

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2007-2008 SRES 12733

Recommendation No. 5: The board should cease the electronic accumulation of information gathered from hunt records and transporter reports.

The department has already invested significant time and resources in electronic accumulation of information from hunt records and transporter reports. We agree the data requested on the reports should be streamlined and its purpose should relate specifically to the licensing of guide-outfitters and transporters. We concur with your recommendation to the division work with the Board to identify (1) concise and clear use of the information; (2) specific stakeholders; (3) timeframe to reasonably complete the work; and (4) costs associated with the data collection.

Given the amount of resources already invested in electronically capturing the data from these reports, we think it behooves the department to continue collecting information from hunt and transporter records. Additionally, capturing the information electronically will ultimately save valuable staff time from having to manually copy paper reports for enforcement purposes.

The department will commit to working with the Board to identify the points you raised, and will focus its attention on data capture of current information for now.

I assure you the administrative issues identified in your preliminary audit report will be addressed and corrected. We believe that the Board has made a significant contribution to improve commercial guide services in Alaska; and the department will provide the support needed to make this regulatory program operate for the benefit of the industry and the citizens of this State.

Thanks again for allowing us to comment on your findings.

Sincerely,

Emil Notti
Commissioner

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HB

330



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Office of the Secretary

State Capitol, Room 213
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3701
Fax: (907) 465-2832

Email:senate_secretary@legis.state.ak.us

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

DATE: March 19, 2008

TO: **Resources Committee**
(Sharon, Room 119)

FROM: Office of the Senate Secretary

SUBJ: Referral Change

The Chair of the Committee noted above has waived the referral(s) on the following bills(s):

RETRIEVE

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 330(RES)

"An Act relating to noxious weed, invasive plant and agricultural pest management and education; and providing for an effective date."

Please give the bill file(s) to the page delivering this message for forwarding to the next Committee of referral.

Thank you.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair
Sen. Lyda Green
Sen. Gary Stevens
Sen. Lesil McGuire
Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau AK 99801-1182
907-465-3878
Fax: 907-465-3265
800-862-3878

Senate Resources Committee

MEMORANDUM

Date: 3/18/2008
To: All Committee Members
From: Charlie Huggins
Re: **Waiving CSHB 330 (RES): Noxious Weeds, Invasive Plant & Agricultural Pest Management**

CSHB 330 (RES) has referrals in the Senate to both Resources and Finance. Please let me know if you have any objection to waiving this referral; my intent is to waive it to Finance during tomorrow's floor session.

The complete packet has been sent to your office for review.

- This bill had three hearings in House Resources and passed out with unanimous support (see attached)
- House Finance moved the bill in one hearing
- It had unanimous bipartisan support on the House Floor
- It is supported by the Governor's Natural Resources Conservation Development Board
- Sunsets 2011
- Cost: \$80,000/year (decreased in committee from \$286 K)
- Will bring in 100's of thousands in revenue from Feds once this is in place (establishing a coordinator, strategic plan & data base)

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim:

716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 640
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone (907) 269-0200
Fax (907) 269-0204
Rep_Craig_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us



Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 126
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4993
Fax (907) 465-3872
Toll-free (866) 465-4992

REPRESENTATIVE CRAIG JOHNSON
HOUSE DISTRICT 28

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee

From: Representative Craig Johnson *CJ*

Date: March 18, 2008

Subject: Request for Hearing

I respectfully request that CS for House Bill 330 (RES), relating to noxious weed, invasive plant and agricultural pest management and education be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Resources Committee. The CS for House Bill 330 (RES) will allow for a coordinator to develop a strategic plan and a statewide database for Alaska. More importantly, it will be a start toward limiting economic loss and adverse effects to the Alaska's agricultural, natural, and human resources.

Please feel free to contact me, or my aide, Jeanne Ostnes, with questions or thoughts at our main office number of 465-6871.

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

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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.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 330(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/21/08
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to noxious weed, invasive plant and agricultural pest management and**
2 **education; and providing for an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 03.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 03.05.027. Noxious weed, invasive plant, and agricultural pest**
6 **management and education.** (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall employ
7 or appoint a state coordinator for noxious weed, invasive plant, and agricultural pest
8 management and education.

