

2015

Strategic Plan

WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Washington Invasive
Species Council

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BACKGROUND

THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

In recognition of the tremendous economic and environmental impact caused by invasive species, the Legislature created the Washington Invasive Species Council in 2006. The council is tasked with providing policy level direction, planning, and coordination to the various public and private entities working throughout Washington State in order to prevent and control the spread of harmful invasive species.

The council is comprised of members from state, federal, local, regional, and tribal government agencies; non-governmental organizations; and industry groups. The council meets quarterly and provides a venue for regular communication between our members, partners, and the public. This ongoing coordination results in consistent statewide priorities, efficient management approaches, and common messaging to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Washington State.

MISSION STATEMENT

Sustaining Washington's human, plant, and animal communities and our thriving economy by preventing the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species.

PRIMARY GOALS

1. Provide policy level direction, planning, and coordination in order to empower those engaged in the prevention, detection, and eradication of invasive species.
2. Serve as a forum for invasive species education and communication.
3. Develop a statewide invasive species strategy in order to coordinate and focus local, state, tribal, and regional management efforts.



INTRODUCTION

PROTECTING WASHINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Washington State is known for its diverse landscapes, abundant natural resources, rich recreational opportunities, and strong economy.

From the marine waters of the Puget Sound and temperate rainforests of the Olympic Mountains, to the shrub-steppe and grassland habitats bordering the mighty Columbia River, Washington's diverse ecosystems support an abundance of wildlife. Washington has nearly 340 plants species of conservation concern¹ and more than 100 animal species of conservation concern,² as well as many others that are vulnerable with changing climate conditions, fragmented landscapes, and competition from invasive species.

The state's rich soil and plentiful water supply make Washington one of the most productive growing regions in the world, with agricultural production valued at more than \$10 billion a year. The rivers and lakes provide electricity for cities, habitat for five species of Pacific salmon, and recreational opportunities for the people who live here and love to play outside. Outdoor recreation in Washington State contributes an estimated \$22.5 billion annually to the state economy.³

Invasive species threaten our resources, ecosystems, native wildlife, and our very way of life here in Washington State. Invasive insects such as gypsy moth, apple maggot, and wood-boring beetles threaten crop production, apple orchards, and timber harvest. Controlling these invasive insects costs the state millions of dollars annually but saves the state hundreds of millions in economic impacts to agricultural and forestry production.⁴ Zebra and quagga mussels threaten hydropower generation, irrigation facilities, and this state's water supply, and are expected to cost the Northwest region hundreds of millions of dollars annually to control if they arrive.⁵ Invasive fish such as northern pike, bass, and walleye threaten Washington's fisheries, reducing fishing opportunities and the success of the multi-billion dollar investment in salmon restoration.

Invading species arrive here through a variety of pathways – in the ballast water of ships, on vehicles, on recreational equipment, through the nursery and pet trades, and through many other modes of travel. The rate of new introductions is only predicted to increase with climate change and increasing global trade. Though most invasive species introductions are

¹Washington Department of Natural Resources. 2014. Natural Heritage Program Rare Plant List.

²Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2013. Threatened and Endangered Wildlife in Washington: 2012 Annual Report. Listing and Recovery Section, Wildlife Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia. 251 pp.

³Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. 2015. An Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State.

⁴Washington State Department of Agriculture. 2012. Pest Program Frequently Asked Questions on Gypsy Moth.

⁵Northwest Power and Conservation Council Independent Economic Advisory Board. 2013. Economic Risk of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in the Columbia River Basin.

INTRODUCTION

unintentional, they can do irreversible harm; decimating native species and quickly degrading ecosystems and landscapes. Preventing an invasion is far less expensive than trying to control or eradicate a species once it arrives. It requires broad public awareness, targeted outreach, coordinated management, and most importantly leadership.

The Legislature established the Washington Invasive Species Council in recognition of the threats posed by invasive species and in recognition of the enormous challenges associated with invasive species management in Washington State. Management of invasive species in Washington State is inherently complex due to the number of pathways through which species are introduced and dispersed and the number of entities involved in management. Before the council's establishment, detection, response, and prevention capabilities were inhibited by a lack of statewide priorities, streamlined policy, and sustainable funding. Council leadership has provided better coordination and policy support and has assisted in making management as efficient and effective as possible.

