

National Invasive Species Council Annual Work Plan FY 2026

JANUARY 13, 2026

In line with Executive Orders 13112 and 13751, the mandate of the National Invasive Species Council (Council) is to provide the vision and leadership to coordinate, sustain, and expand Federal efforts to safeguard the interests of the United States from the negative impacts of invasive species. The following document outlines the core activities that the Council staff will implement in cooperation with Council member agencies over the course of FY 2026. These activities are intended to build on the mechanisms and responsibilities outlined in the Council's Terms of Reference with the goal of advancing a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to priority invasive species issues that require interagency or intergovernmental collaboration.

Council staff develop Annual Work Plans (Work Plans) under the guidance of the Council Co-Chairs, or their Principals, in consultation with the other Principals and Senior Advisers, and with input from relevant Federal interagency committees. These Work Plans direct the efforts of Council staff and are implemented in collaboration with relevant personnel from Council member agencies as well as other stakeholders.

Work Plans are approved according to the relevant policies and procedures of the Co-Chair agencies: the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior. Support for Council staff coordination activities is generally provided through the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, although other agencies may contribute personnel or fiscal resources as available and appropriate.

Work Plans include both general coordination responsibilities that are consistent from year to year as well as select, thematic activities for that year based on priorities identified by the Council. Overall, Work Plans aim to advance efforts to:

- Facilitate institutional leadership and priority setting by Council members;
- Achieve effective interagency coordination and cost-efficiency;
- Raise awareness and motivate action;
- Remove institutional and policy barriers;
- Assess and strengthen capacities; and
- Foster scientific, technical, and programmatic innovation.

Core Coordination Activities

The Council staff play a coordination role to ensure effective and efficient communication and collaboration across Council member agencies on issues related to invasive species. The goals of such higher-level engagement are to benefit and facilitate the efforts of Federal agencies to address invasive species and their impacts. The Council staff also liaise with other relevant Federal interagency committees and non-Federal partners as appropriate to further support coordination efforts and implementation of priority activities.

The following activities reflect the general coordination responsibilities of Council staff. Core coordination activities may be tailored to the thematic priority elements, should be implemented in coordination with relevant Council member agencies where necessary and appropriate, and are subject to staff capacity.

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1. MEETING COORDINATION

- Coordinate meetings of the Council, as directed by the Co-Chairs or their Principals, and develop meeting summaries, compile action items, and distribute information regarding the meetings.
- Coordinate meetings of the Senior Advisers on a regular basis to share information and provide input and guidance on current and future Council activities. Representatives of relevant Federal interagency committees are invited to participate as observers.
- Convene and coordinate task teams, as needed and in consultation and coordination with Council member agencies, to address thematic priority activities with specific, discrete deliverables.

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2. INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- Provide regular updates to Senior Advisers and representatives of relevant Federal interagency committees on policy developments including Congressional activities, Council member activities and outputs, and other relevant information.
- Organize and convene webinars and workshops, as needed and in consultation and coordination with Council member agencies, to facilitate conversations on timely invasive species issues.
- Maintain the Council's online presence and help organize, provide, and/or coordinate content with the National Invasive Species Information Center and other Federal invasive species websites.
- Respond to requests for assistance from Council members on relevant activities as resources allow, including materials and briefings for new agency staff and administration transitions.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION AND EMERGING ISSUES

- Develop the annual crosscut summary report on Federal invasive species-related expenditures through collection and compilation of agency budget data and regularly monitor for opportunities to enhance the value of interagency coordination on relevant budgetary issues.
- Liaise with Council member agencies to identify nationally significant, emerging issues applicable to invasive species management and facilitate information sharing and collaborative efforts.
- Liaise with Federal research programs to identify connections with Council priorities and advance information sharing and coordination on such efforts.
- Track international invasive species policy and management efforts and help support coordinated engagement in conjunction with relevant Council member agencies.
- Work with Council members to track implementation and uptake of NISC outputs.
- Coordinate the development of Annual Work Plans.

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4. OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

- Engage with stakeholder groups, the research community, and the public. Enhance engagement with Tribes, Alaskan native corporations, native Hawaiian organizations, U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States.
- Coordinate with other relevant Federal interagency committees addressing invasive species, including through participation in their meetings and collaboration on mutual priority activities.

Thematic Priority Activities

Thematic priorities include a select number of activities where Council staff engages with Federal agency experts to advance work in particular areas of importance.¹ Priority activities will include discrete outputs from the Council, developed through interagency task teams (e.g., white papers, briefing papers). Additional activities may include supporting broader administration initiatives and/or individual agency interests as appropriate and capacity allows.



1. NATIONAL SECURITY

Objective

Elevate the issue of invasive species as a national security concern highlighting connections to key sectors of importance (e.g., economy, infrastructure, agriculture, human health, military readiness). Support relevant agency activities and administration initiatives. Recognize intersections with other Work Plan thematic priority activities.

