

NAEPPC Advocacy Strategy for Spring 2007

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For the Policy Committee of the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC)

This is an excellent opportunity to act together!

This spring's federal legislative season offers an excellent opportunity for EPPCs and other groups to work on issues of common interest. Together we can make our voices heard.

This document gives instructions for participating in our strategy. Footnotes contain additional detail for those interested, but they are not necessary to your participation.

If advocacy is new for your group, the Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest (www.clpi.org) is a good resource. Feel free to contact me with any questions (contact info above).

Our goals

Two federal positions were adopted by NAEPPC at its meeting in Flagstaff last September:

NAEPPC Position 1: Support appropriation of \$15 million/year for PL-108-412 to fund local weed management entities (such as Cooperative Weed Management Areas).¹

NAEPPC Position 2: Support passage of the *Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act* (S. 241, Wyden, D-OR), allowing the National Park Service to work with neighboring landowners on resource management.²

Achieving appropriations for PL 108-412 and passage of S. 241 are the goals of our advocacy this spring. Sample letters on the following pages summarize the reasons for support. For details on the legislation, you can find bill language at www.thomas.loc.gov.

Overall strategy—what we intend to do

Our basic strategy is simple:

1. Each EPPC faxes two letters on our issues to targeted legislators in February.
2. Each EPPC sends a delegate(s), if possible, for follow-up visits to these legislators in person during National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Wash., DC, in late February.
3. NAEPPC Policy Committee will follow up over the coming months with key legislators.

Detailed instructions begin on the next page...

¹ PL 108-412 means Public Law 412 of the 108th Congress. This law authorizes the funding, but does not appropriate it. The law is the product of the President signing the authorizing bills after they passed in Congress, due in large part by past advocacy efforts by EPPCs and others.

² This legislation was introduced in the last session of Congress as S. 1288 and HR 4294, but it did not pass both houses before the end of the session. It has been reintroduced into the Senate this January.

Instructions—what each EPPC should do:

Step 1— Prepare your EPPC’s contact list:

On the following pages of this document are tables listing key legislators for our issues. Highlight the legislators that your EPPC will contact.

Table 1 shows key legislators for our first position, getting funds appropriated for local weed management entities. Table 2 shows key legislators for our second position, passing the Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act. Table 3 is left blank. It is where your EPPC should add information for other legislators from your state(s) that you would like to include in this effort.³

For letters on **Position 1**, you will send to all legislators in Table 1 that are associated with your EPPC’s region and the four in boldface⁴, plus all legislators you listed in Table 3.

For letters on **Position 2**, you will send to all legislators in Table 2 that are associated with your EPPC’s region and the four in boldface⁵, plus all legislators you listed in Table 3.

Step 2—Prepare and send letters in early to mid-February:

Prepare two letters, one for each of our positions. Text for these letters is included on the following pages. Simply replace text in *red italics* as indicated to customize the letters. Put the text onto your EPPC’s letterhead. Make sure you include contact information for your EPPC. Listing your directors and their affiliations on your letterhead can increase credibility.

Each of your two letters will be addressed to a single legislator, and CCed to the rest of the legislators on your contact list for that position. See instructions with the sample letters to determine who will be the primary addressee.

Letters must be faxed to all of the legislators—the primary addressees as well as all those on the CC lists—at their DC offices. (Postal delivery is seriously delayed with ongoing security precautions.) The area code for all phone and fax numbers is (202). After faxing, you may mail hard copies to each of the legislators for style points and for putting the issue in front of the legislator a second time, but this is not needed if you are too busy.

³ Though they may not be on a key committee, they often have relationships with each other that can help the cause. And educating them about important weed issues is always useful. If there are more than you can realistically contact, focus on those who are generally supportive of environmental or agricultural issues, and aim for a good mix of Democrats and Republicans. Legislators’ websites are a great source of information. The easiest way to find them is at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

⁴ These legislators serve on the agriculture subcommittees of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, which make decisions about appropriating funds to USDA programs (the program authorized in PL 108-412 would run through USDA). Legislators shown in bold are chairs and ranking members of these subcommittees. The committee chair is the top person from the majority party (currently Democrats in both houses), and the ranking member is the top person from the minority party (currently Republicans).

