

ATTACHMENTS

Photo #1



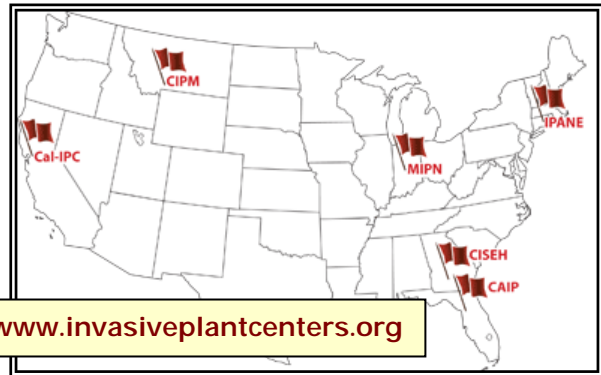
Photo #2



National Network of Invasive Plant Centers (NNIPC)

Growing awareness of the economic and ecological threats of invasive plants has led to the establishment over the years of a number of regional centers of expertise and coordination in the United States. These centers have established successful programs to address the needs of public and private natural resource managers working with invasive plants.

- **California Invasive Plant Council** (Cal-IPC), Berkeley, CA
- **Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants** (CAIP), University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (est. 1978)
- **Center for Invasive Plant Management** (CIPM), Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
- **Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health** (CISEH), University of Georgia, Tifton, GA
- **Midwest Invasive Plant Network** (MIPN), Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN
- **Invasive Plant Atlas of New England** (IPANE), University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT



Working collaboratively, these organizations comprise a **National Network of Invasive Plant Centers (NNIPC)**. They provide science-based information and services to diverse stakeholders—natural resource managers, researchers, information specialists, policy-makers, and conservationists working with government agencies, tribal nations, universities and private landowners—who are involved with managing terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants on public lands such as parks, refuges, nature preserves, rangelands, roadsides and rights of ways, forested lands, riparian areas, and waterways. Linked together as NNIPC, these organizations will:

- Aggregate and coordinate existing regional information and expertise to efficiently develop and deliver comprehensive national programs.
- Provide a clearinghouse for continuously evolving information such as: Best Management Practices, invasive species alerts, research findings, mapping efforts, and funding and training opportunities.
- Initially, focus on four areas that warrant national discussion and coordination:
 - **Early detection and rapid response (EDRR)**
 - **Cooperative weed management areas**
 - **Economic impacts of invasive plants**
 - **K-12 education and curriculum**

This network will serve as a “virtual national center” for the U.S. without requiring new “brick and mortar” structures or additional layers of administration. The network will work closely with other regional/national organizations and nonprofits such as the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NA-EPPC) and the Western Weed Coordinating Committee (WWCC).

Organizations that have formed this network are those that meet the following criteria: 1) An established organization with professional personnel dedicated exclusively to the center. 2) Work with multiple species primarily in natural areas and minimally managed habitats. 3) A regional, typically multi-state, vision and responsibilities serving diverse stakeholders. 4) Nationally recognized programs, services, and significance. 5) An approach toward integrated natural resource management based on ecosystem sciences. 6) A commitment to networking with and mentoring other groups. Network organizations are *not* regulatory authorities, branches of a government agency, or focused on production agriculture. As a network, NNIPC does not conduct research.

For more information, contact:

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National Network of Invasive Plant Centers (NNIPC)
Jan. 21-22, 2009
Indianapolis, IN

AGENDA

Wednesday, Jan. 21

- 8:00 am Coffee and a bite
Welcome and Introductions
- 8:45 am **The Big Picture: Why build a network?**
- Potential benefits
 - Concerns
- 9:30 am **Our Centers: 30-min Presentations and Q&A**
(Your organization, staff, funding, programs, constituents, areas of expertise, plans for the future...and 3 things that distinguish your organization from others)
- Center for Invasive Plant Management (Liz Galli-Noble)
 - UFL Center for Aquatic Invasive Plants (Karen Brown)
 - Midwest Invasive Plant Network (Kate Howe, Mark Renz)
 - Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (Les Mehrhoff)
 - California Invasive Plant Council (Doug Johnson, *by phone*)
 - Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health (Dave Moorhead)
 - National Association of EPPCs (Chuck Barger)
- Noon **Working Lunch** (*continue familiarizing ourselves with others*)
- The Organizational Landscape Nationally**
- Who's in our networks, individually?
 - Who's being served and who are we missing?
 - What's going on politically?
 - How can we facilitate and build on federal agency efforts?
 - The "national center" idea – how do we fit (or not)?
- Parameters: Who's in NNIPC?**
- Current parameters – do these need to be modified?
 - Multiple levels/categories of membership?
 - Organizational plan for NNIPC
- 6:30 pm **Working Dinner**
Update: Healthy Habitats Coalition, NIWAW

Thursday, Jan. 22

8:00 am Coffee and a bite

8:15 am **Potential Group Projects** (*prioritize; allocate discussion time to each*)

- Compile national list of invasive species lists
- Compile nationally compatible listing criteria
- Assess economic impacts of invasive plants nationally
- Create national EDRR network
- Standardize or list or recommend mapping systems
- National education/awareness program

Noon **Working Lunch** (*continue project discussion*)

1:30 pm **Funding – What can we do together?**

- What do we need?
- Pending requests
- What are potential funding sources?
- Who do we know?
- What can we do legally as far as requesting funding?
- If we received funding as a group, how would we split it?