9 (b) The state coordinator employed or appointed under (a) of this section shall
10 oversee the enforcement of state statutes and regulations regarding noxious weeds,
11 invasive plants, and agricultural pests and shall coordinate with state and federal
12 agencies, state land users, public groups, and private organizations to

13 (1) develop, implement, and annually review a comprehensive state
14 strategic plan; for the control of noxious weeds, invasive plants, and agricultural pests

1 the plan must include an early detection and rapid response system for invasive plants
2 consistent with federal guidelines;

3 (2) design and execute a geographically based plant and pest
4 management area program;

5 (3) develop and maintain a statewide database for mapping and
6 monitoring noxious weeds, invasive plants, and agricultural pests;

7 (4) develop integrated plant and pest management programs;

8 (5) regulate and control the entry into the state and transportation of
9 seeds, plants, and other horticultural products;

10 (6) contact and provide educational materials to state land users and
11 other audiences regarding noxious weed, invasive plant, and agricultural pest issues,
12 including identification, management, potential hazards, and landowner
13 responsibilities;

14 (7) accept contributions of service, materials, or equipment, and,
15 subject to appropriation of money from the United States or its agencies, from a
16 department or agency of the state, or from any other source for use in carrying out the
17 purposes of this section: and

18 (8) review and make recommendations to state departments and
19 agencies concerning revisions to state regulations and statutes, including revisions and
20 additions to state noxious weed lists.

21 (c) Each state department, agency, and institution shall cooperate with the
22 state coordinator employed or appointed under (a) of this section in carrying out the
23 tasks specified in (b) of this section.

24 (d) The state coordinator employed or appointed under (a) of this section shall
25 coordinate with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and Alaska
26 Association of Conservation Districts Board of Directors in fulfilling the coordinator's
27 responsibilities under (b) of this section.

28 * **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this Act is repealed.

29 * **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect June 30, 2011.

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

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

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 Irwin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

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

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

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

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

CS HB 330 (RES)

Request for Waiver

- This bill had three hearings in House Resources and passed out with unanimous support (see attached)
- House Finance moved the bill in one hearing.
- It had unanimous bipartisan support on the House Floor.
- The bill is supported by the Governor's Natural Resources Conservation Development Board.
- Sunsets 2011
- \$80 k/year (down from \$286 k)
- \$ 100's K/s from Feds once this in place (estab. Coordinator, strategic plan, data base)

Cmte bill: res & fin referrals in both houses

To wave: ck/w all sres members to agree
Make floor motion;



The Alaska Committee of
Noxious & Invasive Plants
Management

Jamie Nielsen, UAF Cooperative Extension Service

Telephone: (907) 786-6315

Email: ffjmn@uaf.edu

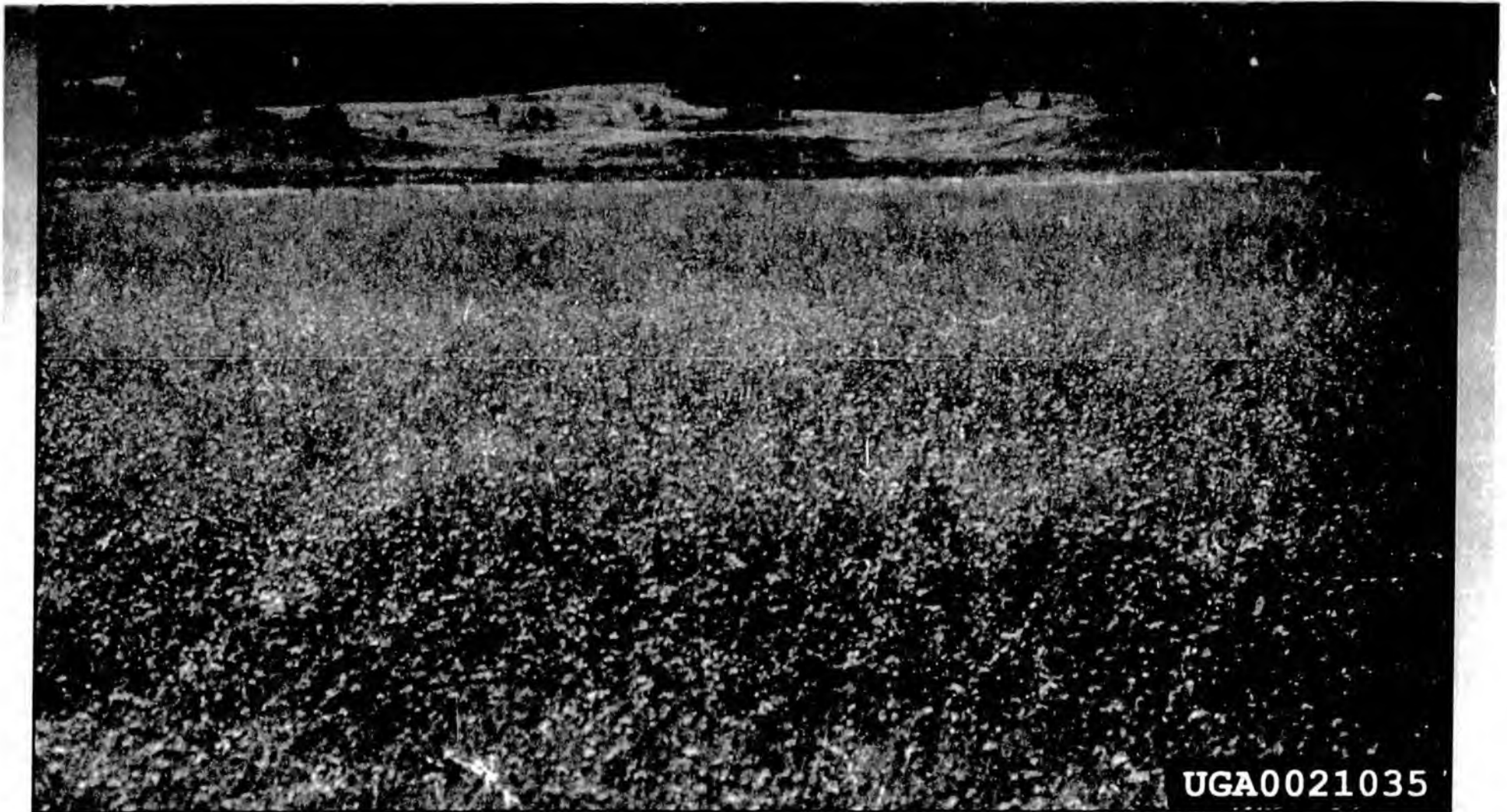
Gino Graziano, Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Telephone: (907) 354-1227

