

Agency Report – Invasive Plants

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FICMNEW Planning Retreat
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Washington DC (and via remote access)

NPS IPP Structure

- **Program Description:** IPP in NPS Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate, offices in Fort Collins, CO. IPP is lead for NPS invasive terrestrial plant issues (also some aquatic and semi-aquatic plants), developed around the Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) Program in 2000, EPMT provides “boots-on-the-ground” invasive plant management assistance parks. NPS IPP staff includes one full-time permanent program manager & one full-time term data manager. Most of program funding is distributed to regions to support 15 of the 17 EPMTs.
- **Goals:** 1) Improve program standards, 2) Promote awareness of Invasive Plant Program services and awareness and education of invasive plant issue, 3) Build park and NPS capacity for invasive plant management and prevention, 4) Promote holistic invasive plant management, 5) Collaborate on invasive plant management
- **Scope:** Provides technical assistance and policy guidance to parks and regions on invasive species prevention, containment, management, and monitoring; comments on plans, other documents and proposed legislation that address invasive plant species issues or may result in invasive plant introductions; advises NPS senior management on invasive plant species policy and regulations; represents NPS on interagency groups that focus on invasive species; provides structure, guidance and support to the EPMT Program.





Complete IPP Strategic Plan, Finalize NPS Invasive Plant Management Strategy
• Oct 31, 2015 & March 31, 2016

Initiate roll out of NISIMS to parks to standardize invasive plant management data collection
• Nov 1, 2016

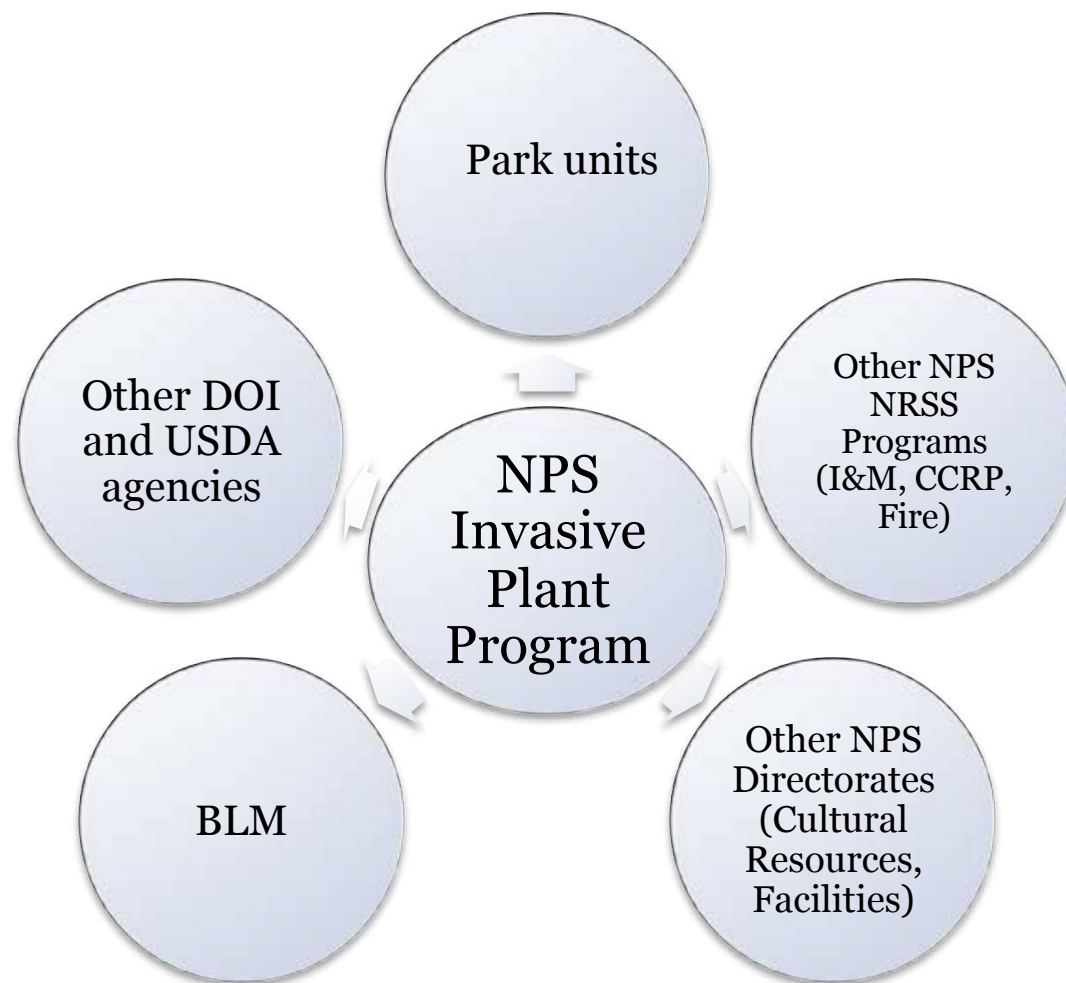
Provide science-based procedures and criteria to inform prioritization of invasive plant management efforts
• Date 3

Conduct needs assessments for parks, develop a communication/education/training strategy.
• Date 4

Strengthen prevention and EDRR efforts, Standardize protocols and guidance, provide training
• Date 5

**Five
goals
for
next
5 years**

Major partners





Authorities / Mandates

- National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., P.L. 113-287, 128 Stat. 3094.).
 - Establishes the National Park Service, requires that it promote and regulate national parks to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. This law generally gives the National Park Service the authority to regulate the movement of invasive species.
- 36 C.F.R. § 2.1(a)(2)
 - Except as otherwise provided in NPS regulations, prohibits introducing wildlife, fish or plants, including their reproductive bodies, into a park area ecosystem. Prohibits the act of introducing invasive species, but does not regulate transport onto, off of, or within NPS areas.
- NPS Management Policies 2006
 - 4.4.4 - Natural resource management policies include that exotic species will not be allowed to displace native species if displacement can be prevented. Assumes NPS has authority to manage existing invasive species and, potentially, to prevent new introductions.
 - 4.4.5 – Integrated pest management policies directs all park employees, concessioners, contractors, permittees, licensees, and visitors on all lands managed or regulated by the NPS will comply with NPS pest Management Policies.
- DO 77 Natural Resource Protection and NPS-77 and Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77
 - Reference Manual #77 offers comprehensive guidance to National Park Service employees responsible for managing, conserving, and protecting the natural resources found in National Park System units. The manual includes sections on Integrated Pest Management and Nonnative Species Management.



Draft Mission and Vision for Program

- The Invasive Plant Program provides leadership, expertise, assistance, and education, to address the impacts invasive plants pose to the resources entrusted to the National Park Service and in doing so helps fulfill its core mission for this and future generations.
- The Invasive Plant Program will guide the National Park Service efforts to enhance resource stewardship under dynamic conditions through the application of holistic , collaborative, adaptive, and innovative approaches to invasive plant management and protection or restoration of NPS resources.