National Environmental Compliance Handbook

190-610 Preface

PREFACE

The National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH) provides guidance to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) officials about how to comply with Federal environmental requirements when delivering technical and financial assistance.

The objectives of this Handbook are to:
- Improve the quality of plans and decisions by integrating environmental considerations into the planning process;
- Promote efficiency in preparing environmental documentation;
- Provide a systematic framework for integrating the NRCS planning process and environmental requirements; and
- Serve as a reference for NRCS environmental compliance procedures.

610.A.10 – Overview of NEPA Requirements

The National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) is a law passed by Congress in 1969 and signed into law on January 1, 1970. NEPA makes federal agencies accountable to the public for the environmental impacts of their actions.

This chapter of the handbook describes the purposes of NEPA and provides an overview of its requirements. The purposes of NEPA are:
The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership, and takes actions, where practicable, to conserve, preserve and restore existing natural and beneficial functions and values in base (100-year) floodplains as part of the technical and financial assistance program that it administers.

610.F.91 – Invasive Species

An invasive species is an alien species whose presence does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Alien species means species not native to a particular ecosystem. Invasive species may include all terrestrial and aquatic life forms including plants, animals, and fungi.

Executive order 13112, 1999 – Invasive Species - directs Federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause.

NRCS shall not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere.

All NRCS actions and activities shall be planned and implemented with the cooperation of stakeholders. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to, State, Tribal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, the scientific community, nongovernmental entities including environmental, agricultural, and conservation organizations, trade groups, commercial interests, and private landowners.

610.F.92 – Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended, is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States’ commitment to four international conventions (with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia) for the protection of a shared migratory bird resource. Each of the conventions protect selected species of birds that are common to both countries (i.e., they occur in both countries at some point during their annual life cycle).
**WI-CPA-52**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET – REFER TO HANDBOOK FOR EXPLANATION (April 20, 2001)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Federal Program: Could Federal cost share become available? [ ] Yes [ ] No

6. County:

7. Purpose and Need Statement:

8. Description of Proposed Project including No-Action Alternative and any other Alternatives:

9. Name and Title of Person(s) Completing Worksheet and Agencies Consulted:

- This worksheet is used to document the effects a proposed activity may have on natural, human, and cultural resources, in compliance with NEPA and NRCS NEPA Policy (General Manual 190, Section 410).
- For Blocks 38-45: Effects are to be documented for both beneficial and adverse effects. Use “NA” if not applicable. Use “O” for neutral effects. Reference the evaluation procedure used. Attach additional sheets and narrative as necessary.
- Onsite and offsite effects must be documented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Environmental Concerns (Attach Documentation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed or Other Alternatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Onsite and offsite effects must be documented.

### Special Environmental Concerns (Attach Documentation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed or Other Alternatives</th>
<th>10. Present</th>
<th>11. Special Action Needed</th>
<th>Other Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. Prime and Unique Farmland</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Threatened and Endangered Species</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>26. Project within Drainage District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Landscape Resource</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Natural Areas</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Wild and Scenic Rivers</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Wetlands</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Riparian Areas</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Special Aquatic Sites</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Floodplain Management</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Coastal Zone Management Area</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>27. Have required permits been applied for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Stream Channel Modification</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>28. Mitigation required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Cultural Resources</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Invasive Species</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Migratory Birds</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Are there effects on:</td>
<td>33. No Effect</td>
<td>34. Short Term (+)</td>
<td>35. Long Term (+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. SOIL</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Natural soil surface</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Soil fertility</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Unique geologic or natural features</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>29. Public controversy about activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Wind or water erosion</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Prime and Unique Farmland</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Other</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39. WATER</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Stream channel characteristics</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>30. Landowner informed to ID known/visible hazardous/toxic material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Surface water</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Quantity and quality of ground water</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>31. Landowner informed to ID all utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Quantity and quality of surface water</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td>YES/NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23. **Cultural Resources**: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470 et seq); 36 CFR 800, 420 GM 401, 601, Memorandum Of Understanding Between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office: NRCS has the duty under several Federal laws to preserve and prevent the destruction or degradation of significant cultural or historic resources, including archeological sites and traditional cultural places and sacred sites. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and Federally recognized tribes that want to consult on agency projects, as well as other interested parties may be required. See Section 2 in the FOTG for the procedure to notify the SHPO. (See Appendix A for Status Determination Sheets)

