

# Enhancing Federal-Tribal\* Coordination of Invasive Species

Submitted by

The Federal-Tribal Task Team for consideration by the Invasive Species Advisory Committee

March 28, 2017

## Task Team Members:

- Blaine Parker, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (ISAC Member; Task Team Chair)
- Chuck Barger, University of Georgia (ISAC Member)
- Lori Buchanan, Molokai/Maui Invasive Species Committee, University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (Invited Expert)
- Miles Falck, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (Invited Expert; Former ISAC Member)
- Joe Maroney, Kalispel Tribe of Indians (Invited Expert)
- Sean Southey, PCI Media Impact (ISAC Member)
- Mervin Wright, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (Invited Expert)
- Chris Fisher, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Invited Expert, Former ISAC Member)
- Jamie K. Reaser, NISC Secretariat (DFO)
- Jhoset Burgos/Sarah Veatch, NISC Secretariat (Notetakers)

**\*Tribal means all Federally recognized tribes, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Native Corporations**

## CONTENTS

- I. Introduction
- II. Improving Federal-Tribal Coordination on Invasive Species
- III. Need
- IV. Recommendations
  - a. Consultation
  - b. NISC Secretariat Coordinating Position
  - c. Improve Infrastructure for Indigenous Groups to deal with invasive species
  - d. Coordinate Electronic Resources

## I. Introduction

Invasive species can impact Federally Recognized Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and Native Alaskan cultures (herein referred to as indigenous groups). Impacts can occur at all levels of tribal culture, threatening the self-determination and independence of these sovereign nations. The need for increased coordination and cooperation with the Federal government is critical for these groups to more effectively manage, control, and eradicate invasive species that impact indigenous groups.

## II. Improving Federal-Tribal Coordination and Collaboration on Invasive Species

Invasive species are of national and global concern for federal, state, local, tribal entities and indigenous groups which all share a common threat from invasive species. Management activities need to be coordinated amongst these groups to help avoid duplication, leverage resources, share knowledge and expertise in combating invasive species. The National Invasive Species Council recognized the need for increased coordination and collaboration specifically with Federally recognized tribes, Native Hawaiians, and Native Alaskan cultures in their 2016-2018 Management Plan. Indigenous groups are a key stakeholder in combating invasive species across the landscape. This is due in part to the significant land base of approximately 56.2 million acres which are held in trust by the United States for various Indian tribes and individuals. This does not include aboriginal or usual and accustomed areas which indigenous groups have management authority.

### Need

Executive Order (EO) 13112 calls on NISC to “*encourage planning and action at local, tribal, state, regional, and ecosystem-based levels to achieve the goals and objectives of the NISC Management Plan.*” The EO specifically directs NISC to “*see that the Federal agency activities concerning invasive species are coordinated, complementary, cost-efficient, and effective.*” Although representatives of states, territories, and tribes serve on Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC), the need remains for a responsive dissemination of information, possibly at a regional scale, that will inform indigenous groups of current distribution of invasive species, funding programs and grant opportunities that are available from a number of Federal agencies. The Federal government has a trust responsibility to indigenous groups which arises from statutes, EO and judicial decisions. Actions 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.5.2 and 2.5.3 of the NISC Management Plan specifically discuss the needs for coordinating activities.

## Recommendations

1. **Invasive species Alert system:** Develop an “early warning system” to alert resource departments of indigenous groups of new detections, outbreaks, colonization of invasive or non-native species at the regional scale. This early warning system may be similar to an ALERT email with an email address for further information. Information such as the recent detection of northern pike in the Upper Columbia River Basin would be an example for an ALERT email.
2. **Information system for funding opportunities:** Similar to previous recommendation provide an information system to inform indigenous groups of funding opportunities, such as federal grants, directed to manage, prevent, eradicate specific non-native species, or opportunities to develop at a programmatic level to manage or reduce establishment of existing invasive species (i.e. cheat grass in the west, zebra mussels in Great Lakes region). Indigenous groups could be informed via email alert or central website by all agencies, informing resource managers of funding programs/grants.
3. **Funding for wide spread use of eDNA:** This technique has been effective to detect the presence of species in aquatic systems. Recommend this technique receive funding to be applied in large water ways to detect the presence and possible location of invasive species which if established would result in both ecological harm and enormous economic impact (i.e. zebra mussel in Columbia River Basin). If invasive species were detected early there would be a greater likelihood that preventing establishment would be effective and cost to the environment and resource agencies.
4. **NISC Secretariat Coordinating Position on Invasive Species:** Presently there are 567 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages throughout the United States. The creation of several, regional Federal-Tribal coordinating positions within the NISC Secretariat is warranted to increase effective communication, cooperation between indigenous peoples and federal agencies regarding efforts to address invasive species as well as programs developed to fund those efforts.

These recommendations support the overall goal in the NISC Management Plan; “*Limit the spread and impact of invasive species through high-level policy and planning by strengthening coordination between the U.S. and other governments; across the Federal government; among Federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies; and between the Federal government and non-governmental stakeholders*”.