

**Subject of Action Item:**

Invasive Species

**Submitted By:**

Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) and NASDA Staff

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| Committee: RDFS<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted by NASDA<br><input type="checkbox"/> Adopted with Amendment<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted |
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**Text of Action Item:**

NASDA should reach out to the Western Governors Association (WGA) and the Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC) to maximize the efforts of all involved in elevating invasive species issues. NASDA should invite those persons interested in this issue to consider establishing a coalition, formal or informal, to better focus attention on the issues.

**Background and Rationale:**

Invasive species continue to be a concern of NASDA members. Every year new outbreaks are found and affect agriculture, the environment and quality of life. Most of these invasions are an unintended consequence of global trade, although they also can be purposeful introductions by terrorists, or an unintended consequence of some other action or the result of weather conditions. Vigilance is necessary at all times and turns.

NASDA has a long history of seeking and supporting the federal government’s role in preventing, eradicating or controlling native and non-native pests and diseases and the expansion of states efforts to identify, respond to, eradicate and or control plant pests and diseases (insects, disease, weeds and other pests). These come through pursuing appropriations for federal and state early detection and rapid response programs, risk based programs, support for research and survey advancements and funding for management and control options.

The Western Governors Association (WGA) recently passed a resolution supporting “coordinated, multistate management and eradication actions to limit or eliminate intentional and unintentional introductions and improve control of invasive species” (copy attached). In addition and in concert with the WGA actions, a coalition of interested parties known as the Healthy Habitats Coalition (HHC) has also formed to advance programs to accomplish the goal of eradication of non-native pests and diseases and management or control of native pests that invade other areas of the country.

NASDA’s focus on invasive species encompasses supporting:

- Appropriations to expand the amount of federal dollars available to deal with emergency and program efforts (CAPS program, APHIS budget, early detection – rapid response, research, development and implementation of management and control programs),
- Expansion of Farm Bill programs and
- Other efforts to advance knowledge of the problems and solutions to deal with them.

NASDA welcomes additional support in elevating these issues to more decision-makers’ awareness and seeking expanded funding to accomplish the goals and should reach out to the WGA and the HHC to maximize the efforts of all involved.

In addition, the critical nature of this issue and the disparate yet related agendas of the various parties seeking governmental attention to these issues lead to the need for a more coordinated effort to accomplish the collective goals of those interested in eliminating native and non-native invasive species that affect agriculture, forestry, the environment and our quality of life. NASDA should invite those persons interested in this issue to consider establishing a coalition, formal or informal, to better focus attention on the issues.