24. **Invasive Species**: Executive Order 13112: An invasive species is an alien species whose presence does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The NRCS should not authorize, fund, or carry out actions likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species unless it makes public its determination that the benefits of such actions clearly outweigh the potential harm and finds that all feasible and prudent measures will be taken to minimize the risk of harm. See FOTG for listing.

25. **Migratory Birds**: Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d): Migratory birds are all common birds found in the United States except the house sparrow, starling, feral pigeon, and resident game birds such as pheasant, grouse, quail, and wild turkeys. The Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including the feathers or other parts, nest,
INVASIVE SPECIES

STEP 1. Is the proposed action or activity in an area where invasive species are known to occur or where risk of an invasion exists?

NO [ ] YES [ ] UNKNOWN [ ]

a. If your answer is "No," additional evaluation is not needed concerning invasive species. Document the finding on form NRCS-CPA-52 or equivalent and proceed with planning.
b. If your answer is "Yes," go to step 2.
c. If your answer is "Unknown," consult Section II of the FOTG for a listing of invasive species in the area and/or the appropriate technical specialist to determine the potential for introduction of new invasive species into the area.

STEP 2. Conduct an inventory of the invasive species and identify areas at risk for future invasions. Delineate these areas on the conservation plan map. Have all appropriate tools, techniques, management strategies, and risks for invasive species prevention, control, and management been considered in the planning process?

NO [ ] YES [ ]

a. If your answer is "No," you must consider and include all appropriate factors relating to the existing and potential invasive species for the planning area and repeat step 2.
b. If your answer is "Yes," document the finding, including the reasons, on form NRCS-CPA-52 or equivalent and go to step 3.

STEP 3. Is the proposed action or alternative consistent with the Invasive Species Management Plan and in cooperation with the stakeholders?

NO [ ] YES [ ]

a. If your answer is "No," modify the action and repeat step 3.
b. If your answer is "Yes," document the finding, including the reasons, on form NRCS-CPA-52 or equivalent and proceed with planning.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

STEP 1. Will the proposed action or activity result in a migratory bird or any part, nest or egg of the bird, being pursued, hunted, taken, captured, or killed, or will it result in an attempt to take, capture kill or possessed a migratory bird or any part, nest or egg?

NO [ ] YES [ ]
Subpart B - Policy

414.10 Guidance and Policy Requirements

A. Guidance and requirements in this Subpart are applicable to all NRCS technical and financial assistance involving invasive species and will be followed by all NRCS employees when providing such assistance.

B. Technical Service Providers and other non-NRCS employees will use these invasive species policy requirements when assisting clients with conservation activities for which NRCS has technical and/or financial responsibility.

414.11 NRCS Roles

The roles of NRCS concerning invasive species include the following actions:

(1) Adhering to goals and purposes of the NISMP.

(2) Following and supporting all Tribal, State, and local laws regarding invasive species in the course of giving technical and financial assistance and implementing conservation practices.

(3) Considering environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions when recommending management options for invasive species.

(4) Encouraging the use of native species for a given location and conservation practice in correlation with restoration or containment goals, as for example, ecological site descriptions or other agency-established land-use type classifications.

(5) Evaluating, developing, and/or recommending noninvasive, non-native species in order to meet both the agronomic and conservation objectives of our clientele when native species will not support the conservation needs.
The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.

Plant of the Week

Pacific willow
Salix lucida (Nutt.)Muhl. ssp. lasiandra (Benth.) E. Murr.

