are Alaskans and we believe there is a crisis looming that threatens every aspect of what makes Alaska unique in all the world. Every day noxious, invasive plants are encroaching more and more into the eco-system of Alaska--choking, diminishing and forever changing the natural make up of our land--the same is happening in nearly every other state in the union, costing each of them millions and millions of dollars every year. The good news is that because of Alaska's remote setting, we have the best advantage over all those states to prevent invasive plant species infestation. What is completely unbelievable to us, is that Alaska has almost no safeguards in place to do this! We are asking you as someone who has sworn to protect the interests of Alaska and her citizens to read on and become part of the solution.

We are far from the most knowledgeable persons on the subject of invasive species and the policies that deal with them, but we have become personally impassioned and involved after finding 3 plants during the course of our spring gardening shopping that were infested with invasive species. One of them contained a Canada Thistle, which is listed in Alaska statute as a prohibited noxious weed. We sought resolution through Home Depot directly, expecting that they would act swiftly and make corrections to avoid sanctions from the Division of Agriculture. However, Home Depot refused to take action regarding the stock in their stores even after we notified them of our findings, so we felt we had no choice but to contact the Department of Agriculture and the USDA State Plant Health Coordinator.

What we learned is that while there is a statute that has a list of prohibited noxious weeds--that list is over 20 years old and in desperate need of updating. The problem is that what should be a simple act of adding a newly discovered problem plant to the list takes a year or more to happen--more than enough time for an aggressive invader to be permanently established and on its way to costing the state of Alaska millions in futile attempts to control and eradicate. Worse than that, as we have come to discover, is even though there is a statute, there is now allowance for enforcement, measuring compliance, levying penalties for violations or follow up. So although we made a report to these state agencies, they are limited by budget, lack of manpower and a statute with no real backbone. Essentially, in this case where a known entry point for a prohibited noxious weed is identified, there exists no means of addressing those responsible. The response from Home Depot has been almost non-existent and now we see why. This must change!!

There are a lot of dedicated experts putting forth extraordinary efforts to address invasive noxious plants in Alaska. They are working on how to control and eradicate these plants, they are spending time and energy educating the public about why it's important to be vigilant, they are working on studying the effects invasive plants have on every aspect of the environment, wildlife, livestock, property values, tourism and natural habitats. They are all fighting a losing battle if Alaska doesn't step up her defenses on the front end of this problem--PREVENTION. There are many states who have had to accept that millions of acres are just lost to them--over run by Star Thistle or Leafy Spurge and other invasive plants. These states lose hundreds of millions of dollars every year fighting to contain further spread, in reduced agriculture production, property values lowered, etc. We have found many reports that detail this and can provide many more statistics. Experts in the field all agree that prevention, by far, is the least expensive and most effective means of addressing noxious weeds.

To stop invasive species from ever getting in to Alaska, we need workable laws that allow the experts on the subjects to add and subtract known threats in real time. The current statutes are antiquated--drawn up to address agriculture and farming issues in the state half a century ago--they need to be updated to reflect the current age of retail box stores, mail order nurseries and property owners with access to them. These new statutes must address specific issues and penalties for non-compliance. There should be an enforcement office who can field reports regarding invasive species and have the authority to act on them, do site inspections at retail outlets with the authority to issue warnings and fines if the situation merits and lastly work

with property owners to control invasive species on their land and stay compliant. Our experience with Home Depot is proof positive that big business will not police themselves out of concern for OUR natural resources. We have to find a way to make them care and enforceable regulations are the start!!

If prevention costs \$1, but fighting the problem after the fact costs \$1000, and the dollar isn't spent, then there is a failure to protect that financial interest. Please don't let the citizens of Alaska down. As someone sworn to protect the interests of the citizens you serve, we are bringing the battle to you, please pick up arms and join us in addressing this problem while it is the most manageable it will ever be. Each day another plant goes to seed, another noxious weed finds its way into Alaska gardens, into the moose and caribou forage, into the pastures, residential properties and on to hiking trails. The problem will never be easier to solve than it is today.

We are working to make all Alaskans aware of the changes that need to take place. We have been contacted by the Anchorage Daily News and Mother Earth News has expressed an interest in having me write about our quest. We find people every day who assumed that there was enforcement and safeguards in place to protect Alaska from invasive plants and we are determined to find those people in larger number and bring them all into this grassroots movement to affect change.

Thank you for your time. We ask that you make room for this matter on your calendar and we look forward to working with you.

Troy and Lori Zaumseil
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