



Strategic Management of Invasive Species in the Northwest United States Workshop

Project # 11-114

Background:

Invasive species prevention and management is an important element of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans of military installations. Invasive species directly impact military missions by infesting open space needed for military operations; rendering training grounds hazardous with dense, spiny, flammable, or otherwise noxious vegetation; and reducing the extent of realistic training areas.

Department of Defense (DoD) natural resource managers are not only responsible for being stewards of installation lands, which often provide habitat for threatened, endangered, and rare species, they must also manage the lands to support the installation's mission to provide military training opportunities and enhance readiness. To achieve these goals, an installation's land management program must include provisions for managing the introduction and spread of invasive species—plants and animals that pose a direct threat to DoD conservation and military goals.

Objective:

The primary objective of this week-long workshop was to provide a comprehensive overview of invasive species issues, and prevention and management strategies for natural resource personnel at DoD installations across the northwest U.S. The workshop was designed to provide participants with knowledge and resources to enable them to improve land and water stewardship by building partnerships and effectively addressing invasive species problems in their particular sites and situations.

Summary of Approach:

At the start of the planning process, workshop organizers conducted a survey to identify the most pressing invasive species problems specific to the military, including present populations and potential invaders. Survey results, along with results of evaluations from a similar workshop presented by the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) in 2009, were used to develop the workshop, including specific objectives, topics, daily outcomes, and instructional design.

The workshop was held at the University Place Hotel and Conference Center in Portland, Oregon from May 21–25, 2012. Sixteen individuals (11 DoD personnel and five representatives from Tribes, federal

agencies, and private companies) attended the workshop and an additional 23 participated via webinar.

The agenda included presentations by 22 instructors from the DoD, state and federal agencies, universities, and Tribes on topics such as aquatic and terrestrial invasive species ecology and identification, prevention, management, and the value of regional partnerships. Daily classroom sessions included formal presentations, discussions, and interactive activities. A day-long field trip to Joint Base Lewis-McChord illustrated a variety of invasive species management approaches as well as the importance of coordination. Three of the five days were broadcast live via webinar and recorded for those unable to physically attend the workshop. Evaluations of workshop content and instructors were conducted each day.

Benefit:

The workshop provided a platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and resources among participants and instructors. The knowledge gained by participants will help them to strengthen their invasive species management strategies, develop regional partnerships, educate and provide leadership to other installation personnel and project partners, and advance DoD installation conservation goals.

Accomplishments:

In addition to planning and presenting the five-day workshop, which participant evaluations indicated was a success, CIPM developed three additional products: (1) all classroom sessions were broadcast live online and recorded; (2) a workshop website (www.wedcenter.org/dod2012) was developed to house the audio recordings, instructor PowerPoint presentations, workshop participant list, and other resources provided by the workshop instructors; and (3) a CD containing a variety of invasive species resources was developed and distributed to all participants.



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