

Invasive Species Program

Invasive species research focuses on providing methodologies and information to address the increasing threat to ecological systems and native species due to the introduction and spread of invasive species.

The Program supports cooperative efforts to document and monitor the introduction and spread of invasive species, study the ecology of invaders and factors in the resistance of habitats to invasion, to forecast probabilities and locations of future invasions, provide methods and information to assess and manage risks, and develop methods to prevent and control invasive species and minimize their environmental impacts.



Program Goals

Prevention – Conduct research and develop methods and technologies to prevent the introduction of invasive species.

- ◆ Develop, improve, and evaluate methods for management of priority pathways.
- ◆ Support development of indices of the potential invasiveness for species not yet established in U. S. ecosystems.

Early Detection and Rapid Response – Identify and report new invasions and assess risks to natural areas.

- ◆ Develop techniques and methods for detecting and reporting new invasions to natural areas and waters.
- ◆ Support rapid assessment and response for new invaders affecting U.S. ecosystems and native species.

Monitoring and Forecasting – Assess changes in populations and distributions of established invaders.

- ◆ Develop multi-scale monitoring, modeling and forecasting of established invasive species in U.S. ecosystems.

Effects – Determine effects of invasive species and susceptibility of habitats to invasion.

- ◆ Expand research on effects of priority invasive species on native species (including threatened and endangered species), habitats and ecosystem functions.
- ◆ Develop reliable methods for better understanding the socio-economic impacts of invasive species.

Control and Management – Provide approaches to contain, reduce, and eliminate populations of invasive species and restore habitats and native species.

- ◆ Develop effective methods for control of priority invasive species threatening public lands and waters.
- ◆ Gather information and provide technical assistance to support use for effective methods for control/management/eradication and evaluate options in varied environments and circumstances.

Information Management – Provide and coordinate the collection, synthesis, and accessibility of invasive species information.

- ◆ Increase the availability of data on nonindigenous species.
- ◆ Provide syntheses of invasive species information to guide policy and inform the public

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the primary research arm of the Department of the Interior (DOI), which manages nearly one-fifth of all land in the United States. DOI co-chairs the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), and USGS plays a significant role in implementing the National Invasive Species Management Plan.

For more information contact:
 Sharon K. Gross, Program Coordinator
 USGS Biological Resources discipline
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS-301
 Reston, VA 20192
 Tel: 703/648-4076
 Fax: 703/648-4238
 Email: sgross@usgs.gov