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Date: December 23, 2008

To: National Invasive Species Council Members
Principals and Policy Liaisons

From: Lori Williams,
Executive Director, NISC

Subject: National Invasive Species Council (NISC)
Highlights from December 5 – December 23, 2008

NISC Member and Key Agency Nominees:

Secretary of Commerce - former governor **Bill Richardson** of New Mexico
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Oregon State University marine biologist **Jane Lubchenco**
Secretary of Agriculture - former Iowa Governor **Tom Vilsack**
Secretary of Interior - Senator **Ken Salazar** of Colorado
Secretary of State - Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** of New York
Secretary of Defense - **Robert Gates** continuing in this position
Director of Homeland Security – former Arizona Governor **Janet Napolitano**
Secretary of Transportation – former Illinois Representative **Ray LaHood**
Secretary of Health and Human Services – former South Dakota Senator **Tom Daschle**
Environmental Protection Agency –former environmental commissioner from New Jersey **Lisa Jackson**
U.S. Agency for International Development - pending
U.S. Trade Representative - former Dallas mayor **Ron Kirk**
National Aeronautics and Space Administration - pending
Director of the Office of Management and Budget - former Clinton economic advisor and current Congressional Budget Office Director **Peter Orszag**
Secretary of Energy - director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Dr. **Steven Chu**
Presidential Science Advisor - Harvard University physicist **John Holdren**
Environment and Energy Czarina– former head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency **Carol Browner**
Council on Environmental Quality - Los Angeles deputy mayor **Nancy Sutley**

(Staff contact Lori Williams). For photos see:

<http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-na-daschle15-2008dec15,0,4093188.story>



Definition of Invasive Species...

The ISAC invasive species definition clarification is now published!! The recommended citation is: Beck, K. George, Kenneth Zimmerman, Jeffrey D. Schardt, Jeffrey Stone, Ronald R. Lukens, Sarah Reichard, John Randall, Allegra A. Cangelosi, Diane Cooper, and John Peter Thompson. 2008.

Invasive species defined in a policy context: Recommendations for the federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee. *Invasive Plant Science and Management* 1(4):414-421.

Thanks to George Beck for the notice! (*Staff contact Lori Williams*).

Legislative Agenda Announced

December 8-10, 2008: National Council on Science and the Environment's *Biodiversity in a Rapidly Changing World* conference generated nearly 200 recommendations in 30 breakout sessions.

Members presented these draft recommendations to the Energy and Environment Transition Team of the incoming Obama Administration later in the week. The draft recommendations are posted on the conference website and suggestions for changes are being requested. Gordon Brown, DOI Policy Liaison led the breakout session on invasive species that generated the following 7 recommendations from their report.

06. Invasive Species and Biodiversity: Challenges and Recommendations for a Changing World

Task 1. Congress should pass a law stating a national goal of preventing harmful invasions of organisms.

Task 2. Congress should establish and fund a national Center to coordinate federal, state, and local efforts at preventing and controlling invasive species. This Center should share information on invasive species within organizational structures and online, serving as a resource for a nationwide network. The Center should also periodically review use of the Internet for public education and outreach. Additionally, the Center will consider an appropriate temporal scale when addressing policy management. The Center should develop means and execute education and outreach using social marketing methods.

Task 3. Congress should establish an invasive species emergency fund and process.

Task 4. The President should fund a public works program focused on invasive species removal and monitoring through the work force and training.

Task 5. The Center should establish a national invasive species research program. Research programs shall include social and cultural research.

Task 6. Agencies should develop a proposed structure for recovering costs associated with conducting risk assessments.

Task 7. Congress and the Administration should develop comprehensive risk assessment processes for all intentional imports of organisms, including white, gray and black lists. Organisms should be classified to species level rather than general categories. <http://ncseonline.org/Conference/Biodiversity/> (*Contact Gordon Brown*).



