



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge. Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem. PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.

NISC NEWSLETTER

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October 2008

USGS hosts briefing on Climate Change and Invasive Species

On September 19, 2008, USGS hosted their third Climate Change briefing this year, “*The Challenge of Invasive Species*”. The speakers were: Pam Fuller – USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database manager, Mike Pellant – BLM Great Basin Restoration Initiative Coordinator, and Gary Whelan – MI DNR Fisheries. All presentations are available online:

http://www.usgs.gov/solutions/climate_change/19sept08.html

Brief highlights: Pam Fuller, USGS Stated that climate change and resulting changes to freshwater habitats will favor generalists. Most invasive species are generalists and they will probably increase. The Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database includes an alert system to notify local managers if a new invasive species is reported in a state, county, or drainage <http://nas.er.usgs.gov>.

Mike Pellant, BLM described the impact of climate change on the current management

efforts, being adaptable and the need for new ways of thinking i.e. about where seeds used for restoration projects are collected.

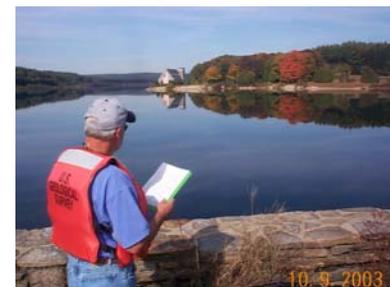
A conference on the projected impacts of climate change including changing fire frequency in deserts will be held in December 2008.

<http://www.rangelands.org/deserts/>

Gary Whelan, MI DNR discussed the research and information needs of managers. The challenges for “adaptation” in aquatic systems includes fragmentation of watersheds. There are 2500 dams in MI alone. They can keep species from reaching suitable habitat.

The question and answer period included a question concerning how to increase science literacy and involve the public. Sue Hazeltine of the USGS described USGS’s efforts to develop tools for citizen-scientists, including the climate change monitoring via bird return and flowering time site:

<http://www.usanpn.org/>



Joseph L Zanca, MA/RI, United States Geological Survey taking notes.

More on Climate Change:

The June issue of Conservation Biology includes a special section on climate change and invasive species. Articles include: Assessing the Effects of Climate Change on Aquatic Invasive Species; Five Potential Consequences of Climate Change for Invasive Species; Future Opportunities for Policy on Climate Change and Invasive Species. Genesis [and more!] for these articles was an EPA forum in 2006. [Thanks Nutshell Newsletter #21]

Trout Unlimited takes on aquatic invaders

September 12, 2008. <http://www.tu.org/> Trout Unlimited (TU) asks manufacturers to eliminate production of felt-soled waders and equipment by 2011. At its annual meeting, TU asked fishing equipment manufacturers to stop producing felt-soled waders and wading shoes to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). Many waders, wading boots, and shoes used by anglers have felt-soled bottoms to provide traction. Felt can transmit ANS such as New Zealand mud snails, an invasive diatom algae called didymo or “rock snot,” and the parasite that causes whirling disease that is fatal to trout. When felt soles become impregnated with mud and organic matter they are difficult or impossible to clean and disinfect (*Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson*).



New Zealand Mud Snail
 United States Geological Survey.

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Recent Publications

USDA Forest Service publication on Wildland Fire and Ecosystems - **Fire and Non-native Invasive Plants** available September 2008.

A state-of-knowledge review of information concerning wildland fires and invasive plants was published to assist fire managers and other land managers prevent, detect, eradicate, and control invasive plants. http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr042_6.pdf

(Contact Hilda Diaz-Soltero).

Garden Wise Booklets Now On-line.

The 2008 version of the publication Garden Wise for both western and eastern Washington are available in PDF format. See the Washington Noxious Weed Control Board website at [<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>]. Follow the education tab from the home page. (Thanks to Danielle Warner, WNWCB) [From Nutshell Newsletter Issue 21] (Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson).

Environmental Weeds of Australia

available September 2008.

A Lucid-based product, published by the Center for Biological Information Technology (CBIT) at Australia's Univ. of Queensland, provides a visual-plus-text database of more than 1,000 plant species. It is intended to improve identification of invasive plant infestations and to aid in the application of effective management methods.

