

**Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
FY 1999 Work Plan
October 1999-October 2000**

Activities outlined in the third Western Regional Panel (WRP) Work Plan were identified at the annual meeting of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species held in Austin, Texas, October 1999 and subsequent Coastal and Inland Committee Meetings. The overriding goal of the third year is to create a rapid response protocol and to refine development and implementation of a coordinated comprehensive approach to prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species and brown tree snake among state, provincial, tribal, federal, industrial, conservation and research entities in the western region. The work plan is currently being supported by in-kind contributions of Panel Members. *Additional funding or in-kind contributions are necessary to conduct specific projects which cannot be conducted by Panel members individually.

Overall Panel Objectives

All committees identified several priorities for the development of a coordinated comprehensive approach to prevention and control of aquatic nuisance species in the western region;

1. Development of Model ANS Programs including Invasive Species Coordinators, Statewide Invasive Species Councils, and State Plans; 2. Development and implementation of an effective communication network for the western region regarding ANS issues and concerns. 3. Development of a Rapid Response Protocol. These needs will be met by addressing the following objectives:

Objective 1 Development of Model ANS Programs including Invasive Species Coordinators, Statewide Invasive Species Councils, and State Plans.

The WRP and respective committees identified the critical need for establishing invasive species programs and funding mechanisms within state administrative structures. Section 1204 of NISA encourages development of state and regional ANS management plans and provides a funding opportunity for such plans. In order to promote establishment of program and funding within state administrative structure; the WRP will develop a model state invasive program including identification of current authorities, funding and barriers to development of model program.

- ✧ A first draft of a model state invasive program is being developed by Washington Department of Wildlife. The model will be distributed through the WRP and WGA.

Lead: Scott Smith Washington Department of Wildlife

November 1999

- ✧ Facilitate Development and Adoption of ANS Management Plans throughout Western Region. The importance, advantages, and need for individual state management plans for invasive species activities were discussed and identified as a priority of the Inland and Coastal Committees. An important outcome of this process is a coordinated approach to

management. As well, heightening the profile and awareness of ANS to state representatives and other agencies is an essential step to the management process. The process of developing state plans brings state representatives together to focus on management issues and reduces fragmentation (and duplication) of management strategies. Presently, Washington has an ANSTF approved and USFWS funded state management plan for ANS. California(San Francisco Bay-Delta, Sacramento-San Joaquin rivers and their watersheds) and Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Directors Council are developing regional invasive species management plans though the CRFWDC has placed the plan on hold at this time.

Support State and Regional Planning Workshops on development of state plans. Identify locations for presentation of state workshops to be presented to across the west.

Lead WRP Coordinator

October 2000

- ✧ The WRP will send out the criteria for eligibility for federal funding with respect to state management plans. Since many states (and provinces) do not have state management plans, a 'tool kit' will be developed to aid members in developing plans. Efforts will be made to inform the Western Governors Association about specific issues.

Coordinator

March 1999

Objective 2 Development and implementation of an effective communication network for the western region regarding ANS issues and concerns.

- ✧ In order to effectively communicate WRP ANS issues and concerns, a WRP. pamphlet tailored to specific administrative audiences will be developed.

Lead: Regional Water Quality Board (Marsha Brockbank), California Sea Grant (Jodi Cassell) and USFWS (Linda Drees).

September 2000

- ✧ Refinement and operation of an E-mail reflector for WRP members. The E-mail reflector is used to communicate rapidly and efficiently topics such as; new ANS legislation, research on ANS species. The reflectors has been developed and is maintained by California Department of Water Resources.

Lead CA EXCOM

Ongoing

- ✧ Development and implementation of a Coastal Committee Listserv for committee members to share information on; 1) proposed importation or movements on ANS, 2)State ANS Management Plans and plans in development, 3) coordinating comments on proposed legislation and draft regulations, 4) emergency response plans, 5) coordinating educational approaches and outreach products, and 6) facilitating and improving coordination of ANS monitoring efforts coast wide.

Lead Coastal Chair and Vice Chair Ongoing

- ✧ Refinement and operation of a Western Regional Panel ANS web page. This page highlights WRP activities, western region species of concern, monitoring, control and prevention programs, and provides links to other valuable ANS resources.

Lead Federal Chair Ongoing

- ✧ The Internet Western Region ANS Resource-Species Matrix developed in 1999 will be refined and distributed in 2000. The importance of identifying specific state/federal/provincial contacts was identified. Contacts are to be identified from those agencies working on specific aquatic nuisance species (plants, fish, invertebrates, etc.), whether or not western states/provinces have an aquatic nuisance species coordinator. Aquatic nuisance species are to be identified in the matrix to fill the information gap of what species are present, and what agency/person is coordinating control/monitoring efforts. The matrix identifies state, federal, provincial, tribal, and non-governmental representatives to aid in the coordination of invasive species activities. The matrix will identify whether or not a species is present, and if it is managed on any state or other level.

Lead Alternate California Chair, Nate Dechoretz September 1999
At Large Chair Mark Sytsma

- ✧ Establishment and maintenance of a WRP liaison within the Western Governors Association (WGA) to facilitate meeting mutually identified ANS prevention and control goals and objectives in partnership with the State executive branch in the western region.

Lead: WRP -WGA liaison Ongoing

Objective 3 Development of a Rapid Response Protocol

New exotic invasions into the western region, such as Giant Salvinia in the Colorado River and zebra mussels in the Missouri River have highlighted the need to develop an emergency response protocol for state, federal, tribal and private sector entities. The protocol would provide guidance on how to rapidly respond to these invasions. Early detection and rapid response provide an opportunity to eradicate species before economic and ecological impacts occur. However, several barriers have been identified to instituting a rapid response such as Endangered Species Act and NEPA coordination and compliance.