Communications (internal and external)

- NNIPC website – What do we want? What is the goal? Who is the audience? (30 mins)
- Listserv
- Other group-communication formats

4 pm **Adjourn**

**National Network of Invasive Plant Centers (NNIPC)
Indianapolis, IN - January 21-22, 2009**

MINUTES – Summary

Attendees:

Janet Clark, Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM), Montana State University
Les Mehrhoff, Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE), University of Connecticut
Chuck Barger, Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health (CISEH), University of Georgia (EPPC Representative)
David Moorhead, CISEH, UGA School of Forestry & Natural Resources
Kate Howe, Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN), Purdue University
Liz Galli-Noble, CIPM, Montana State University
Karen Brown, Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants (CAIP), University of Florida
Mark Renz, MIPN president-elect, University of Wisconsin
Doug Johnson, California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) - called in

The Big Picture: Why create a network?

Attendees discussed benefits and concerns regarding a national network of centers. Concerns included:

- National center [new structure, staff] vs a network of existing centers, pros and cons
- Inclusive vs exclusive
- More work for regional centers (altho ideally, a network would reduce workload)
- Peer review – good science should be mandatory
- Funding – how would it be used? What projects? How would we decide?
- Engagement of parties, both within and outside the network

Our Centers: Presentations with Q&A

Attendees gave presentations about their centers, including staff, funding, programs, constituents, areas of expertise, and plans for the future. Attendees recognized many similarities and differences among their organizations. Large percentages of time are spent by all in fundraising rather than serving stakeholders. All need base funding to maintain existing projects.

Parameters: Who's in NNIPC?

The group agreed that it is critical to establish clear parameters for network members. After some discussion, it was decided that organizations will meet the following criteria:

- Focus on invasive plants (not other taxa)
- Service-oriented (bridging audiences, facilitating, extension-like outreach/educ)
- Focus on info collection and dissemination (info synthesis, rapid response)
- Diverse stakeholders
- Networking relationships with on-the-ground folks and other groups
- Geographically diverse
- Existing professional staff & established programs
- Regional, typically multi-state
- Nationally recognized programs, services, and significance
- Ecosystem/landscape/watershed approach; minimally managed habitats
- Ensure communication; mentoring other groups
- A comprehensive program – not a project

- *Not* doing basic/theoretical research or focused on production agriculture; not regulatory; not a government agency

Potential Group Projects

A number of ideas emerged for projects that a network could do more easily than any single center. It was noted that the network would primarily be an aggregator – not a standardizer – of information. The overall goal for the network is to do 85% aggregating & synthesizing info, 15% producing new info and products. Immediate projects (*Note: these are primarily resources that can be compiled and posted on the NNIPC website*):

- Compile list of invasive plant lists
- Compile list of various species listing criteria
- Compile list of mapping options
- Compile list of state regulatory officials
- Compile list of CWMA's in U.S., with map
- Compile list of electronic mailing lists/groups

Longer term projects that need additional funding include:

- Expand *Wildland Weeds* nationally
- Write XML standards for mapping using NAWMA standards
- Compile bibliography (based on CAIP bibliography)
- Volunteer training - jobs? part of stimulus package?
- Establish national EDRR system
- Compile directory of researchers
- Serve as a national distribution network for products
- Mentor other organizations; collaborate widely

Attendees discussed topics for which info aggregation and synthesis is needed at a *national* level. These became the primary NNIPC focus areas for the future (a page for each of these topics will be added to the website):

1. EDRR / mapping (the human/social science side *and* the technical side)
2. CWMA's
3. Economics of invasive plants
4. K-12 education/curriculum (and perhaps adult and/or volunteer training)

NNIPC Funding

All member organizations are on soft money; minimal base funding would help stabilize all the centers. Also, funding for national programs sponsored by NNIPC would be needed. The group agreed to write a Letter of Intent for a grant in the USDA AFRI program; due 4/20/09. The group will also update its one-pager that everyone can use to explain NNIPC to potential funders. If funding becomes available for the network, the group will *collectively* decide whose organization it can be run through and how the dollars will be allocated. It was noted that funding may be passed through NNIPC to other organizations for specific projects.

NNIPC Communications

The group agreed to have monthly conference calls. CIPM will host; calls can be covered by the Western IPM grant for the network. Many thanks to Chuck Barger (UGA-CISEH) for building and maintaining a NNIPC website (<http://www.invasiveplantcenters.org/>) and listserv.

This meeting was funded by a grant from the Western Regional IPM Center, UC-Davis.