

Results of the MIPN Research Needs Survey 2006

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The MIPN Research Committee includes Roger Becker, Tim Brother, Rebecca Dolan, Tony Endress, Luke Flory, Kevin Gibson, Kayri Havens, Cindy Hedges, Alice Heikens, Jennifer Hillmer, Kate Howe, Cindy Huebner, Lara Jefferson, Joy Marburger, Susanne Masi, John Masiunas, Dennis McDougall, Scott Meiners, Scott Milburn, Noel Pavlovic, Marcello Pennacchio, Heather Reynolds, Bob Schutzki, Lydia Scott, Sarena Selbo, Melinda Slagle, Don Waller, Jennifer Winkelmann, and Mary Zaander.

Type of Survey: [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)

Contact method: list-serves, contact lists etc

Self-identify as:

Researcher	51
Manager	96
Other	45
Total	192

How **IMPORTANT** is it for researchers and land managers to work together on invasive plant (IP) issues?

	R*	M*
	%	
Low	0	0
Med	8	4
High	92	96

How well are researchers and land managers **CURRENTLY** working together?

	R	M
	%	
Low	45	36
Med	47	54
High	8	10

* By Job Type: R = research, M = management.

What types of IP RESEARCH are most important?

IP Research	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Basic biology	65	53
Test theories of inv.	40	17
Dispersal methods	63	43
Methods to prevent invasion	69	72
Traits of IP's	53	38
Interrel. causes of inv.	60	34
Maps of IP distribution	47	47
Environ. impacts of inv.	66	69
Econ. impacts of inv.	47	44
Benefits of IP mgmt.	28	46

What types of IP RESEARCH are most important?

(cont'd)

IP Research	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Public perception of IP's	21	27
Site charac. favoring inv.	63	38
Control recommendations	73	89
Restoration methods	71	67
Impact of land use on inv.	29	14
Social/political factors	26	15
Risk assessment models	28	19
Early detection methods	73	63
Rapid response plans	57	73

What OTHER types of IP research are important?

'Researcher' Responses

Effects on ecosystem processes

IP interactions with native spp

Population biology

Impact of climate change

Models of dispersal

Pollinator interactions

Chemical ecology

What OTHER types of IP research are important?

'Manager' Responses

Methods to stop internet sale of IP.

How to manage communities of invasive plants to maintain productive habitats for wildlife.

Will invaded communities reach an equilibrium?

Determine true cost to ecosystems and land values.

Evaluate public education approaches.

Impact on forest regeneration.

With **WHOM** do you work on IP issues?

Collaborators	R	M
	% of respondents	
The public	42	79
Educators	47	37
Students	78	46
Commercial operations	20	26
Land managers	67	82
Researchers	89	42

What could be done to help researchers & land managers work together?

	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Research projects at LM's sites	81	62
LM-initiated research projects	46	47
Regional cooperative projects	69	58
Demo/research field trials	53	63
Train LM's in research methods	29	19
Educate R's in LM issues	49	57
State/regional tours	21	28
Conferences for R's & LM's	55	47
Cooperative grant program	75	57

What ELSE could be done to help them **work together?**

'Researcher' Response

Research funds distributed by managers

Joint planning of research projects

Link graduate and undergraduate programs to local managers, with grants.

Cooperative learning groups with two-way information flow between managers and researchers.

Coordinated research with ornamental hort industry.

What ELSE could be done to help them **work together**?

'M' Response

A journal based on invasive plant management.

Joint publication of information.

Create cooperative weed management groups.

Use of a common listserv

Directory of researchers/subjects &
managers/habitats/invasives

Summer research fellowships at managers site

R: What **OBSTACLES** prevent you from working w LM's?

M: What **OBSTACLES** prevent you from working w R's?

Obstacles	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Lack of time	42	60
Lack of money	78	60
Language barrier	12	5
Agency constraints	29	23
Lack of knowledge/skills	10	9
Lack of interest in LM/R issues	2	5
Lack of suitable sites	10	7
Lack of contact with LM's/R's	21	38

R: What OTHER **OBSTACLES** prevent you from working with LM's?

Unable to bridge the academics/manager gap.

Scientific community ostracizes researchers who do practical vs theoretical work.

Land managers not interested in collaboration and participation in grant writing.

Inconsistent management practices.

Distance from research site.

Difficulty finding out who has the relevant experience/expertise.

M: What **OBSTACLES** prevent you from working w R's?

Researchers not uninterested in working with managers (5).

Access and availability of researchers in this area.

Short time frame of research projects.

Too time consuming to work with.

Research not always practical solutions to issues.

R: How could **land managers help you** in your research?

Make their needs known to researchers.

Report invasive species occurrences.

Communicate about appropriate funding opportunities.

Take time to talk about what is happening out on their site, and what their ideas about the research are.

Provide practical suggestions.

Keep consistent management and records from year to year.

They already help greatly. (6)

M: What resources can you offer researchers?

Field sites for experimentation (>50)
* specific species, habitats etc

Volunteer and other personnel.

Management history, site data, maps etc



R: What **INFO** do land managers need to deal w IP issues?

M: What **INFO** do you need to deal with IP issues?

Needed Info	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
BMP's for control/restoration	84	90
Summaries of current research	49	58
Management abstracts	27	54
Species abstracts	20	40
Species ID	78	50
Control recommendations	82	92

R: What **INFO** do land managers need to deal w IP issues?

M: What **INFO** do you need to deal with IP issues?

(cont'd)

Needed Info	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Early detection guidelines	67	47
Watch lists	64	42
Basic biology	30	29
Distribution maps	49	36
Site charac. that favor inv.	52	37
Methods to prevent disp./estab.	84	65

Which **SOURCES** are most important for IP info?

Sources of Info	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Websites	47	74
Extension publications	40	45
Field trials/demos	28	38
Conferences/workshops	51	42
ID cards	7	20
Popular press	7	12
Trade journals	13	20

Which **SOURCES** are most important for IP info?

(cont'd)

Sources of Info	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Books	20	19
Listservs	13	34
Library	34	8
Personal contact w/ LM's	57	76
Personal contact w/ R's	76	49
Scientific journals	81	40

What types of **HABITATS** should IP research focus on?

Habitats	R	M
% rated 'High'		
Riparian	88	76
Woodland	82	74
Lakes/waterways	67	75
Waste areas	8	11
Roadsides/railways	37	46
Utility ROWs	25	39
Agricultural land	21	13
Parks/rec areas	56	51
Nature preserves	82	85
Industrial sites	4	6

What OTHER habitats should IP research focus on?

	<u>Research</u>	<u>Management</u>
Grassland	2	5
Wetlands	9	7
Urban landscape	3	5

What are the best ways to **RAISE AWARENESS** and **EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS** about IP issues?

Approaches	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
Extension bulletins	20	43
Handouts/pamphlets	18	35
Posters	9	26
Billboards	26	33
Greater media attention	73	71
Radio/TV announcements	37	52
Adds on milk cartons, etc.	9	19
K-12 education	59	40

What are the best ways to RAISE AWARENESS and EDUCATE STAKEHOLDERS about IP issues?

(cont'd)

Approaches	R	M
	% rated 'High'	
GIS maps of IP's	33	28
Tours	31	38
Websites	47	54
Training sessions	34	46
Conferences	20	31
Volunteer programs	42	45
Citizen science programs	51	38