

NISC OVERVIEW

Executive Order (EO) 13112: Invasive species¹ are plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to harm economy, environment, or harm human health. EO 13112, issued in 1999, charged all federal departments and agencies to prevent and control invasive species and created the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). NISC provides high-level interdepartmental coordination of federal invasive species actions.

NISC Members: NISC is cochaired by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce. NISC members include the Secretaries of State, Defense, Homeland Security, Treasury², Transportation, Health and Human Services, the U.S. Trade Representative, the Administrators of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NASA, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. NISC spends an estimated \$1.3 billion per year on invasive species.

NISC Staff: Lori Williams, Executive Director of NISC, and her staff are administratively housed within the Immediate Office of the Secretary of the Interior. Each NISC cochair provides a full-time Policy Liaison. They are co-located with NISC staff.

ISAC: EO 13112 established the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). ISAC is a thirty-member non-federal advisory group chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. ISAC members understand a wide range of technical and policy areas, taxa, and regions. They represent

environmental conservation, scientific societies, agriculture, state governments, tribes, industry, and other constituencies. ISAC meets twice a year.

NISC National Management Plans: The 2001 National Invasive Species Management Plan was the first comprehensive national blueprint for coordinated federal action on invasive species. The majority of the 2001 Plan's actions have been completed.

As called for by EO 13112, the 2001 Plan has been revised. The 2008-2015 National Invasive Species Management Plan was approved on August 1, 2008. It sets out five Strategic Goal areas:

- Prevention
- Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR)
- Control & Management
- Restoration
- Organizational Collaboration

The 2008-2012 Plan names 38 NISC agencies or programs and indicates which of them have a lead or participant role for each of the Plan's 87 specific Performance Elements. This five-year plan specifies over 200 coordinated actions.

Examples of NISC/ISAC Accomplishments

2001 and 2008-2012 Management Plans approved
 5 classes of ISAC seated; 24 ISAC meetings held
 8 Full NISC Members meetings
 Monthly Policy Liaison meetings 2001 - present
 EDRR Guidelines completed
 Control and Management Guidelines completed
 Invasive Species Definition Clarification completed
 NISC Website redesign and expansion
 Five-Year Review of EO 13112 completed
 2004-07 annual Cross-cut Budgets completed
 Analysis of invasive species pathways completed
 Over 280 Newsletters issued 2004 - present
 Congressional briefings and testimony presented

¹ see Invasive Species Definition Clarification White Paper (www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/council/isacdef.pdf)

² Inactive.