



United States Department of Agriculture

FICMNEW History 2015

Sheriff AI & the FICMNEW Wild Bunch



2015 FICMNEW Update

AI Tasker, Ph.D.

Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist

Regulations, Permits & Manuals;

Plants for Planting Import & Policy Staff

USDA-APHIS-PPQ-PHP

Dodder

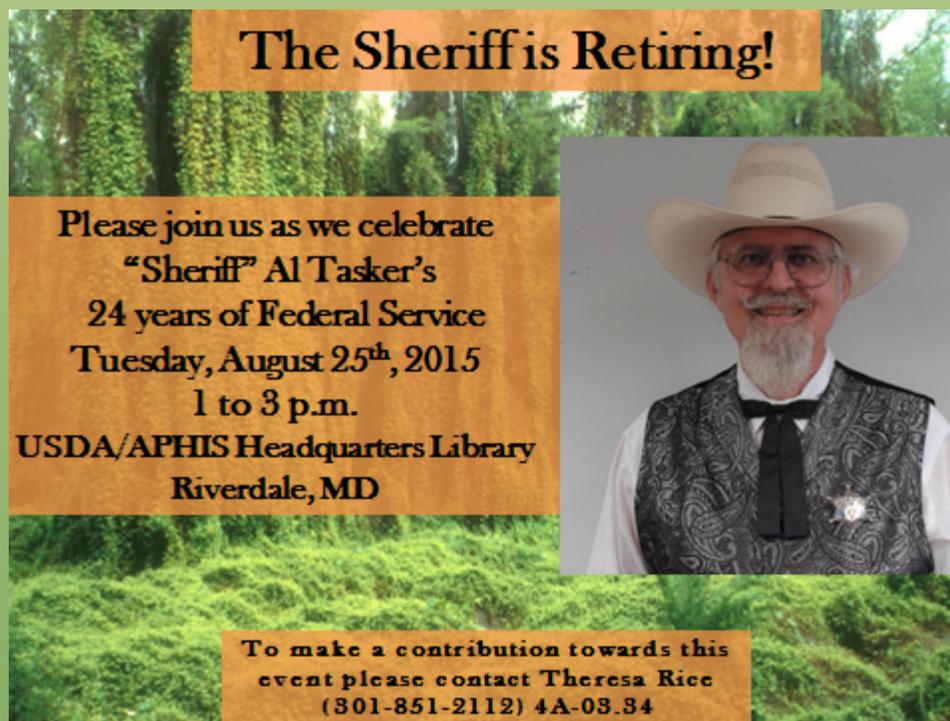




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Sheriff Al has left the building!! (Soon)

A retirement announcement flyer for Sheriff Al Tasker. The flyer has a green background with a forest scene. It features a central portrait of Sheriff Al Tasker, an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a cowboy hat and a patterned vest. The text is arranged in several sections: a top orange banner with the title, a central orange box with the event details, and a bottom orange box with contact information.

The Sheriff is Retiring!

Please join us as we celebrate
"Sheriff" Al Tasker's
24 years of Federal Service
Tuesday, August 25th, 2015
1 to 3 p.m.
USDA/APHIS Headquarters Library
Riverdale, MD

To make a contribution towards this
event please contact Theresa Rice
(301-851-2112) 4A-03.34

avtasker@yahoo.com or avtasker01@gmail.com

301/377-9061



Early Invasive species timeline

- 1977 - Executive Order 11987 by President Jimmy Carter, directed federal agencies to restrict the introduction of exotic species into natural ecosystems. (Replaced by EO13112 in 1999; established National Invasive Species Council)
- 1980s - Intermountain Noxious Weed Advisory Council (INWAC) went to Washington (WSSA become involved; led to National Invasive Weed Awareness Week).
- 1981 - Minnesota Purple Loosestrife Task Force in Minnesota, led to first Exotic Plant coalition.
- 1990 - ANSTF = Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, an intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species, thanks to an Act of Congress - "Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act". The ANSTF consists of private/public members, co-chaired by the USFWS and NOAA. This act is how aquatic invasives gained funding and support while terrestrial species were unfunded. "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" is its national campaign.



Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds

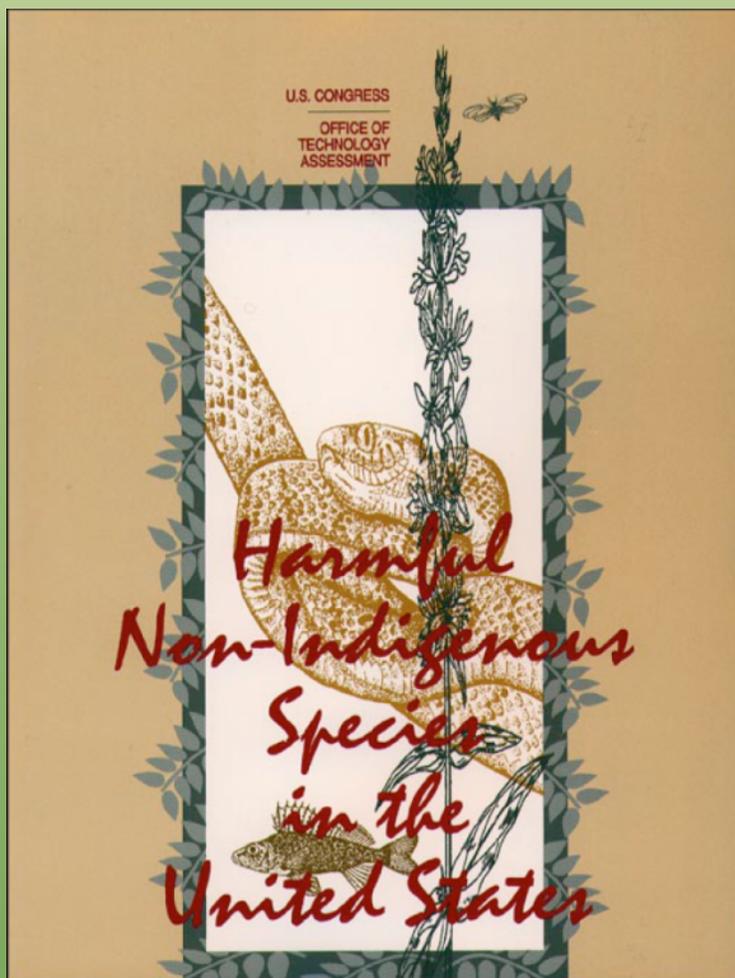
- 1991 - *Biological Pollution, the Control and Impact of Invasive Exotic Species*, was a symposium held at the Indiana University-Purdue. (A few of the future FICMNEW members met here.)
- 1993 - An Ad Hoc group of agencies writes a white paper on impacts of exotic weeds. It is vetted by agencies and sent to the White House. (Bonnie Harper-Lore DOT, Jeanette Kaiser USFS, Buck Waters BLM and others)
- 1994 - The group names itself - the Federal Interagency Committee for Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW).
- 1994 Formally established through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by agency leadership in August 1994. (around 16 agencies)



Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds

- 2000 FICMNEW planning session pushed for a meeting between weed control practitioners and ecologists further developed at NIWAW in 2001 and which led to:
- 2003 IPINAMS (Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems) meeting sponsored by WSSA, SRM & ESA and held in conjunction with the 7th Annual Meeting on the Ecology & Management of Alien Plant Invasions EMAPI7, with a proceedings published in the WSSA journal Weed Technology in 2004.

OTA report 1993



Phyllis Windle,
Project Dir.
Peter Jenkins,
Analyst et al

Advisory Panel
Faith Campbell Don
Schmitz
Howard Singletary
Marshal Meyers
et al

Gary Johnson,
Interior Dept Liaison
Bill Wallace,
USDA Liaison et al



- 1995 - FICMNEW helped write *Invasive Plants, Weeds of the Global Garden*, published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1996. Many have become regulated noxious weeds.
- 1996 - FICMNEW wrote *PULLING TOGETHER: A National Strategy for Management of Invasive Plants* and defined the outline on which most partnerships across the country are now based. It was endorsed by stakeholders who met in Albuquerque, Denver and Fort Lauderdale at “Weed Summits”. The group pooled funds for on-the-ground grants.
- 1998 - Don Schmitz’ letter to V.P. Gore, signed by 500+ scientists, decrying invasives’ impact. Schmitz imagined a national data/information center much like the CDC to serve U.S. This letter motivated the formation of a White House Task Force (WHTF).



