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## National Invasive Species Awareness Week Coming Soon

posted 22 hours ago by Kristy Burnett

February 27, 2017, marks the first day of the [National Invasive Species Awareness Week](#) (NISAW), and all parks and programs are invited to participate. While this is just one week set aside to raise awareness about invasive species with the public, staff across the service work on invasive species management all year.

Invasive species are steadily changing the iconic landscapes in our national parks and the surrounding areas. An invasive species causes harm to the environment, economy, or human health, and it has a ripple effect throughout native ecosystems, causing more and more damage as it spreads.

Nearly all parks are threatened by invasive species. In FY2016, parks reported almost 1,500 populations of invasive animals, and exotic invasive plants cover approximately 1.4 million acres of NPS lands and waters.

One of the most effective ways to manage invasive species is by preventing its introduction. That's why it's important to raise the level of awareness about this issue with park visitors and stewards—both in person and online.

Consider joining the effort during NISAW:

1. Take part in the conversation on social media platforms, using **#NISAW** or **#invasive species**. If you're interested, the NISAW organizers developed daily themes:
  - a. Monday: Impacts and Prevention
  - b. Tuesday: Early Detection and Response
  - c. Wednesday: Innovative Methods
  - d. Thursday: Creating Behavior Change
  - e. Friday: Public-Private Partnerships
2. Follow Explore Nature on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and share posts to your followers.
3. Spread the word about our Invasive Species Twitter Q&A on Wednesday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to noon (MT).
4. Talk about invasive species with visitors to your park.
5. Attend the [online webinars](#) presented at the conference. (Click on the date to register for the afternoon webinars.)

Preventing invasive species is the most effective way to manage them. Educated park visitors can help slow their advance. Thanks for spreading the word about invasive species. If you have questions, contact Kristy Burnett, [kristy\\_burnett@partner.nps.gov](mailto:kristy_burnett@partner.nps.gov).