

History

F-I-C-M-N-E-W HISTORY

Based on a document by Bonnie Harper-Lore with input from Gina Ramos

1977 - Executive Order 11987 by President Jimmy Carter, directed federal agencies to restrict the introduction of exotic species into natural ecosystems. (Replaced by EO13112)

1979 - USFWS wrote a fact sheet "Purple Loosestrife Alert."

1980s - Intermountain Noxious Weed Advisory Council (INWAC) went to Washington. (Led by George Beck) Also Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

1981 - Minnesota Purple Loosestrife Task Force in Minnesota, led to Exotic Plant coalition.

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

1990 - ANSTF = Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, an intergovernmental organization dedicated to preventing and controlling aquatic nuisance species, was created 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.

1991 - *Biological Pollution, the Control and Impact of Invasive Exotic Species*, was a symposium held at the Indiana University-Purdue. (Some future FICMNEW members met here.)

1993 - *Harmful Non-Indigenous Species in the United States* report was compiled by the Office of Technology Assessment as a part of their report to Congress, Washington D.C.

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.

1994 - The group names itself: the **Federal Interagency Committee for Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW)**.

1994 - FICMNEW's MOU signed by 16 federal agencies to establish unprecedented cooperation and communication, and resources to stop the spread of weeds.

1995 - FICMNEW helped write *Invasive Plants, Weeds of the Global Garden*, published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1996. Many have become legalized 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, and the Pulling Together Initiative began.

1998 - Don Schmitz sent a letter to Vice President Al Gore, signed by 500+ scientists, decrying invasives' impact. Schmitz imagined a brick-and-mortar national data/information center much like the CDC to serve U.S. This letter motivated the formation of a White House Task Force (WHTF).

1998 - The WHTF members included FICMNEW members, one member of ANSTF and Gordon Brown from Interior. The WHTF wrote EO 13112 on invasives.

1998 - *Invasive Plants, Changing the Landscape of America*, a fact book written by FICMNEW, funded largely by FWS and Sean Furness with federal highways grant moneys.

1998 - FICMNEW's first planning retreat at USFWS' NCTC in Shepherdstown, WV. Plans & FICMNEW theme song written by Randy Westbrooks.

1999 - [Executive Order 13112](#) was signed by President William J. Clinton in February. It replaced the 1977 Executive Order (EO11987). In EO13112, FICMNEW is identified as a key Federal-level organization on which the National Invasive Species Council is to rely for the implementation of the Executive Order and the coordination of Federal agency activities to prevent and control invasive plants.

1999 - The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) was created by EO13112. One of 7 duties given NISC by the EO was to write a national management plan. The EO states NISC depends on ANSTF, FICMNEW and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for input. NISC is advised by appointed stakeholders - the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). ISAC relies on needs of ANSTF and FICMNEW.

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 the National Invasive Species Council.

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). This trilateral meeting was funded by the Federal Highway Association and has met every two years since.

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 hosted the Weeds Across Borders conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2006 - FICMNEW supported the first Weeds Across Borders conference "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 Weeds Across Borders in Banff, Alberta, Canada. An international MOU was introduced and discussed. The Banff Accord was signed.

2010 - FICMNEW hosted Weeds Across Borders at FWS' NCTC, Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

2010 - National Weed Awareness Week became National Invasive Species Awareness Week and was coordinated by the National Invasive Species Council without FICMNEW. FICMNEW had coordinated the networking/lobbying event for years before NISAW.

2012 - FICMNEW co-hosted Weeds Across Borders 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 Weeds Across Borders, in Ottawa, Canada. At the meeting, participants decided to rename and re-scope Weeds Across Borders and call it the North American Invasive Species Forum.

2016 - EO13751, called "Safeguarding the Nation from the Impacts of Invasive Species," was signed by President Barack Obama, amending and updating EO13112.

2017 - FICMNEW planned and co-hosted the first North American Invasive Species Forum, formerly called Weeds Across Borders, with the North American Invasive Species Network, in Savannah, Georgia, from May 08-11.

[FICMNEW history.pdf](#)