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Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds



FICMNEW – First Biennial Planning Retreat
Shepherdstown, WV
1998 FICMNEW 1st Planning Conf

(I must have been taking the photo or out of sight)

Back Row: _____ (in Red), Allison Hill (FS?), Anne Leslie (EPA), Randy Westbrooks (APHIS), Elizabeth Rieben (BLM), Bill Gregg (USGS), Bonnie Harper-Lore (FHA), Jennifer Vollmer (BASF), Pete Egan (AFPMB), Larry Fowler (APHIS), Gordon Brown (FWS), Deb Hayes (USDA FS).

Second Row: _____ (Blonde Hair in Glasses), Peggy Olwell (BLM), Colin Voigt? (BLM ?), Faith Campbell (TNC), Russell Jones (EPA), Collin Voigt (BLM), Alison Dalsimar (DOD), Nance Benton (TNC)

First Row: Sitting Down: Ernest Delfosse (USDA ARS), Jil Swearingen (NPS), _____, Carol DiSalvo (NPS), Gary Johnston (NPS), Bob Eplee (USDA APHIS)

Names Suggested by Randy Westbrooks – March 13, 2013

Planning retreats held roughly biennially about 1998-2007



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Early Invasive spp. groups

DISC Founded
Aug 1998
Don Eagan



INVASIVE SPECIES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND
 ABOUT MISC | CALENDAR | INFO & RESOURCES | NEWS | MARYLAND INVASIVE SPECIES
 Encouraging the prevention and management of invasive species in Maryland ecosystems.

SEARCH *MISC.org*

INVADER OF THE MONTH
 April 2015
 Exotic Earthworms
 • Read the Press Release
 • Archived Invaders


 Photo: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

CONTACT US AT:
 MDA Plant Protection & Weed Management
 Section (410) 641-5920

The Maryland Invasive Species Council
 provides leadership concerning invasive species and encourages efforts that prevent the introduction of, and manage the impact of, invasive species on Maryland ecosystems.

RANDOM INVADER

 Photo: D. Barringer, Natural Land Trust
Porcelain Berry
Ampelopsis brevipedunculata
 • [READ MORE](#)

NEXT MISC MEETING
 Thursday, May 21, 2015
 National Agricultural Library
 Abraham Lincoln Bldg.
 Multi-Purpose Room
 10301 Baltimore Ave.
 Beltsville, MD 20705
 • [Details](#)
 • [Agenda](#)
 • [Directions](#)

Site development funded by USDA APHIS PPQ Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey

The Maryland Invasive Species Council (MISC), established in April 2000



National Weed Awareness Week & Weeds Across Borders

- 2000 - First Weed Awareness Week in D.C. by a public-private sector coalition and FICMNEW.
- 2001 - *St. Louis Declaration, Codes of Conduct*, was written by a coalition including FICMNEW.
- 2001 - *Meeting the Invasive Species Challenge* was the management plan published by NISC.
- 2002 - First Weeds Across Borders conference took place in Tucson, Arizona. It was designed to share information with scientists, practitioners and policy-makers from the U.S., Mexico and Canada because weeds know no political boundaries. It was thought the three groups needed to talk to one another and work together to protect the continent from the spread of weeds (invasive plants).



- 2003 - FICMNEW wrote *A National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants in The United States*, the beginning of EDRR strategies across nation.
- 2004 - FICMNEW and NAWMA (now NAISMA) hosted the 2nd WAB conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2006 - FICMNEW supported the 3rd WAB conference (1st across the border) at the University of Hermosillo, Mexico with help of Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum's Tom Van Devender.
- 2008 - FICMNEW and Alberta Invasive Plant Council hosted the 4th WAB in Banff, Alberta, Canada. An international MOU was introduced and discussed. The Banff Accord was signed.
- 2010 - FICMNEW hosted the 5th WAB at NCTC, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. National Weed Awareness Week became National Invasive Species Awareness Week and was coordinated by the National Invasive Species Council with support from FICMNEW. FICMNEW had coordinated the networking event for years before NISAW.





- 2012 - FICMNEW co-hosted WAB with CONABIO in Cancun, Mexico where international cooperation and possible trilateral agreement were discussed again. The idea that NISC should facilitate an international agreement was suggested and NISC agreed to investigate in 2013. They asked for a letter of interest from FICMNEW.
- 2014 - Alberta Invasive Plant Council & British Columbia Council co-hosted WAB, Ottawa. No Country has yet volunteered to take the lead in 2016. It is the U.S.' turn per history.

Early Invasive spp. groups

- 1984 - Florida Exotic Plant Pest Council began (Tennessee and California soon followed.)

Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council (Now Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council). Formally established in 2000 (began as an informal discussion at the Swarthmore College invasives meeting in the late 90s possibly 1998 or 1999?)



The **Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council (MAIPC)** provides regional leadership to effectively address the threat of invasive plants to the native flora, fauna, and natural habitats of the Mid-Atlantic. The council coordinates regional efforts to gather and share information on the identification, management and prevention of invasive species, provide training and volunteer opportunities and to identify research needs. The Council is represented by members from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The National Association of Invasive Plant Councils (NAIPC) was established in October 1995 by the signature of representatives of the first four state and regional Exotic Pest Plant Councils

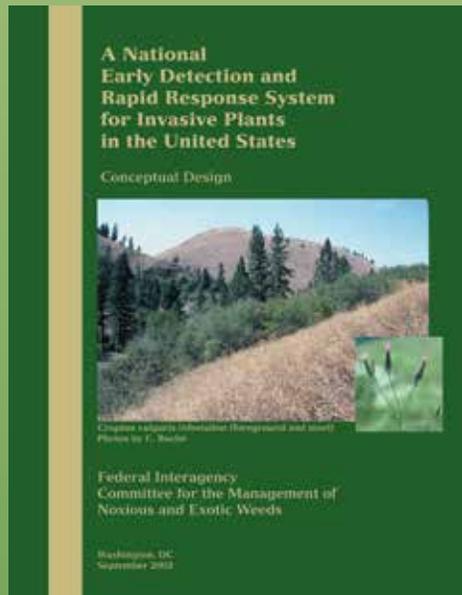




EDRR Workshop 2000 Ft. Collins.



Larry Fowler,
Ron Stinner



Published
2003



Larry Morse,
Susan Solarz,
Sheriff AI



IPANE Training Workshop – Storrs, CT 10-20-04



Sheriff Al Tasker, Annie Simpson (USGS),
Les Mehrhoff (UCONN), and Randy
Westbrooks (USGS).





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AI Tasker and Colleagues, National Biological Control
Technical Advisory Meeting.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 4-13-2005.



**National Invasive Weed Awareness Week, D.C. U.S.
Botanical Garden, Washington, D.C. February, 2007.**
(Sheriff AI in in the back - on the left side)



Sheriff Al & Weed Characters

1st Kid's Fun Day NIWAW-V in 2004
@ 5th annual NIWAW

First Sheriff Al appearance
& Deputy badges



The Kudzu Song.
Randy Westbrooks.

1. There's a plant out in my garden, I put it there myself,
I found it on a roadside, growing up against a fence.,
It looked so small and helpless, you never would believe,
That plant became a monster for all the world to see.

(Chorus) We've got kudzu, kudzu, kudzu on the brain;
We've got kudzu, kudzu, and things just aren't the same



Woody Weed & Lucy Loosestrife



Woody Owl



More Weed Characters/Activities



1st Kid's Fun Day NIWAW-V in 2004

Weed Sing-a-long & stories w/ Randy the Weed Wrangler, Farmer Bob & Monica

The Kudzu Song.

Randy Westbrooks.

