

# NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

## 2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**Report Recipients:** Governor Pete Ricketts and members of the Agriculture Committee of the Nebraska Legislature

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### Overview

This report was developed per the requirements outlined in Section 16 of Legislative Bill 391. Legislative Bill 391 was passed by the Nebraska Unicameral on March 30, 2012, and signed into law by Governor Dave Heineman on April 10, 2012.

Sections 13-16 of LB 391 created the Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council and charged it with these six objectives:

1. Recommend action to minimize the effects of harmful invasive species on Nebraska's citizens in order to promote the economic and environmental well-being of the state.
2. Develop and periodically update a statewide adaptive management plan for invasive species as described in Section 15 of this act.
3. Serve as a forum for discussion, identification, and understanding of invasive species issues.
4. Facilitate the communication, cooperation, and coordination of federal, state, local, private, and nongovernmental entities for the prevention, control, and management of invasive species.
5. Assist with public outreach and awareness of invasive species issues.
6. Provide information to the Legislature for decision-making, planning, and coordination of invasive species management and prevention.

This reports details Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council actions carried out in 2018 to fulfill the objectives set in LB 391.

# Official 2018 Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council Members

The table below shows the voting and non-voting members of the Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council.

<b>VOTING NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	
Name	Agency/Organization
Arnie Stuthman	Public Interest Member (Agricultural interest)
Craig Allen	USGS Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Gary Hellerich	Public Interest Member (Agricultural interest)
John Erixson	Nebraska Forest Service
Justin Evertson	Public Interest member
Justin King	Nebraska Public Power District
Kim Todd	Public Interest Member (Non-Ag Interest Member)
Matt Gregory	Public Interest member
Mitch Coffin	Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Todd Boller	Nebraska Weed Control Association
Todd Siel	Lower Republican Natural Resource District
Tom Powers	University of Nebraska
Vacant	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

<b>NON-VOTING NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	
Name	Agency/Organization
Allison Zach	Nebraska Invasive Species Program
Brenda Densmore	USGS Water Science Center
Carmen Thomson	National Park Service, Midwest Region
Chris Helzer	The Nature Conservancy
Cindy Stuefer-Powell	USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Julie Van Meter	Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture
Ritch Nelson	USDA Nebraska Natural Resource Conservation Service
Shayne Galford	USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Tom Heatherly	Department of Environmental Quality

## Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council 2018 Activities

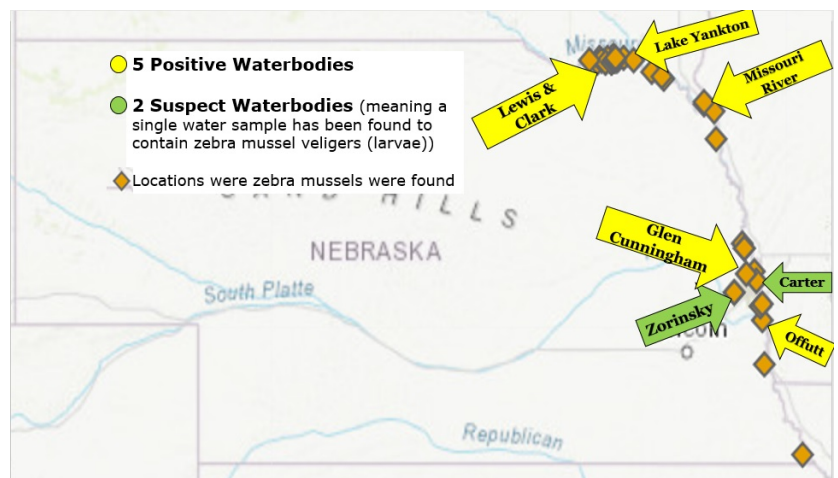
Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council (NISC) meetings were held monthly in 2018, except in August, and worked to accomplish the objectives stated in LB 391. Meeting announcements were posted prior to meetings on the Nebraska Invasive Species Program website <http://neinvasives.com/>. The NISC updated its adaptive management plan in 2018 which is an overview of the role of the NISC and how it works to implement the objectives in the legislation which created it. The NISC is charged with public outreach and awareness of high priority invasive species. NISC members disseminated invasive species field guides and brochures to resource agency staff, Master Naturalists and the public for early detection of invasive species infestations. The public can then use the Nebraska Invasive Species Program's website to report invasive species discoveries. More than 20 new invasive species sightings were received via the website in 2018. Members attended regional conferences to learn about current research and management efforts that could be applied in Nebraska and updated the NISC. NISC members presented invasive species identification presentations various groups including: the