NISC Members Action:

New USDA Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets: Dec. 18, 2008. As directed by section 2709 of the "Farm Bill" (Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 - Pub. L. 110-246) (FCEA) USDA Secretary Ed Schafer establish a new USDA Office of Ecosystem Services and Markets (OESM) and initiated the federal government-wide Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in the development of new technical guidelines and science-based methods to assess environmental service benefits to promote markets for ecosystem services, including carbon trading to mitigate climate change (see SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM 1056-001 Dec. 15, 2008). Invasive species are not the specific focus of the Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board. However, Section 2709 of FCEA calls for a verification process and guidelines for reporting conservation and land management activities. These activities may include those related to the prevention and control of invasive species. The charter for the Conservation and Land Management Environmental Services Board can be seen at: www.fs.fed.us/ecosystems-services/pdf/farbill/ESB_Charter.pdf. The board is similar in structure to NISC and will have FACA committee to advise it. The Secretary of Agriculture will chair the board. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will serve as vice-chairs. Board members include the Secretaries of the Interior, Energy, Commerce, Transportation; the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works; the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health. The FACA chartered advisory committee will include forest landowners, ranchers, farmers, Tribal representatives, and representatives from State natural resource and environmental agencies, agriculture departments, and conservation organizations (Staff Contact Chris Dionigi).

"Don't let your cat go AWOL" Brochure Reprint. "When families deploy or are transferred, pet cats often get left behind. Military bases struggle with how to manage these abandoned domestic and resulting feral cat populations. DoD's Partners In Flight's brochure, *Don't Let Your Cat Go AWOL*, provides information on dealing with this important and complex issue." Contact Jane Mallory at Jane.Mallory.crt@osd.mil. From the "Steppingstones" Newsletter of the Department of Defense partners in Flight Program (Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson). <https://www.denix.osd.mil/portal/page/portal/denix/environment/NR/DoDPartnersinFlight>

The USFS has released a draft of the report, "**Sustainable Forests**". The draft report is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/2010SustainabilityReport>. The Web site also contains information about the on-line review process, supporting technical materials and partner reports, and links to other Web sites describing workshops and briefings. The chapter titled, Criterion 3 – Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality has indicators for the area and percent of forest affected by invasive species. For more information please contact 2010sustainabilityreport@fs.fed.us (Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson).



Resources:

A **global review of marine invasive species**: where they are, how they are being introduced, and which ones are most harmful is now online:

<http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment> (Jennifer L Molnar, Rebecca L Gamboa, Carmen Revenga, Mark D Spalding. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.) (Contact Peg Brady).

Ant Guide: The new edition of *PIAkey: identification guide to invasive ants of the Pacific Islands* has been released. <http://www.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/PIAkey/Copyright.html> (Staff contact Richard Orr).

WOOD BORING BEETLES Identification Tool: The USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (USDA/APHIS/PPQ/CPHST) is pleased to announce the release of its newest identification tool: Wood Boring Beetles of the World Part 1: Wood Boring Beetle Families. A new Luc® interactive identification tool by Andrew Cline, Michael Ivie, Charles Bellamy, and Julia Scher. http://www.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/WBB/key/Whole_site/Html/Home.htm (Staff contact Richard Orr).

The University of Illinois, Illinois Natural History Survey, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area has released a set of **Illinois Invasive Plant posters** at the 150th Anniversary of the Illinois Natural History Survey. The largest poster is 17" by 38" and highlights the four major habitats of Illinois (grassland, woodland, wetland, agriculture) and the top four invasive plants in those habitats. In addition, there are four smaller (8.5" by 11") posters corresponding to each of the four habitats on the large poster. Each small poster showcases 8 to 12 plants with a photo and distribution in Illinois on the front and information on identification and why the plant it is invasive on the back. <http://ceris.purdue.edu/caps/adm2008/IllinoisInvasivePlantPublications-Synopsis.pdf> (Staff Contact Mindy Wilkinson).