Continued council coordination is essential to maintaining statewide priorities, expanding the state's early detection capabilities, standardizing outreach, and encouraging the use of best management practices. It may not be possible to prevent all invasive species from entering Washington, nor to completely eradicate those already here. However, by working together, the council can decrease significantly the economic and environmental impacts posed by invasive species.

STATEWIDE STRATEGY

After 7 years of implementing its original strategy, [Invaders at the Gate](#), the council recognized a need to update its statewide strategic plan. This revised plan provides new priorities and policy direction, and formalizes the council's commitment to working towards the common goal of preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species in Washington State. This update is intended to guide the council's work for the next five years.

The council's *2015 Strategic Plan* identifies 14 objectives and 29 specific actions within 5 major areas of work:

- I. Leadership and Coordination
- II. Education and Outreach
- III. Prevention
- IV. Early Detection and Rapid Response
- V. Containment, Eradication, and Control

The council and its partners and stakeholders are committed to achieving the bold objectives outlined in this plan with the goal of reducing the adverse impacts of invasive species on Washington's human, plant, and animal communities as well as our thriving economy.

INTRODUCTION

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

In addition to this statewide strategic plan, the council has developed a 2-year work plan (Appendix 1) that will focus attention on urgent and priority actions critical to the council's mission and the work of its members, partners, and stakeholders. Progress towards the goals and objectives outlined in this plan will be acknowledged and described in detail in the council's annual reports.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

I. LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

OBJECTIVE A

Promote adequate and sustainable funding from the Washington State Legislature; Governor's Office; and state, federal, and tribal agencies for invasive species response and prevention.

Problem Statement

The State lacks stable funding for invasive species detection, management, and prevention. Long-term, sustainable funding is essential to adequately monitor, research, prevent, and manage invasive species. With the help of its members and partners, the council has talked with legislators, legislative staff, Congress, and the Governor's Office about invasive species funding. This outreach has resulted in small victories but a long-term, adequate, and sustainable funding structure for invasive species management has yet to be established.

The council will continue to seek adequate and sustainable funding for invasive species management through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Collaborate with partners to develop and support requests for adequate, stable funding and enhanced statutory authority to sustain effective invasive species programs.
2. Work with partner agencies, legislators, and legislative staff to promote the creation of a state emergency response fund, which can be used to fund response activities for new invasive species detections and rapidly expanding existing invasive species.
3. Continue to work with regional partners to do outreach to Congress on the impacts of invasive species and the need for federal support for state invasive species management and prevention efforts.
4. Collaborate with partners to improve efficiencies in spending and operations across state, federal, local, regional, and tribal government agencies.
5. Work with partner agencies to conduct an analysis of the economic impacts of invasive species in Washington State.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

I. LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

OBJECTIVE B

Promote enhancements to state and federal invasive species policy.

Problem Statement

Many state and federal invasive species policies are outdated which limits the council's ability to respond quickly on the ground. Streamlined policy, clear management authority, and agreed upon species classification and risk levels make rapid response more efficient. State, federal, and tribal invasive species policies should evolve alongside management needs in order to provide the necessary regulatory guidance for response. The council works with its partners to develop policy that promotes efficiency, clarifies authority, helps prioritize species, enhances coordination, and addresses resource concerns.

The council will continue to support the development and enhancement of invasive species policy through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Collaborate with partners to gain legislative support for reauthorization of the council before the sunset date in 2017.
2. Develop a plan for increasing the staffing and funding capacity of the council so it can support more projects and better serve invasive species managers statewide.
3. Assist regional entities (invasive species councils, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, 100th Meridian Initiative-Columbia Basin Team, the Western Regional Panel, and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, etc.) in developing legislation that promotes management capacity, regulatory consistency, and adequate resources for regional prevention efforts.
4. Review and develop recommendations for state, federal, tribal, and local government policies that may influence invasive species populations (classification of game fish, use of non-natives for bioenergy, use of non-natives for mitigation, etc.).
5. Participate in state- and national-level initiatives to assess the effects of climate change on the distribution of invasive species and their impact on ecosystems.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

I. LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

OBJECTIVE C

Coordinate with partners from state, federal, local, regional, and tribal government entities to ensure that the council's actions are advancing its statewide management objectives.