Nebraska Lakes Association, at sandpit workshops and at Nebraska Weed Control Association meetings. NISC members and their agencies conducted invasive species sampling throughout the state. Sampling for various invasive insects, aquatics, plants, diseases and wildlife occurred throughout the state. The NISC provided the Western Governors Association (WGA) with lists of the most devastating invasive species in Nebraska. Those lists were used by the WGA to create a list of the most devastating list of invasive species in the west and the NISC will continue to work with WGA their invasive species prevention and database efforts.

Council members disseminated aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention materials to the public at events and during watercraft inspections. The Nebraska Invasive Species Program and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) conducted boater surveys and watercraft inspections during the summer of 2018. A total of 2,451 boater surveys were completed and 1,954 watercrafts were inspected. The surveys collected data to study watercraft movements and prevalence of AIS prevention behavior among watercraft operators. Survey participants were given invasive species identification and prevention information. Technicians conducted AIS outreach at family fishing nights, fishing tournaments and expos. The NGPC issued citations to watercraft owners that were not in compliance with AIS regulations. The NGPC has been collecting funds from resident motor boat registrations and non-resident motorboat annual stickers since 2016 to fund their AIS prevention program.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Infestations:**

Zebra and quagga mussel sampling was conducted by NGPC, Nebraska Public Power District and the US Army Corps of Engineers throughout the state. Zebra mussels (an invasive species that clogs irrigation and municipal water pipes and reduces habitat and food available for native species) were discovered in 1 new waterbody in 2018. A newly established zebra mussel infestation was discovered in Glenn Cunningham Lake in July of 2018. The US Army Corps of Engineers, NGPC, Nebraska Invasive Species Program, Natural Resource District and City of Omaha worked together to respond to the new infestation. The lake is being down during the winter of 2018 to freeze and kill the zebra mussels to eliminate the infestation. A similar action occurred in the winter of 2010 to kill a newly established zebra mussel infestation in Lake Zorinsky in Omaha, NE. Since that lake was refilled zebra mussel larvae have been collected once in 2016 but not since. The waterbody will be delisted as a zebra mussel suspect waterbody if zebra mussel larvae or adults are not sampled before July of 2019 per the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species protocol. Nebraska now has 5 zebra mussel infested waterbodies including: Lewis and Clark Lake, Lake Yankton (below Gavin's Point dam), Missouri River, Glenn Cunningham Lake (Omaha, NE) and Offutt Air Force Base Lake (Bellevue, NE). Nebraska has 2 suspect waterbodies: Carter Lake (Omaha, NE) and Zorinsky Lake (Omaha, NE). No Quagga Mussels have been found in the state.

