



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-ZA

JUN - 2 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Invasive Species Policy

1. BACKGROUND. In executing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers missions, districts are faced with numerous and diverse issues concerning invasive species. These problems occur on Corps managed and/or administered lands and waters, lands and waters being proposed for Federal Civil Works projects, and Corps lands utilized for outgrants and permits. No Corps nationwide policy currently exists for the prevention, control, and assessment of invasive species. The lack of policy has created inconsistencies concerning the prevention and control of invasive species across Corps districts.

2. PURPOSE. This policy memorandum establishes a consistent, nationwide policy that will be applied to all Civil Works projects and programs. It compliments the National Invasive Species Act. Measures to either prevent or reduce establishment of invasive and non-native species will be a component of all Corps Operations and Maintenance (O&M) at project sites as well as a part of implementation of a Civil Works project.

3. POLICY APPLICABILITY. This policy memorandum is applicable to the entire spectrum of Civil Works programs and projects and meets the spirit of the National Invasive Species Management Plan. It supports the USACE Environmental Operating Principals and will be applied to invasive species issues in the execution of all Civil Works Programs as follows:

a. Operations. Operating projects will include strategies for invasive species management in their project Operations and Maintenance responsibilities. These strategies will be coordinated with other Federal, State, and local agencies.

b. Civil Works Planning Activities. Civil Works planning documents will address invasive species concerns in their analysis of project impacts. Collaboration with Federal, State and local agencies will be maintained in developing those analyses.

c. Regulatory Actions. The evaluation process for Department of the Army permits may address, through the appropriate public interest review factors (e.g., conservation, general environmental concerns), invasive species concerns in their analysis of impacts at the project site and associated compensatory mitigation projects. An appropriate level of coordination with Federal, State and local agencies will be used to develop those analyses. A Department of the Army permit may include special conditions to require the permittee to control the introduction or spread of invasive species at these sites.

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d. Engineering Research and Development Center. The Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) will serve as the research lead for the Invasive Species Program. ERDC will have representatives on the Invasive Species Leadership Team to support the team and USACE decisions concerning invasive species. ERDC will also share information concerning their activities and solicit input for future research and development work units.

e. Invasive Species Leadership Team (ISLT). The ISLT will provide oversight of the Corps Invasive Species Program established by this policy. In support of the National Invasive Species Management Plan, the ISLT will also provide direction to achieve goals and objectives that compliment the plan that are applicable to Corps Civil Works programs and projects (See Enclosure 1). The ISLT will also provide support for the exchange and sharing of information and to develop and provide strategic recommendations to the Corps and ERDC. Applicable regulations and authorities will be updated as needed. Team members are encouraged to attend their respective Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Regional Panel meetings as schedules and budgets allow. Information concerning ISLT team members, responsibilities, and activities can be found at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/islt/islt.html>.

4. FOCUS. The National Invasive Species Management Plan (the Plan) will serve as a blueprint for Corps action on both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Information concerning the Plan and the latest invasive species developments can be found at www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov. The Plan is also posted on the Corps Gateway site, <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/sitemap.html>, under Invasive Species. Actions proposed, permitted or submitted for authorization, either within existing authorities or by way of Congressional action, will follow the concepts promulgated by the Plan. In addition, all such actions will be coordinated with other agencies, States, Non-Governmental Organizations and the public, as appropriate, to prevent and/or control the introduction of invasive species and to minimize their economic, environmental, ecological, and human health impacts.

5. DEFINITIONS AND AUTHORITIES. Refer to Enclosures 2 and 3 respectively.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

3 Encls

*Close collaboration
with partners,
stakeholders, and
customers will be
key to this
program's success!*



MERDITH W. B. TEMPLE
Major General, USA
Deputy Commanding General
for Civil and Emergency Operations

**CORPS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE INTENT OF
THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN
ENCLOSURE 1**

a. Leadership and Coordination Goal: Work strategically, using all Corps scientific, management, and partnership resources in unison to manage invasive species.

Objectives

- Partner/coordinate with local, State, and Federal agencies and NGO's to manage invasive species at the project, regional, and national levels; examples include the Cooperative Weed Management Areas; Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds, and the 100th Meridian Initiative.

b. Prevention Goal: Prevent introduction and establishment of invasive species to reduce their impact on the environment, economy, and health of the United States.