Problem Statement

There are diverse organizations working to control invasive species throughout Washington State. This makes coordination critical for statewide management to be both efficient and effective. Coordination at the council level has been highly effective at bringing the critical managers and stakeholders to the table to work on strengthening prevention efforts. For example, thanks to council coordination, the Department of Transportation has implemented much stronger prevention protocols, such as using clean fill materials, cleaning equipment, and ensuring that field crews are trained in how to decontaminate gear and prevent the spread of invasive species on project sites.

Council coordination also has helped to organize response activities and develop tools and simple messages for public outreach. The council has been successful at coordinating with partners to advance regional invasive species initiatives such as the “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign, the “Clean, Drain, Dry” campaign, and the “Report a Pig” campaign.

The council will continue to coordinate with partners on the following statewide initiatives:

Strategic Objectives

1. Identify additional opportunities to incorporate language on invasive species management and prevention into agency, tribal, local, and industry policy documents.
2. Advance regional communication and outreach initiatives such as the “Don’t let it loose” campaign.
3. Facilitate regional science and policy forums on invasive species issues.
4. Continue to seek advice from industry partners by coordinating an industry advisory group.
5. Develop an updated contact list for local, state, federal, and tribal on-the-ground staff responsible for invasive species detection, prevention, and control.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

6. Continue to provide current invasive species information and best practices to the public via the council's Web site, Facebook page, and at outreach events.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: REGIONAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS

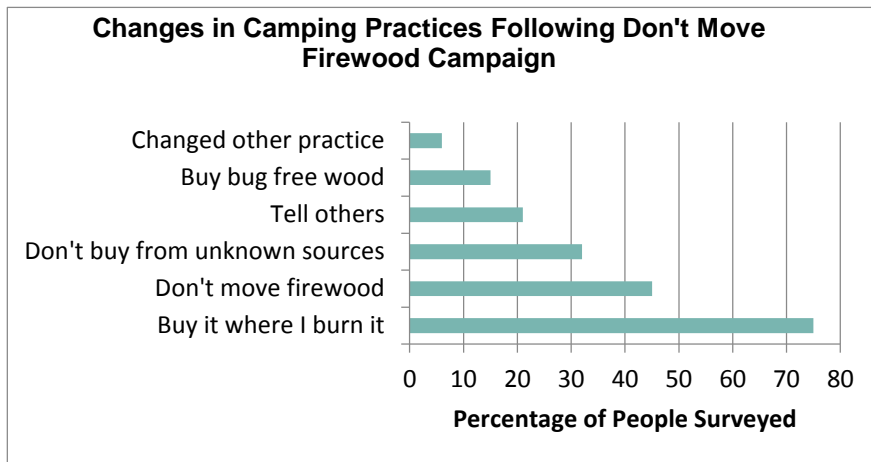
DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD CAMPAIGN

The movement of firewood, and invasive insects that live in it, jeopardizes Washington forests and outdoor recreation sites. In 2011, the council teamed up with the invasive species councils of Oregon and Idaho to create and implement an outreach campaign designed to raise the public's awareness about firewood as a means of invasive species introduction and spread.

The outreach campaign involved several informational elements used simultaneously in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, including billboards, signs at federal and state campgrounds, back-lit display boards at highway rest stops, educational materials handed out at campgrounds, and messages about this issue on the national and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission campground reservation Web sites.

Public awareness was measured before and after implementation of the campaign. Results showed an increase from 27 percent to 50 percent of people surveyed who had heard about this issue. Of the people who learned about the risks of spreading invasive species in firewood, more than half of them changed their camping practices to prevent the spread of invasive insects (Figure 1). For example, 75 percent of the people surveyed said that they now buy their wood in the area where they are camping and 32 percent said that they no longer purchase wood without knowing where it has come from.

Figure 1: The changes in camping practices following the don't move firewood outreach campaign, as measured by pre and post campaign surveys.



STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

II. PREVENTION

OBJECTIVE A

Identify and address new and existing pathways to prevent the entry and movement of invasive species.

Problem Statement

New invasive species are arriving in Washington State through multiple pathways, such as through global shipping, the nursery trade, and on private vehicles and boats. The rate of new introductions is predicted to increase as climate change alters habitat conditions and species' native ranges. Preventing an invasion is far less expensive than trying to control or eradicate a species once it arrives. Through the [Baseline Assessment project](#), the council has done extensive work to analyze the most common pathways for species introduction and spread in the Puget Sound basin. The council is working to expand this project in order to further investigate invasive species pathways statewide. Additionally, the council works with industry groups (recreational boaters, nursery trade, etc.), providing them with information on how they can help reduce the spread of invasive species.