<http://www.cbit.uq.edu.au/software/envioweeds>

(Staff contact Lori Williams).

Biological Control of Insects and

Mites, *An Introduction to Beneficial Natural Enemies and Their Use in Pest Management* is available. This book addresses biocontrol implementation, cost analysis, planning, and integrating biocontrol into an Integrated Pest Management (i.e., IPM) framework. Approaches can apply to invasive plant and plant disease control. The PDF file can be downloaded <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/A3842.pdf>

(Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson).

The 2008 version of **Plant Disease Management Reports** (vol. 2) by Plant Management Network is available. The report contains over 500 searchable entries concerning the use and effectiveness of fungicides and nematicides, resistant (plant) varieties, and other methods that defend against row and horticultural crop disease.

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/publication/PDMR/about.asp>

(Staff contact Lori Williams).



Bull Frog are invasive outside their native range. Bill Leonard, DOI, United States Geological Survey.

Legislative Update

Have you met Thomas? This is the Library of Congress's legislative information system that is useful for searching current legislation as well as linking to current actions: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS THOMAS

The Library of Congress > THOMAS Home



THOMAS

In the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, legislative information from the Library of Congress

• [THOMAS Home](#)
• [About THOMAS](#)

[Emergency Economic Stabilization Act \(H.R. 1424\)](#), final text: [HTML](#) | [GPO PDF](#)

Moratorium Bill Signed. On July 31, 2008 President Bush signed bill S 3298, which provides a two year moratorium from National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirement under the Clean Water Act for specified types of vessels. The law directs EPA to study the impacts of discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels. This moratorium applies only to recreational water craft less than 79 feet long and fishing vessels. NPDES permits for vessels greater than 79 feet are still being implemented. [From Nutshell Newsletter #21 (Thanks to Stephen Phillips, PSMFC)] (Contact Peg Brady)

Department of the Interior • Department of Agriculture • Department of Commerce

• Department of State • Department of Defense • Department of Homeland Security • Department of Transportation
• Department of Health and Human Services • Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Agency for International Development • U.S. Trade Representative • National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Announcements

New USFWS Branch Chief of Invasive Species, Craig Martin starts work November 24, 2008.

Craig will oversee the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program to prevent and control aquatic invasive species. Authorized by the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 and the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, provides funding

for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinators for each USFWS region.

These AIS coordinators work with the public and private sectors to develop and implement invasive species projects. The program staffs the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) and provides funding for ANSTF activities.

September 29, 2008, Ms. **Monica A. Noe** Human Capital, Performance, and Partnerships Chief of Staff now head the office that houses NISC Staff. She has the role formerly filled by Deputy Assistant Secretary Paul Hoffman.

September 29, 2008, **Gary Smith** was selected as the Director of Plant Pathogens and Weed Programs within the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program. (*Staff Contact Lori Williams*).

Reminder: **Pulling Together Initiative** (PTI) is in the process of refining the goals and focus of their program. This program funds a wide variety of invasive species projects. An announcement will be made on the web site, www.nfwf.org/pti once the planning process and new RFP are completed (*Staff Contact Lori Williams*).

The Department of Homeland Security -Customs and Border Protection (CPB) and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) **Joint Agency Task Force updates** are now available through the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Stakeholders' Registry. Registration on this site allows subscribers to keep apprised of activities, accomplishments and upcoming events. You must sign up to receive this information. Please visit the website at: <https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/PPQStakeWeb2.nsf> (*Contact Hilda Diaz-Soltero*).

USDA International Science and Education (ISE) grants funded: September 8, 2008, The USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Economics Service (CSREES) awarded \$2.2 million dollars in grants to 23 institutions in 18 states to enhance international collaborative research, extension and teaching. Invasive species projects are eligible for this program. Some of the grants funded in the past concern issues potentially related to invasive species such as, seed technology education and biofuels. A project at the University of Connecticut deals specifically with invasive species and integrated pest management (See <http://cris.csrees.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=R=27640&format=WEBLINK>) (*Staff contact Chris Dionig*).