Email: ginoqraziano@alaskaswcds.org

Invasive Plant Species

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



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.

Purple Loosestrife

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

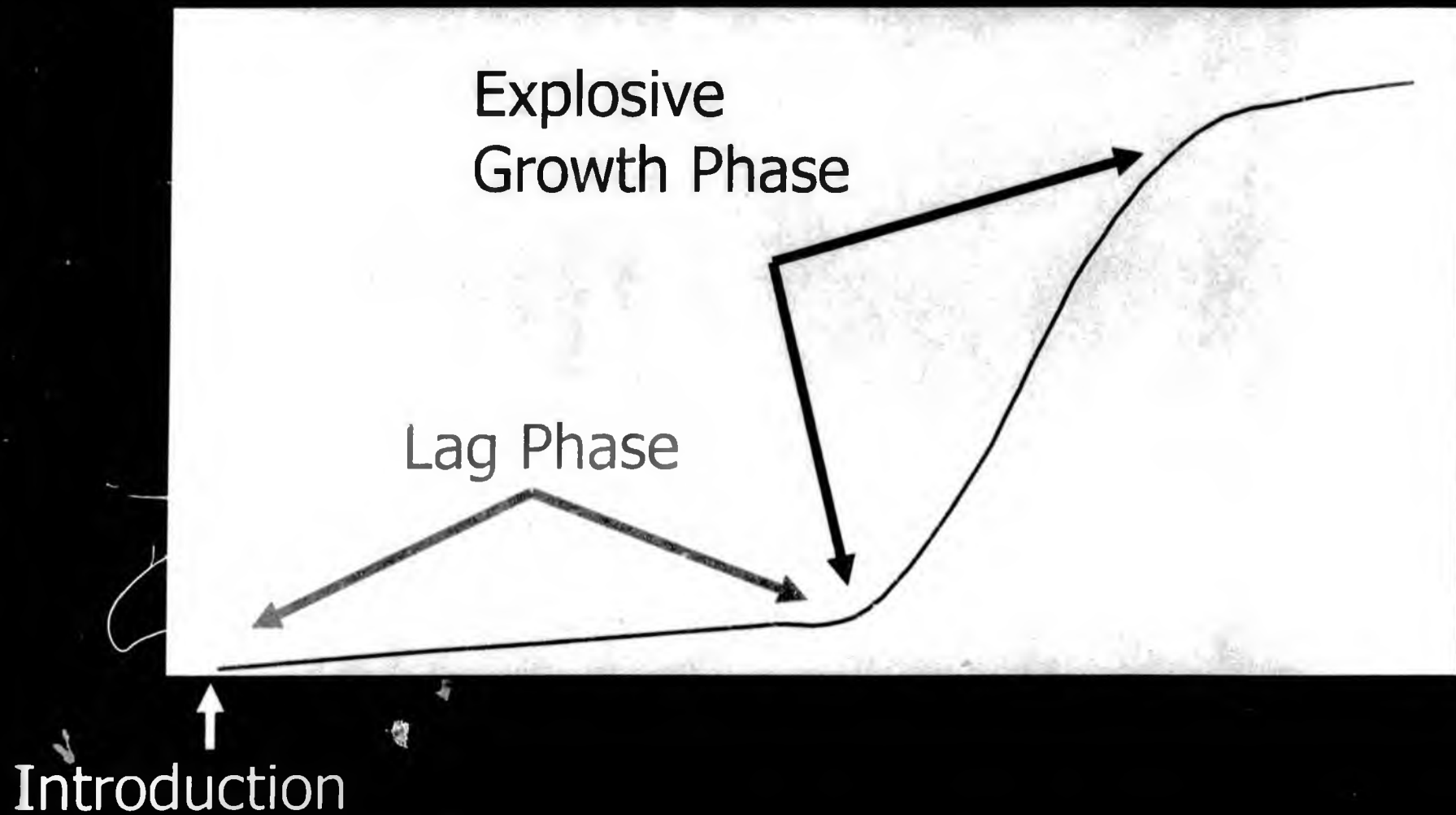


Leafy Spurge

- 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



