

Agency Report – Invasive Plants

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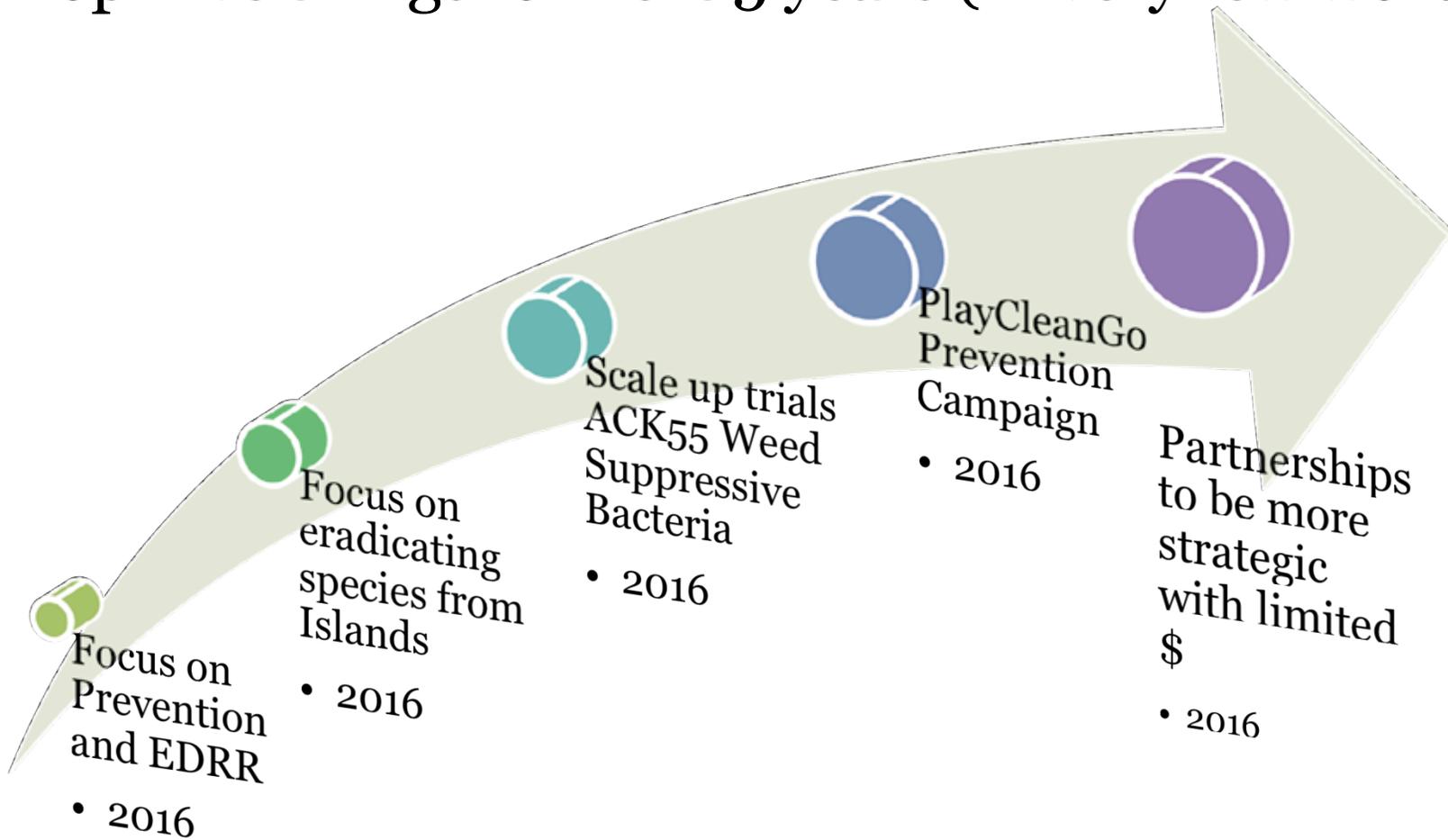


Agency Structure (*who does what and when*)

