

NISC

Updates, News & Notes¹

Date: June 22, 2016

Department POC: DoD: Douglas A Burkett

E-mail: douglas.a.burkett.civ@mail.mil

A. Update on the implementation of past recommendations/action items²:

There were no Department of Defense specific action items. See sections B and C.

B. Departmental news of relevance to ISAC priorities³:

¹ Limit each section to one type written page. Links (URLs) to additional information are welcomed.

² Restate recommendation/action item and provide date of ISAC meeting.

This report covers only DoD invasive species related activities, excluding the US Army Corps of Engineers who will submit a separate report on invasive species management and research of interest to the ISAC. DoD specific invasive species resources, policy and guidance, fact sheets, and projects funded by DoD's Legacy Resource Management Program can be viewed at <http://www.dodinvasives.org/Index.html>

As the Federal Government's fifth largest land holder, the DoD is responsible for managing over 25 million ecologically diverse acres harboring across approximately 420 major installations worldwide. DoD's priority is to conduct military testing, training and operational activities in ways that balance readiness needs with environmental stewardship responsibilities. Mitigation funding, prevention and management of invasive species on DoD lands is highly variable with funding originating from multiple natural resources and operational appropriations, cooperative conservation efforts, as well as through research and conservation funding awards.

DoD's invasive species management priorities generally fall within three major categories: (1) Management and mitigation of species that directly impact military readiness training; (2) Species that interfere with recovery goals for the 400 threatened and endangered species and more than 550 species at risk found on DoD lands; and (3) Invasive species that impact human health and safety.

Recent high visibility DoD invasive species issues include a multi-agency eradication efforts for coconut rhinoceros beetle at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (HI) as well as continued collaborative research, inspection and mitigation efforts for brown tree snakes in Guam. Also of interest is the continued stakeholder implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP) for Micronesia and Hawaii developed by the Navy. A RBP presentation was provided to ISAC's Prevention Subcommittee during the October 2015 meeting, and an RBP update briefing was recently presented to DoI on 12 May 2016.

Some important, but less visible examples of DoD's invasive species management projects include using C-130 aircraft to chemically control cheat grass, Saharan thistle, halogeton, musk thistle, Russian thistle, and salt cedar on western training ranges for enhancing training landscapes, wildland fire control and improving western sage grouse habitat. Other management projects focus on controlling species that impact mobility and security, damage infrastructure and equipment, and harm soldiers. Examples of these species include red imported fire ants, Asian tiger mosquitoes, feral hogs, Formosan termites, giant hogweed, phragmites, cogon grass, Brazilian pepper, and yellow star-thistle.

³ Focus on technical issues of substantial merit – release of reports, policy actions, etc.

Agricultural and public health related retrograde cargo treatments are also an important part of DoD invasive species operations for redeployment of equipment transported around the globe. The USDA APHIS oversees the preclearance program for the military.

The DoD funds invasive species projects through its Legacy Program, Strategic Research and Development Program (SERDP), and Environmental Security and Technology Certification Program (ESTCP). Since 1991, the Legacy Program has funded over 140 invasive species projects at military installations totaling \$19M. In FY2016, the Legacy Program provided \$374K to support a variety of invasive species projects focusing on best management practices, risk analysis, and ecotype restoration. Additionally, the SERDP and ESTCP Program has funded 30 projects totaling about \$42M with \$3.4M awarded in FY16 for invasive species and biocontrol related projects.

DoD funded Legacy and SERDP / ESTCP projects of interest to ISAC include (1) Prioritizing Invasive Plants for Eradication, Containment, and Surveillance; (2) Early Detection Rapid Response Invasive Species Strike Teams; (3) Strategic Management of Invasive Species and Web Seminar series; (4) Great Basin Species-At-Risk and Invasive Species Management; (5) Repellent Tools for Invasive Species Control in Military Cargo; (6) Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas; (7) Tools: Noxious and Nuisance Plant Management Information System; (8) Model Invasive Species Control Project: Yellow Star Thistle and (8) Introduction of Invasive Species from Participation in OCONUS Exercises. Project details can be downloaded at:

[http://www.dodinvasives.org/Legacy Invasive Species Fact Sheet final 4-15-15.pdf](http://www.dodinvasives.org/Legacy%20Invasive%20Species%20Fact%20Sheet%20final%204-15-15.pdf)

Past or on-going biocontrol efforts have been implemented at various military installations (e.g., Air Force Academy, Buckley AFB, FE Warren AFB, Cheyenne Mt, and Shriever AFB) targeting Canada/musk thistle, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, Dalmatian toad flax, and salt cedar. Targeted grazing using goats and cattle has also been used at FE Warren and Vandenberg AFB to control garlic mustard.

C. Departmental notes of relevance to ISAC⁴:

Ms Maureen Sullivan, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Safety and Occupational Health (DASD/ESOH), is the DoD NISC Principal, and Dr. Douglas A. Burkett at the OSD Armed Force Pest Management Board is serving as the DoD Policy Liaison.

⁴ Focus on organizational/logistical information relevant to ISAC – staff changes, upcoming meetings, etc.