Click on the photo for a full plant profile.

Spotlight

Image Gallery Remodel
The PLANTS Image Gallery has been redesigned and enhanced. Search the Gallery by Artist, Image Location, State Distribution, Copyright Status, and more! Improved View and Sort options let you look at 15, 25, 50, or 100 thumbnail images per page. Best of all, synonym names are searched, too. Try Aster or Scorpus to see how this works.
Invasive and Noxious Weeds

NRCS Invasive Species Policy
Invasive Species Executive Order 13112

View Federal and state noxious weed lists, an invasive plant list, or an introduced plant list, each with links to more information.

- Federal Noxious Weed List
- State Noxious Weed Lists
- Federal and State Noxious Weeds
- Weeds of the U.S.
- Introduced Plants of the U.S.

Federal Noxious Weed List

In accordance with the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), the U.S. government has designated certain plants as noxious weeds:

List of Federal Noxious Weeds

State Noxious Weed Lists

The following states have designated certain plants as legally noxious:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alabama</th>
<th>Indiana</th>
<th>Montana</th>
<th>South Dakota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Invasive and Noxious Weeds

Wisconsin State-listed Noxious Weeds
5 records returned

Click on an accepted name below to view its PLANTS Profile with more information, and web links if available. Noxious weeds that are synonyms are indented beneath the current PLANTS accepted name.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Noxious Common Name</th>
<th>State Weed Status†</th>
<th>U.S. Nativity*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIAR4</td>
<td><em>Cirsium arvense</em> (L.) Scop.</td>
<td>Canada thistle</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COAR4</td>
<td><em>Convolvulus arvensis</em> L.</td>
<td>field bindweed, creeping Jenny</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUES</td>
<td><em>Euphorbia esula</em> L.</td>
<td>leafy spurge</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LYTHR</td>
<td><em>Lythrum L.</em></td>
<td>purple loosestrife</td>
<td>NUW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROMU</td>
<td><em>Rosa multiflora Thunb. ex Murr.</em></td>
<td>multiflora rose</td>
<td>NUW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†Code: Weed Status
- NUW: Nuisance weed
- NW: Noxious weed

*Code: U.S. Nativity
- I: Introduced
Invasive plants are introduced species that can thrive in areas beyond their natural range of dispersal. These plants are characteristically adaptable, aggressive, and have a high reproductive capacity. Their vigor combined with a lack of natural enemies often leads to outbreak populations. Invasive aquatic plant species are included in Aquatic Species - Aquatic Plants.

- **Legal Definitions - Executive Order 13112**
  USDA, NAL, National Invasive Species Information Center.
- **Invasive Species Definition Clarification and Guidance White Paper (PDF | 104 KB)**
  Submitted by the Definitions Subcommittee of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) Approved by ISAC Apr 27, 2006.
- **Invasive Alien Species Concepts, Terms and Context (IAS-CTC)**
  CAB International.

**Species Profiles**
Laws and Regulations

Federal Laws and Regulations

Executive Order 13112

On Feb 3, 1999, Executive Order 13112 was signed establishing the National Invasive Species Council. The Executive Order requires that a Council of Departments dealing with invasive species be created. Currently there are 13 Departments and Agencies on the Council.

Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999 - Invasive Species (PDF | 67 KB)
Federal Register: Feb 8, 1999 (Volume 64, Number 25)


- Section 1. Definitions
- Section 2. Federal Agency Duties
- Section 3. Invasive Species Council
- Section 4. Duties of the Invasive Species Council
- Section 5. Invasive Species Management Plan

Media Help

To view PDF files you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer.