The council will take the following actions to prevent the entry and spread of invasive species:

Strategic Objectives

1. Work with the Bonneville Power Administration and other federal agencies to assist the Northwest states in preventing the establishment of aquatic invasive species, particularly quagga and zebra mussels.
2. Encourage environmental risk assessments to be conducted when non-native species are being used as a mitigation alternative for native species.
3. Strengthen communication between agencies, tribes, cities, counties, universities, and other regional organizations to share information on new introductions and new pathways for introduction.
4. Determine pathways of introduction for all priority invasive species and convene an interagency working group to develop prevention protocols.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

II. PREVENTION

OBJECTIVE B

Work with state, federal, local, regional tribal agencies, and regional partners to identify opportunities for enhanced, coordinated, standardized, and complementary prevention approaches.

Problem Statement

There is a need for continued coordination between the entities involved in managing and preventing the spread of invasive species in Washington State. Standardized messaging, decontamination protocols, and best management practices help to promote efficient and consistent prevention efforts.

The council plays an important role in helping agencies develop best management practices and decontamination protocols, along with informational materials on prevention for state, federal, and tribal employee trainings. Due to the evolving nature of science, agency policy, and leadership, there is a need for continued support from the council to ensure that consistent protocols and best management practices are being used statewide.

The council will focus its coordinating capacity on the following preventative actions.

Strategic Objectives

1. Convene a meeting with agency, local, and tribal representatives to develop and promote the use of training tools that encourage consistent, statewide best management practices (i.e. decontamination videos, brochures, signs, workshops, etc.). Follow up on the use of these tools.
2. Develop and incorporate language on invasive species prevention and best practices into state, federal, and tribal policy, permitting; contracting, and grant documents. Explore opportunities within state contracts, Hydraulic Project Approvals, restoration programs, Recreation and Conservation Office's grant manuals, mandatory contract training modules, etc.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

II. PREVENTION

OBJECTIVE C

Engage stakeholders, partners, and the public in managing invasive species pathways and preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species into terrestrial, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems.

Problem Statement

Coordination among the invasive species managers, partners, and stakeholders is essential to increasing public awareness on invasive species, their impacts, and effective prevention measures. One of the greatest successes of the council in the past 7 years has been its ability to engage and coordinate with new stakeholder groups on prevention campaigns. The council has been successful at helping develop common messages that can be used by all of its partners, allowing it to reach more people and have a greater influence on behavior.

The council will continue to promote invasive species education, outreach, and prevention through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Update established outreach materials and develop and provide new outreach materials and tools to stakeholder groups ([WA Invasives](#) app, information on decontamination protocols, reporting line information, boat ramp stencil, etc.).
2. Convene a workshop with federal, state, tribal, and regional organizations to discuss data consistency and tools and to encourage regional data sharing.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES ON STATE PROJECTS

Preventing the spread of invasive species is the least costly and most environmentally safe approach to managing invasive species. It eliminates the need for costly emergency action, application of chemicals, and harmful impacts on native species and ecosystems.

Knowing that contaminated equipment is a common pathway for spreading invasive species, the council has worked with its member agencies to get language into various policy and contracting documents that encourages decontamination of gear and reduces the spread of invasive species on state-funded project sites.

The council was successful in getting language into the State Environmental Policy Act, the Department of Natural Resource's State Trails Policy, the Bonneville Power Administration's grant contracts, as well as in all of the Recreation and Conservation Office's grant manuals. The council also is developing decontamination protocols to be included in the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Hydraulic Project Approvals along with the Department of Transportation's Standard Specifications. This is an important step in ensuring that council members and partners are not a part of the problem but a part of the solution.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

III. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

OBJECTIVE A

Increase and enhance communication across partner entities to support coordinated outreach to the public, private sector, and policymakers.

Problem Statement

Prevention and early detection of invasive species introductions requires the help of the public, industry partners, and policymakers. The council has helped develop tools and regional messaging that has been successful in raising public awareness about invasive species, their impacts on native ecosystems, and the steps people can take to prevent the spread of invasive species. In collaboration with regional partners, the council developed common prevention-focused messages and outreach materials (brochures, signs, etc.). The council's smart phone app [WA Invasives](#) provides education to citizen scientists and helps in the early detection of new invasive species. The council also works to raise invasive species awareness by supporting regional conference and workshops; presenting to students, agencies, and industry groups; and participating in National Invasive Species Awareness Week.