Slide courtesy of Tim Miller, Washington State University

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



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 \(Excel table\)](#)

[Home](#)

[Workshop & Training Presentations](#)

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

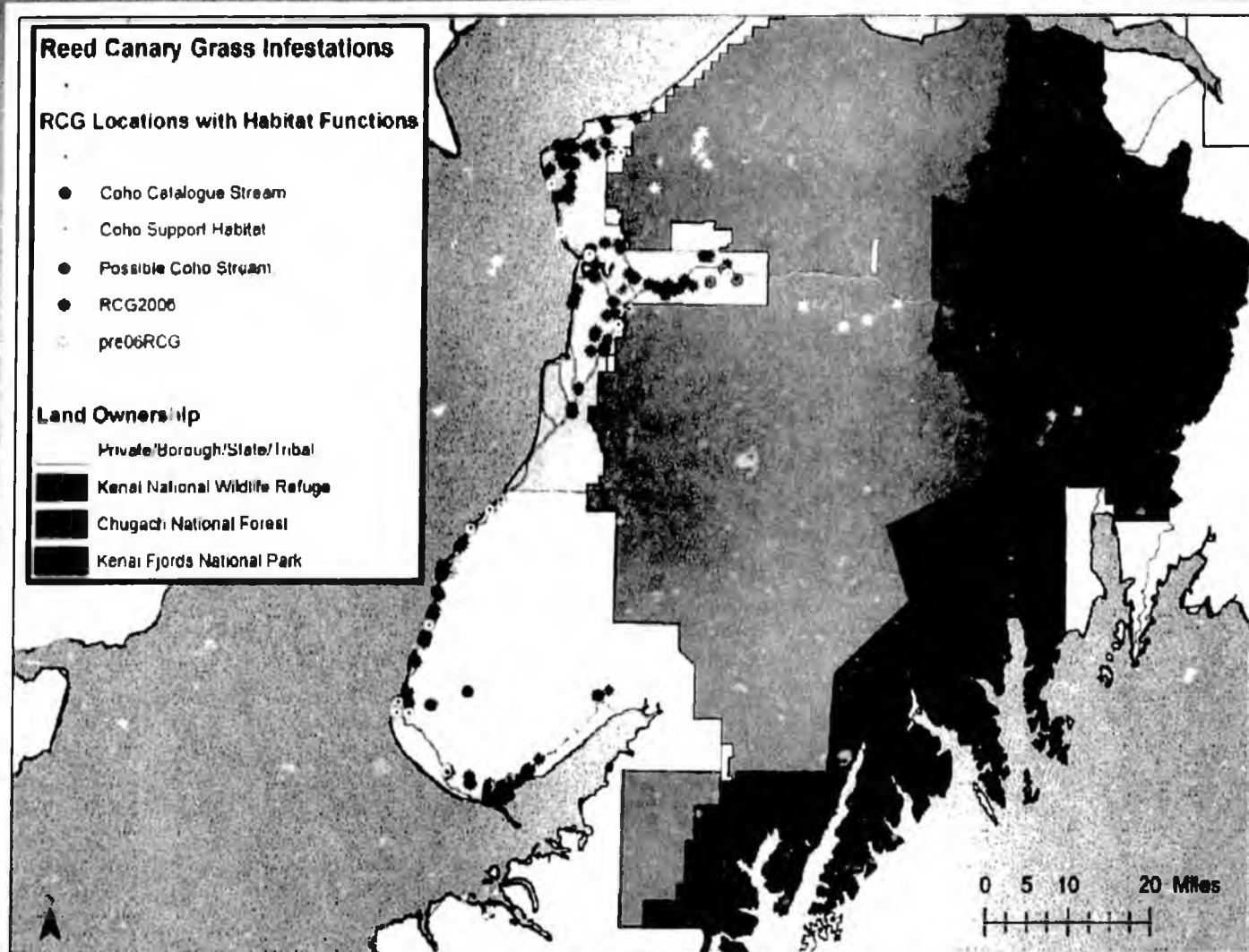
[Collaborators](#)



