

# Welcome

## MNRG Meeting

# MNRG Terrestrial Invasive Species Committee

November 29, 2006  
Chicago, IL



# TISC

- Formalized July 2006 at MNRG Seniors' meeting.
- Tiers from a national invasive species effort.
- Focus on terrestrial invasive species within the Great Lakes basin.
- Work within the collaborative framework of the "Action Plan".
- Conference calls every 2-3 weeks.

# Action Plan Elements

- Leadership and Coordination
- Prevention
- Early Detection and Rapid Response
- Control and Management
- Restoration
- Cooperation
- Research
- Data Management
- Education and Public Awareness

# TISC Progress

- Updated Invasive Species MOA (sign today!)
- Sent support letters through MNRG chair to NISC, IATF, St. Louis Code of Conduct
- Developed web page under MNRG.gov
- Prioritized 45 action to top 20 based on current agency need and activity
- Individuals selected actions that corresponded to agency activity

# Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

Phyllis Ellin

# US Forest Service

Jan Schultz

# Element: Prevention

- **ID sources of NNIS free products & commit to use on public lands & federally funded/ permitted projects—*Weed Free Mulch & Forage***
- **This is important to USFS because:**
  - Weeds are introduced via mulch & forage
  - This product need was identified in *Eastern Region NNIS Framework*
  - Equestrian activities are popular in portions of E. Region
  - Virtually every earth disturbing activity (construction, erosion control...) is mitigated with “mulch”

# Needs of Other Agencies

- **14 MNRG MOA signatories have some involvement in various earth disturbing activities – and the subsequent “mulch” application**
- **Problem resolution:**
  - ID existing state certification programs
  - ID options available to MNRG partners in states with no certification programs
  - ID local commercial sources for these products with sufficient/ reliable qualities...
  - ID options for erosion control, etc. besides traditional forage/ mulch.

# Progress and Products

- ID current Midwest state weed free forage/ mulch programs
- Examine established Western programs
- ID various state standards/ certifications
- ID opportunities/ guidelines to set minimum requirements for uniform participation across agencies & landscapes

# Future Actions

- **Preferably - all States will champion their weed free certification programs**
- **In absence of State certification – MNRG agencies may choose to develop group options**
- **Enforcement on federal lands and federally funded projects will occur.**



# Department of Transportation

Brian Smith

# Fish and Wildlife Service

Kelly Hogan

# Element: Control and Management

- Streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for invasive species management.



# Needs of Other Agencies

- Rapid response is vital for controlling newly established populations of Invasive Species
- Issues:
  - Executive Order 13112
  - Agencies with different policies regarding Categorical Exclusions regarding Invasive Species control (i.e., do we have a significant “federal action”)

# Progress and Products

- NEPA – Guidance on Categorical Exclusions, CEQ published notice for comments 9/19/2006
  - After final guidance, work with agencies to develop Categorical Exclusions.
- Develop Impact-causing Activities Checklist to address requirements of EO 13112

# Future Actions

- Once necessary Cat Ex and Checklists are developed, educate land management and regulatory agencies regarding scope of authority thereby allowing rapid response to newly identified invasive species threats to the Midwest Region.
- Partnerships and information sharing.

# Environmental Protection Agency

Barb Mazur

# Element: Restoration

- Ensure federally funded restoration and mitigation projects do not spread or do not establish invasive species
  - use appropriate native species to the greatest extent practicable for these projects
- This is important to EPA because:
  - EPA funds, requires or has influence over restoration and mitigation projects

# Needs of Other Agencies

- Native species information is not readily available to all parties that have a role in restoration and mitigation projects
- Problem resolution:
  - Tailor information to address contracting, grants, purchasing, and maintenance
  - Create quick and easy to use reference document on native species

# Progress and Products

- Developing example language for contracts and grants
  - to require use of native species and to use practices to avoid spread of invasive species
- Compile available information on recommended native species
  - List of reference sources for habitat specific information
  - List of suppliers for native plants and seed
- Includes
  - References for more information

# Future Actions

- Once developed, post and distribute summary and example language for contracts and grants.
- Post links to native species sources and recommendations on MNRG/TISC website.
- Request agency seniors to encourage use of example contract/grant language.