State Wildlife Grant Competitive Program: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.634. Grant proposals are due to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) Washington, DC office by November 17, 2008 <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SWG/SWG-NOFA20082009.pdf> (*Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson*).



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid an invasive forest insect. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Archive, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Bugwood.org

CONGRESS
AUTHORIZED
FUNDS IN THE
AMOUNT OF
\$4.9 MILLION
FOR THE STATE
WILDLIFE GRANT
(SWG)
COMPETITIVE
PROGRAM.

Department of the Interior • Department of Agriculture • Department of Commerce

• Department of State • Department of Defense • Department of Homeland Security • Department of Transportation
• Department of Health and Human Services • Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Agency for International Development • U.S. Trade Representative • National Aeronautics and Space Administration

October 14-17, 2008: The **Natural Areas Association Conference** in Nashville, TN will focus on ecological management, with an emphasis on invasive species. The conference consists of four full days of symposia, workshops, field trips and plenary sessions. Former ISAC members Sarah Reichard, Nelroy Jackson, and Faith Campbell are speakers along with current ISAC members Jamie Reaser and John Peter Thompson. For more information, go to [<http://www.naturalarea.org/2008ConferenceAnnouncement.asp>] (*Staff contact Chris Dionigi*).

October 23-24, 2008: **Invasive Species Economics Research**. The USDA's 2008 Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species Management (PREISM) Workshop will be held at the USDA's Economic Research Service's Waugh Auditorium, 1800 M Street NW Washington, DC. Featured speakers include: Richard Mack, Professor at Washington State University, and Daniel Botkin, Professor Emeritus, University of California-Santa Barbara. In addition, 12 PREISM-funded researchers will discuss the results of their studies. Information can be found at the conference website: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/InvasiveSpecies2008/> or contact Craig Osteen (costeen@ers.usda.gov) or Joe Cooper (jcooper@ers.usda.gov). (*Contact Hilda Diaz-Soltero*).

October 28-29, 2008: **The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF)** will meet at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Headquarters, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 200, Arlington, VA. State aquatic invasive species plans that have been submitted for approval include Tennessee, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kentucky and South Dakota. There will be updates on the status of the Green Crab on the west coast and on the response to Quagga mussels in the west. NISC Staff Richard Orr will be attending and presenting (*Staff contact Richard Orr*).

November 12-13, 2008: **Northeastern Ecosystem Research Cooperative** meetings will be held at the New England Center, Durham, NH. The Northeastern Ecosystem Research Cooperative (NERC) is a scientific meeting on ecosystem research in the northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada. The two-day program includes contributed papers and posters on regional ecosystem science and special sessions on "Long-Term Impacts of Invasive Species on Ecosystems" and "Ecosystems, Carbon and Climate: Connecting Research, Policy, and Management." To register see the NERC web site for details: http://www.ecostudies.org/nerc/meetings_conference.html Registration is due October 24, 2008 (*Staff contact Chris Dionigi*).

November 12-13, 2008: **Fourth Continental Forest Dialogue** meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. specific meeting topics include: the threat of invasive forest insects and diseases; and enlisting communities in the battle against invasive insects and diseases impacting their trees. For registration and more information regarding the meeting, including existing background materials, please go to www.ContinentalForestDialogue.org. (*Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson*).

January 13 -16, 2009: USDA's 20TH **Interagency Research Forum on Invasive Species** will be held in Annapolis, MD. General Session Topics include: Invasive forest pathogens, Emerald ash borer/*Sirex noctilio* syntheses, Northeast Biological Control Group efforts, and hemlock woolly adelgid. This year's program also includes several invited presentations (*Contact Hilda Diaz-Soltero*).

April 19-23, 2009. The 16th **International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species (ICAIS)** will be held in Montreal, Canada. Early registration for ICAIS is available until February 1, 2009. The conference will include a forum on bullfrog control and eradication. Register for the conference www.icaais.org. For a preliminary program see (<http://www.icaais.org/html/program.html>) (*Staff Contact Richard Orr*).

