

**CALIFORNIA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON INVASIVE PLANT PROGRAMS**

Minutes

**Natural Resources Building, Sequoia Conference Room
November 8, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 2:05 pm by Doug Johnson.

Present from CISAC:

Christiana Conser, Sustainable Conservation
Doug Johnson, California Invasive Plant Council
Kristina Schierenbeck, CSU Chico
Victoria Brandon, Sierra Club
Betsy Peterson, California Association Nurseries & Garden Centers
Jay Goldsmith, National Park Service
Vince Guise, Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner
Andrea Fox, California Farm Bureau Federation

Present from ISCC agencies:

Dean Kelch, Dorthea Zadig, Austin Webster, Alex Espinoza, CDFG
Mona Robison, Dave Schaub, California State Parks

Others present:

David Bakke, US Forest Service State & Private Forestry
Bob Case, Greg Suba, California Native Plant Society

Dean Kelch presented information regarding the trajectory of CDFG spending on invasive plant programs, going from \$6.2M in 2010 (including \$3.7M from ARRA) to \$1.3M projected for 2012 (with \$1.0M of that coming from ARRA). He broke down ARRA spending by plant, and determined the portion of program funding spent that addressed plants impacting each of several different categories, as summarized below.

37% on plants impacting crops
69% on plants impacting range land
81% on plants impacting road ways
32% on plants impacting animal or human health
100% on plants impacting natural areas
56% on plants impacting rare and endangered species
100% on plants impacting forests
44% on plants impacting aquatic and riparian areas
41% on plants impacting recreation
32% on plants impacting export commodities
24% on plants impacting nurseries
12% on plants impacting yards

Doug Johnson presented CalWeedMapper, an online mapping tool showing statewide distribution of 200 plant species based on expert interviews with local land managers. The information in the tool can be updated. The tool generates a list of plants that represent particular management opportunities for any particular region. Management opportunities are classified as surveillance, eradication, and containment. The tool can be used as the basis for setting regional invasive plant management goals.

Doug Johnson described the state's Fish & Wildlife Vision process to review the Dept. of Fish & Game. Draft documents are due out soon for public comment. DFG's mission is to protect the state's fish, wildlife and plant resources and the habitats they depend on, and it is important to have strong leadership from them on invasive species.

What are elements we can envision for a strong state program?

- 1) Prevention. Being proactive about enhancing communication between agencies and between stakeholders. Work with local government on landscaping guidelines to avoid planting risky plants. Consider stricter state screening. Examine both voluntary and regulatory approaches. Develop productive partnerships with a range of groups, such as firesafe councils, water conservation programs, etc.
- 2) Prioritization. Map plants regularly, and assess risk of known and potentially invasive species. Use this information to set strategic priorities for on-the-ground efforts.
- 3) Management. Support strategic on-the-ground activities—surveillance, eradication, and containment—throughout the state. Maintain collaborative structures such as WMAs.
- 4) Outreach. Build awareness among diverse audiences, including decision makers, sportsmen, etc.
- 5) Biocontrols. Rear and distribute biocontrol agents, and train managers in using them.
- 6) Diagnostics. Support plant identification and vouchering.
- 7) Monitoring. Develop and use performance metrics to gauge progress toward explicit goals. These can reflect things like reduced impact to ecosystem services.

Who are the beneficiaries of an invasive plant management program? Based on the impacts Dean identified:

Farmers, consumers
Ranchers, consumers, enviros
Road managers, drivers
Public (health), wildlife managers, livestock producers
Natural area managers
Biodiversity conservationists
Forest managers, timber producers
Water managers, irrigation districts, utilities
Recreationists
Nurseries
Homeowners

Where can funding come from? There's a long term, ongoing need, and there's a short term emergency need. We should look for existing programs that may have funding that can be redirected. For instance, Dept. of Water Resources or the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Though the general fund is not likely to fund invasive plant management soon, it may still be the most logical source, since there is such a wide range of beneficiaries.

Besides beneficiaries, there are those whose might mitigate for activities that can potentially spread invasive plants. The CISAC pathways analysis may provide good information on this. Can Caltrans mitigation funds be directed to an invasive plant program? Can projects producing atmospheric nitrogen provide mitigation funds, as in the Santa Clara Valley example?

Fees brainstorm:

- Big box nursery sales

- Outdoor recreation equipment sales

- Development fee for new construction (like existing DFG fee)

- Yard care products sales

- License fee like in Montana

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.