The council will continue to support targeted education and outreach through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Develop a communication and outreach plan that outlines strategies for outreach; promotion of the [WA Invasives](#) app, and opportunities to revise council messages on the council [Web site](#), in printed publications, and on signs.
2. Establish priorities and common messages for council member agencies and others to use when conducting outreach at boat shows and other events.



PAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: PUBLIC OUTREACH

In 2015, the council purchased two large stencils that read

"Stop Invasive Species Clean, Drain, and Dry your Boat."

The council worked with the Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation to paint the message on the Lake Washington boat ramp in Kenmore.

The goal of this messaging is to remind boaters and other lake-users of the simple steps they can take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Over the course of the 2015 summer the stencil was used by various local government entities and state agencies and the "clean, drain, dry" message was painted on boat launches statewide.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

III. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

OBJECTIVE B

Support the development of education and outreach materials that encourage the use of native and non-invasive species in restoration, gardening, landscaping, and science kits.

Problem Statement

Invasive species often are spread across the landscape due to misidentification and misinformation. Focused outreach to nurseries, soil and gravel distributors, the pet trade, landscapers, and restoration ecologists has proven successful at raising awareness and reducing the harmful impacts caused by invasive species. The council works with its member agencies and industry partners to provide training, education, and outreach to agency staff, science teachers, nurseries, master gardeners, and many other audiences. The council also developed creative alternatives such as pollinator-friendly, non-invasive seed packets – a collaborative project sponsored by the council, the Department of Agriculture, and the State Noxious Weed Control Board.

The council will continue to develop education and outreach materials that promote the use of native species through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Support the development of curriculum on invasive species to include in kindergarten through high school science classes and science competitions such as the Science Olympiad.
2. Work with the State Noxious Weed Control Board to develop best management practices for wildfire rehabilitation to help prevent colonization by non-natives.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

IV. EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

OBJECTIVE A

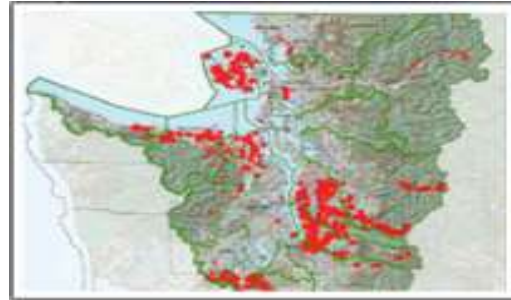
Continue to compile information and conduct a baseline assessment of invasive species information and programs in Washington. This baseline would serve as an initial step towards coordinating a statewide, strategic response to the threat of invasive species.

Problem Statement

Invasive species management in Washington State is complex due to the number and types of pathways through which species are introduced and dispersed and also by the number of entities involved in management. There is a diverse array of organizations working to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, physically control or eradicate them, monitor their distribution, and understand their characteristics.

The 2008 State Strategic Plan, [Invaders at the Gate](#), identified a need to centralize invasive species data to inform managers on the status and potential impact of these species and promote coordination across programs. Since 2008, the council has done significant work to centralize data and promote coordination between programs in the Puget Sound basin through its [Baseline Assessment](#) project. The council needs to expand this work into the rest of Washington State.

The council will continue to compile information on invasive species distribution through the following actions:



PAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: BASELINE ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Since 2008, the council has been seeking answers to the following questions:

- What invasive species are in Washington?
- Where are they?
- What impacts are they having?
- How are they moving around?
- Who is managing them and how effective is management?

Thanks to a National Estuary Program grant, the council was able to investigate these questions in the Puget Sound basin through its [baseline assessment](#) project. The project provided the council with a better understanding of what invasive species are present in the Puget Sound basin, how far they have spread, how well they have established, and whether management action is being taken.

The data gathered through this project has proved incredibly valuable to managers. In 2015, the council began searching for grant funding to help expand this work to the rest of the state. Building on the baseline data will help make management as effective and efficient as possible.

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Objectives

1. Pursue grants to expand the [Baseline Assessment](#) work statewide.
2. Incorporate [WA Invasives](#) smart phone app data into EDDMAPS invasive species mapping program.