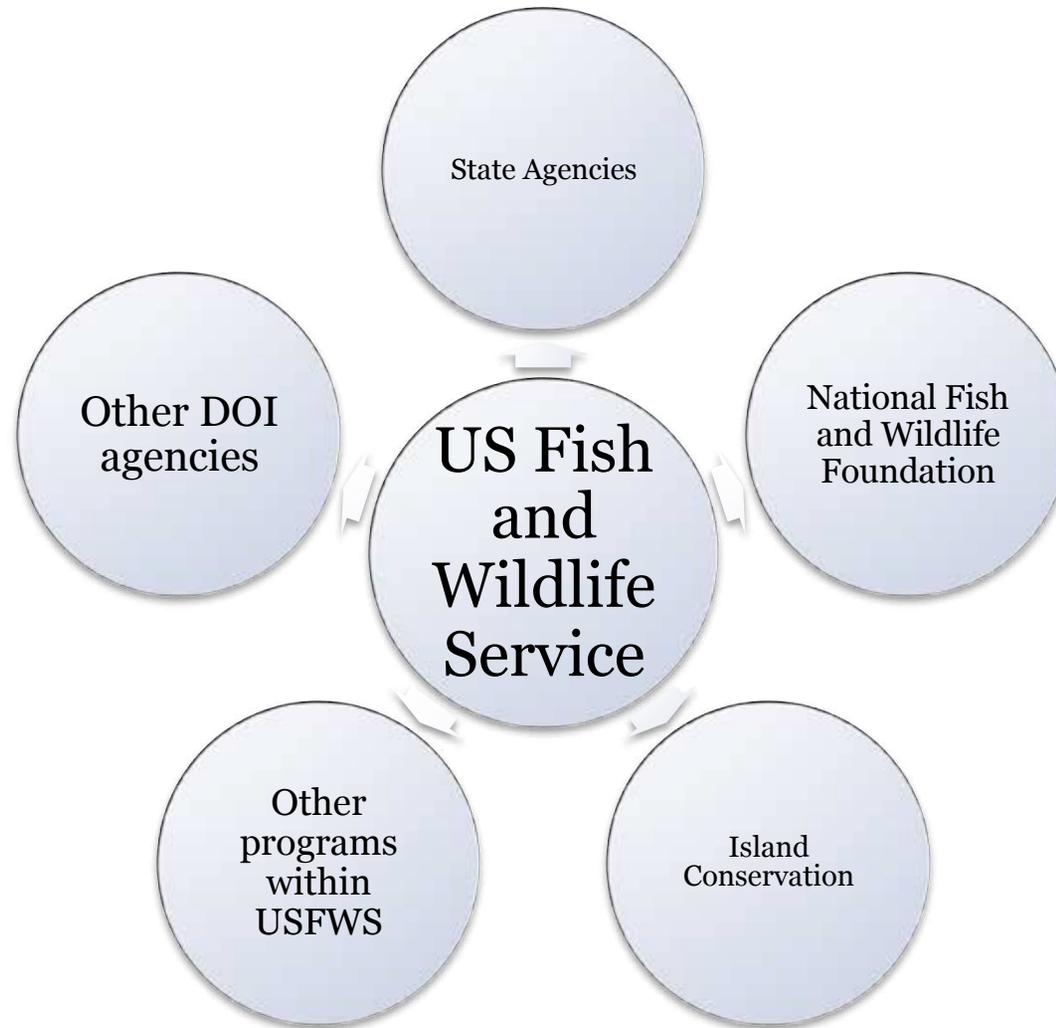
- Program description
 - Invasive species prevention and management with the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- Goals
 - Prevent new invasives from entering Refuge System.
 - Reduce the number of invasive species and acreage affected.
 - Focus on prevention and EDRR and using IPM principles.
- Scope
 - 8 Regional Coordinators
 - 563 National Wildlife Refuges and over 150 million acres of lands and water.



Top Five things for next 5 years (in very few words)



Major partners



Authorities / Mandates



Laws

See above: The Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.); Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.); Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. § 661 et seq.); Title 16 of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 3371-3378); Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act (NANPCA) of 1990 (P.L. 101-646, 104 Stat. 4761) as reauthorized and amended by National Invasive Species Act (NISA) of 1996 (P.L. 104-332); Sikes Act of September 15, 1960, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 670- 670(f); 16 U.S.C. § 670g et seq.).