Non-native species PRESENT in Alaska

Species Biography	Risk Assessment Report	Scientific Name	Common Name	Rank 0-100 (low-high)	Climate similarity of Alaska ecogeographic 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>Aliaria 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
CEBI-bio	CEBI-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) Breuter & Burdet & <i>C. glomeratum</i> Thall	mouse-ear chickweed, big chickweed & sticky chickweed	39	Yes	Yes	Yes
CHAL-bio	CHAL-rank	<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	lambsquarters	35	Yes	Yes	Yes
CIAR4-bio	CIAR4-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
COCO7-bio	COCO7-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 broom, Scotch broom	69	Yes	No	No

Work- The "WHE" Specific Plants Information Clearing



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

Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District
401 41 Ave. E. Suite 201
Homer AK 99603



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

Laying the Groundwork- the "WHY" Public Awareness



CNIPM Website: www.cnipm.org

ONLINE Recommendations

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



Recommendations

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



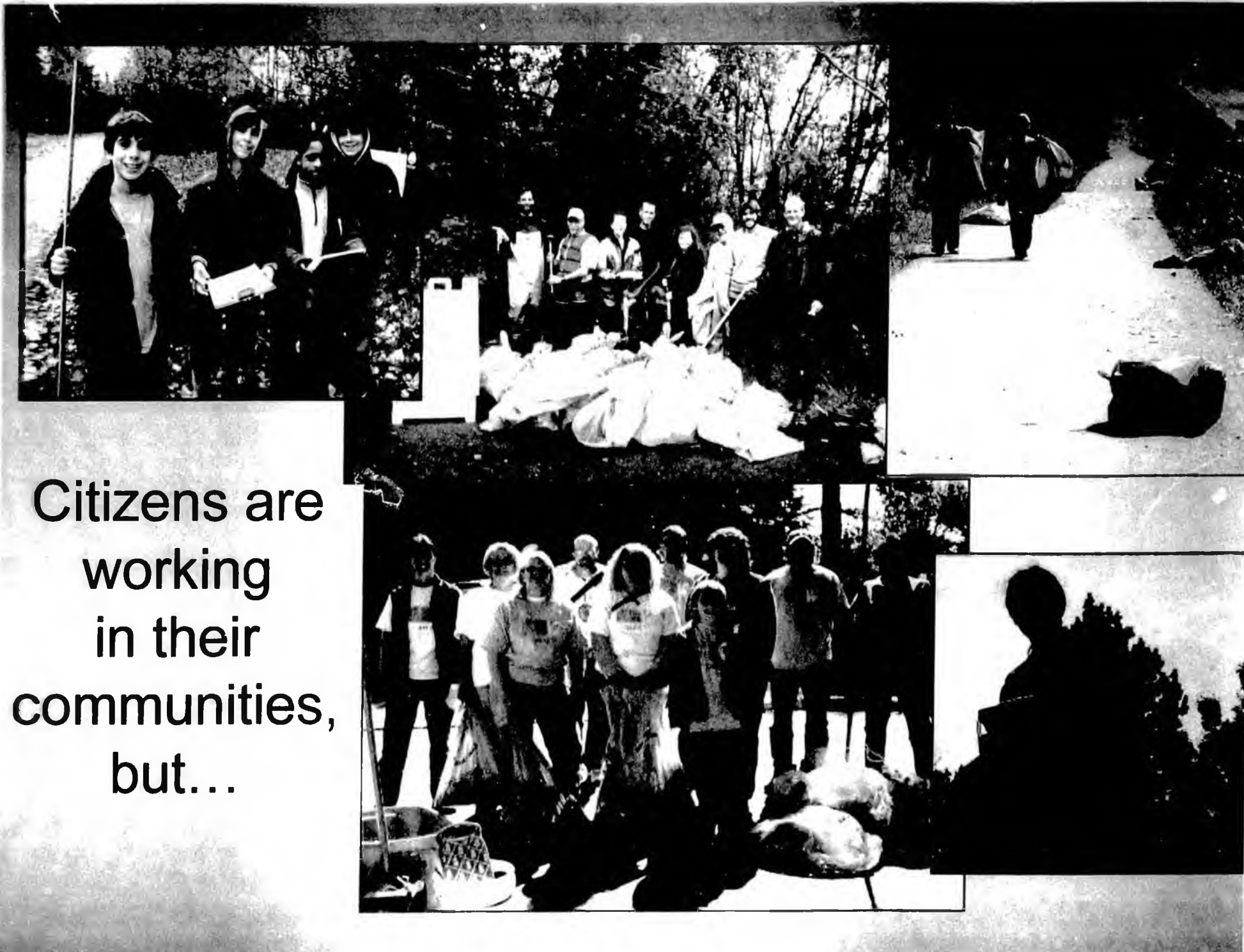
CNIPM Recommendations

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 Center 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

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Alaska
DEC



Invasive Plants

A Growing Threat to Alaska's Ecology and Economy

- Annual damage from invasive species worldwide is estimated at \$1.4 trillion – 5% of the global economy.
- Idaho is estimated to spend \$300 million per year on invasive species control.
- One weed – spotted knapweed – now costs Montana over \$14 million per year and covers over 5 million acres. In Alaska, this species has been found at over ten sites, from Ketchikan to Anchorage.
- The number of new invasive plants found in Alaska continues to rise each year.
- Addressing this situation NOW will yield benefits for years to come.



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
Cooperative Extension Service
(907) 786-6315
e-mail: ffjmn@uaf.edu