⁵ Legislators listed in the table are current and past cosponsors of the bill, as well as members of the House Natural Resources Committee. Because legislation for this act passed out of the Senate last year, and because the cosponsors of S. 241 include the chair of the Senate’s National Parks and Public Lands subcommittees (Sen. Akaka and Sen. Wyden, respectively), we are focusing our efforts on the House. Names in bold are the cosponsors of the current bill (S. 241), as well as the chair and ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee

Step 3—Recruit letters from other groups in your region

To the extent you can, pass these instructions on to your partner organizations—Native Plant Societies, Farm Bureaus, land trusts—and ask them to send letters of support on these two positions. Pass along the steps you have already taken, making it easier for them to follow suit. Recruiting letters from other groups can greatly amplify our impact. In California, legislators renewed funding for the state’s CWMAAs because over 100 diverse organizations sent support letters.

Step 4—Report who you have contacted

In order to make our ongoing strategic work as effective as possible, it is important that we know which legislators have been contacted. Please email Doug Johnson (dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org) with a list of who your EPPC has contacted and when. It is doubly important to know if a legislator’s office has expressed support, or if they have strategic advice for us—please pass such details on as well!

Step 5—Visit legislators’ DC offices during NIWIW

Ideally, your EPPC will be able to send a representative to National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week (NIWAW) in late February (see www.nawma.org for details). This person can schedule visits with the offices of legislators from your EPPC’s region to whom you have sent letters.

To schedule visits, simply phone the legislators’ DC office, let them know who you are and what issues you are concerned with, and they will help you set up a meeting with the appropriate staff person, typically the Legislative Assistant for environment and/or agriculture. The best times in the NIWAW schedule for visits to legislators are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 26-28.

It is important to take notes from all legislative visits and to report back on those visits so we can continue to adjust our overall strategy.

Thanks—let’s see what we can do!

| TABLE 1 (Contacts for Position 1) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|-----|-----------|-------|
| EPPC | Title | Last | First | Party | State | Phone | Fax | Address | | | | |
| SE-EPPC | Rep. | Alexander | Rodney | R | LA | 225-8490 | 225-5639 | 316 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Sen. | Feinstein | Dianne | D | CA | 224-3841 | 228-3954 | 331 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Farr | Sam | D | CA | 225-2861 | 225-6791 | 1221 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| FL-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Rep. | Boyd | Allen | D | FL | 225-5235 | 225-5615 | 1227 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| GA-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Rep. | Bishop | Sanford | D | GA | 225-3631 | 225-2203 | 2429 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| GA-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Rep. | Kingston | Jack | R | GA | 225-5831 | 226-2269 | 2368 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| IPANE | Rep. | DeLauro | Rosa | D | CT | 225-3661 | 225-4890 | 2262 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| IPAW, MIPN | Sen. | Kohl | Herb | D | WI | 224-5653 | 224-9787 | 330 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| IPCNYS | Rep. | Hinchey | Maurice D. | D | NY | 225-6335 | 226-0774 | 2431 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| KY-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Sen. | McConnell | Mitch | R | KY | 224-2541 | 224-2499 | 361-A | Russell | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| Mid-Atlantic-EPPC | Sen. | Reed | Jack | D | RI | 224-4642 | 224-4680 | 728 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| Mid-Atlantic-EPPC | Sen. | Specter | Arlen | R | PA | 224-4254 | 228-1229 | 711 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| Mid-Atlantic-EPPC | Rep. | Rothman | Steven R. | D | NJ | 225-5061 | 225-5851 | 2303 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| MIPN | Sen. | Bond | Kit | R | MO | 224-5721 | 224-8149 | 274 | Russell | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| MIPN | Sen. | Durbin | Dick | D | IL | 224-2152 | 228-0400 | 332 | Dirksen | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| MIPN | Sen. | Harkin | Tom | D | IA | 224-3254 | 224-9369 | 731 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| MIPN | Rep. | Emmerson | Jo Ann | R | MO | 225-4404 | 226-0326 | 2440 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| MIPN | Rep. | Jackson, Jr. | Jesse L. | D | IL | 225-0773 | 225-0899 | 2419 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| MIPN | Rep. | LaHood | Ray | R | IL | 225-6201 | 225-9249 | 1424 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| MIPN | Rep. | Latham | Tom | R | IA | 225-5476 | 225-3301 | 2447 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| MS-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Sen. | Cochran | Thad | R | MS | 224-5054 | 224-9450 | 113 | Dirksen | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| OH-IPC | Rep. | Kaptur | Marcy | D | OH | 225-4146 | 225-7711 | 2186 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Sen. | Bennet | Bob | R | UT | 224-5444 | 228-1168 | 431 | Dirksen | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| WWCC | Sen. | Brownback | Sam | R | KS | 224-6521 | 228-1265 | 303 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| WWCC | Sen. | Craig | Larry | R | ID | 224-2752 | 228-4509 | 520 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| WWCC | Sen. | Dorgan | Byron | D | ND | 224-2551 | 224-1193 | 322 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| WWCC | Sen. | Johnson | Tim | D | SD | 224-5842 | 228-5765 | 136 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| WWCC | Sen. | Nelson | Ben | D | NE | 224-6551 | 228-0012 | 720 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |

TABLE 1. Key legislators for NAEPPC Position 1, funding local weed management entities. Each EPPC (as noted in left-hand column) should contact all legislators in their area, as well as the committee chairs and ranking members shown in boldface.

TABLE 2 (Contacts for Position 2)

| EPPC | Title | Last | First | Party | State | Phone | Fax | Address | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----|-----------|-------|
| AK-ISC, WWCC | Rep. | Young | Don | R | AK | 225-5765 | 225-0425 | 2111 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Baca | Joe | D | CA | 225-6161 | call for it | 328 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Calvert | Ken | R | CA | 225-1986 | 225-2004 | 2201 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Capps | Lois | D | CA | 225-3601 | 225-5632 | 1110 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Costa | Jim | D | CA | 225-3341 | 225-9308 | 1004 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Gallegly | Elton | R | CA | 225-5811 | 225-1100 | 2309 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Miller | George | D | CA | 225-2095 | call for it | 2205 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Napolitano | Grace F. | D | CA | 225-5256 | 225-0027 | 1610 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Cal-IPC | Rep. | Solis | Hilda L. | D | CA | 225-5464 | 225-5467 | 1414 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| FL-EPPC | Rep. | Fortuño | Luis G. | R | PR | 225-2615 | 225-2154 | 126 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| HI-ISC | Rep. | Faleomavaega | Eni F.H. | D | AS | 225-8577 | 225-8757 | call for it | | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| HI-ISC | Rep. | Bordallo | Madeleine Z. | D | GM | 225-1188 | 226-0341 | 427 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| HI-ISC | Rep. | Abercrombie | Neil | D | HI | 225-2726 | 225-4580 | 1502 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| HI-ISC | Sen. | Akaka | Daniel | D | HI | 224-6361 | 224-2126 | 141 | Hart | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| IPANE | Rep. | Markey | Edward J. | D | MA | 225-2836 | call for it | 2108 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| IPAW | Rep. | Kind | Ron | D | WI | 225-5506 | 225-5739 | 1406 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| IPCNYS | Rep. | Hinchey | Maurice D. | D | NY | 225-6335 | 226-0774 | 2431 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Gilchrest | Wayne T. | R | MD | 225-5311 | 225-0254 | 2245 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Sarbanes | John P. | D | MD | 225-4016 | 225-9219 | 426 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Holt | Rush D. | D | NJ | 225-5801 | 225-6025 | 1019 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Pallone, Jr. | Frank | D | NJ | 225-4671 | 225-9665 | 237 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Saxton | Jim | R | NJ | 225-4765 | 225-0778 | 2216 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Shuster | Bill | R | PN | 225-2431 | 225-2486 | 204 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Kennedy | Patrick J. | D | RI | 225-4911 | 225-3290 | 407 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Christensen | Donna M. | D | VI | 225-1790 | 225-5517 | 1510 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| Mid-Atlantic EPPC | Rep. | Rahall II | Nick J. | D | WV | 225-3452 | 225-9061 | 2307 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| MI-IPC, MIPN | Rep. | Kildee | Dale E. | D | MI | 225-3611 | 225-6393 | 2107 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| NC-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Rep. | Shuler | Heath | D | NC | 225-6401 | call for it | 512 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| NV-WMA, WWCC | Rep. | Heller | Dean | R | NV | 225-6155 | 225-5679 | 1023 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| NV-WMA, WWCC | Rep. | Porter | Jon C. | R | NV | 225-3252 | 225-2185 | 218 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| PNW-EPPC, WWCC | Rep. | Baird | Brian | D | WA | 225-3536 | 225-3478 | 2443 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------|---|----|----------|-------------|------|-----------|-----|-----------|-------|
