

**Federal Interagency Committee
for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
(FICMNEW)**

**2005/2006 Workplan
(FINAL)**

Introduction

The Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) was established through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by agency heads in August 1994. FICMNEW represents an unprecedented partnership of 16 federal agencies, and numerous non-governmental organizations. FICMNEW's charter is to coordinate, through the representative Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Agency heads, information regarding the identification and extent of invasive plants in the U.S. and to coordinate federal agency management of these species. FICMNEW accomplishes this charter by sharing scientific and technical information, fostering collaborative efforts among federal agencies and other partners, and sponsoring technical/educational conferences and workshops concerning invasive plants. FICMNEW is identified in Executive Order 13112 as a key Federal level organization on which the National Invasive Species Council is to rely for the implementation of the Executive Order, and the coordination of Federal agency activities to address invasive species, in particular plants.

Currently federal agency representation is at the national program staff level, identified as a collateral duty of most agency representatives. The elected chairmanship of the committee is shared between two agencies, with terms staggered and lasting for a period of two years each. FICMNEW is currently co-chaired by the USDA Forest Service and the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. All FICMNEW collaboration on invasive plant species issues is currently provided on an ad hoc basis by participating agencies and offices. FICMNEW recognizes its national role and has focused its efforts on addressing national and regional invasive plant management issues that support the implementation of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, as well as individual agency priorities and new and emerging issues.

The 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) requires FICMNEW to coordinate a Federal Government approach in managing invasive plants and to make recommendations to Departmental leadership on research, technology transfer, and management actions. The MOU further empowers FICMNEW to meet annually, or as needed, to review progress and identify opportunities to implement the MOU.

In order to fulfill its obligations and duties, FICMNEW develops a Workplan (for the period indicated) which outlines key invasive plant management issues it will address, specific activities or workshops it will conduct/sponsor, critical interdepartmental and interagency coordination issues it will address, as well as any invasive plant related publications or educational information it will develop. This document is the product of the recent FICMNEW Work planning Meeting

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held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia on November 8-10, 2004. It will be finalized during the December 2004 FICMNEW meeting in Washington, D.C.

Workplan Period

The terms, activities, products, and objectives identified in this Workplan will guide FICMNEW operations over the period **January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006**. This period can be modified (be extended or shortened) to accommodate changes in individual action items, funding availability, FICMNEW priorities, or other situations/conditions that may occur. Any modifications to the Workplan can be requested by FICMNEW member agency representatives and will be presented at the earliest appropriate FICMNEW meeting for discussion and approval. This Workplan period recognizes the constraints imposed as a result of an offset period for agency fiscal years (October 1 - September 30). All Workplan activities will take into account potential changes in funding availability with changes in fiscal years.

Workplan Action Items

The FICMNEW Annual Workplan Action Items below represent a highly prioritized set of activities to be conducted over the Workplan period. Action items have been categorized for organization purposes only and are not listed in priority order. However, during the Workplan development, a much larger and more diverse set of activities were identified for inclusion in the Workplan, including the continuation of critical projects that were still underway from the previous Workplan period. Due primarily to funding and personnel constraints, FICMNEW was forced to limit the number and type of activities it could conduct in the 2005/2006 Workplan to a reasonable level. Much more could be accomplished in support of the National Invasive Species Management Plan with appropriate levels of funding and staff.

It should be noted that FICMNEW agency representatives have investigated, and discussed at great length, the need for securing a consistent amount of funding for staff and project support to FICMNEW to continue to provide the level of coordination and support required under the Executive Order and the MOU.

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Networking and Coordination

A1

- ◆ Maintain and enhance ongoing relationships with allied organizations.
 - Focus on annual National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week events and activities;
 - Conduct national meetings in coordination with the annual North American Weed Management Association conference;
 - Support the bi-annual Weeds Across the Borders meeting;
 - Continue networking and coordination with NGO's, States, professional societies, government agencies, and others.
 - Continue collaboration and support to the National Invasive Species Council and the Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

- ◆ Identify Opportunities to reach out to non-traditional organizations and outline collaborative activities between the groups and FICMNEW
 - Document projects/presentations with non-traditional groups over the Workplan period.
 - Report organizational contacts to the FICMNEW Federal Highway Administration representative the contact information for posting on the website. Summarize at end of Workplan period.

FICMNEW Function

B1

- ◆ Complete a white paper/report on key national/global invasive plant issues over the Workplan period.
 - Work with others (such as ISAC, NISC, ANSTF, WSSA, NAWMA, etc) to identify key issues that need to be researched and addressed.

- ◆ Each member agency will report on their weed management activities on an annual basis and develop a report through FICMNEW.

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FICMNEW Function (Continued)

B1 (continued)

- Include program management gaps, opportunities to fill those gaps, and program successes. Agency reports should be approximately one page.

B2

- ◆ Review the FICMNEW MOU and Charter and identify the current and future roles of FICMNEW in light of the Executive Order (13112) and other significant invasive plant management since FICMNEW's establishment.
- Using the review of the FICMNEW MOU and Charter, identify gaps that need to be filled in order to address all future operational roles of FICMNEW and develop a revised draft MOU and Charter that would support those roles.

Education and Outreach

C1

- ◆ Publish the Second edition of the FICMNEW Weed Fact Book.
 - FICMNEW will develop a formal steering committee to guide the development and coordinate all aspects of the document (such as information collection, imagery, design and layout, publication, and distribution). Complete the Weed Fact Book revision as a "FICMNEW publication" by the end of the Workplan period.

C6

- ◆ FICMNEW members, in collaboration with other organizations will discuss the potential for an Eastern Weed Clearing House modeled on CIPM.
 - Potential outcome may be for FICMNEW to support/endorse a similar organized information sharing and invasive species education center in the East if needed.

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Education and Outreach (Continued)

C7

- ◆ Develop and publish an Invasive Plant Biological Control Fact Book similar to the “Weed fact book” that may include current state of the art information, limitations and gaps, and future direction.
 - FICMNEW agencies will establish a steering committee to address this Workplan action item.
 - The biological control publication will be completed by the end of the Workplan period unless otherwise recommended by the FICMNEW membership.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

E1

- ◆ Host a National Workshop on Early Detection and Rapid Response for Invasive Plants (follow-up from June 2000 workshop).
 - FICMNEW will organize a task group that includes external partners to coordinate aspects of the conference, including establishment of objectives, outcomes, and travel issues.
 - At minimum, the workshop will be used to:
 - ☑ Outline the role and function, and criteria of a volunteer program related to EDRR.
 - ☑ Define field testing aspects of the FICMNEW EDRR Conceptual Design for Invasive Plants (including ongoing efforts, new partners, and local and regional coordination).