

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

Information Management Task Force Update

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Draft Arizona Invasive Species Management Plan

Objective 7: Coordinated Information Management Sharing System

Recommendation/Action Planned

21. Create a task force to: 1) review database and mapping systems and recommend one that will meet the needs identified in this management plan; 2) evaluate existing information management systems potentially adaptable to meet or supplement Arizona information needs (e.g., SWEPIC, SWEMP, HDMS, etc.).
22. Implement the invasive species database and mapping system identified by the task force (Recommendation 21). Identify the appropriate organization/stakeholder(s) to dedicate to database management and maintenance and Web site design and maintenance (funding reallocated within existing budgets for responsible parties).
23. Create and maintain an invasive species Web site. Maintenance will be overseen by the lead entity identified in Recommendation 22.

Two distinct areas of information management

1. Database management tool – primary focus of Task Force
2. Information exchange portal/web site – next phase

Summarization of IT Task Force database management recommendation, next steps and GITA future involvement

1. “Build” versus “buy” solutions identified and evaluated. “Buy” solution deemed most appropriate/beneficial.
2. Task Force database management system recommendation (consensus of IT Task Force members reached) - **iMapInvasives** www.imapinvasives.org
 - a. Five-partner consortium comprised of leading experts including The Nature Conservancy (Oregon), NatureServe, and Natural Heritage Program (New York and Florida).
 - b. Online, GIS-based, invasive species database management system
 - c. Benefits of utilizing iMapInvasives and partnering with consortium:
 - Successful pilot dataset completed.
 - Leveraging existing knowledge base and technology.
 - Low cost - \$7,500 start-up; \$5,000 annual maintenance fees.
 - Possible State/consortium partnership opportunities to further reduce costs through product enhancement.
 - Off-site hosting of database and application – State retains ownership of data.
 - Basic security features and four-level role/access control built in deliverable.
 - Customizable as necessary.
3. Next Steps
 - a. With Council's Approval, initiate development of full dataset..
 - b. Begin conceptual design of Information exchange portal
4. GITA's future involvement – advisory role when necessary