

WS Directive

2.320 02/06/04

INVASIVE SPECIES DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for WS actions in the control of invasive species, including feral animals and exotic wildlife in fulfillment of the objectives of Executive Order 13112 (1999), the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 as amended (1996), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended when invasive vertebrate species threaten those species covered under the Act, and the Animal Damage Control Act of 1931 as amended.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces ADC Directives 2.320 and 2.325 dated 3/26/93.

3. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for this Directive are taken from Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species as follows:

a. "Alien species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

b. "Control" means, as appropriate, eradicating, suppressing, reducing, or managing invasive species populations, preventing spread of invasive species from areas where they are present, and taking steps such as restoration of native species and habitats to reduce the effects of invasive species and to prevent further invasions.

c. "Introduction" means the intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement of a species into an ecosystem as a result of human activity.

d. "Invasive species" means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

4. BACKGROUND

Invasive species, including feral and exotic animals, may threaten or damage human health or safety, agriculture, natural resources, or property, and may be vectors of diseases for

humans, domestic animals, or wildlife. Executive Order (EO) 13112 (Clinton, 1999) states that each Federal agency whose actions may affect the status of invasive species shall, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, take steps to control damage caused by such species. Steps outlined in the Order included preventing the introductions of invasive species and detection and rapid response to, and control of, populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner, and conducting research on, and development of technologies to prevent introduction and to provide for environmentally sound control of, invasive species. WS is further authorized by 50CFR30(1998) to conduct activities in the control of feral animals, including horses, burros, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, reindeer, dogs, and cats, without ownership, that have reverted to the wild from a domestic state. The Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act (16 U.S.C. Subsections 1331-1340) of 1976 places management of both horses and burros under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of Agriculture-through the Forest Service, and The Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, Further, wild horses and burros may be protected under this Act and Wildlife Services actions related to these animals are always conducted pursuant to the management objectives of the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, as appropriate. The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, reauthorized and amended as the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 further authorizes Federal agencies to prevent and control infestations of the coastal and inland waters of the United States by the zebra mussel and other nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species.

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) was formed pursuant to EO 13122 to provide national leadership and oversight on invasive species and to see that Federal agency activities are coordinated, effective, work in partnership with States, and provide for public input and participation. The NISC (2001) developed a Management Plan which outlined participant roles, action plans, and authorities. Ongoing initiatives of the NISC have been implemented as part of a national invasive species management program. WS collaborates with the NISC in developing strategies for addressing invasive species damage.

5. POLICY

WS personnel will provide technical assistance to Federal, State, Tribal, United States Territorial and Local governments, private industry, and/or individuals for managing damage caused by vertebrate invasive species, including feral and exotic animals, or to suppress disease. Direct control may be provided at the discretion of the State Director, as appropriate. All direct control should be coordinated with the appropriate animal or wildlife management authorities, and law enforcement agencies.

The National Wildlife Research Center shall, contingent upon available funding and staffing, cooperate and collaborate with Federal, State, Tribal, and Local agencies, other public and

private entities involved in the control of invasive species, and State WS program managers in conducting research designed to achieve the objectives of Executive Order 13112 and other Acts and authorities referenced in this Directive.

6. REFERENCES

Animal Damage Control Act. 1931, as amended. 7 United States Code (426-426c).

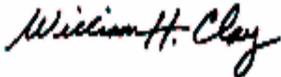
Clinton, W.J. 1999. Executive Order 13112. Invasive species. The White House, Office of the Press Secretary.

Endangered Species Act. 1973, as amended. Code of Federal Regulation, Title 50, Part 17.

NISC (National Invasive Species Council). 2001. Management plan; meeting the invasive species challenge. 74pp.

Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act. 1990, as amended. The National Invasive Species Act of 1996.

50 CFR 30. 1998. Code of Federal Regulation, Title 50--Wildlife and Fisheries Chapter I--United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior Part 30--Range and Feral Animal Management.



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