EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-09

Invasive Species Advisory Council

WHEREAS, Arizona's land, water, and other resources face severe impacts from harmful, unwanted non-native ("invasive") plant and animal species that are increasing yearly in number and area in Arizona and throughout the Southwest; and

WHEREAS, these impacts result in ecological damage to Arizona's natural environments, economy and human health including by: (1) decreasing land productivity; (2) impairing water quality and reducing water yield; (3) increasing instances of livestock poisoning; (4) degrading fish and wildlife habitat; (5) impairing forest and rangeland health by altering natural or desired fire regimes; (6) creating disease vectors; (7) increasing allergens; (8) increasing erosion and watershed degradation; (9) altering landscapes that affect visual aesthetics; and (10) destroying agricultural crops, wetlands, waterways, and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, Arizona lacks coherent organization of its invasive species policies and would benefit from a comprehensive review of existing policies across and within agencies to ensure they are up-to-date, consistent, coordinated, and targeted appropriately; and

WHEREAS, prevention, early detection, rapid response, and eradication are the most effective and least costly strategies to combat new biological invaders before they expand beyond control; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the above strategies requires leadership by the state of Arizona and coordination with federal, tribal, international, and local partners and other stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order as follows:

1. The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council ("Advisory Council") is hereby established under the joint leadership of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona Department of Agriculture.

2. The Governor shall appoint the members of the Advisory Council who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

3. The Advisory Council shall not exceed 27 members, and members shall have experience in invasive species management.

4. The Advisory Council shall include representation from each of the following:
    - Native American community
    - Agricultural interests
    - Conservation community
    - Forest health management interests
    - Ranching industry

- Nursery and landscape industry
- Pet industry
- Mining industry
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas, invasive species council, or vegetation management association
- Federal agencies with an interest in invasive species management
- Academic community
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona Department of Agriculture
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- Arizona State Land Department
- Arizona State Parks
- Office of the Governor

5. Each state agency and department identified as a participant on the Advisory Council is directed to conduct an evaluation of its current statutory authorities, rules and programs relevant to invasive species management and submit the results thereof to the Advisory Council by December 31, 2005. This evaluation shall include, but is not limited, to the following:

    a. Current invasive species management activities;
    b. Current statutory authorities;
    c. Opportunities to create efficiencies and improve coordination among and between agencies;
    d. Amount of funds spent annually on invasive species management activities in the three fiscal years immediately preceding the adoption of this Executive Order.

6. The Advisory Council shall:

    a. Develop a consensus vision for a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach to invasive species management in Arizona and develop recommendations on how to coordinate between private, local, tribal, state and federal entities on invasive species management efforts and issues;
    b. Make recommendations for the definition of "invasive species" for Arizona;
    c. Identify duplications and inconsistencies among and within agencies;
    d. Identify gaps in state invasive species programs
    e. Develop recommendations for a statewide invasive species management plan to guide state actions in addressing the invasive species issue. The Advisory Council shall consider the following components in developing such recommendations:
        - Current invasive species management situation and capabilities within Arizona;

- Goals and objectives for invasive species management, including the areas of early detection, rapid response, prevention, control and restoration;
- Relationship and definitions of invasive species categories, including regulated and non-regulated species;
- Organization and steps necessary to position Arizona as a leader in invasive species management;
- Funding and resources needed to conduct management activities;
- Role of Cooperative Weed Management Areas and other types of volunteer groups focused on invasive species;
- Inventory, monitoring, mapping and data management;
- Awareness, education and outreach;
- Compliance and enforcement;
- Integrated invasive species management principles; and
- Actions for implementation, evaluation and adaptive management.

7. The Advisory Council shall submit recommendations to the Governor for a statewide invasive species strategic plan by June 30, 2006.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capital in Phoenix, Arizona this the 1st day of April, Two Thousand Five and of the Independence of the United States the Two Hundred and Twenty Ninth.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE