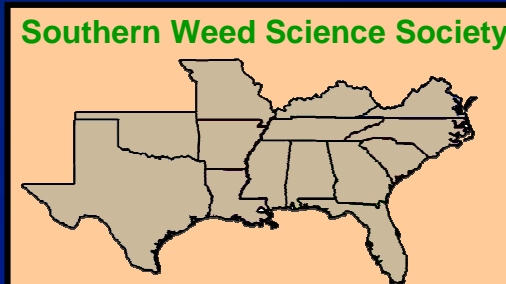
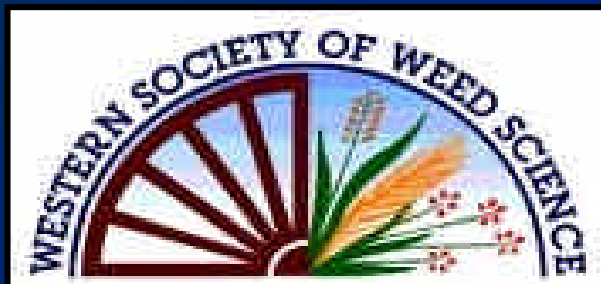
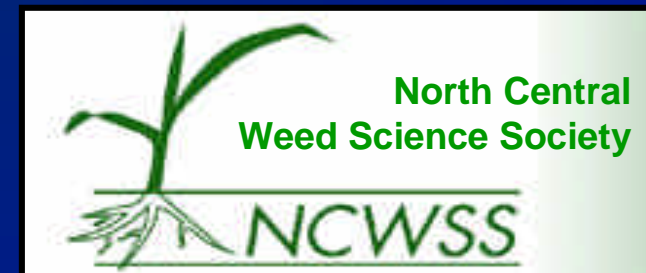


Overview of Federal Programs and Legislation Affecting Invasive Plants

Lee Van Wychen

Director of Science Policy

The National and Regional Weed Science Societies



WSSA Director of Science Policy Challenge...

- About **35** federal agencies & **24** federal laws have some role/impact in invasive species.
- About **300** federal/state/private programs, **140** groups & **170** organizations have at least some involvement with invasive species

The “weed” management challenge.....



People “get”
the invasive
species
message.....

Overview

- 1. WSSA Priorities and Initiatives**
- 2. NIWAW and CEIPSC- What are they?**
- 3. Issues and People in the 110th Congress**
- 4. Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act**
- 5. Other federal issues and policies**
- 6. Take Home Messages**

WSSA Priorities and Initiatives

- **Publish Invasive Plant Management Journal and rebuild wssa.net website**
- **Increase weed and invasive plant research budget**
- **Increase research and conservation budgets in 2007 Farm Bill**
- **Capitalize on EPA's need for research data on invasive plants in wildland areas**
- **Coalition building between wildlife and invasive weed management groups**



Invasive Weed Research \$ in 2007 Budget

- \$8.8 million increase in the USDA NRI program
 - **Biology of Weedy and Invasive Species- \$6.6 million**
- 3% increases in the Hatch and McIntire-Stennis Formula fund programs, the first increase for them since FY1999
 - **\$2.6 million increase for forest and rangeland research**
- \$108,000 increase for the IR-4 program
- Congress provided no taxpayer dollars for:
 - the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act (\$15 million)
 - Bush's new Invasive Species Grant program (\$9.9 million)



NIWAW and CEIPSC- What are they?

- **National Invasive Weed Awareness Week**
 - **Organized** by the Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition
 - **Purpose:** Increase national public awareness about the effects of invasive plants on production agriculture and the ecosystem and to promote solutions
- **Coalition for Eastern Invasive Plant Species Control**
 - **Organized** by individuals concerned about invasive weed management in the eastern 31 states
 - **Purpose:** Coordinate efforts to pass invasive weed legislation and funding for the eastern United States

Why Coalitions ?

“Excuse me Senator, you have an important call from Lee Van Wychen”



Not Likely...

Why Coalitions ?

“Senator, you’ve got to help us with these
invasive weeds”



More Like It...

National Invasive Weed Awareness Week- Spreading the Message



- Invasive plants inflict a heavy toll on our economy and environment.
 - Destroy wildlife habitat
 - Impair native ecosystems
 - Reduce land values
- \$35 billion annually in losses to the U.S. economy
- Invasive plants already infest over 100 million acres.
- An area twice the size of Delaware is lost to invasive plants each year.



National Invasive Weed Awareness Week

www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm

- Keeps growing! 175 attendees from almost 40 states
- Key meetings with USDA, DOI, NISC, FICMNEW, USACE
- NIWAW 8 is FEB 25 to MAR 2, 2007
 - USDA Secretary Johanns will speak on Invasive weeds at USDA session on Feb. 27

**It is useless for the
sheep to pass
resolutions in favor of
vegetarianism while the
wolf remains of a
different opinion.**

William R. Inge

Issues in the 110th Congress

- 1) Senate filibuster and Bush veto will impede the Democrats' agenda
- 2) Most action will occur at the Committee level with hearings and oversight
- 3) Main focus- Renewable fuels and conservation program funding

NCWSS States have Key Committee Chairs- Harkin (IA)



NCWSS States have Key Committee Chairs- Peterson (MN)



NCWSS States have Key Committee Chairs- Kohl (WI)



NCWSS States- Other Key Committee Chairs

- House Appropriations- David Obey (WI)
- House Science- Bart Gordon (TN)
- House Energy and Water Approps Subcommittee- Pete Visclosky (IN)
- Senate Interior Approps Subcommittee- Byron Dorgan (ND)
- Three newly elected Senators on Ag Committee
- Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota

NCWSS States- New Members in the House of Representatives

- IL: Peter Roskam, Phil Hare
- IN: Joe Donnelly, Brad Ellsworth, Baron Hill
- IA: Bruce Braley, Dave Loebsack
- MI: Tim Walberg
- MN: Tim Walz, Keith Ellison, Michelle Bachman
- OH: Jim Jordan, Charles Wilson, Betty Sutton, Zach Space
- WI: Steven Kagen

Main Issues for 2007 Farm Bill

- Renewable Fuels
 - Peterson likely to create 6th Subcommittee on House Ag for renewable fuels
 - It may be time for weed scientists to take a serious look at the feasibility of using weed biomass for energy production
- Conservation programs
 - Harkin is the creator of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in the 2002 Farm Bill which pays farmers for following specific land and water conservation practices.
 - The weed science societies will push for more stringent standards regarding noxious weed control requirements on acres receiving program payments

**When solving problems, dig at
the roots instead of hacking at
the leaves.**

Anthony J. D'Angelo

Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (SCROCDA)

- Public Law 109-320 on October 11, 2006
- Administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Reclamation and the USGS
 - in cooperation with the Secretary's of Ag and Defense
- \$20 million for fiscal year 2006 and **\$15 million** for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2010
 - 75% maximum cost share for NON-Federal lands
- **Sen. Domenici (NM)**- Chairs Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SCROCDA- What it does...

1. Assess the extent of the infestation by salt cedar and Russian olive trees in the western United States
2. Demonstrate strategic solutions for the long-term management of salt cedar and Russian olive trees and the reestablishment of native vegetation
3. Assess economic means to dispose of biomass created as a result of removal of salt cedar and Russian olive trees



SCROCDA - Assessment

\$4 million

- In addition to describing the acreage of and severity of infestation by salt cedar and Russian olive trees
- (A) consider existing research on methods to control salt cedar and Russian olive trees
- (B) consider the feasibility of reducing water consumption by salt cedar and Russian olive trees
- (C) consider methods of and challenges associated with the revegetation or restoration of infested land

SCROCDA- Demonstration Projects

\$7 million

1. Use appropriate time scale to assess long-term management strategies
2. Using 1 or more of the following control methods
 - (i) airborne application of herbicides
 - (ii) mechanical removal
 - (iii) biocontrol methods
3. Assess soil conditions and means to revitalize soils
4. Monitor any water savings including impacts to both groundwater and surface water
5. Assess wildfire & wildlife activity and management

SCROCDA- Biomass Disposition

\$3 million

1. Determine conditions under which removal of biomass is economically viable
2. Build upon existing USDA and other research on beneficial uses of salt cedar and Russian olive tree fiber
3. Consider economic development opportunities, including manufacture of wood products using biomass

Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA)

- Passed the House by 229-193 vote on Sept. 29, 2005
- Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works-
- Two of the most controversial sections of TESRA included:
 - Reimbursing land owners for losses suffered from reintroductions
 - Bringing ESA into compliance with FIFRA
- New Congressional chairs will not touch ESA or NEPA reform bills

EPA Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP)

- Formalizes a lengthy review process about how EPA **addresses concerns about endangered species when it reviews pesticide** registrations
- EPA will implement the ESPP through **pesticide label statements** that refer users to Endangered Species Protection Bulletins.
 - The **bulletins will be issued** when specific pesticide use limitations are necessary to protect federally listed species
- **19,000** formulated products registered under FIFRA with **multiple** uses in **multiple** sites with **different** potentials to affect **1300** endangered species in **2000** US counties

Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act (S.1288/HR.4294)

- Senate- passed on September 29, 2006
- House- sent to Interior for Executive comment
- Gives the National Park Service (NPS) the authority to enter into **cooperative agreements with other public and private landowners**
- 2005 GAO report documented that NPS is the **only Federal land management agency** that lacks this authority

Take Home Messages.....

- Collect economic impact data
- Determine what is the most damaging weed(s) in your area and SELL IT!
- Join the NCWSS and WSSA.... The best source of information out there!
- Attend NIWAW and get involved!

