

USDA Forest Service Update

September 2010



SUBJECT: NFS Invasive Species Management Program

Summary - The Forest Service works extensively with public and private partners (both on and off National Forests), and the member agencies of the National Invasive Species Council to address invasive species problems within our purview and jurisdiction. The long-term vision for the invasive species program is to interrupt the increasing trend, and begin to reduce the impacts and spread of invasive species across the National Forest System and other public and private lands and waters using a number of integrated techniques. Invasive species management activities across the National Forest System address a wide range of plant, pathogen, vertebrate, and invertebrate invasive species which threaten our agency mission and the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and associated native fish and wildlife. Program expansion and funding emphasis has moved the agency closer to reaching the program goal identified in the *National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management*. New policy on National Forest System invasive species management will soon be issued to the field, further strengthening the overall effectiveness of the program.

Program Overview - Forest Service activities to address a wide range of invasive plants, pathogens, vertebrates, and invertebrates utilize collaborative and integrated approaches to manage these invaders; capitalizing on our research and management capabilities, diverse partnership opportunities, and significant amount of public lands and waters across the U.S. The program is structured around four elements: 1) Prevention, 2) Early Detection and Rapid Response, 3) Control and Management, and 4) Restoration and Rehabilitation. In addition, the Forest Service is expanding its partnership activities to work in multiple jurisdictions and address problems in a holistic, ecosystem-based manner across the landscape, including the building of stronger partnerships between, agricultural organizations, forestry organizations, and fish and wildlife management organizations, as well as with volunteer organizations and the private sector.

Highlights of the NFS Invasive Species Management Program - 2010

- ✓ Completed the final draft of the new **Invasive Species Management Policy** (Forest Service Manual 2900), and accompanying documents in preparation for public review and comment. This new policy will provide foundational, comprehensive guidance for the management of invasive species on aquatic and terrestrial areas of the National Forest System, and will increase our effectiveness when planning and implementing invasive species management activities against invasive plants, pathogens, vertebrates, and invertebrates. The final draft will be published in the Federal Register for comment by the end of December 2010.
- ✓ Completed the production of the new invasive species prevention DVD (video) targeting outdoor recreationists, titled: "**Playing Smart Against Invasive Species – Enjoying and Protecting the Great Outdoors**". The production helps to support and expand invasive species awareness and education activities of the Invasive Species Threat Campaign. Hard copies of the completed DVD package will be distributed for free in November 2010 and available on-line through numerous internet websites.
- ✓ Increased cooperation and coordination with other Federal, State, and private organizations to prevent and control aquatic invasive species on the National Forest System, including implementation of priority actions identified in the national **Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP)** developed by the Western Regional Panel of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. These efforts support the Secretary of Agriculture's commitment to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on QZAP implementation.

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