

ARIZONA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Progress Update December 13, 2007

The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (Council) was reconvened by the Governor's Executive order 2007-07 in June 2007. The primary goal of the Council is to develop a statewide invasive species management plan that will be presented to the Governor by June 30th of 2008. The plan will focus on the following five strategic components as they pertain to invasive species: Leadership & Coordination, Research & Information Management, Anticipation & Outreach, Control & Management, and funding. The Council developed a strategy for developing recommendations for each of the strategic components. Two of the strategic concepts will be addressed each quarter over the upcoming year beginning in August 2007. Work groups were populated by Council members and any interested stakeholders, and convened to develop draft recommendations for each of the strategic concepts. The intent of this summary is to provide a progress update on the development of the management plan.

The Council has been meeting monthly since June 2007 to address issues on objectives that have been delegated to work groups. At monthly meetings, the council invited presentations from experts on topics including invasive species programs around the country, invasive weeds survey and monitoring, vector-borne diseases, and examples of existing coordinated projects. Council members also attended a graduate seminar on invasive species hosted by Dr. Steve Yool, professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson. The class presented several models for the concept of a "Center for Invasive Species", and Council members entertained questions and dialogue with the students.

Work groups were convened in August and tasked with developing recommendations regarding Leadership and Coordination, and Research and Information Management needs. Two additional work groups were formed in October to address Anticipation and Outreach, and Control and Management. The goal of all four work groups is to have draft recommendations presented to Council in January 2008. Upon Council review, an integrated set of recommendations will be made available for public comment.

A key recommendation of the Council is to develop an integrated statewide network approach for addressing invasive species issues. At the December 4th meeting, the Council voted to accept the recommendation of a "Network" concept whereby basic functions would be delegated to volunteering agencies.

In order for Arizona to be in the forefront of Invasive Species Management, it is necessary to: seek common, consensus-based approach to implementation of Invasive Species management strategies; unify agencies of the State of Arizona in those common strategies; and improve coordination and communication across jurisdictional boundaries, while promoting efficient use of resources and removal of unnecessary redundancies. To ensure that Arizona is in the forefront of invasive species management, the Council is developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the State and Federal land and resource management agencies, and other stakeholders. The purpose of the MOU is to establish a framework for cooperation and participation among the cooperators to promote and implement a common approach for

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Invasive Species management in Arizona consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 2007-07.

Central to the "Network" will be a public website and database that would have input from various sources, government agencies and private organizations. In December, select members and staff of the council met with the Arizona Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) to address the information management needs of the "Network". The group investigated the development and maintenance of an invasive species website and database.

The Council appreciates those who have dedicated the time and resources to attend Council meetings and participate on work groups, and looks forward to the continued commitment in participating and supporting the future development of a statewide invasive species management plan.

The public is encouraged to attend future Council meetings and to participate in work groups. For additional information, please refer to the Governor's Invasive Species Advisory Council Web page <http://www.governor.state.az.us/ais/>, or contact Marianne Meding; Arizona Game and Fish Department, mmeding@azgfd.gov, or Brian McGrew, Arizona Department of Agriculture; bmcgrew@azda.gov.

The Council is now fully convened with 21 appointed members and is co-chaired by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Arizona Department of Agriculture:

Council Member	Organization	Delegate
Duane Shroufe, Chair	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Steve Ferrell
Donald Butler, Chair	Arizona Department of Agriculture	John Caravetta
Brian K. Moorhead	Salt River Project	Vacant
Cheryl Lombard	The Nature Conservancy	Magill Weber
Cindy Copping	Cattle Growers & Farming	Vacant
Francis E. Northam	Cooperative Weed Management	Patti Fenner
Glenn E. Fahringer	Nursery & Landscaping Industry	Vacant
Herb Geunther	Department of Water Resources	Bill Werner
Jerry Levitt	USDA APHIS	Gary Russell
John Gertstenberger	PetsMart	Mark Finke
John H. Brock	Arizona State University	Vacant
Kai Umeda	University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension	Vacant
Kenneth Travous	Arizona State Parks	Joanne Roberts
Mark Winkleman	State Land Department	Doug Witte
Melinda Deswood	Navajo Nation	Vacant
Richard Brusca	Sonora Desert Museum	Christine Conte
Stephen R. Fenn	Arizona Crop Protection Association	Fred Amator
Susan Gerard	Department of Health Services	Elisabeth Lawaczeck
Thomas Klabunde	Tonto National Forest	Vacant
Tom Sharpe	Mining Industry	Vacant
Victor Mendez	Arizona Department of Transportation	Bruce Eilerts

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Work groups include Council members as well as interested stakeholders and include representation from the following entities:

Work Group Participants:

Arizona Department of Agriculture
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Department of Health Services
Arizona State Parks Department
Arizona State Land Department
Arizona Department of Water Resources
Arizona Office of Tourism
Arizona Crop Protection Association
University of Arizona Cooperative
Extension
Arizona State University, Polytechnic
PETsMART

Salt River Project
Natural Resource Conservation Districts
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
South West Vegetation Management
Association
Cattle Growers Association
Nurserymen's Association
Tucson Water
Tonto National Forest
United States Department of Agriculture
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service