1. There's a plant out in my garden, I put it there myself,
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Face painting

Weed Demos





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More Weed Activities

1st Kid's Fun Day NIWAW-V in 2004

Invasive Weed Drama
with Doug Holy





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More Weed Awareness

Speakers Table: Nelroy Jackson,
Pete Egan, George Beck

NIWAW-VI in 2005



Mike Ielmini & Rob Hedberg



Sheriff Al

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week VI

- <http://www.nawma.org/>
- February 27 thru March 4, 2005
- Kids Fun Day (Sunday 27)
- Exhibits at Botanic Garden
- Strange Days on Planet Earth
- Briefings
 - USDA
 - Interior
 - DOD
 - Army Corps of Engineers
 - NGOs
- Blues Rangers



More Weed Awareness

NIWAW-VII in 2006



Jim Larson NAWMA



Kid's Day Sheriff AI



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More Weed Awareness

NIWAW-VIII in 2007



Kid's Day Weed Songs, Sheriff Al, Randy the Weed Wrangler & Six-gun Annie Oakley



Hilda Diaz-Soltero
at Hill Briefing and Q&A





More Weed Awareness



NISC staff chair Lori Williams

NIWAW-VIX in 2008



Lee Van Wychen,
WSSA &
Gordon
Brown DOI



Al
Cofrancesco
ACE &
Biological
Control TAG
Chair



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More Weed Awareness

1st NISAW in 2010 & 2011



Woody Weed at Kid's Day



Woody Owl coloring



Kid's Day song bird at leisure



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The scribe at work



**FICMNEW Biennial Planning
Retreat, Shepherdstown, WV.
November, 2007.**

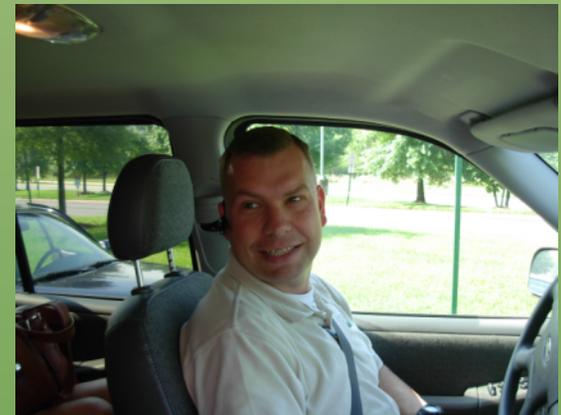


Hogweed 7-1-09 DC



Kelsey Branch, Intern of
Power hefting Hogweed
aka She-Ra

Matt Travis
APHIS State
Dir. for MD &
DC





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FICMNEW Co-chairs 2009



Rita Beard & Al Tasker 2009



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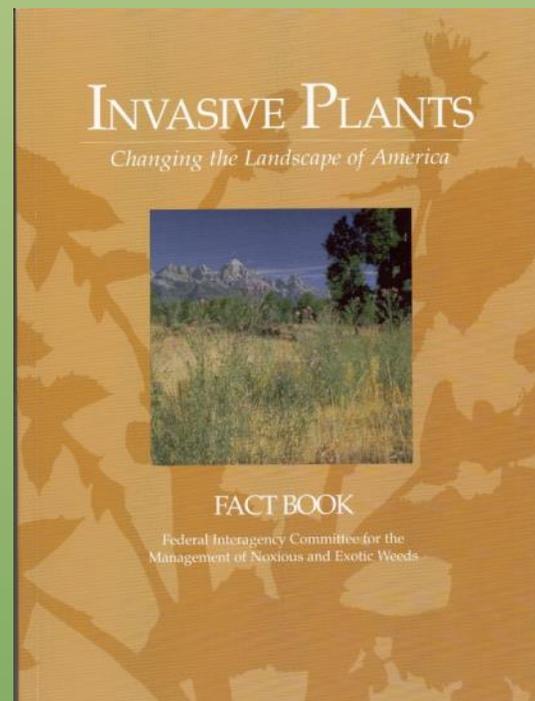
APHIS PPP



Shailaja Rabindran Asst. Dir.
Carissa Marasa
Bill Aley
Lydia Colon
Arnie Tschanz
Heather Coady
Renee DeVries
Al Tasker
Ed Podleckis

FICMNEW Weed Factbook

- Originally, the Fact book was a Green industry Fact book
 - Published 1998
 - Weed facts for each state
 - Intended as handout for Congressional offices
- 2005 planned update (never completed)
 - FICMNEW product – should include agency highlights
 - Same format as original and succinct
 - The Fact book should contain weed information
 - Should be peer reviewed both internally and externally
 - Use it for Outreach, briefings, etc.
 - Should get an endorsement from one or more department
 - Update project needs to be reactivated