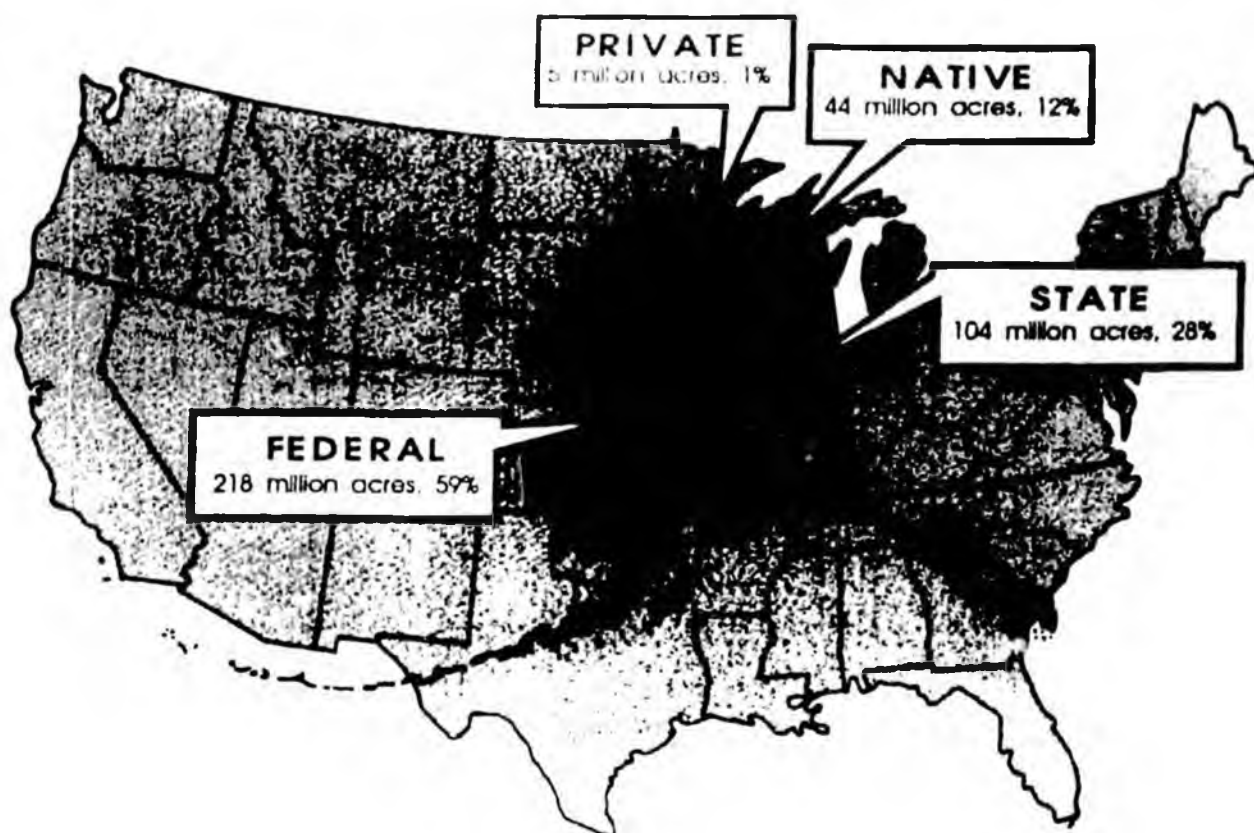
Gino Graziano

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

WHO OWNS ALASKA?



STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION AND
PUBLIC FACILITIES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

3132 Channel Drive
Post Office Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811
Phone: 907-465-8365
Fax: 907-465-3900

February 13, 2008

The Honorable Ralph Samuels, Chairman
Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Samuels:

This is in response to your December 14, 2007 letter requesting department input regarding budgetary impacts and engineering and construction considerations from perceived climate changes involving flooding, erosion, and permafrost degradation.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) manages the State's transportation infrastructure in a very challenging environment with many of the State transportation facilities in the Alaska's interior, northern, and southwest region's underlain by ice-rich permafrost. The department has been battling the effects of warming/melting permafrost for decades. Our Maintenance and Operations Divisions spend an average of \$10 million annually to combat melting permafrost on our highway system. The \$10 million annual figure realistically represents only a fraction of the actual need and therefore this cost may need to increase, perhaps dramatically, if the recent warming trend continues. However, at this point, the department does not have or collect the data necessary to accurately account for permafrost mitigation costs for our entire transportation infrastructure or predict supplemental costs associated with the future impacts of climate change. Doing so would require changing the department's current practices and a significant investment in additional resources. Damages to the public infrastructure could be large, but there is little reliable information detailing the degree and location of impacts.


As part of our mission to manage the State's transportation infrastructure, we have assessed the potential future effects of climate warming trends. Provided below is a list of potential impacts to department's transportation infrastructure and our operations if the climate warming trend continues.

- A longer seasonal transition period from Fall to Winter and Winter to Spring may require a different and potentially more costly approach to snow and ice control.
- The longer seasonal transition may lead to changes in weight restriction policies - both in terms of weights allowed and the length of time the restrictions will be in place.