- *Clean Vessel Act of 1992.* Allows the Secretary of the Interior to issue grants to coastal and inland States for pump out stations and waste reception facilities to dispose of recreational boater sewage.
- *Title 18 of the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. § 42).* Prohibits importation and interstate transport of species listed by statute and species of wild mammals, wild birds, fish (including mollusks and crustacea), amphibians, reptiles, brown treesnakes, or the offspring or eggs of any of the foregoing prescribed by regulation to be injurious to human beings, to the interests of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, or to wildlife or the wildlife resources of the United States.
- *Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16. U.S.C. § 703 et seq.).* Establishes a prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird. The prohibition applies to birds included in the terms of the respective international conventions between the U.S. and Great Britain, the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Russia for the protection of migratory birds.

Authorities / Mandates



- *National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 668dd-ee, regulated through 50 C.F.R.)*. Establishes the National Wildlife Refuge System and requires USFWS to administer lands to provide for the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats and to ensure that biological integrity and diversity is maintained. National Wildlife Refuges are closed to public uses (by statute, regulation, and authority) until opened by the Service, and in opening them to those uses, must be found Appropriate (Service Policy 603 FW 1) and Compatible (Service Policy 603 FW 2) with the purposes of the refuge and the mission of the Refuge System. This latter authority is unique to the National Wildlife Refuge System.
 - *50 C.F.R. § 27.52*. Introduction of plants and animals. Plants and animals or their parts taken elsewhere shall not be introduced, liberated, or placed on any national wildlife refuge except as authorized.
 - *50 C.F.R. § 27.21*. General provisions. No person shall take any animal or plant on any national wildlife refuge, except as authorized under 50 C.F.R. 27.51 and parts 31, 32, and 33 of this subchapter C. The Service regulates the removal of plants and animals.
 - *50 C.F.R. Part 25*. The Service has authority to issue refuge Special Use Permits and routinely uses them to authorize permitted activities on a specific refuge. The Service can establish conditions to a permit for public safety and resource protection. Permit conditions are enforceable by administrative revocation and/or criminal prosecution.
- *The North American Wetland Conservation Act 1989 (16 U.S.C. § 4401 et seq., 16 U.S.C. § 669b (note))*. Directs Federal agencies to cooperate with the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore, protect, and enhance the wetland ecosystems and other habitats for migratory birds, fish and wildlife within the lands and waters of each agency to the extent consistent with the mission of such agency and existing statutory authorities.

Authorities / Mandates



Regulations & Policies

- USFWS Management Policies
 - Refuge Manual Chapter 7 RM 8. Exotic Species Introduction and Management: The policy of the Service is to prevent further introduction of exotic species on refuges except where an exotic species would have value as a biocontrol agent and would be compatible with the objectives of the refuge.
 - Service Manual 601 FW 3. Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health.
 - 3.14 F. We do not introduce species on refuges outside their historic range or introduce species if we determine that they were naturally extirpated, unless such introduction is essential for the survival of a species and prescribed in an endangered species recovery plan, or is essential for the control of an invasive species and prescribed in an integrated pest management plan.
 - 3.16 A. We prevent the introduction of invasive species, detect and control populations of invasive species, and provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in invaded ecosystems. We develop integrated pest management strategies that incorporate the most effective combination of mechanical, chemical, biological, and cultural controls while considering the effects on environmental health. B. We require no action to reduce or eradicate self-sustaining populations of non-native, noninvasive species (e.g., pheasants) unless those species interfere with accomplishing refuge purpose(s). We do not, however, manage habitats to increase populations of these species unless such habitat management supports accomplishing refuge purpose(s).

Authorities / Mandates

- Service Manual 750 FW 1. Managing Invasive Species Pathways. Establishes policy to help prevent the spread of invasive and non-target species by developing and implementing a quality-control planning process in all Service operations within the Fisheries Program through Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plans. Policy helps the Fisheries Program to better protect, secure, and maintain the ecological viability of our nation's fish and wildlife resources by reducing the movement of invasive and non-target species. Our policy is to reduce or prevent the spread of invasive and non-target species by implementing HACCP plans.



Web links and/or one pager about the program

- <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/nwrs.html>
- Annual Invasive Species Budget within the Refuge system for FY15:
\$9.7 million