# Bureau of Land Management

June Wendlandt

# Element: Education and Public Awareness

- Encourage the MNRG to promote and share existing educational resources with partners and the public.
- This is important to BLM because:
  - As land managers we have a public interface with the visiting community
  - Resources are limited

# Needs of Other Agencies

- All agencies have some type of public interface.
- Problem resolution:
  - Link websites together
  - Share educational material
  - Produce material that has MNRG support
  - List current educational items on MNRG/TISC website

# Progress and Products

- **Develop a list of educational materials**
  - What is available
  - Who has it
  - Cost
- **Poster**
  - For conferences and public events
- **Needs**
  - Assistance from communications committee in presenting a unified message
  - Funding for poster production

# Future Actions

- **Share, Share, Share and Share**
- Present information at conferences and meetings
  - North Central Weed Science Meeting, December 2006
  - Briefing and display at DOI during National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, February 2007 (Washington, DC)
  - George Wright Society, April 2007
- **Encourage staff to use and handout materials**
- Coordination of events and educational opportunities

# National Park Service

Carmen Chapin

# Element: Education and Public Awareness

- Promote internal agency invasive species training
- This is important to NPS because:
  - IS issues affect all areas of NPS
  - IS issues are seen as a Nat Res problem
  - Guidelines to other divisions exist but are not well articulated

# Needs of Other Agencies

- Invasive species awareness is not institutionalized in agency culture
- Problem resolution:
  - Make IS issues relevant to all aspects of federal work (contracting, maintenance, purchasing)
  - Create quick and easy to use educational document similar to EEO handouts or 'tailgate safety' flyers.

# Progress and Products

- Develop a 10 minute training session suitable for use at staff meetings
  - Handout with talking points
- Includes
  - Reminder of current legislation
  - Specific actions and considerations for different divisions
  - References for more information

# Future Actions

- Once developed, post and distribute “IS awareness talking points”
- Request agency seniors to encourage use of information sheet during staff meetings at all levels.

# Future Committee Efforts

- Meet target deadlines for initial actions
- Increase agency participation!

## MNRG GL-TISC action update 11/29/2006

### Prioritized actions for addressing terrestrial invasive species (from July 2006 action plan)

	Agency	Date completed
<b>Leadership and Coordination</b>		
Establish and authorize a Great Lakes Terrestrial Invasive Species Committee (GL-TISC)	All	7/18/2006
Revise and sign terrestrial species MOU	All	11/29/2006
Letter to National Invasive Species Council	All	10/16/2006
Letter to Interagency Task Force for Great Lakes Regional Collaboration	All	10/16/2006
<b>Prevention</b>		
Identify sources of invasive species-free products and commit to using them on publicly managed lands and on federally funded or permitted projects.	USFS	(12/15/2006)
Institute and maintain a list of priority invasive species for targeted prevention.	USFS/NPS	(12/15/2006)
Adopt, adapt or develop Best Management Practices for invasive species	NPS	ongoing
<b>Early Detection and Rapid Response</b>		
Identify and update the MNRG priority invasive species list to facilitate early detection and rapid response.		
Identify agency actions for specific invasive species.		
Adopt, adapt or develop an Early Detection Rapid Response plan.		
<b>Control and Management</b>		
Post current control methods on a Web site clearinghouse.		
Streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for invasive species management.	FWS/DOT	ongoing
<b>Restoration</b>		
Identify plant species that should or should not be used for revegetation, restoration or mitigation projects within particular ecosystems. Cooperatively develop a list of regional native seed and plant sources for the region and distribute to all applicable states.	EPA	
Ensure that federally funded restoration and mitigation projects "do not spread" or do not establish invasive species (as stated in EO 13112) by using appropriate native species to the greatest extent practicable for these projects. Provide a list of appropriate and practical native species to all states within the Great Lakes basin.	EPA	
Promote an ecosystem and watershed approach to restoration projects. EO 13112 requires federal agencies to "...provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded." Identify non-native species threats within the Great Lakes basin.		
<b>Cooperation</b>		
MNRG <i>Action Plan</i> adopts the St. Louis Code of Conduct. (letter sent)	All	10/16/2006
Link the MNRG <i>Action Plan</i> to the MNRG Web site.	EPA	7/1/2006
Create TISC webpage	EPA	11/3/2006
<b>Research</b>		
Compile list of current federal research units and terrestrial invasive species projects, including information on study methods, sites, and dependent and independent variables, within the Great Lakes basin.	FWS	
<b>Data Management</b>		
Promote and enable the sharing of invasive species data among the MNRG and its partners.		
<b>Education and Public Awareness</b>		
Encourage the MNRG to promote and share existing educational resources with partners and the public.	BLM	12/11/2006 poster completion
Encourage agencies to promote the MNRG's <i>Action Plan</i> through public education opportunities.	NRCS, ALL	confirmed speaking dates
Promote internal agency invasive species training.	NPS	(12/15/2006)
Link the MNRG website to the InvasiveSpeciesInfo.gov Web page.	EPA	

# Future Committee Efforts

- Secure sources of funding for printing and displays
- Involve MNRG communications committee in public message (website/displays, etc.)

# Panel Q and A

