

The Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds



-Public Meeting-

January 27, 2022
1:00 – 2:30 EST

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1. Roll call

(if time allows – will focus on entities represented)

2. Today's Presentation

“INHABIT: a web application to deliver habitat suitability models and bridge the scientist-practitioner divide”

Bios

Catherine Jarnevich is a research ecologist with USGS, where she has worked for many years exploring the distributions of species. Much of her current research involves the application of habitat suitability models to answer different applied research and management questions for various species across a range of taxa and spatial scales.

Peder Engelstad is a spatial data scientist who contributes to several research projects with his expertise in statistical modeling and programming. Recently, he has been collaborating with researchers at USGS to harness the power of high-performance computing systems to map the distribution of invasive plant species and is dedicated to finding effective ways of communicating those data to agency scientists and land managers.

Overview

Many practitioners are hampered by the scope of the invasive species problem compared to available resources to combat invasive species. Habitat suitability models of invaders can inform watch lists and target population searches, but there is often a divide between researchers creating these models and practitioners who utilize them. We have formed a scientist-practitioner partnership to create suitability models for priority species that are integrated into the Invasive Species Habitat Tool (INHABIT; <http://gis.usgs.gov/inhabit>), a web application displaying visual and statistical summaries of habitat suitability models for >140 terrestrial plant species across the conterminous US. The models are based on aggregated occurrence data and a species-specific set of predictors from a library of environmental predictors we have assembled. Managers provide feedback both on the models and INHABIT's features, iteratively improving the content and functionality of INHABIT. The first iteration species models have been updated to a new version using the latest occurrence information and an improved predictor set based on feedback from practitioners. The web application is designed to provide practical information leading to enhanced land management actions, including mapped products, information on modeled environmental relationships, and tabular summaries comparing risk among species within a given management unit, as well as comparisons across management units for a given species. INHABIT is actively evolving to help bridge the gap between scientists and practitioners, moving beyond occurrence models to abundance and assessing the geographic distribution of control tools such as biocontrol agents.

3. Invasive species organizations updates/round-robin

(as time permits)

4. Next Quarterly Meeting Dates

April 28, 2022– presentation,

July 28, 2022 – presentation TBD