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July 9, 2008

**TO:** Members of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations to NISC from the ISAC Meeting held May 12-15, 2008

ISAC held its spring 2008 meeting on May 12-15, 2008 at the National Park Service Regional Office in Anchorage, AK. As reflected in the recommendations below, ISAC believes that the State of Alaska represents a unique opportunity to act quickly to eradicate existing small infestations of invasive species, and that failure to act may lead not only to dire consequences to Alaska's native flora and fauna, but also pose significant economic risks.

**Recommendation I:** NISC members should consider actions and research into impacts of global scale processes, such as climate change on invasive species. In addition, ISAC recommends that NISC members consider the effects of global scale processes and utilize the multi-disciplinary expertise available within their departments and elsewhere when making invasive species decisions.

**Recommendation II:** NISC members should assess currently available research, training and/or species identification capacities, identify strategic gaps and provide targeted support for systematics activities pertaining to invasive species. In addition, ISAC recommends that NISC members enhance inter-departmental integration and coordination of the U.S. scientific systematic invasive species infrastructure.

**Recommendation III:** NISC members should consider actions and research concerning the science-based evaluation of the impacts of invasive species. In addition, ISAC recommends that NISC members consider actions and research concerning the development and evaluation of alternative species, cultivars, and/or approaches that avoid and reduce the negative impacts of invasive species.

**Recommendation IV:** Invasive species that are now wide spread in some regions and insular areas of the United States are often not assigned high priority for control, because control and eradication appear impracticable in those regions. However, some of these species are still absent or not well established in other regions, where control or eradication remains practical and could be facilitated by assigning high priority to these species.

ISAC therefore recommends that agencies such as USDA and DOI assign a high federal priority to such widespread invasive species, specifically in support of early detection and rapid response (EDRR) in regions where the species are not yet widespread. Alaska in particular presents a rare and critical opportunity for the USDA and DOI to effectively use EDRR to successfully prevent establishment of invasive species, including invasive species now widespread in the lower 48 states. Consequently, EDRR techniques to prevent invasive species from becoming well established within Alaska should be given the highest priority by the aforementioned federal agencies.

**Recommendation V:** In cooperation with state agencies, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior should initiate a rapid response on small infestations of approximately ten (10) invasive plant species in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Zimmerman  
Lone Tree Cattle Company  
Acting Chairman, Invasive Species Advisory Committee

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