FICMNEW home

The Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic weeds (FICMNEW) represents an unprecedented formal partnership between 18 federal agencies with direct invasive plant management and regulatory responsibilities spanning across the United States and territories. FICMNEW was established through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by agency leadership in 1994 and 1997. It is currently co-chaired by DOI-NPS (Terri Hogan) and DOE (Eric Bradley).

During quarterly open meetings, FICMNEW members interact on important national and regional invasive plant issues and share information with various public and private organizations participating with the federal sector to address invasive plant issues.

FICMNEW's charter directs the committee to coordinate, through the respective Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Agency heads, information regarding the identification and extent of invasive plants in the U.S. and to coordinate federal agency management of these species. FICMNEW accomplishes these portions of its charter by developing and sharing scientific and technical information, fostering collaborative efforts among federal agencies, providing recommendations for national and regional level management of invasive plants, and sponsoring technical/educational conferences and workshops concerning invasive plants.

FICMNEW continues to bridge the gap between federal agency invasive plant management and science activities and has been a driving force behind the national emphasis against the broader invasive species threat.

Next Open Meeting	Presentation (Past presentations can be downloaded here)	Presenters	Meeting Location & Call-in Information
Thursday, January 27, 2022 1:00 pm EST /11:00 am MDT	**INHABIT: a web application to deliver habitat suitability models and bridge the scientist-practitioner divide** 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. The presentation will be followed by a round-robin of attendees to share our work and needs and identify areas of intersection among participants.	**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.	Call in instructions have been sent via email. Please contact asimpson@usgs.gov if you would like to participate and did not receive call in information.

MOU's (memoranda of understanding)

Charter (2008) (pdf)

FICMNEW fact sheet (2019 draft) (pdf)

History - based on information provided by Bonnie Harper-Lore

Accomplishments