To view Flash files you must have Macromedia Flash Player installed on your computer.
FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE (eFOTG)

• Section I
  – Cultural Resources and NHI
• Section II
  – Soil Interpretations
• Section III
  – Quality Criteria
• Section V
  – Physical Effects
Guidelines for Resource Management System
Quality Criteria and Human Considerations

Quality Criteria (QC) establish the minimum level of treatment necessary to adequately address the resource concern that are identified during the planning process for development of a Resource Management System (RMS). The RMS criteria are met when applied planned treatment will resolve all of the identified resource problems according to the QC. The RMS will be considered applied when the conservation practice(s) that make up the system have been installed according to Conservation Practice Standards in Section IV of the Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) and the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP).

In some instances, individual decision maker action cannot solve an existing conservation problem in accordance with these criteria. In these situations, an opportunity exists for group planning, project measures or cross-programmatic activities to meet the respective quality criteria. In cases where the decision maker cannot solve the problem as an individual, the criteria will be met when the land under the control of the decision maker does not adversely contribute to the problem.

The use and implementation of these criteria will be consistent with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. In instances where management of water is restricted because of policy and laws, such as those pertaining to wetlands, the criteria will be met if policy and laws are followed.

The QC for each concern has Conservation Practice Standards listed which may benefit the resource concern. Refer to these practices in Section V, Conservation Effects. The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) worksheet for each practice documents the effects of the conservation practice on the identified resource concern.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Resource Concern</th>
<th>Description of Concern</th>
<th>National Quality Criteria</th>
<th>State Quality Criteria</th>
<th>Measurement Units</th>
<th>Assessment Tools for Quality Criteria Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants | The site has noxious or invasive plants present. | The site is managed to control noxious and invasive plants and to minimize their spread. | N/A | Non Measurable | • Client interviews  
• Inventory site  
• Consult weed management associations  
• Consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies/groups  
• State or local noxious weed list  
• PLANTS Website |
| Plant Condition - Forage Quality and Palatability | Plants do not have adequate nutritive value or palatability for the intended use. | Forage plants are managed to produce the desired nutritive value and palatability for the intended use. | N/A | Non Measurable | • NIRS Forage Quality Analysis (NUTBAL)  
• Plant tissue analysis |
| Plant Condition - Wildfire Hazard | The kinds and amounts of fuel loadings (plant biomass) pose risks to human safety, structures, and resources should wildfire occur. | Fuel loadings are reduced and/or isolated to meet client needs in minimizing the risk and incidence of wildfire. | N/A | Acres/Year – average annual acres protected from wildfire for the field of planning area/unit | • Visual assessment protocols  
• Site and flammable biomass inventories  
• Aerial photo analysis |
Technical Note No. 190–72

March 2007

Noxious, Invasive, and Alien Plant Species: A Challenge in Wetland Restoration and Enhancement
PEST MANAGEMENT
(Acre)
Code 595

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Practice Standard

I. Definition

Utilizing environmentally sensitive prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression strategies to manage weeds, insects, diseases, animals, and other organisms (including invasive and non-invasive species) that directly or indirectly cause damage or annoyance.

II. Purposes

This practice is applied as a component of a Conservation Management System (CMS) or Resource Management System (RMS) to support the following purposes:

- Achieve management objectives for quantity and quality of agricultural commodity, livestock, forage, and aquaculture production, timber production, wildlife habitat management, plant community restoration/management or recreational use.

V. Criteria

A. General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

1. Where pest management is applied, the practice shall be a component of a conservation plan that includes a resource inventory utilizing the process outlined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH). All methods of pest management must be integrated with other components of the conservation plan.

The conservation planning resource assessment shall identify the presence of any known threatened or endangered plant or animal species. The anticipated impacts of pest management alternatives on the threatened and endangered species shall be documented in the conservation planning resource assessment and alternative...
Wisconsin Biology Technical Note 5
Invasive Plant Species Control

This technical note is intended to be used as a guide to control invasive plants, both native and non-native species. This technical note is attached to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Pest Management Standard (595) which will be referenced and followed as well.

Background:
Invasive plants invade native plant communities and impact those communities by displacing or replacing native vegetation. A plant that establishes and invades only in seriously disturbed areas (especially disturbed ground) is defined as a “weed” rather than an “invasive plant.”