Output

White paper or other materials detailing the connections between national security and invasive species, including opportunities for further work on the topic.

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOD, DOI, DOS, EPA, HHS, USDA, USTR



2. EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

Objective

Build capacity and capabilities for EDRR and support coordination and interagency preparedness.

Output (a)

National EDRR Framework: Support for agency and interagency efforts to operationalize the National EDRR Framework with a particular focus on addressing coordination needs (e.g., environmental DNA, rapid response, Siren).

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOD, DOI, EPA, USDA, ANSTF, FICMNEW

Output (b)

Aquatic Invasive Species at Ports of Entry: White paper on the authorities of Federal agencies operating at ports of entry. Consideration of additional guidance on particular commodities or invasive species of concern.

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOD, DOI, USDA, ANSTF

Output (c)

Horizon Scanning and Forecasting: Materials to assist natural resource managers and other decision makers on using horizon scan outputs to aid decisions and allocate resources. Compendium of Federal tools and resources for horizon scanning.

Partners

DOC, DHS, DOI, USDA

¹ Note: references to specific agencies as activity partners indicate potential interest of that agency and do not imply or confer any additional budgetary obligation on those agencies to support that activity.



3. WILDLAND FIRE

Objective

Advance landscape scale and coordinated approaches to the management of invasive species and wildland fire at the pre-wildfire, wildfire suppression, and post-wildfire stages. Support the Federal wildfire fighting force with targeted information and tools. Enhance the health and resilience of forests and rangelands at the intersection of invasive species and wildland fire.

Output

Implementation of priority opportunities identified through the partnership with the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC). Activities will support prevention and risk management, coordination across jurisdictions and shared stewardship, and/or innovation and applied research.

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOD, DOI, USDA, FICMNEW, WFLC



4. DISASTERS

Objective

Address the intersection between invasive species and disasters with a focus on providing relevant information for emergency response and recovery processes and personnel to reduce the risks of the introduction and/or spread of invasive species during disasters.

Output

Develop and share informational resources with emergency managers and invasive species experts to reduce the risks of introducing and spreading invasive species in disasters, building on previous work by NISC.

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOI, HHS, USDA



5. BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Objective

Advance biological control for suppression of widespread invasive species.

Output

Development of a strategic framework for biological control that identifies opportunities for Federal agencies to enhance its application.

Partners

DOC, DOD, DOI, DOS, EPA, USDA



6. ISLANDS

Objective

Enhance biosecurity capabilities and capacities for addressing the introduction and spread of invasive species on islands, especially within the context of national security.

Output (a)

Support for agency and interagency activities focused on the U.S. Territories, Hawai'i, and Puerto Rico, and consideration for how such efforts may also benefit other U.S. islands.

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOD, DOI, DOS, EPA, USDA, ANSTF, USCRTF

Output (b)

Identification of marine biosecurity issues, needs, and opportunities in partnership with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

Partners

DHS, DOC, DOD, DOI, DOS, EPA, USDA, ANSTF, USCRTF

**7. ONEHEALTH AND INVASIVE SPECIES****Objective**

Advance the integration of invasive species management concerns into OneHealth approaches that address the interconnectedness of human, animal, and plant health, and facilitate national level coordination and Federal agency activities.

Output

Briefing materials and other guidance on the intersections between invasive species management issues and OneHealth.

Partners

DHS, DOI, EPA, HHS, USDA

**8. INNOVATION AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES****Objective**

Identify opportunities for where new technologies and capabilities can be applied to address invasive species and their impacts.

Output

White paper or other materials on the application of Artificial Intelligence and potentially other technologies to invasive species management.

Partners

To be developed by NISC staff for Council member agency consideration

Criteria for Inclusion of Actions

A set of strategic decision-making criteria shall be used in the development of Work Plans to identify priority activities for implementation that:

- Address a pressing invasive species issue or opportunity identified by one or more Council member agencies that could be advanced by interagency cooperation.
- Have a commitment for Federal agency engagement and/or leadership from two or more Council member agencies.
- Identify a beneficial role for Council staff participation as agreed upon by engaged Federal agencies.
- Align with administration and Council member agency goals.
- Are feasible given the capacity of Council staff coupled with human or financial resources contributed by engaged agencies.
- Align with one or more objectives from Executive Order 13751
 - Provide institutional leadership and priority setting,
 - Achieve effective inter-agency coordination and cost-efficiency,
 - Raise awareness and motivate action,
 - Remove institutional and policy barriers,

- Assess and strengthen capacities, and
- Foster connections to the latest scientific, technical, and programmatic innovation.
- Follow “USMART” principles (Useful, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Based).

Acronyms

ANSTF	Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOC.....	Department of Commerce
DOD.....	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOS	Department of State
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FICMNEW	Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
USCRTF.....	U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
USDA.....	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USTR	Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
WFLC	Wildland Fire Leadership Council