



National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) of 2003 created the Early Warning System (EWS) for the Forest Service. EWS is designed to facilitate improved detection and rapid response to ecological disturbances, such as native and invasive species, across the nation. EWS includes establishment of a Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center (TAC) located in Prineville, Oregon.

In terms of invasive species, the Forest Service is one of the lead agencies in the fight against invasive species. The Forest Service has completed the *National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management*. This Strategy was built by a multidisciplinary team of specialists, managers, and researchers working together to define a long term vision and direction for program operations against invasive species.

Goal of the Strategy

Reduce, minimize, or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships.

Guiding Principles

1. Improve management of invasive species using science-based technology.
2. Emphasize partnerships across all landscapes and ownerships.
3. Increase performance and accountability at all organizational levels.
4. Increase communication and educational activities.

Key Points

Implementation of the four program elements of this strategy plan is in progress; for example:

- **Prevention** - Work with domestic and international partners to conduct pathway assessments and use the latest technological tools to identify priority species for developing prevention programs.
- **Early Detection and Rapid Response** – An interagency, multidisciplinary Early Warning System (EWS) Team created by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA – Title VI) has begun work on the EWS and is in the process of establishing Western and Eastern Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Centers.
- **Control and Management** – Activities in this area include controlling invasives such as leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, gypsy moth, the Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and sudden oak death (SOD).
- **Rehabilitation and Restoration** - A prime example is the partnership between the Forest Service and The American Chestnut Foundation aimed at restoring the American chestnut to landscapes where it was once one of the dominant species.

Common to all program elements, FS Research and Development will continue to refine and develop new technologies such as ecological assessment of weed invasion post-fire (HFRA Title IV) detection and control techniques.