Purposes:
This technical note may be applied to support one or more of the following purposes:

- To provide for the control of invasive plant species where commodity crops are not produced. Wild rice is recognized as a specialty crop and not a commodity crop.
Invasive Species

October 2000  Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet  Number 39

Introduction

Invasive species are one of the world’s leading threats to environmental health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, or other types of organisms. In their native range, plant and animal populations are generally kept in balance by factors such as competition, predation, and disease. If introduced into new geographic areas or if environmental conditions change substantially, species are sometimes freed from environmental constraints and can spread rapidly, becoming invasive and potentially overly abundant. Invasive species can have severe economic impacts and can wreak havoc on ecosystems and populations of native animal and plant species (see Key definitions).

Life colonized new areas very slowly as they moved to new areas, bringing with them plants and other animals that were contained in their digestive tracts or stuck to their fur or feathers. In general, the native species were best adapted to local environmental conditions and had an advantage over these new species. Depending on environmental conditions, the new plants and animals either died out or adapted to their new homes. While this process still happens today, the transport of potential invasive species has been accelerated because of increased global commerce. Furthermore, many ecosystems are increasingly susceptible to invasions because they have been degraded by inappropriate land uses.

Many of today’s invasive species are introduced to...
### Invasive Species

#### Table 1 Example assistance programs for Invasive species management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Land eligibility</th>
<th>Opportunities for Invasive species management</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Reserve Program</td>
<td>Up to 50% cost-share for establishing permanent cover and conservation practices, and annual rental payments for land enrolled in 10- to 15-yr contracts</td>
<td>Highly erodible land, wetland, and certain other lands with cropping history, stream-side areas in pasture land</td>
<td>Annual rental payments may include an additional amount up to $5 per acre per year as an incentive to perform certain maintenance obligations including invasive species management activities</td>
<td>NRCS or PSA State or local office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Security Program</td>
<td>Financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes</td>
<td>Tribal and private working lands in selected watersheds, including cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, range land, and forested land</td>
<td>Technical and financial assistance available for invasive species management</td>
<td>NRCS State or local office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Technical Assistance</td>
<td>Technical assistance, including conservation planning, design, and implementation, to help preserve, maintain, and improve natural</td>
<td>Private, Tribal, and other non-Federal lands</td>
<td>Technical assistance available for invasive species management</td>
<td>NRCS State or local office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Invasive Species

**Table 1 Example assistance programs for invasive species management—Continued**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Land eligibility</th>
<th>Opportunities for invasive species management</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands Reserve Program</td>
<td>Up to 100% cost-share and technical assistance to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner under 10-yr contracts, 30-yr easements, or permanent easements</td>
<td>Previously degraded wetland and adjacent upland buffer, with limited amount of natural wetland and existing or restorable riparian areas</td>
<td>Can provide technical and financial assistance for invasive species management provided these activities are consistent with the protection and enhancement of wetland habitats</td>
<td>NRCS State or local office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife at Work</td>
<td>Technical assistance on developing habitat projects into programs that allow companies to involve employees and the community</td>
<td>Corporate lands</td>
<td>Can provide State-specific advice and/or contacts for invasive species management projects</td>
<td>Wildlife Habitat Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program</td>
<td>Technical assistance and up to 75% cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat for 5 to 10 yr</td>
<td>High-priority fish and wildlife habitats</td>
<td>Cost-sharing is available to manage invasive species that have negative impacts on the habitats of declining wildlife species</td>
<td>NRCS State or local office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Federal Law (and funding?)

