At the Crossroads:
Invasive Species in Indiana

A Legislative Update
December 2008
Creation of the Invasive Species Task Force

• Representative Kersey and Senator Landske sponsored a resolution in the 2007 legislative session to create an Invasive Species Task Force in Indiana

• Natural Resource Study Committee established the task force in October 2007
Mission

• “…to study the economic and environmental impacts of invasive species in Indiana and provide findings and recommendations on strategies for prevention, early detection, control and management of invasive species to minimize these impacts” and

• “… issue reports and recommendations to the Natural Resources Study Committee when it first meets in 2008.”
Who We Are

- Phil Marshall, State Entomologist (co-chair)
- Ellen Jacquart, Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (co-chair)
- Doug Keller, DNR-DFW Aquatic Invasive Coordinator
- Bob Waltz, State Chemist
- Jack Seifert, State Forester
- Sandy Norman, Board of Animal Health
- Keith Ruble, Vigo County Parks
- John Miller, Oak Heritage Conservancy
- Steve Yaninek, Purdue University Entomology
- David Lodge, Notre Dame Center for Aquatic Conservation
- Rick Haggard, Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association
What We Did

• Divided invasive species by taxon –
  – Invasive Plants
  – Aquatic Invasive Species
  – Insects and Plant Diseases
  – Animal Disease
  – Terrestrial Vertebrate Invasives
What We Did

• Reviewed current status of invasives in Indiana by taxon:
  – Policies, rules, law
  – Species already causing major impacts in Indiana
  – Species not yet in Indiana
  – Current efforts on prevention, early detection, control and management.
The wide, wide world of invasive species
What We Did

• Land manager survey provided information on invasive plant activities in the state
Land Manager Survey

• 28 responses from universities, federal lands, state lands, land trusts, and businesses
• 71,529 hours spent in 2007
• $4,510,680 spent in 2007
• Estimate of money needed per year was $9,365,369
Land Manager Survey

Most pressing needs (highest to lowest votes)

– More financial support for the formation and activities of local weed management groups
– More guidance on control methods for invasive plants
– More prevention of new invaders entering the state
– More coordination to better detect new invaders early
– More research on invasive plant impacts
– More investment in bio-controls
– Increased enforcement of current laws
– Increased outreach to encourage public awareness
At the Crossroads – Invasive Species in Indiana
Findings and Recommendations from the Indiana Invasive Species Task Force

July 7, 2008

Report presented to Natural Resource Study Committee in late August
Go to nature.org/indiana and click on ‘more Indiana news’ to download this report
On Oct. 20, 2008 the Natural Resource Study Committee approved draft legislation creating an invasive species council and amending a few existing statutes to improve ease of implementation – this will go forward in the 2009 legislative session.
Proposed Duties of the Invasive Species Council

- recommending project priorities, funding, and rules and laws to the appropriate entities;
- recommending a lead state agency to develop invasive species inventories and data management systems for each taxon;
- communicating with agencies and organizations outside of Indiana to enhance consistency and effectiveness in invasive species work;
- coordinating education and outreach for invasive species;
- convening or supporting an invasive species meeting at least once per biennium;
- assisting government agencies in reviewing their invasive species policies and procedures and addressing any deficiencies or inconsistencies;
- assisting state agencies in reviewing agencies’ performance measures for accountability on their invasive species actions;
- receiving reports from any governmental agency regarding actions taken on recommendations of the council; and
- applying for and providing grants for education concerning or management of invasive species.
Proposed Invasive Species Council

- State agency with jurisdiction on invasive species
- Non-jurisdictional state agency
- Non-state agency representative

State Veterinarian for BOAH or designee
DNR-DEPP Terrestrial Invasive Coordinator
DNR-DFW Aquatic Invasive Coordinator
ISDA Director or designee
INDOT Commissioner or designee
University Invasive Research Representative
Purdue University Dean of Agriculture
Industry Representative
Industry Representative
Conservation Representative
Conservation Representative

Color key:
- State agency
- Non-jurisdictional state agency
- Non-state agency representative

Proposed Invasive Species Council
What about funding?

• We had recommended funding for:
  – Executive Director position for Invasive Species Council
  – Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator position within DNR
  – Emergency Response fund
  – Grant program for cooperative weed management

• Natural Resource Study Committee did not approve the funding recommendations.
What about funding?

We are working on a separate funding bill – the Cooperative Weed Management Act – which would establish a $2 million/biennium matching grant fund for weed management conducted by cooperative groups across property boundaries.
How can you help?

• Give your email address and I’ll add you to my invasive plant email list.
• When you get an alert, call/write/email your legislators in support of the legislation.