State News

The Oregon's Invasive Species Council is hosting an **Invasive Species Awareness Day** at the Capitol in Salem, OR on January 13, 2009. The purpose of the event is to, "increase awareness, understanding, and support that the threat of invasive species plays relative to Oregon's economy, environment, and quality of life. Representatives from industry, government, academia, and nonprofit organizations will staff displays in the lobby of the capitol and be available throughout the day to engage with legislators on issues of importance relative to invasive species. In particular, the council supports several bills in the upcoming legislative session that deal with expanded invasive species funding for counties, restructuring of the council to add the Department of Environmental Quality as an official member, consolidation of plant quarantine laws, enforcement language that makes it illegal to knowingly allow feral swine to run free and to offer fee hunts for feral swine, and enforcement authority to stop watercraft potentially contaminated with aquatic invasive species. In addition, the council seeks funding for numerous projects and management activities that allow for full implementation of this proposed legislation." This event is the first of its kind at our state's capitol, and is an action item identified in the council's 2008-2009 business plan, which was developed after the council hosted a



statewide invasive species summit in July of 2008. Contact Lisa A. DeBruyckere - Oregon Invasive Species Council Coordinator lisad@createstrat.com.

"Invasive Species in Ohio: Pathways, Policies, and Costs" created by the Union of Concerned Scientist is now available:

http://www.ucsusa.org/invasive_species/science_and_impacts/impacts/ohio.html

(Staff contact Mindy Wilkinson).

Invasive Species in the News

December 19, 2008: **EPA finalizes discharge permit for large commercial vessels.** Katherine Boyle, E&E reporter – "U.S. EPA released a new permit yesterday to regulate water pollution from commercial vessels. About 61,000 U.S.-flagged and 8,000 foreign-flagged vessels will need to comply with the Clean Water Act permit, which EPA issued to meet conditions in a 2006 federal court decision. The decision by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California revoked a 1973 permit exemption for commercial and recreational vessels. A three-judge panel for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals later upheld the district court decision." (Contact Peg Brady).

December 18, 2008: **Tamarisk-defoliating beetle spreads to flycatcher habitat; group sues to halt damage.** April Reese, E&E News - Western reporter, "A leaf-eating beetle introduced into southern Utah nine years ago to control salt cedar (an invasive tree that has invaded many of the West's rivers) the insect itself has become a nuisance, spreading southward into nesting habitat for the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher. An environmental group this week filed notice that it intends to sue the federal government to force it to halt the expansion of the beetle into nesting sites." Notice: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/birds/southwestern_willow_flycatcher/pdfs/notice-20081212.pdf (Contact Gordon Brown).

December 17, 2008: **Green Infrastructure Projects in 25 States Would Create Jobs, Stimulate Economy. In a press release by: American Rivers**, "Green infrastructure projects are critical to stimulating the economy, and American Rivers and its partners have identified 194 water-related projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia with a total cost of \$1.1 Billion that are ready to begin within 6 to 9 months. The list provides examples of the types of green infrastructure projects that will not only create jobs and jumpstart the economy, but will also improve clean water and natural flood protection." Visit: http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AR7_GreenInfrastructure (Staff contact Lori Williams).

December 17, 2008: **'Survivor' Shipment Seized In Port Of Houston.** A shipment belonging to the CBS reality show "Survivor" was seized in the Port of Houston last month, officials told KPRC Local 2 December 16, 2008. U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services agents seized the shipment on Nov. 18. Inspectors said they found a Mandarin skull (a type of monkey), civet hides, feathers with biological contamination, cowries shells and bones inside the container. Officials said the items were host materials for exotic pests and diseases to enter the United States. Thanks to the Protect Your Waters news page: <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/news/display.php?id=9166>
Details: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/18290204/detail.html>
(Staff contact Chris Dionigi).



Kudzu the new biofuel of the South? An article on “What Works” with Brian Williams highlights a Tennessee inventor’s quest to develop Kudzohol. An independent inventor estimates that one acre of kudzu can produce ten gallons of fuel-grade ethanol. As a note: a corn crop yielding 150 bu./acre the endosperm would produce 435 gal. of ethanol per acre, the pericarp (seed coat) would yield another 40 gal./acre and corn stover could add another 77 gal./acre. It should also be noted that ethanol contains about 75% of the energy as a similar volume of gasoline.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#28243281>

(Staff contact Chris Dionigi).