IV. EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

OBJECTIVE B

Improve detection of invasive species by training field biologists, foresters, highway maintenance crews, citizen-scientists, and other land and water stewards to identify and report priority invasive species and support the use of information technology.

Problem Statement

There are limited resources dedicated to invasive species detection in Washington State. That said, the state has a largely untapped resource with thousands of trained ecologists, botanists, biologists, foresters, entomologists, citizen scientists, and other field crews. If provided with training and tools, they could assist in the identification and early detection of invasive species, which would help the council's understanding of the magnitude of the problem and the management needs. The [WA Invasives](#) app is an example of one tool developed by the council that can be used by both trained and untrained people to monitor and detect invasive species.

The council will continue to develop and promote innovative tools to engage the public in invasive species management with the following action:

Strategic Objective

1. Conduct trainings on the WA Invasives app and provide information on decontamination protocols and best practices.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: WA INVASIVES

In 2014, the council released the [WA Invasives](#) app for iPhone and Android. The app allows citizen scientist to help managers detect and report invasives species. The app includes education and identification information on the top 50 invasive species in Washington to encourage reporting of priority species.

The council also created a Web application for state managers so they can access data input using the [WA Invasives](#) app and filter by various features (location, date, species, etc.).



STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

IV. EARLY DETECTION AND RAPID RESPONSE

OBJECTIVE C

Support rapid response planning for high risk species by providing technical support to managers and by facilitating coordination across state and federal regulatory processes.

Problem Statement

Quick and organized response is key to controlling a new invasive species infestation. Precious time can be lost while determining authority and identifying funding and permitting requirements. The council has played an important role in assisting with agency coordination and development of response plans for priority species such as feral swine and dreissenid mussels.

The council will continue to provide coordination and technical support for response planning efforts through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Support the development of rapid response plans and regional rapid response efforts by identifying gaps in management authority and providing technical support.
2. Align state, federal, and tribal regulatory processes to facilitate rapid response efforts by creating a subcommittee to address regulatory coordination and compliance with environmental regulatory processes, (National Environmental Protection Act, State Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System).

STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN

V. CONTAINMENT, CONTROL, AND ERADICATION

OBJECTIVE A

Support the containment of invasive species that are established in Washington State to prevent greater spread and support the control and eradication of smaller or newly-discovered infestations.

Problem Statement

In the case of particularly harmful invasive species such as gypsy moth and dreissenid mussels, it is important to move rapidly to contain an infestation and prevent further spread throughout the state. The council coordinates with state, federal, and tribal agencies to determine priority, high-risk species that require rapid response and containment measures. Changing climate conditions and increased global movement of people and goods is expected to amplify new invasive species introductions.

The council will continue to support invasive species managers in containment, control, and eradication efforts through the following actions:

Strategic Objectives

1. Select priority species and assist agencies and other groups to search for funding for eradication.
2. Support research to make new control tools available and improve the efficacy and specificity of existing tools.
3. Conduct targeted outreach to nurseries and pet stores on invasive species and prohibited species to reduce their sale in Washington State.

ATTACHMENT 1: WORK PLAN

This work plan outlines the approach the council will follow to address the strategic objectives. The strategic objectives are prioritized into tiers: Tier 1 is the priority near-term objectives, which will be addressed within the next 2 years. Tier 2 and Tier 3 objectives are long-term objectives, which will be reviewed annually and implemented based on need and availability of resources.

TIER 1

Leadership and Coordination

- I A 1: Collaborate with partners to develop and support requests for adequate, stable funding and enhanced statutory authority to sustain effective invasive species programs.
- I A 2: Work with partner agencies, legislators, and legislative staff to promote the creation of a dedicated state emergency response fund.
- I A 5: Work with partner agencies to find funding to conduct an analysis of the economic impacts of invasive species in Washington State.
- I B 1: Collaborate with partners to gain legislative support for reauthorization of the council before the sunset date in 2017.
- I C 1: Advance regional communication and outreach initiatives such as the "Don't let it Loose" campaign.
- I C 3: Facilitate regional science and policy forums on invasive species issues.
- I C 4: Continue to seek advice from industry partners by coordinating an industry advisory group.