• Federal Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 – authorizes up to $15,000,000 to go to state recognized “weed management entities”
  – no funds allocated yet, nor have administrative rules been written
USDA Program
Assistance Opportunities
to fund Invasive Plant Control
Conservation Security Program
A new way to think of conservation

- Rewards farmers practicing good conservation
  - Other programs used to fix problems
- Incentives to improve further
- Concentrates on working lands
- Voluntary program authorized in 2002 Farm Bill
For Tier III, evaluate all areas of the operation for General Wildlife Habitat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cropland Habitat (includes hay in rotation)</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3) Is at least 5% of your enrolled production lands in non-cropland vegetative cover which is only disturbed (mowed, grazed, burned) between July 15th and Sept. 15th OR are the disturbances implemented as a part of a Wildlife Management Plan AND is &lt;50% undesirable species?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undesirable Species

Autumn olive
Black locust
Buckthorn, common & glossy
Canada thistle
Crown vetch
Dames rocket
Eastern red cedar
Garlic mustard
Honeysuckles, exotic bush
Japanese barberry
Undesirable Species

Japanese knotweed
Leafy spurge
Multiflora rose
Prickly ash
Purple loosestrife
Reed canary grass
Reed grass, common
Spotted knapweed
Sweet clover, white & yellow
Wild parsnip
### Pasture (only evaluate areas ≥10 acres in size)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Is your pasture management described by one of the following:

- >50% of the grass cover is maintained above 6” in height;
- If grazed <6”, is ≥10 ac. an ungrazed refuge prior to July 15;
- If refuge is grazed prior to May 15, grass height is maintained above 6” in height and is ungrazed between May 15 and July 15.
- Is <50% undesirable species
Vegetation is <50% undesirable species like:

Wild parsnip

Reed canary grass
Woodland Areas

Exclude cattle

Control invasives
CSP Wildlife Enhancements
Biodiversity Enhancements

Remove invasive plants following a plan - $10/ac

Honeysuckle

Multiflora rose
EQIP

NRCS determines eligible Land, based on an identified resource concern.

- cropland

- pasture and rangeland

- private non-industrial forestland

- other farm & ranch lands with an identified resource concern
EQIP - Multiflora rose

- Crawford & Richland Co. LWG identifies Multiflora rose as a priority for 75% c/s assistance

- $5,000 of each allocation set aside in a special funding pool for MFR removal

- 2 acre maximum per contract

-Highest ranked funded until $5,000 gone
EQIP - Multiflora rose

Brush Mgt, **Light**: Flat rate of **$50/acre**

Brush Mgt, **Medium**: Flat rate of **$85/acre**

Brush Mgt, **Heavy**: Flat rate of **$195/acre**

1) hand cut and herbicide
2) mow and herbicide
3) herbicide only
EQIP & Purple Loosestrife

WI first state to use funds for invasive species control under Wetland Restoration & Pest Mgt. practices.
PEST MANAGEMENT 595
Acre

Purpose: To develop a pest management program consistent with selected production goals that is environmentally acceptable.

Applicability: On land where pest control is needed.

Payment Schedule: Payment rate per scenario as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cropland or Hayland</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cropland or Hayland, Variable Rate Technology (VRT)²</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Specialty Crop – Cranberry</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Specialty Crop Orchard</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td></td>
<td>$135.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Aquatic Invasives TRIBAL ONLY, ONE TIME PAYMENT</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td></td>
<td>$650.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Orchards are defined as: apples and cherries. Flat rate for this practice is provided for components contained within the 595 Pest Management Plan including scouting and monitoring for insect pests, diseases, and weeds, record keeping, training, installation of weather monitoring, equipment calibration training, and spray card coverage pattern assessment. All items must be implemented according to the NRCS approved Pest Management strategy by the end of the EQIP contract. Failure to implement all items may result in termination of the contract, and recovery of all funds paid, liquidated damages, and interest charges. If the activities listed above are already being implemented, participants utilizing this scenario must then include the use of reduced-risk pesticides, biologically based pest control, and/or cultural control. All items must be implemented according to the NRCS approved Pest Management strategy by the end of the EQIP contract. Failure to implement all items may result in termination of the contract, and recovery of all funds paid, liquidated damages, and interest charges.

