



Healthy Habitats Coalition

John D. Cantlon, Executive Director
Cantlon.Resources@aol.com
(208) 501-6590

Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention and Management Act

**S. 2240 - Senator Barrasso(WY) w/Murkowski(AK), Crapo(ID), Enzi(WY), Lee(UT), Risch(ID)
H.R.1485 - Representative Amodei(NV) w/Lummis(WY)**

The Senate & House Bills in Brief: With supporters such as Governors, state agencies & certain Federal agencies, AG Directors, Conservation Districts, cattlemen and university members, HHC helped develop two companion Bills in the Senate & House staging a needed paradigm shift:

- Ensures less public money is spent on administration and more on the front lines;
- Empowers invasive species managers to prioritize and target harmful species;
- Provides Cooperative Agreements with an essential Categorical Exclusion.

In Summary: All invasive taxa are assessed; a prioritized plan is created focusing management efforts on local, state and regional levels. The bill directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop plans in coordination with state/local/tribal invasive species councils, weed and pest districts, conservation districts, and others to better manage invasive species. The Bills also emphasize the use of Cooperative Agreements and MOUs to ensure widespread, collaborative implementation of the plans. For invasive plants, the two Bills target a 5% annual reduction reversing the growing trend line which is rapidly becoming unmanageable.

In addition, the Bills:

- Require 75% of current funds allocated should be used for control, management, prevention, EDRR and restoration on prioritized species.
- Research, education and administration receive 25%, reducing redundancy.
- Provides Categorical Exclusions (CE) for use in high-risk invasive encroachment scenarios which have become breeding grounds for continued borderless invasion and spread. Note: Current CEs for comparable control projects take 20-55 months to complete, which effectively disallows active management of critical threats.
- Requires Secretaries to submit a report to Congress 60 days following the end of the second fiscal year after enactment of the Act to measure implementation and assess progress. This supports four GAO and OIG audit findings reporting lack of measurement.
- Requires the Secretaries to engage in ongoing coordination with on-the-ground experts.

Need for legislation: The Fish and Wildlife Service has supported figures from 2005 that estimate invasive species infestations cost the United States more than \$120 billion each year. This lack of control on public lands puts private lands, waterways, and infrastructure at risk due to the patchwork of federal, state, and private lands across the country.

Invasive species such as Asian carp, feral pigs, pythons, coccid frogs decrease biodiversity by pushing and stressing the thriving native ecosystems out of balance with different habitat, nutrient and water requirements.

Invasive plant species rapidly encroach upon scorched areas after wildfires and prevent healthy regrowth destroying critical habitat for endangered species. These areas are the first to re-burn becoming the fuel for catastrophic wildfire. Invasive species damage municipal water filtration devices, agricultural areas and their irrigation systems, recreational opportunities, historic ecosystem equilibria and human health.

Additionally, the BLM reports that invasive plants spread across public lands at an unchecked rate of 4,600 acres per day. BLM reports their invasive plants have grown from 35 million infested acres to 77 million acres since 2009. BLM has 2/3rds of the Federal infested acres.

In 2009, 7.5 million acres needed to be treated to reduce the invasive spread a net 5%. In 2016, that number is 15 million! With management costs at \$75/acre, we need \$1.125 billion dollars. Invasive plants alone are doubling every 6 to 8 years, we are verging upon an unmanageable situation without leadership action...

Healthyhabitatscoalition.org

A 501c3 organization

November 9, 2015