

NAISMA NEWS

North American Invasive Species Management Association Newsletter

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Support for Bio Control Development

Aaron Foster | Fremont County Weed & Pest District, WY

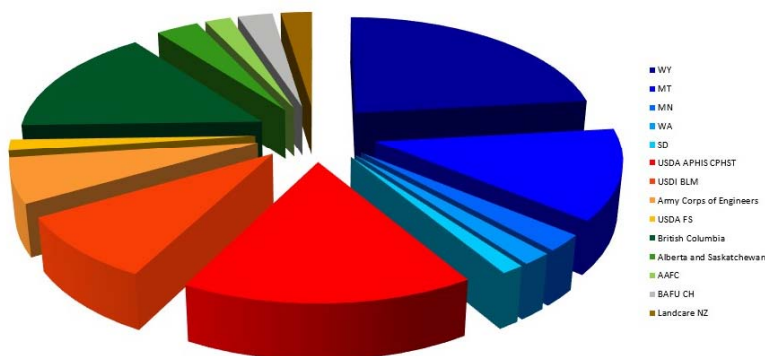
NAISMA seeks to increase the number of contributors towards current biocontrol projects to lessen the burden on the major contributors and continue biocontrol agent development for invasive species management.

NAISMA supports the development and use of biological control agents for the management of invasive species. Biological control, or biocontrol, is a useful and viable tool in the invasive species manager's tool box. Often, biocontrol may be the only economically sustainable control option. The process of foreign exploration, host specificity, and introduction of potential biocontrol agents takes many years and does not come without expense. Unlike the development of pesticides, private companies will not take on the costs of biocontrol agent development because of the low return potential on their investment. Funding the process for getting a new biocontrol agent into the manager's toolbox is currently supported by a small number of interested states, provinces, and government agencies. Long term support for new biocontrol agent development is threatened by a low number of interested parties sharing the costs.

A large portion of sponsorship goes towards CABI (www.cabi.org), a research organization whose bio control work is based in Delémont, Switzerland. CABI collaborates with groups such as the USDA Agricultural Research Service's European Biological Control Laboratory (www.ars-ebcl.org) and the Biotechnology and Biological Control Agency (www.bbcaonlus.org) among others. The following chart illustrates the total cost of CABI's research in 2014 and the sponsoring contributions.

Funding by sponsor in 2014

Total: \$US 1'208'023



USA: 74.5% Canada: 20.4% CH: 2.7% NZ: 2.4%



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Through sponsor support, CABI has helped bring a number of successful agents into the U.S. and Canada. Including, but not limited to, the Dalmatian toadflax stem mining weevil *Mecinus janthinformis*, the purple loosestrife beetles *Galerucella spp*, and recently two insects which attack Russian knapweed, the gall forming midge *Jaapiella ivannikovi* and gall forming wasp *Aulacidea acroptilonica*.

Contributions for overseas biocontrol development come from a short list of entities. In 2014, five US states contributed to CABI projects followed by four US agencies, two Canadian provinces, New Zealand and Switzerland. The following list illustrates these contributions as a percent of the total \$1.2 million.

2014 USA states contributing to CABI projects, percent of total

Wyoming 23.4%
Montana 14%
Minnesota 2.3%
South Dakota 2.2%
Washington 1.7%

2014 USA agencies contributing to CABI projects, percent of total

USDA APHIS CPHST 16.7%
USDI BLM 7.8%
Army Corp 6.3%
USDA FS 1.6%

2014 Canadian contributions to CABI, percent of total

British Columbia 13.5%
Alberta & Saskatchewan 3.3%
Alberta Agriculture and Food Council 2%
Other contributions to CABI, percent of total
Landcare NZ 2.4%
BAFU CH 2.8%

The burden of funding biocontrol agent development should not be left to just a few sponsors.

Nineteen projects affecting North America are currently being focused on by CABI. Russian knapweed has two insects that have recently been approved by the USDA, are in the U.S. and will become more widely available for distribution. CABI is completing research on other insects which either have been approved by TAG (Federal Technical Advisory Group) or will soon have petitions submitted to TAG. These include two new gall forming weevils for use on Dalmatian and yellow toadflax, a mite for white top, a seed feeder for Dyer's woad, and a seed feeder for houndstongue. In addition, there are other insects being studied which have promise for the control of these nineteen weeds.

Please consider talking with your local state associations or governments on ways they can help support.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)

is coming up at the end of February. Sample press releases and flyers can be acquired by contacting Julie Kraft at Julie Kraft jewelyjoe@hotmail.com.

We invite you to consider how you and your organization might celebrate the week and use these tools to alert your organization members, partners and clients.



GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BRUSH OFF.
Clean Your Gear Before Entering
And Before Leaving The Recreation Site.

NAISMA National Invasive Species Awareness Week
February 22-28th, 2015
PlayCleanGo.org

PRIDE “Teams Up” on Yellow Flag Iris Control

Kristi Paul | Sheridan County Weed Superintendent

Concern has been growing about the increased infestation of non-native yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) within the Niobrara River channel in Sioux County, Nebraska. This has prompted the PRIDE Weed Management Area to assist in initiating project to control yellow flag iris.

The Cook family first introduced the yellow flag iris 25 miles south of Harrison at Agate Springs Ranch around 1906. For many years, the iris spread slowly downstream from Agate Ranch. However, in the last several years, it has spread significantly downstream within the Niobrara River channel. The infestation traverses the 3010-acre Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (AFBNM) and onto adjoining private landowners east of AFBNM. It now invades an estimated nine miles of the Niobrara River. This expansion has been uncontrolled partly because the iris has been considered a pretty wildflower and not necessarily an invasive plant out of place! The dense monoculture of the plant has out-competed native plants and altered the water flow in some areas.

On private lands where livestock graze the yellow flag iris under a short-duration, high-intensity livestock grazing system, the infestation is much lighter. Even though yellow flag iris is known to be toxic to animals and fish, the ranchers have not noticed any toxic effects to cattle that are allowed to graze yellow flag iris at early growth stage.

AFBNM has a much heavier infestation of yellow flag iris. Current land management policy at the national monument does not allow for cattle or bison grazing. However, the value of large ungulate grazers as a prairie management tool is recognized, and it may become an option in the future. Another available tool is prescribed fire. Although burning improves upland grassland health, the scientific literature and the monument’s prescribed fire experience suggests that it is largely ineffective for controlling the iris.

Sioux County Weed Superintendent, Sioux County Board of Commissioners, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Agate Springs Ranch Foundation, and PRIDE are teaming up with private landowners and AFBNM to control the infestation, educate the public about the invasive non-native iris plants, and complete much-needed local research for best control methods for yellow flag iris. A literature search shows that very little, if any, research has been completed on yellow flag iris in Nebraska or Colorado.

The project partners have plans for several events and phases of the project. The first step is to map the infestation. Although the project area has been defined, the downstream area will be inspected to see if the infestation has spread further than expected. Then research will be done by implementing plots to test the success of using mechanical control, herbicide control, re-vegetation, and combinations of control methods. Jordan Spaak, a graduate student in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship at Colorado State University, will use this project for his Master’s Degree in rangeland ecology.

Another step is to educate the public. For years, AFBNM staff has invited the public to view the blooming iris and enjoy the beauty! It is important for the public to understand about the invasive nature of

the iris and the benefit of controlling it. Educational kiosks and wayside signs will be placed at the monument’s Fossil Hills Trail Bridge, the former Fishing Access, and in or near the Visitor Center to explain how the plants got here, how



Vancouver NAISMA Conference 2015

The Conference Committee is busy at work putting together what we think will be an incredible conference for our membership in Vancouver October 18-21, 2015. We are currently working on our line up of speakers and look forward to running sessions that we hope offer something for everyone. In addition to having speakers under the topics:

Rangeland and Riparian Management
Management and Technology
Pesticide Program Protection
Early Detection Rapid Response

We will be hosting two major summits. One Biocontrol Summit and an Education and Marketing Summit. These summits will be looking to paint the current picture in the invasive species management world under these topics, feature some current projects, discuss successes and challenges and lead discussion on where we go from here.

The Committee is looking for speakers under all of these topics as well as keynotes on interesting invasive species management topics and will be sending out a call for speakers by the end of this week. If you know of someone who would you would like to hear speak in Vancouver, please email me at jennifergrenz@gmail.com so I can go ahead and reach out to these folks.

We are excited to feature some of the unique work happening in the province of BC including topics such as new prevention programs, working in the urban environments, dealing with public perception and pesticide use and innovative ways to protect our control programs. We are also planning a great tour that will show off the challenges of working in a region that encompasses both metropolitan and wilderness areas, species unique to our area, new invaders causing significant problems and of course, just how darn beautiful a place this is!

I hope that all of you will be able to join us and see what BC has to offer. It will be a memorable trip I am sure and there is much to see and do to take advantage of the trip here. You will be coming during prime salmon fishing season! The birding is excellent and if you want a taste of the big city, the dining and shopping is endless (and our dollar isn't so great right now).

So come on up to the great white north (well the tropical part of it anyways) and look for registration information on the website soon.

Picture Requests

Website Administrator Kellie Sellers is requesting current and historic NAISMA conference pictures. Please submit photos to her directly at scwpoffice@gmail.com

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