



North American Invasive Species
Management Association
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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger,

The North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is a network of professionals who implement management programs to prevent the detrimental impacts of invasive species to North America's lands and waters. NAISMA's mission is to support, promote, and empower invasive species prevention and management in North America. We have members in all fifty states, as well as in Canada and Mexico. For twenty-eight years, NAISMA has been supporting invasive species managers and developing programs that bridge jurisdictional and geographic divides.

Invasive species create an estimated \$120 billion annual strain on the US economy, have contributed to the need to list more than 42 percent of the organisms currently listed under the Endangered Species Act, and can pose serious threats to human health. Invasive species can exacerbate the effects of climate change. While climate change is expected to increase the potential for wildland fires by 150% by the end of the century, a number of invasive grasses have already increased fire occurrence rates by up to 230% compared to nearby "uninvaded" habitat, compounding the current and future risk of fire.

Furthermore, invasive species management efforts are **extremely underfunded**, especially in the Department of the Interior. For example, the Bureau of Land Management only spends approximately \$15 million per year for invasive species management activities on its 245 million acres of land that it manages. That is **only 6 cents per acre** for invasive species prevention, early detection/rapid response (EDRR), control and management, restoration, research, and education. As we have seen with COVID-19, a lack of preparedness and prevention results in far greater cost in the long run.

NAISMA and the 36 other signatories to this letter respectfully request that as your subcommittees develop Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bills, they consider the following recommendations, which we have organized by the jurisdiction of the subcommittees.

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- **Environmental Protection Agency**
 - Fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at the FY 22 authorized level of \$375 million.

- **Department of the Interior**
 - ***Working Capital Fund***
 - \$500,000 increase above the FY 21 enacted level for the National Invasive Species Council to reinstitute the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, with an emphasis on providing guidance to federal agencies on priorities for research to combat invasive species.

 - ***Wildland Fire Management***
 - An increase of \$20 million above the FY 21 enacted level in Fuels Management to carry out joint projects with the Bureau of Land Management invasive plant management program that accomplish the twin goals of reduced wildland fire risk and reduced distribution of invasive plants.
 - An increase of \$2 million above the FY 21 enacted level in Burned Area Rehabilitation to manage invasive grasses like cheatgrass and medusahead, which outcompete native vegetation following fires increasing fire frequency to historically unprecedented rates at which native vegetation is unable to recover.

 - ***Bureau of Land Management; Management of Lands and Resources***
 - \$10 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Land Resources/Rangeland management subactivity for the management and eradication of the 79 million acres of BLM land infested with noxious and invasive weeds, especially those weeds that pose the greatest threat of wildfire risk or to threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat.
 - \$2 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Recreation Management/Recreation Resources subactivity to enhance cooperation with states in the Lower Colorado River Basin for boat inspection and decontamination.
 - \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Recreation Management/Wilderness Management subactivity with priority given to activities to improve wilderness habitat and adjoining habitat by addressing noxious weed infestations and fuel loads.

 - ***Insular Affairs Assistance to Territories***
 - \$3 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level to combat invasive species in the Pacific region

 - ***US Geological Survey; Surveys, Investigations and Research***
 - \$10 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Ecosystems/Biological Threats and Invasive Species Research subactivity to coordinate the activities of all DOI bureaus to more effectively standardize invasive species data and contribute data to the Invasive Species Data Mobilization program of the Western Governors Association and other similar regional data coordination efforts nationwide.