- An increase in the rate of degrading permafrost is likely to increase highway and airport surface distress requiring an increase in both maintenance and capital expenditures to address the resulting safety problems. In some cases this may require the reevaluation of current design, construction and maintenance practices.
- The majority of roads in the interior, particularly around Fairbanks and north of Fairbanks, traverse areas underlain by ice-rich permafrost and will likely require substantial rehabilitation/ reconstruction and/or relocation if the warming trend continues.
- Increased Active Layer Detachments (slope sloughing and failures) on slopes adjacent to the highway system that result from the thawing of ice-rich surface layers. The thawing of these ice-rich slopes leads to a form of mass wasting. The potential for damage to the highway infrastructure is high and will require a pro-active geotechnical approach to prevent impacts to the transportation system. Even in less extreme instances, the mud-flow sloughing of cut banks fills ditches and plugs culverts, which will result in higher maintenance costs.
- A significant percentage of our airports in northern, western and interior Alaska are built over permafrost that will require significant rehabilitation/reconstruction and/or relocation if their foundations thaw.
- A number of our public buildings in northern, western and interior Alaska are built over permafrost that will require significant rehabilitation/reconstruction and/or relocation if their foundations thaw. These facilities include the majority of M&O maintenance stations.
- Embankments built over permafrost will need to be thicker to prevent the underlying ground from thawing. This will add to the cost of rehabilitation and reconstruction as more fill materials will be required.
- The continued warming trend will likely result in the increase in erosion of shorelines and riverbanks which will impact any facility constructed adjacent to the waterbody.
- Aufeis problems will likely increase as melt water flows out of warming zones of permafrost, requiring additional maintenance.
- Glacial fed rivers and streams will likely experience increased flows with the potential for flooding and the cutting of new, unanticipated stream channels. Highways such as the Copper River Highway and segments of the Richardson Highway may experience increased flooding requiring larger culverts and/or larger bridges.
- An increase in the frequency and severity of hot days could result in more highway and airport problems related to asphalt softening and traffic-related pavement damage and rutting.
- Milder winters, with more freeze-thaw cycles, would accelerate road deterioration and increase maintenance costs.