² Participants utilizing this precision agriculture scenario must have access to VRT either through custom applications or through the addition of a VRT device. The device must be capable of monitoring and managing the planting of fields.
GLIFWC given $50,000 for purple loosestrife control on tributaries of the Bad River. Subcontracted with TNC to spray 140 acres. Galerucella beetles introduced in 2000.
EQIP

- $45,000 of EQIP Education funds assisted GLIFWC to establish a Purple Loosestrife website for ID, control, mapping, & brochure.

- NRCS contributions helped publish POOP and Leafy Spurge pamphlets.
EQIP Key Points

For limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers:

- Up to 90 percent cost share or at least 25 percent above the otherwise applicable rate
- Advance payments to cover up to 30% of the cost of materials to install conservation improvements
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Prairie and Oak Savanna restoration, utilizing invasive plant removal, is very popular.

WHIP funds pay to remove:
- honeysuckle & buckthorn;
- prickly ash & box elder;
- wild parsnip & willow
- garlic mustard

Reed canary grass control has NOT been funded
PEST MANAGEMENT 595
Acre

Purpose: To control noxious or invasive plants, where such plants threaten planned wildlife habitats.

Applicability: On land where pest control is needed to create or maintain desired wildlife habitat.

Payment Schedule: Payment rate per scenario as shown in the table below.

Components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control of upland invasives. *</td>
<td>Acre</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* May be used prior to, or after establishment of planned wildlife habitat, but not more than one time in a contract.

Limitations: Payment is limited to installing the conservation practice to the extent necessary to meet the resource concerns addressed by the conservation plan.

Maintenance: Practice will be maintained for a lifespan of 1 year.
WHIP Practices

PRESCRIBED BURNING

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

Invasive species control
WHIP practices

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

Remove undesirable woody vegetation to create or restore desirable habitats for wildlife. Clear brush-infested land having potential to restore grasslands, savannas, and barrens. Treatment consists of mowing, herbicides, cutting or girdling, or stem injection.
WHIP

BRUSH MGT light: <15% woody cover of stems 0-2 inches in diameter. Flat rate of $50/ac
WHIP

BRUSH MGT medium: 15 - 40% of woody cover 0-2” diam. Flat rate of $85/ac

BRUSH MGT heavy: >40% brush 0-2” diam. and/or 25 stems/ac >2” diam. Flat rate of $195/ac
WHIP Key Points

For limited resource, socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers or ranchers, special cost share rates were established:

- Up to 90 percent cost share or at least 25 percent above the otherwise applicable rate

Brush Management Heavy:
- Regular = $195/ac
- Beginning Farmers = $290/ac
- Limited Resource & Socially Disadvantaged = $350/ac;
WHIP practices

FIREBREAK

Mowing or diskimg only: $.04/foot
Mowing and clearing woody stems: $.09/foot
Seeding Firebreaks or Firelanes: $.04/foot
WHIP practices

PRESCRIBED BURNING

Purpose: tool to manage desired wildlife habitat. Used in prairie or savanna/barrens for establishment, restoration, control of invasive plants, or mgt. of plant communities.
PRESCRIBED BURNING (338)
Acres

Purpose: To prepare sites for planting and as a tool to establish and manage a desired wildlife habitat.

Applicability: Used in native grassland plantings, prairie or savanna/barrens establishment, restoration, and management, as well as other wildlife areas.

Payment Schedule: Payment rate per scenario, as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contract Burn, Less than 60 Acres</td>
<td>Ac.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract Burn, 60 Acres or more</td>
<td>Ac.</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: May be used in conjunction with practices 394, 327, 612, 644, & 645

Maintenance: Practice will be maintained for a lifespan of 1 years after year of installation.
WHIP (new)

Eligible Lands:

- Private agricultural land
- Non-industrial private forest land
- Tribal land

Ineligible Lands:

- State, county, or local gov’t land