- \$2 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the same subactivity for additional research on eDNA to make it a more effective management tool.
 - \$5 million above the FY 21 enacted level in the same subactivity to accelerate research to control invasive reptiles more effectively in the southeastern United States.
 - \$10 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the same subactivity for research on how to anticipate and better prevent zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, which can move between humans and other organisms.
 - \$3 million above the FY 21 enacted level in the Ecosystems/ Environmental health subactivity for research to better understand the relationship between aquatic invasive species and toxic algal blooms in the Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico, to be better able to predict these blooms.
- ***US Fish and Wildlife Service; Resource Management***
- \$4 million in the Fish and Aquatic Conservation/Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation subactivity for the State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan grants under Section 1204 of the National Invasive Species Act.
 - \$1 million in the same subactivity for the six Regional Panels (increase from \$60,000 per panel to \$160,000 per panel) of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.
 - \$4 million total in the same subactivity (a \$2M increase above the FY 21 enacted level) for the Quagga Zebra Action Plan for Western US Waters (QZAP).
 - In the same subactivity, maintain the FY 21 enacted level of \$25 million for Asian carp prevention, control, and management.
 - \$6 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the National Wildlife Refuge System/Wildlife and Habitat Management subactivity, to be allocated equally to the Service's Regional Offices overseeing work in Alaska and in Hawaii, to implement pilot efforts at multijurisdictional early detection and rapid response capabilities to invasive species introduction.
 - \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the National Wildlife Refuge System/Wildlife and Habitat Management subactivity for the Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST) program that focuses on early detection and rapid response of invasive species as well as the management and eradication of the 2.5 million acres of the National Wildlife Refuge System that are infested with invasive plants.
 - In the Habitat Conservation/Partners for Fish and Wildlife subactivity \$2 million above the enacted level to work with Indian tribes and private landowners as part of the broader USDA-led effort to counter the impacts of feral swine in the United States.
 - Appropriate \$25 million, as authorized in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act, for the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, to establish a pilot program to develop and carry out effective measures to prevent, control, or eradicate aquatic invasive species in alpine lakes that are not located within the National Park System.
 - Appropriate \$10 million, as authorized in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act, for the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, to establish a pilot program to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions in the Lower Colorado River

Basin; the Rio Grande River Basin; the Texas Gulf Coast Basin; and the Arkansas-White-Red Basin; and where appropriate, to replace the invasive plant species with ecologically suitable native species and to maintain and monitor those riparian areas.

- ***National Park Service; Operation of the National Park Service***
 - \$2 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Park Management/Resource stewardship subactivity for the Service to enhance partnerships with States on boat inspection and decontamination for aquatic nuisance species containment and prevention.
 - \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for the Invasive Plant Management Teams program that assists our national parks in preventing introductions of new species, reducing existing infestations, and restoring native plant communities and ecosystem functions.
- ***Bureau of Indian Affairs; Operation of Indian Programs***
 - \$2 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Trust-Natural Resources Management/Fish, Wildlife, and Parks subactivity for tribes whose reservations include significant aquatic recreation resources to perform boat inspection and decontamination activity for aquatic nuisance species.
 - \$2 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the Trust-Natural Resources Management/Agriculture and range subactivity for tribes to control invasive or noxious weeds affecting agriculture or related water supply systems
- **Department of Agriculture; US Forest Service**
 - \$2 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in the National Forest System/Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness activity for increased boat inspection and decontamination work at recreational lakes inside units of the National Forest System to prevent, contain, and manage aquatic nuisance species.
 - \$2 million increase to the FY 21 enacted level in State and Private Forestry to fund cooperative invasive plant management grants on State and private lands to control invasions of noxious weeds.
 - \$6 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in State and Private Forestry/Cooperative Forestry/Urban and Community Forestry for grants to help economically disadvantaged communities prevent and mitigate the loss of urban tree canopy to invasive insects.
 - \$6 million increase to the FY 21 enacted level, \$3 million each in the National Forest System and State and Private Forestry accounts for a coordinated federal and nonfederal monitoring and treatment effort to reduce the damage posed by invasive insects to the forest ecosystems of the New England and mid-Atlantic states.

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies

- **Department of the Interior; Bureau of Reclamation**
 - \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for enhanced boat inspection and decontamination work in conjunction with Western State governments at reservoirs behind Reclamation dams.