- ✧ The WRP will identify and categorize barriers (legislative, administrative, technical) to rapid response coordination and supply recommendations for overcoming barriers.

Lead Inland Committee Chairs February 1999

- ✧ The WRP and develop Emergency Response Guidelines October 2000

- ✧ The WRP will develop a step down document for the Emergency Guidelines using zebra mussels to illustrate use of the Guidelines October 2000

Objective 4 Panel Support for Implementation of the 100th Meridian Initiative to prevent or slow the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance west of the 100th Meridian.

At the introductory forum of the WRP, a number of pathways and vectors for introduction of aquatic exotics into the west were identified including ballast water, commercial and public sector movement of animals and plants, and recreational and commercial boat traffic. These pathways and vectors were also identified in the USFWS study entitled the “The Feasibility of Preventing Further Invasion of the Zebra Mussel into the Western United States” One of the roles of the Panel identified in Sec. 1203 of the National Invasive Species Act is to make recommendations to the Task Force regarding an education, monitoring (including inspection), prevention, and control program to prevent the spread of the zebra mussel west of the 100th Meridian pursuant to section 1202(I) of the Act. The 100th Meridian Initiative meets a significant objective of this section by addressing the vector of commercial and recreational boats carrying ANS through the west via overland routes. The WRP will be actively supporting the 100th Meridian Initiative through the following activities.

- ✧ Implementation of selected strategies; including operation of boat education stations in 100 the Meridian States by State Members

Lead USFWS (Bob Pitman and Linda Drees), State Members October 2000

- ✧ 100th Meridian Strategy Review Workshop -Nebraska

Lead USFWS(Bob Pitman and Linda Drees), State Members March 2000

Objective 5 Preparation of annual report on WRP activities for submission to ANS Task Force.

Lead WRP Coordinator Due Date April 2000

Coastal Committee

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GOAL STATEMENT: Stop or reduce the spread of ANS in the Coastal Zone. For the purposes of this committee the Coastal Zone is defined as marine and tidally influenced estuarine areas on the West Coast.

A major function of the Western Regional Panel Coastal Committee is to serve as a resource for networking/linking groups and individuals involved in coastal research, education, and management of ANS in the Western States. The committee will provide a forum for groups to share the status of ongoing ANS management activities, to secure input on activities and work products, and to plan and implement joint projects. To achieve these coordination goals, the committee will meet at least twice per year, with additional meetings and conference calls as needed. A listserv has also been generated for committee members to share information.

The committee will perform a number of specific coordination functions including: 1) sharing information on proposed importation or movements on ANS, 2) sharing state ANS Management Plans and plans in development, 3) coordinating comments on proposed legislation and draft regulations, 4) sharing emergency response plans, 5) coordinating and sharing educational approaches and outreach products, and 6) facilitating and improving coordination of ANS monitoring efforts coast wide.

Objective I General Coordination A major function of the Western Regional Panel Coastal Committee is to serve as a resource for networking/linking groups and individuals involved in coastal research, education, and management of ANS in the Western States. Coordination will be achieved via biannual meetings, conference calls, and email communication. We will also research and provide guidance on management approaches, and provide this information to the WRP. Specific workplan items are detailed below.

- ✧ Meet biannually and hold conference calls every other month to share information and resources.
- ✧ Maintain coastal listserv

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| Lead Chair and Vice Chair | Through 2000 |
| ✧ Listing of priority west coast and estuaries for rapid surveys. | |
| Lead Andy Cohen and Ted Grosholz | September 2000 |
| ✧ Development of coastal research/management priority list in conjunction with Coastal Society Meeting. | |
| Lead Coastal Co-chairs Chair | September 2000 |

Inland Committee

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The Commonality of this Committee: To prevent or slow the inland spread of nuisance aquatic species in western North America.

There are a number of unique factors that separates the Inland Committee from the Coastal Committee other than mere geography. The variety of species of concern to inland western states and provinces considered to be exotic and invasive separates the two committees, as does the potential pathways of introduction, and public education strategies. While we recognize that there

are certain commonalities between the two committees none were summarized for this discussion. This committee placed a high importance on communication and co-ordination between state and federal representatives of various agencies.

Objective 1 Inclusion of WRP Invasive Component in Lewis and Clark Commemoration(2003-2006). Boat traffic during Lewis and Clark Commemoration (2003-2006) may affect invasive species transfer issues. A number of opportunities exist for education of those participating in commemoration which the WRP should utilize.

- ✧ Inland committee will seek to have a WRP representative on Lewis and Clark Planning Committee - The Committee will send a Letter to Planning Committee through ANSTF requesting representation on the Planning Committee

Lead Coordinator Due Date April 2000

- ✧ Members of the WRP will participate the 100th Meridian Strategy Meeting in Council Bluffs, Iowa to assess past activities and consider amendments to the Strategy to incorporate Lewis and Clark Commemoration Events.

Lead Coordinator Due Date March 2000

Objective 2 Development of Management/Research Priorities for Inland ANS.

- ✧ Development of a management/research priority list will be developed to provide a As resources for management and research on ANS become available within non-governmental organizations, state, provincial, and federal agencies and tribal governments. The draft listing will be provided to WRP members for analysis, amendment and final adoption at annual Panel meeting in September 2000.

Lead Mark Sytsma Due Date Sept. 2000