Revision of Forest Sustainability Standards: The American Forest Foundation (AFF) requested comments on the revision of the proposed 2004-2009 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification on Private Lands. The deadline for comment is December 30, 2008. The 2004 - 2009 AFF Standards are currently being reviewed by the Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP at their Nov. 2008 meeting identified the need to hear from natural resource managers, stakeholders and other experts concerning the revision of the AFF’s Forest Sustainability Standards (see : http://www.forestfoundation.org/Pre-Revision_Comment_Period_Form.doc). Invasive species are not specifically mentioned in the current standards, but they do contain concepts related to invasive species (See Below). Each Standard contains Performance Measures and each Performance Measure contains indicators.

Current Standard #4: Reforestation:

Forest owners provide timely restocking of desirable species of trees, compatible with regional ecosystems on harvested areas and idle areas where tree-growing is the land use objective.

Performance Measure 4.1

Land must be reforested with natural seeding, sprouting, direct seeding, or reforestation with tree seedlings.

Indicator 4.1.1

Harvested forest land must achieve satisfactory stocking levels reflecting the forest owner’s management objectives, within five years after harvest, or within a time interval as specified by applicable regulation, whichever is shorter.

Current Standard #6: Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity:

Forest management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and maintain or enhance habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plant species, with emphasis on natural plant and animal communities and rare plants and animals.

BACKGROUND: The AFF’s Center for Family Forests (CFF) maintains the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) program. All properties certified through ATFS are required to conform to the AFF’s Standards of Sustainability for Forests. ATFS is the U.S.’s oldest and largest private forest certification system for small forest land owners. Certification is used to identify outstanding forest stewards and to audit a forest process or operations to determine their conformance to acceptable standards. ATFS has certified 24 million acres of privately owned forestland and 90,473 family forest owners in 46 states. In



In addition to AFF's American Tree Farm System, their Center for Conservation Solutions (CCS) supports research. In 2009, there is an Invasive Species focus under CCS. This focus area is intended to develop and implement partnerships that strengthen and improve family forest owners' ability to address invasive species in forest ecosystems. You as individuals may wish to mention this CCS research support in your comments concerning the sustainable forest standards.

ATFS was recognized internationally by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in August 2008. The PEFC is a non-profit, non-governmental, independent third party certification organization that provides international assurance to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests. ATFS is just one of several certification programs for example also see: Forest Stewardship Council (<http://www.fsc.org/77.html>) which works internationally.

International standards mention invasive species specifically. The 12 member countries of the Montréal Process (MP) Working Group are using criteria and indicators to prepare their 2009 Country Forest Reports on national forest trends and progress toward sustainable forest management. MP criteria and indicators are intended to provide a common framework for member countries to describe, monitor, assess and report on national forests and forest management. They also intended to provide a common understanding within and across countries of what constitutes an implicit definition of sustainable forest management at the country level. The seven MP criteria characterize the essential components of sustainable forest management (e.g. biodiversity conservation). Each criterion is characterized by a set of indicators, which provides measures of the criterion. One of these criterion's indicator (3.a) mentions invasive species specifically (see page 9 of www.rinya.maff.go.jp/mpci/meetings/an-6.pdf).

Criterion 3: Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality

3. a: Area and percent of forest affected by biotic processes and agents (e.g. disease, insects, and invasive species) beyond reference conditions (Staff Contact Chris Dionigi).

Conferences

August 24-27, 2009: **6th International Marine Bioinvasions Conference** - Marine Bioinvaders: Agents of Change in a Changing World will be held at Portland State University, Portland, OR.

The conference will address the following:

- Ecological and evolutionary impacts, including potential shifts with global change
- Predicting the scale and diversity of invasions in the face of global change
- Measuring and predicting spread on regional and global scales
- Invasion patterns over time and space: does the past predict the future?
- Advances in detection, identification and tracking-to-origin capabilities
- Management, rapid response, eradication and restoration

Conference web site: www.clr.pdx.edu/mbic/ (Contact Peg Brady).

February 18-19, 2009: **2009 Tamarisk & Russian Olive Research Conference** in Reno, NV. Please visit www.tamarisk.colostate.edu for more information about the conference, registration and hotel reservations. (Staff contact Chris Dionigi).