Selected History of APHIS & Weeds

- **1789.** The First Congress passed and President George Washington signed the Tariff Act, the first major Act passed under the present United States Constitution of 1789.
- **1839.** The Agricultural Department of the U.S. Patent Office is established to collect statistics, distribute seeds/plant and compile/distribute information.
- **May 15, 1862.** Abraham Lincoln established the independent Department of Agriculture to be headed by a commissioner without Cabinet status
- **1910.** Department of Agriculture discovered that the donated Japanese Cherry trees were infested with insects and nematodes, and were diseased. To protect American growers, the department concluded that the trees must be destroyed.
<http://www.nps.gov/cherry/cherry-blossom-history.htm>
- **1912.** Regulatory activities to protect U.S. crops began with the Plant Quarantine Act and the establishment of the Federal Horticultural Board to enforce the act.
- **1939.** Federal Seed Act of 1939, restricted the entry of seed listed as agricultural or vegetable if the seed contains noxious weed seeds as defined by the Act. APHIS now enforces the import provisions. (So USDA began regulating some weed seeds in 1939.)
- **1944.** Department of Agriculture Organic Act (7 U.S.C. § 147a) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out operations or measures to detect, eradicate, suppress, control, or prevent or retard the spread of plant pests (includes parasitic plants)



Selected History of APHIS & Weeds

- **Jan. 3, 1975.** President Ford signed the Federal Noxious Weed Act into law, providing authority for a regulatory system designed to prevent the introduction into the United States of noxious weeds from foreign countries
- **1979.** The Federal Noxious Weed program began with surveys in 25 states and Puerto Rico, port-of-entry inspections, education programs, hydrilla control in Florida, and formation of the Technical Committee to Evaluate Noxious Weeds (TCENW). (Second weed regulated by APHIS)
- **1982.** APHIS conducts biological control program against silverleaf nightshade (Southwestern U.S.)
- **September 1982.** APHIS accepts responsibility for enforcing Title III, import provisions of Federal Seed Act.
- **1999.** Plant Protection Act of 2000 (7 USC 7701 et sec.) replaced FNWA and consolidated other authorities. Adds civil penalties and other needed provisions to parallel authorities with other pests. Halogeton glomeratus Act repealed)
- **1999.** Weed Action Plan for PPA implementation published in FR.



Matching Grants

Pulling Together Initiative

- FICMNEW Partnership managed by National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- CWMA's mainly comprised of made up of federal & local agencies, businesses, and private citizens
- 50:50 or better Non-federal match
- FICMNEW members contributing in FY06 BLM, DOD, FS, FWS, NRCS, APHIS



Pulling Together Initiative

- CWMA matching grants and other projects (NIWAW et al)
- FICMNEW agencies provide funding
- APHIS participated from 2001 through 2011

• Year	APHIS	Projects
• 2001	\$55,000	3
• 2002	\$91,500	8
• 2003	\$105,284	12
• 2004	\$105,000	10
• 2005	\$61,200	12
• 2006	\$50,000	8
• 2007	\$65,000	9
• 2008	\$84,000	9
• 2009	\$79,000	7
• 2010	\$79,980	6
• 2011	\$45,000	4



National Program Staff Assignments

- Federal Noxious Weeds (including Witchweed)
 - Jonathon Jones (Policy Mgt)
- Biological Control
 - Bob Tischner (Plant Permitting Branch)
- NAPPRA
 - AI Tasker Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist (**Regulations, Permits & Manuals; Plants for Planting Import & Policy**)
- Tasker main duties
 - Not Allowed Pending Pest Risk Assessment **directing agreements, Datasheets & data review**
 - 7 CFR 319.37 Regs and Permits
 - Liaison with FNW and Biological Control Plant/weed priorities.
 - Liaison with CPHST Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory (PERAL) (Tony Koop)



Problems?

- **“It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it.”**
 - (a quote from “An Inconvenient Truth” by Upton Sinclair).



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**Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist (PPP)
aka Sheriff Al Now in the process of leaving the
Building**



**Alan.V.Tasker@usda.gov
301/851-2224**

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/Q37/nappra/



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