Conferences and Meetings

For a complete listing of meetings visit www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/calendar.php



USFWS responded to the June, 2008 request from Senator Diane Feinstein of California for a federal response to the discovery of invasive quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*) in the Lower Colorado River. An excerpt from the final letter notes that this issue will be addressed at the next ANSTF meeting:

"I have asked that this issue be added to the agenda for the ANSTF meeting in October 2008. This meeting will provide the opportunity to gather input from the other Department [of Interior] bureaus and the National Invasive Species Council ... We will be able to provide a more comprehensive response to the issue after we receive their input and recommendations." Lyle Laverty, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (*Contact Gordon Brown*)



Invasive Species in the News

September 8, 2008. An article entitled "**Friendly Invaders**" by Carl Zimmer, New York Times Stated that, "Today, 22,000 non-native plants grow in New Zealand. Most of them can survive only with the loving care of gardeners and farmers. But 2,069 have become naturalized: they have spread out across the islands on their own. It sounds like the makings of an ecological disaster: an epidemic of invasive species that wipes out the delicate native species in its path. But in a paper published in August 2008 in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Dov Sax, an ecologist at Brown University, and Steven D. Gaines, a marine biologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, report that the invasion has not led to a mass extinction of native plants. The number of documented extinctions of native New Zealand plant species is a total of three." http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/09/science/09inva.html?_r=2&8dpc&oref=slogin&oref=slogin (* SEE NISC STAFF COMMENT).

***NISC Staff Comment:** The 2008 Sax and Brown paper referenced in the New York Times article by Carl Zimmer actually states that "extinction is NOT an appropriate gauge of impact." The loss of dominant forest trees, such as American chestnut, by invasive pathogens. The replacement of plant communities in the West by cheat-grass and yellow starthistle. The loss of birds on Guam are dramatic and well-documented examples of ecosystem wide impact and population fragmentation making many species more vulnerable to extinction. As the authors state in *Bioscience*, "*Decisions about invasive species should be based on more than just a tally of positive and negative effects on [bio]-diversity.*" (Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson).

September 24, 2008. Mike Campbell of McClatchy Newspapers reports, "**Biologists hope to kill all of Rat Island's rats.** ANCHORAGE, Alaska. The article reports that a crew of 18 left Homer, Alaska for Rat Island at the end of the Aleutian chain. Scientists hope to exterminate Norway rats, which jumped off a shipwrecked Japanese ship in the 18th century and colonized the 6,871-acre island 1,700 miles from Anchorage. [Norway Rat have a profound impact on nesting seabirds on the island] "We're planning for success," said Steve Ebbert, the biologist and invasive species project leader at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge who's coordinating the work (Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson). http://www.ajc.com/news/content/news/stories/2008/09/24/rat_island.html

September 25, 2008. Allison Winter, E&E Daily reporter "**Refuge system's viability in question – GAO**" The USFWS's National Wildlife Refuge System may not be sustainable under its current budgetary constraints, federal GAO investigators said yesterday. Refuge managers told the federal auditors that habitat for migratory birds declined in about 17 percent of refuges from 2002 to 2007. Invasive plant species and habitat fragmentation plagued nearly half of all refuges. And, environmental education and interpretation - two key visitor service programs -- were considered poor quality at one-third of refuges (Contact Gordon Brown). <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d081179t.pdf>

September 28, 2008. A Colorado Division of Wildlife press release reported that a Federal and State initiative to gather more information on the presence of aquatic invasive species in Colorado **confirmed the presence of invasive freshwater mussel larvae in Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain and Willow Creek Reservoirs** in Grand County. They are connected to Lake Granby where invasive quagga mussel larvae were discovered earlier this summer (Contact Peg Brady).

October 2, 2009. Department of Energy (DOE) Fossil Energy Techline: A DOE funded project has developed a **bacterial toxin to control zebra and quagga mussels.** These two invasive species that have found their way into the waterways of 25 states over the past two decades (Contact Peg Brady). http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2008/08056-Toxin_Controls_Zebra_Mussels.html

For daily news stories featuring invasive species, subscribe to the [National Invasive Species Information Center news feed](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/newsmedia.shtml). <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/news/newsmedia.shtml>