

National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Four Points Sheraton, Washington, DC

Jan. 10-14, 2010

Invasive species (harmful non-native species) are one of the most significant drivers of global change. Consequently, they can have substantial impacts on the economy, infrastructure, and human health. Thus far, funding, legal authorities, and personnel have been inadequate to address the problem. For the U.S. “green agenda” to be successful, the government must address invasive species as a priority.

A broad coalition of agencies and organizations will host a lively, high-profile summit in Washington, DC, to:

- ✓ Call attention to invasive species issues – targeting Congress and Federal agencies
- ✓ Generate action – empowering new policies and adequate funding
- ✓ Build a national grassroots network – working together to limit the impacts of invasive species

Titled “*Invasive Species: Change and Dollars*,” the conference will be organized thematically and in the context of *securing adequate resources to address invasive species in a time of global change*. The three inter-related themes are:

- **Climate Change**
- **Energy (including biofuels)**
- **The “Green” Economy**

Organizers: The event is organized by a national, bi-partisan coalition of groups representing private citizens, local and state natural resource and agriculture agencies, academia, professional scientific societies, environmental organizations, and businesses such as nurseries and the pet industry that are affected by non-native, invasive species.

Attendees: Notable spokespersons, Federal agency and Congressional leadership, and leading experts in climate change, energy, and the “green economy” will be invited to present information, recommendations, and responses. It is expected that several hundred people from across the U.S. will attend this inaugural event. Broad media coverage will be arranged.

Long-Term Goals

Minimize the impact of invasive species in a time of rapid, global change by achieving:

- ❖ Higher prioritization and increased resources for invasive species management on public and private lands and waters.
- ❖ New and improved laws and policies to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species within the U.S., across borders, and among trading partners.
- ❖ Rapid access to credible scientific data and its timely application to policy and management decision-making.
- ❖ Effective coalitions and networks focusing on invasive species issues.

And, ultimately...

- ❖ **A secure, “green” economy.**
- ❖ **Sustainable, resilient ecosystems that support all forms of life on Earth.**

www.nisaw.org

For more information:

- Dr. Lee VanWychen (Weed Science Society of America) tel. 202-746-4686, lee.vanwychen@wssa.net
- Janet Clark (Center for Invasive Plant Management) tel. 406-994-6493, janet.clark@montana.edu
- Dr. Jamie Reaser (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) tel. 434-990-9494, pjacsscience@nelsoncable.com