Prevention

- II A 3: Strengthen communication between agencies, tribes, cities, counties, universities, and other regional organizations to share information on new introductions and new pathways for introduction.
- II A 4: Determine pathways for introduction for all priority invasive species and convene an interagency working group to develop prevention protocols.
- II B 1: Develop and incorporate language on invasive species prevention and best practices into state, federal, and tribal policy, permitting, contracting, and grant documents. Explore opportunities within state contracts, Hydraulic Project Approvals, restoration programs, Recreation and Conservation grant manuals, and mandatory contract training modules.
- II C 1: Update established outreach materials and develop and provide new outreach materials and tools to stakeholder groups (WA Invasives app, information on decontamination protocols, reporting line information, boat ramp stencil, etc.)

ATTACHMENT 1: WORK PLAN

Education and Outreach

- III B 1: Support the development of curriculum on invasive species to include in kindergarten through high school science classes and science competitions such as the Science Olympiad.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- IV C 1: Support the development of rapid response plans and regional rapid-response efforts by providing gap analysis and technical support.
- IV C 2: Align state and federal regulatory processes to facilitate rapid response to newly discovered invasive species.

TIER 2

Leadership and Coordination

- I A 4: Collaborate with partners to improve efficiencies in spending and operations across state, federal, local, regional, and tribal government agencies.
- I B 2: Develop a plan for increasing the staffing and funding capacity of the council so it can support more projects and better serve invasive species managers statewide.
- I B 3: Assist regional entities (Invasive Species Councils, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, 100th Meridian Initiative-Columbia Basin Team, the Western Regional Panel, and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, etc.) in developing legislation that promotes management capacity, regulatory consistency, and adequate resources for regional prevention efforts.
- I B 4: Review and develop recommendations for state, federal, tribal, and local government policies that may influence invasive species populations (ex: classification of game fish, use of non-natives for bioenergy, use of non-natives for mitigation, etc.).
- I B 5: Participate in state and national-level initiatives to assess the effects of climate change on the distribution of invasive species and their impact on ecosystems.
- I C 1: Identify additional opportunities to incorporate language on invasive species management and prevention into agency, tribal, local, and industry policy documents.
- I C 6: Continue to provide current invasive species information and best practices to the public via the council's Web site, Facebook page, and at outreach events.

Prevention

- II A 2: Encourage environmental risk assessments to be conducted in cases where non-native species are being used as a mitigation alternative for native species.

ATTACHMENT 1: WORK PLAN

- II B 1: Convene a meeting with agency, local, and tribal representatives to develop and promote the use of training tools that encourage consistent statewide best management practices (i.e. decontamination videos, brochures, signs, workshops, etc.). Follow up on the use of these tools.
- II C 2: Convene a workshop with federal, state, tribal, and regional organizations to discuss data consistency and tools and to encourage regional data sharing.

Education and Outreach

- III A 1: Develop a communication and outreach plan that outlines strategies for outreach; promotion of the WA Invasives app, and opportunities to revise the council Web site, factsheet, messaging, signs, etc.
- III A 2: Establish priorities and common messaging for council member agencies and others to use when conducting outreach at boat shows and other events.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- IV A 1: Pursue grant funding to expand the baseline assessment work.
- IV B 1: Conduct trainings on the WA Invasives app and provide information on decontamination protocols and best practices.

Containment, Control, and Eradication

- V A 1: Select priority species and assist agencies and other groups to search for funding for eradication.

TIER 3

Leadership and Coordination

- I A 3: Continue to work with regional partners to do outreach to Congress on the impacts of invasive species and the need for federal support for state invasive species management and prevention efforts.
- I C 5: Develop an updated contact list for local, state, federal, and tribal on-the-ground staff responsible for invasive species detection, prevention, and control.

ATTACHMENT 1: WORK PLAN

Prevention

- II A 1: Work with the Bonneville Power Administration and other federal agencies to assist the Northwest states in preventing the establishment of aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels.

Education and Outreach

- III B 2: Work with the state noxious weed control board to develop best management practices for wildfire rehabilitation to help prevent colonization by non-natives.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

- IV A 2: Incorporate the WA Invasives smart phone app data into EDDMAPS invasive species mapping program.

Containment, Control, and Eradication

- V A 2: Support research to make new control tools available and improve the efficacy and specificity of existing tools.
- V A 3: Conduct targeted outreach to nurseries and pet stores on invasive species and prohibited species in order to reduce their sale in Washington State.