- \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for research to reduce impacts on invasive mussels threatening recreation, water supply, hydroelectric infrastructure, and biodiversity at Reclamation facilities and reservoirs in the Western States.
- \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for research on improved techniques to control invasive mussels already established in large natural and manmade water bodies.
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
 - \$6 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for the Aquatic Plant Control Program for nationwide research and development to address invasive aquatic plants.
 - \$6 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level to expand boat inspection and decontamination, monitoring, and rapid response in conjunction with Western State governments, in response to the expanded geographic scope mandated by the Water Resources Development Act.
 - Appropriate \$50 million, as authorized in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act, for the Army Corps of Engineers to enter into partnerships with states and other federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate invasive species that adversely affect water quantity or water quality in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin with priority given to projects targeting Russian olive or salt cedar trees.
 - Direct the Army Corps of Engineers, as authorized in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act, to conduct a terrestrial noxious weed control pilot program in consultation with the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic weeds (FICMNEW) to identify and develop new and improved strategies for terrestrial noxious weed control on federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army.
 - Appropriate \$25 million for the Army Corp of Engineers, as authorized in the 2020 Water Resources Development Act, to establish a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program to determine the causes of, and implement measures to effectively detect, prevent, treat, and eliminate, harmful algal blooms associated with water resources development projects with focus areas in the Great Lakes, the tidal and inland waters of New Jersey, the coastal and tidal waters of Louisiana, the waterways of the counties that comprise the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California, the Allegheny Reservoir Watershed in New York, and Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

- **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**
 - \$4 million increase to develop chemical, cultural and biocontrol methods for cheatgrass eradication in rangeland ecosystems.
 - \$5 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for Areawide Integrated Pest Management (AIPM) projects in ARS's National Program 304.
- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture**
 - \$20 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for Smith-Lever Act capacity grants for the 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions to conduct cooperative extension work that develops practical applications of research knowledge and provides instruction and practical demonstrations of improved practices or technologies for invasive species

- management on federal, state, and private lands.
- \$8 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for the IR-4 Project which serves a critically important role for both agriculture and natural resource management by facilitating the registration of needed pest control products for invasive species in minor crops, rangeland, aquatic and other natural areas.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
 - \$8 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for the Working Lands for Wildlife Program targeting control of invasive species that may invade agricultural lands from adjacent natural areas serving as refuge for those invasive.
- **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**
 - \$1 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level for the cogongrass management pilot project.
 - Appropriate \$5 million to carry out 7 U.S.C. Section 7783 and \$5 million to carry out 7 U.S.C. Section 7784 for federal noxious weed control and eradication.
 - \$4 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level to combat invasive brown tree snakes and prevent their spread across the Pacific.

Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; National Ocean Service**
 - \$3 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in Sea Grant targeted for research to improve control of invasive lionfish.
 - \$5 million for Coastal Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Grants in the Office of Coastal Management as authorized by the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018 - Public Law No: 115-282.
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Science**
 - \$10 million increase above the FY 21 enacted level in Earth Science to improve the use of remote sensing as a tool to monitor the distribution of invasive vegetation and predict areas that may be most vulnerable to invasion in the future.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these requests. If you or your staff have any questions, feel free to contact me at bbergner@naisma.org or 414.215.0281.

Sincerely,



Belle Bergner, Executive Director

American Phytopathological Society
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Archuleta County Weed and Pest Dept
Baca County Conservation District
California Invasive Plant Council
Central Utah Water Conservancy District
City of Boulder, Colorado - Open Space & Mountain Parks
City of Fort Collins, Colorado - Parks Department
Colorado Weed Management Association
Entomological Society of America
Florida Invasive Species Council (formerly FLEPPC)
Mid-Atlantic Invasive Species Council
Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Missouri Prairie Foundation
Montezuma County, Colorado - Noxious Weed Program
National Roadside Vegetation Management Association
National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
Nebraska Invasive Species Program
Nebraska Weed Control Association
North Central Weed Science Society
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council
Pitkin County, Colorado
PNW Invasive Plant Council
Reduce Risks from Invasive Species Coalition
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
RiversEdge West
San Juan Conservation District
Society for Range Management
South Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Council
Southern Region Extension Forestry - Forest Health and Invasive Species Program
Southern Weed Science Society
Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area
Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
Yuma County, Colorado - Pest Control District