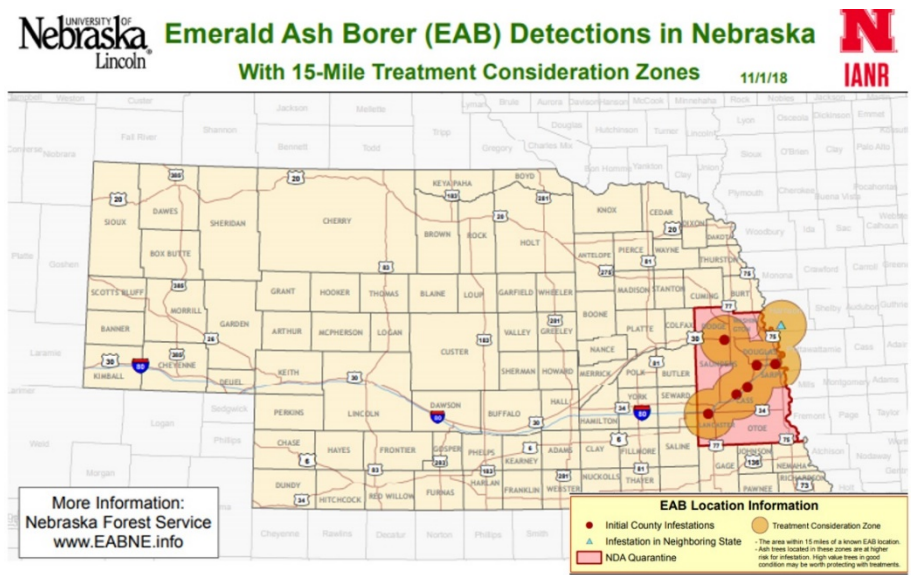


Omaha Public Power District Power facilities that pull water from the Missouri River are finding massive numbers of zebra mussels in their facilities and are installing control systems and treatments in order to keep their facilities running by keeping zebra mussels from clogging their systems. Irrigators

and municipal water operations pulling water from the Missouri River have been put in touch with other states to implement systems and treatments to maintain their systems. Research and monitoring occurred at Offutt Air Force Base Lake and Lewis and Clark Lake to study the Zebra Mussel infestation growth. Zebra mussels can travel on watercrafts, trailers and equipment for up to 2 weeks out of water in damp conditions making them easily transported to infest other waterbodies. Once they are in an open waterbody, there is no treatment proven to be successful to eradicate 100% of the population. The most effective way to prevent new infestations is public education to teach clean, drain, and dry techniques for watercrafts, equipment, and trailers. Many of the agencies in the NISC conduct public outreach to increase public knowledge of how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

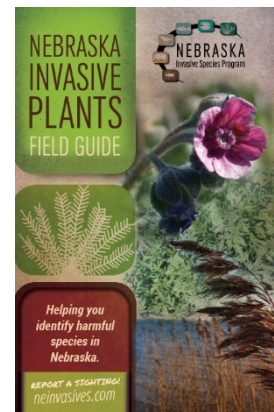
**Invasive Insect Infestations:**

Emerald ash borer was confirmed in Lancaster County in 2018. It is an invasive insect that kills native ash tree species. NISC members conducted outreach to the public and resource agency staff on options for replanting, removal and treatments for ash trees. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture’s quarantine now includes 8 Nebraska counties (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington, Lancaster and Otoe) and regulates the movement of specific articles that could be capable of carrying emerald ash borer. Japanese beetles are another invasive insect of concern as they have a large range of host plants are at peak levels in the Omaha, NE area and are increasing in Lancaster county. NISC members conducted outreach to provide the public with information on this pest and how to best manage it.



**Invasive Plant Infestations:**

Many of the NISC members attended the hearing for the legislative interim study on Eastern redcedar (ERC). The NISC had many meeting presentations and conversations about this species and are working together to produce research and management recommendations to manage the species. There are several graduate students at the University of Nebraska currently studying ERC to fill in some knowledge gaps to improve management recommendations and provide a better understanding of ERC impacts. The NISC updated the Nebraska invasive plant field guide. It will be printed and disseminated to the public and resource agencies in 2019 to increase early detection for new infestations.



**Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council Legislative Recommendations**

The NISC recommends continuation of the council with no modifications. This recommendation is due to the success of the NISC in coordinating invasive species management, research and prevention efforts and providing training and outreach to resource staff and the public. These efforts help in early

detection and rapid response to contain new invasive species infestations. The NISC will continue to engage new members and partners to increase the NISC's objectives. The NISC will continue to keep legislative committee(s) apprised of any invasive species issues that arises that warrant legislative attention. Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding invasive species.