Objectives

- Identify pathways by which invasive species could potentially invade Corps managed projects.
- Take steps to interdict pathways that are recognized as significant sources for the unintentional introduction of invasive species.
- Implement a process for identifying high priority invasive species that are likely to be introduced unintentionally.
- Develop a communication plan to share information about invasive species infestations on Corps projects (Natural Resources Management Gateway).

c. Early Detection and Rapid Response Goal: Develop and enhance the capacity to identify, report, and effectively respond to newly discovered/localized invasive species.

Objectives

- Develop monitoring plans for Corps managed projects.
- Take steps to improve detection and identification of introduced invasive species.
- Each district and project should assess how their current management may be contributing to invasive species problems.

- Develop a program for coordinating rapid response to incipient invasions on Corps projects.

d. Control and Management Goal: Contain and reduce the spread and populations of established invasive species to minimize their harmful impacts.

Objectives

- Develop and issue a protocol for ranking priority of invasive species control projects at local, regional, and ecosystem-based levels.
- Develop and implement control measures for invasive species in accordance with budget appropriations.
- Develop partnerships to leverage funding.
- Develop budget packages through the annual budgetary process to acquire funding to complete control measures.
- Develop exclusion and sanitation methods for preventing spread of invasive species.
- Develop assessment and monitoring plans for invasive species management areas.
- For compensatory mitigation projects required by Department of the Army permits, include performance standards that involve monitoring for introduction or spread of invasive species at the mitigation site, and require the removal of invasive species if those performance standards are not being met.

e. Restoration Goal: Restore native species and habitat conditions and rehabilitate high-value ecosystems and key ecological processes that have been impacted by invasive species to meet desired future conditions.

Objectives

- Pursue Continuing Authorities Program restoration projects to control invasive species.
- Implement appropriate measures to restore areas where invasive species management activities have occurred to prevent re-colonization.
 - Promote eradication and control measures of exotics related to the aquatic environment as a viable contributive element to DA permit mitigation plans.
- Promote exclusive use of native species in mitigation plantings associated with Regulatory permits.

- Promote exclusive use of native species in plantings associated with construction/restoration activities for Real Estate Outgrants.

f. Research Goal. Conduct appropriate research and development activities to ensure management programs are effective and science based. Sound scientific information is critical in guiding management activities, determining the magnitude of invasive species problems, planning future research and management programs, and improving intervention efforts.

Objectives

- Develop priorities for invasive species research needs. Participate in the research field review.

g. Information Management Goal: Implement management actions to track invasive species data.

Objectives

- Input invasive species data into the Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL).
- Input invasive species data into Project Geographic Information Systems, to the extent practical.

h. Education and Public Awareness Goal: Education, communication, and interpretation programs can convey how the public can help prevent, identify, detect, and control invasive species and gather public input into program plans and promote partnerships in their implementation.

Objectives

- Partner, develop, and implement a national public awareness campaign.
- Partner, develop, and implement a model public awareness program on Corps projects that incorporates national, regional, state, and local level invasive species public education activities.

DEFINITIONS *
ENCLOSURE 2

a. Control - 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.

b. Federal action - any activity authorized by a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, actions authorized by continuing authorities or Congressional Action, or operation and or maintenance of Corps properties.

c. Introduction - the intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement of a species into an ecosystem as a result of human activity.

d. Invasive species - An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. A species that is non- native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

e. Native species - 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.

f. Non-native species - 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.

g. Species - 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.

h. Steward - a Natural Resources Manager or Civil Works Planner whose actions impact Federal lands and waters or those lands that may become or be subjected to Federal actions. The definition is not applicable to the Corps Regulatory program since the stewardship responsibility is held by a private entity or another Federal, state, or local government agency.

*(As defined by EO 13112).

AUTHORITIES AND REGULATIONS
ENCLOSURE 3

- a. River and Harbor Act of 1899.
- b. River and Harbor Act of 1958 as amended (PL 85-500), Aquatic Plant Control.
- c. Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act of 1990. [As Amended Through P.L. 106-580, 29 December 2000].
- d. National Invasive Species Act of 1996, P.L. 104-332.
- e. Invasive Species Executive Order 13112, 3 February 1999.
- f. Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act, P.L. 109-320, 11 October 2006.
- g. ER 1130-2-540 1-1, Environmental Stewardship and Operations and Maintenance Policies, 15 November 1996.
- h. ER 200-2-3, Environmental Compliance Policy, 30 October 1996.
- i. ER 1105-2-100, Appendix F – Continuing Authorities Program.
- j. ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 14 - Aquatic Plant Control Program.