

Nebraska Invasive Species Council

July 8, 2022 Meeting Notes

- I. **Recovering America's Wildlife Update** (Sarah Nevison)
 - a. This legislation has passed the House and Senate
 - b. Need more boots on the ground to do surveys
 - c. \$1.4 billion dedicated funding for biodiversity

- II. **Discuss Invasive Species Research Priorities** See attached List

- III. **NISC Coordinator Updates** (Allison Zach): See attached slides

- IV. **Council Member Updates** (including invasive species Education/Outreach, Prevention, Management, Research or Other Initiatives):
 - A. Cindy Stuefer-Powell-Has been conducting grasshopper and bark beetle surveys. Working with Eppley airport on the harmonization program for Japanese beetle and emerald ash borer biocontrol are being put out. Worked in CA for a month on the meat snacks from China that are not permitted to come into the US. Found 800,000 lbs. of snacks and took 31 pallets to the disposal area.

 - B. John Thorburn-The Platte River Resilience Fund awarded Platte Valley Weed Management Area \$785,000 from Bureau of Reclamation. This could be the first of 3 annual contribution endowments the Platte River foundation makes. The funding is needed to combat phragmites and other riparian invasive species.

 - C. Chris Helzer-sumac issue-started helicopter spraying by Niobrara and killed the sumac but loss the forb diversity. Trying experiments on combining fire and mowing. There is a virus that affects sumac but can't find the type of virus it is. Continuing to study eastern redcedar (ERC) mortality with fire conditions and fuel loading. Looking at different time of years. 2-3 feet height ERC getting killed and taking out less grass than expected if they get them early.

 - D. Melissa Panella-There was an amendment to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act to expand eligibility under the legacy fund to control and prevent invasive species and diseases. She was just named the new Assistant District Administrator for the Wildlife Research Analysis Section

 - E. Contact Kim Todd with ideas for backyard farmer or digging deeper shows

 - F. **Public Comment**-no public comments

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Invasive Species Research Ideas from the Nebraska Invasive Species Council for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act July 2022

- Conduct surveys to determine distribution of aquatic invasive plants
- Smooth sumac, which is a native species, but in the middle Niobrara and Calamus in eastern NE it is very abundant. Research to determine how to control it without causing negative impacts to other species
- How effectively are biological controls affecting species they are meant to be controlling. Also how are they affecting non-target species
- Research common mullein, poison hemlock, sulfur cinquefoil and saint john'swort to determine their distribution and if they cause problems
- Research intermediate and tall wheatgrass to determine if they are a problem
- Sweet clover has impacts on habitat in other states. Research a range of sites to see if in north and eastern Nebraska it is a competitor to other species
- Research plants, Marestalk, that are getting resistance to herbicides
- Conduct education to people on not ordering plants and animals over the internet. Research which species are the most problematic to focus on then do outreach around those species. Phytosanitary certificates are not included with such sales so those products could be carrying diseases with them. Order plants and animals on the internet and inspect what is delivered
- Survey land managers on a number of invasive species to come up with the most effective control methods. Including Poison hemlock and phragmites
- Research woody invading species including Autumn olive and other new species coming into eastern Nebraska. Study how they grow under an eastern redcedar canopy
- Riparian forest succession research on once eastern redcedar is established what is the next species that will become a problem

NE GAME & PARKS COMMISSION REQUESTED INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH NEEDS

- **Priority Invasive species data to collect**

- **General Invasive Species Research topics**

- For each item identified provide the following:
 - Estimate of funds needed to accomplish items identified for the 2 bullets above
 - Estimates for timeframe needed, break them into 3-to-5-year blocks for items identified for 2 bullets above.
 - NGPC is expected to put together a 5-year work plan that could be completed and to demonstrate successes in that time frame.
 - NGPC would then report successes to the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and to congressionals.

Priority Data Needed	Estimate to Complete	3 Year	5 Year	Comments
Aquatic invasive plant occurrences				
Noxious weeds				
Weedy Encroachments				
Smooth sumac-native species but middle niobrara and calamus in east NE adudent-how to control without negative impacts on other species. Research question-how control large populations without affecting species around it				
How biological control affecting species they are controlling (and how affecting other species)				
Invasive plant species don't know where they are or how invasive they are. Chris Mullen and poison hemlock, sulfur cinquefoil st. Johns wort are those species abundant or do they cause problems. Intermediate and tall wheat grass-gather info on where they are problem. Sweet clover-has impact on habitat in other in other states look at range of cites to see if in north and east if it is a competitor.				
Plants that are getting resistance to herbicides.What is the status of that. Marestalk look at. If becomes resistant				
Educating people on not ordering things over the internet.Which species are the most problematic to focus on then do outreach around those species. Phytosanitary certificates are not included so those products could be carrying diseases with them. Could order items and see what actually is delivered				
Survey work on landmanagers on invasive species we identify to come up with the most effective control people are finding for newer species (Poison hemlock). Gather info from a bunch of people to get that feedback and include phragmites also in that. How do we kill them and what is the least impactful way of killing it				
Species used by industry that we don't want them to be selling-ERC or other species we don't have a handle on who is selling plants where. Seeing new species that are sold widely.The person selling plants aren't tracking on what is sold. People buy plants and then call with issues later on.				
Woody invading species in eastern Nebraska.All sorts of interesting how they grow under a ERC canopy.New suite of woody species like Autumn olive which are very invasive and coming into the area				
Riparian forest succession research-once ERC is established what is the next species that will be the next problem				

NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL WEBSITE PLANNED UPDATES

- [NISC Website](#)
- **Planned updates:**
 - **Member Bios & photos**



INVASIVES U (NAISMA)

- https://naisma.org/programs/invasivesu/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- NAISMA **Mapping Standards Short Course**
- Certified Weed Free Products' Inspector Certification Course
- Online Learning Library

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION UPDATES

- Western Governors formally approved five policy resolutions during their annual executive session at the end of WGA's fiscal year (June 30). The resolutions represent the Governors' collective policy on a
 - **Biosecurity and Invasive Species Management**
 - This resolution addresses invasive species management and adds substantial new policy, including: a **call to address the destructive relationship between invasive grasses and wildfires**;
 - Mechanisms to enhance regional invasive species research, planning and coordination; and
 - Recommendations to Congress and federal agencies on improving invasive species management on federal lands and supporting state-led management efforts. [Read, download the resolution.](#)

OCTOBER 7 COUNCIL TOUR

- **Where: The Nature Conservancy's Platte River Prairies (2 miles south of the Wood River I-80 exit)**
- **When: October 7**
- **What:**
 - Examples of **weedy plants responding to fire and intensive grazing** but then fading as pastures are rested and grasses recover.
 - **Management of cool-season invasive grasses with fire and grazing** to keep them from dominating grasslands and reducing plant diversity.
 - **Challenges associated** with managing wetland invasive plants (phragmites, purple loosestrife, cattails, reed canarygrass, etc.) without compromising plant diversity.

PLANNING NEEDS
2023 CONFERENCE



- October 16-19, 2023
- UNL Centers to involve in the conferences
- Field Trips
- Special Sessions
- Topics to highlight at conference

INTERVIEWING MEMBERS

- Determine strategic planning for Council

ADAMS COUNTY

- Jeff-Wants to know what County is going to be about bindweed being all over

OUTREACH MATERIALS



MITCH COFFIN UPDATE

- Firecracker with foreign seeds in it

