

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

October 24, 2007, 9am

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Kris Benson- AK DOT, Juneau

Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla

Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage

Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks

Tammy Davis- ADF&G, Juneau

Larry Johnson- AKDOT&PF, Fairbanks

Rose Lombardi- AK DEC Pesticides, Wasilla

Denny Lassuy- USFWS, Anchorage

Joan Tovsen-UAA/UAF, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Update on Activities
- Next teleconference for the AISWG

Additional Resources

- Poster session contact info
- Web resources
- Executive Order link and excerpt

Update on Activities

Deena Jallen has been working on AISWG website, and recently sent in a final report to ADF&G. So far the November Conference has brought in an estimated \$1000 dollars. Gino Graziano said that Rose Lombardi and Matt Carlson are running the CNIPM meeting poster session, and are currently accepting titles and abstracts for posters. Those interested in submitting a poster should contact them before the CNIPM meeting, preferably before the 1st of November. There will be tape for hanging posters, and possibly tables on a space available basis (contact Matt and Rose ahead of time to arrange).

Gino Graziano has been working on a proposal to set up rapid response programs with citizen involvement. They have not picked which species to focus on yet, but will likely use the Alaska Natural Heritage Ranking Project to select species that are either not in Alaska yet, or have limited distribution. The public awareness campaign involved with the pocket weed guides was very successful. Gino plans to send out a survey to people who requested the guides.

Joan Tovsen has been pursuing meetings with cruise ship industry people. She is a graduate student in Northern Studies, and is looking at issues regarding geology, habitat, ecology, and logistics of disaster preparedness in the cruise ship industry and related land tours. Many of the ship in Alaska operate in areas that could be affected by natural disasters with little to no warning (earthquake/tsunami, volcanic eruptions, etc.). Another

aspect of her study is looking at environmental impacts of cruise ships (ballast water, black water).

Joan had some general questions about invasive species; how long have they been studied, how does climate change play into species movements, and has consideration been given to marketing invasive species to help control them. Denny Lassuy said that the USFWS has been involved in invasive species since its origin about 130 years ago. Jeff Heys pointed out that rabbits had been considered invasive in Australia since the turn of the century [in 1907, Australia had finished construction on over 2000 miles of rabbit fence].

Denny Lassuy clarified that under the federal Executive Order 13112 definition of invasive species, those moving via range expansions and natural processes are not considered invasive. The Order specifies species that have been moved by human activity (see Additional Resources).

Regarding the consideration of marketing invasive species; Poinsettias are regarded as a weed in California, but are frequently sold commercially. Joan wondered if there had been efforts made to harvest and market species such as dandelions. Denny Lassuy pointed out that in California, efforts had been made to start a commercial fishery for mitten crabs. Such efforts were strongly opposed by neighboring states who felt that creating a market for the species would provide incentive for people to further spread mitten crabs by moving them to other streams closer to home to increase harvest yield and efficiency. Deena Jallen mentioned the Invasive Species Cookbook (See Additional Resources). Gino Graziano said that he has heard of people looking into planting reed canary grass as a biofuel, but believes that it would be better to plant a native species such as willow.

Denny Lassuy recently met with Marilyn Leland, Lisa Ka'ahue of PWSRCAC, and Jeff Heys to discuss the next meeting of the national Invasive Species Advisory Council. They plan to meet in Anchorage the week of May 12, 2008. The ISAC advises the group formed by Executive Order 13112 and is comprised of people who advise the federal agencies, not the agency heads. Lisa Ka'ahue will be sending out meeting announcements. The meeting will likely be held at the National Park Service building, and there may be opportunities for presentations and field trips to give an overview of Alaskan invasive species issues.

Larry Johnson wanted to let the group know that Bonnie Harper-Lore will be speaking at the CNIPM meeting, and will also be giving a presentation on best management plans from 10am to noon on 11/16 (Friday) at the McKinley Building off of Peger Road in Fairbanks.

Kris Benson said that she is working with Lisa Ka'ahue from PWSRCAC to help provide access to ferries for hull fouling sampling for a project. The project was mentioned in the Marine Subcommittee meeting (10/11), and would target ferries, barges, and tankers that travel in Puget Sound (and some that don't).

Next teleconference for the AISWG

Marine Subcommittee

Thursday November 8th, 9:30 am

To attend, call into 907-586-7060. Allow line to ring until another party picks up, long distance charges apply.

AISWG

Tuesday, November 20, 9:30am

Call in to: 907-271-1405, allow line to ring until another party picks up. Long distance charges apply.

Additional Resources

CNIPM Poster session contacts

Matt Carlson:

907-786-1332

afmlc2@uaa.alaska.edu

Rose Lombardi:

907-376-1866

Rosemarie_Lombardi@dec.state.ak.us

National Invasive Species Council

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/council/main.shtml>

National Invasive Species Council Members

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/council/agencies.shtml>

History of rabbits in Australia

<http://library.thinkquest.org/03oct/00128/en/rabbits/history.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rabbit-proof_fence

Asian carp harvesting

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5542199>

Invasive Species Cookbook

<http://www.bradfordstreetpress.com/>

Executive Order 13112

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/laws/execorder.shtml>

Section 1. Definitions.

(a) "Alien species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

(b) "Control" means, as appropriate, eradicating, suppressing, reducing, or managing invasive species populations, preventing spread of invasive species from areas where they are present, and taking steps such as restoration of native species and habitats to reduce the effects of invasive species and to prevent further invasions.

(c) "Ecosystem" means the complex of a community of organisms and its environment.

(d) "Federal agency" means an executive department or agency, but does not include independent establishments as defined by 5 U.S.C. 104.

(e) "Introduction" means the intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement of a species into an ecosystem as a result of human activity.

(f) "Invasive species" means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

(g) "Native species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

(h) "Species" means a group of organisms all of which have a high degree of physical and genetic similarity, generally interbreed only among themselves, and show persistent differences from members of allied groups of organisms.

(i) "Stakeholders" means, but is not limited to, State, tribal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, the scientific community, nongovernmental entities including environmental, agricultural, and conservation organizations, trade groups, commercial interests, and private landowners.

(j) "United States" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and all possessions, territories, and the territorial sea of the United States.