"Providing for the safe movement of people and goods and the delivery of state services."

- If the timing, frequency, form and/or intensity of precipitation change in the future, then related natural processes, including debris flows, avalanches and floods, would likely increase with the resulting effect of increased repair costs.
- Coastal communities and their infrastructure are vulnerable to accelerated coastal erosion due to storm activity and wave action eroding shorelines once protected by shore-fast sea ice. As the climate continues to warm, coastal erosion will increase as sea ice retreats and coastal storms become more frequent.
- Coastal communities and their infrastructure are vulnerable to a rise in the sea level. A rise in the sea level could result in the required relocation on many public facilities as well as entire communities.
- As the Geophysical Institute has determined, warming temperatures are altering the blend of vegetative growth on the North Slope of Alaska. Extending this affect to all of Alaska leads to the conclusion that we may well face increased vegetation throughout our more northern areas, and face increasing demands for vegetation management that have never cropped up before.
- The slowly increasing temperatures being forecast by scientists will allow a variety of invasive plants to prosper in Alaska, which will pose new challenges and demands on our maintenance forces.



The climatic warming trend, combined with an increase in transportation energy costs, will probably lead to alterations in the current vehicle "mix" (i.e., personal automobiles versus mass transit; buses and trains). Our transportation system is not well adapted to a dramatically different vehicle mix than has been experienced over the previous 50 years.

- The maintenance and operations fleet is totally dependent on the combustion of diesel - now shifting to ultra-low sulphur diesel. When viewing these vehicles in the sense of their carbon footprint, we are considering what tomorrow's fleet will be comprised of.

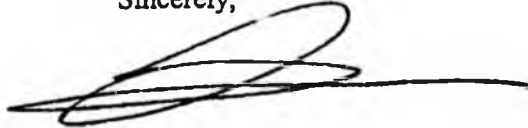
The department is currently assisting several communities that have already been affected by changing climate conditions. The department is actively involved in planning for designing and/or constructing shoreline protection, facility relocation, drainage improvements, and permafrost protection measures. We have active projects in Kivalina, Newtok, Kotzebue, Nome, Unalakleet, Shishmaref, Noatak, Allakaket, and Alakanuk.

To date, the department has not systematically studied the need for or implemented specific changes, policies or regulations to address the potential effects of climate change. At this point in time, we do not have the available data to accurately assess and determine required policy or procedural changes. As stated above, climate change can potentially impact the transportation infrastructure in a multitude of ways – melting/warming permafrost, sea level rise, increased river and shore erosion, increased scour of bridge foundations, increased storm frequency and

intensity, and increasing temperatures. We need to increase the collection and density of data ranging from stream flow records, precipitation and other weather related data records, geotechnical and foundation information, hazards mapping, and other hydrologic data. Our engineering staff needs the appropriate level of data to predict and determine more effective approaches for adapting to changes in climate. As an example, increased precipitation and runoff, storm intensities, and sea-ice conditions will potentially require new and/or revised hydrologic calculations for sizing culverts, designing bridges and their foundations, and erosion control structures. However, at this stage, we are lacking sufficient meteorological information to recommend changes in our planning and engineering processes.

The department will continue to address the impacts of climate change as they occur and will continue to investigate alternative design, construction, and maintenance techniques to address the changing environment that we work in. Right now we need accurate data to be able to design for future impacts to our transportation assets. By partnering with the University of Alaska and other State and Federal agencies we are addressing the most immediate needs for communities already being impacted and identifying the critical information we need to gather to be able to address future impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,



Leo von Scheben, P.E., L.S., M.B.A.
Commissioner

cc: Larry Hartig, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
Frank T. Richards, P.E., Deputy Commissioner of Highways & Public Facilities, DOT&PF
Mary Siroky, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF



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.

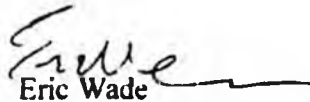
HB 330 will make significant advances in establishing invasive plant management in Alaska. Other states such as Oregon, Washington and Idaho are beginning to see success in invasive plant management from their established noxious weed and invasive plant boards. In Alaska, establishing a noxious weed 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

CNIPM

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)

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

MS / CC 30-10-08



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 28
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
9015 Dewberry St
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-245-2373