| PNW-EPPC, WWCC | Rep. Inslee | Jay | D | WA | 225-6311 | 226-1606 | 403 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| PNW-EPPC, WWCC | Rep. McMorris | Cathy | R | WA | 225-2006 | 225-3392 | 1708 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| SC-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Rep. Brown | Henry E. | R | SC | 225-3176 | 225-3407 | 1124 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| SE-EPPC | Rep. Jindal | Bobby | R | LA | 225-3015 | 226-0386 | 1205 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| TN-EPPC, SE-EPPC | Rep. Duncan | John J. | R | TN | 225-5435 | call for it | 2207 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Flake | Jeff | R | AZ | 225-2635 | 226-4386 | 240 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Grijalva | Raúl M. | D | AZ | 225-2435 | 225-1541 | 1440 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Renzi | Rick | R | AZ | 225-2315 | 226-9739 | 418 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Lamborn | Doug | R | CO | 225-4422 | 226-2638 | 437 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Tancredo | Thomas G. | R | CO | 225-7882 | call for it | 1130 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Udall | Mark | D | CO | 225-2161 | 226-7840 | 100 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Sali | Bill | R | ID | 225-6611 | 225-3029 | 508 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Pearce | Stevan | R | NM | 225-2365 | 225-9599 | 1607 | Longworth | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Boren | Dan | D | OK | 225-2701 | 225-3038 | 216 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Cole | Tom | R | OK | 225-6165 | 225-3512 | 236 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. DeFazio | Peter A. | D | OR | 225-6416 | call for it | 2134 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Sen. Wyden | Ron | D | OR | 224-5244 | 228-2717 | 230 | Dirksen | SOB | Wash., DC | 20510 |
| WWCC | Rep. Herseth | Stephanie | D | SD | 225-2801 | 225-5823 | 331 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Gohmert | Louie | R | TX | 225-3035 | 226-1230 | 508 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Ortiz | Solomon P. | D | TX | 225-7742 | 226-1134 | 2470 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Bishop | Rob | R | UT | 225-0453 | 225-5857 | 124 | Cannon | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |
| WWCC | Rep. Cannon | Chris | R | UT | 225-7751 | 225-5629 | 2436 | Rayburn | HOB | Wash., DC | 20515 |

TABLE 2. Legislators who are key for passing the Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act. Each EPPC should contact the legislators associated with their area, as listed in the left-hand column, as well as the four legislators shown in boldface.

LETTER #1:

[Note: This letter should be addressed to a Representative or Senator from your state, then CCed to the rest of the Senators and Representatives on your contact list for this position. Copy the text below onto your group's letterhead, and fill in any information in red italics.]

Date

Honorable *Name [eg. Harry Reid]*

DC Address

RE: Support \$15 million appropriations for PL 108-412

Dear *Title and Name [eg. Senator Reid]*,

I am writing on behalf of the *your EPPC name* and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC). Together, NAEPPC member groups represent professional and volunteer natural resource managers in 31 states. Our organizations work to address the serious damage to public and private lands caused by invasive plants.

We strongly support appropriation of funds for local weed management entities through USDA APHIS, as specified in PL 108-412, which was signed into law in 2004 with bipartisan support. An annual appropriation of \$15 million would provide invaluable support for on-the-ground efforts to control invasive plants across the country.

Local partnerships, often called Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), are extremely successful at addressing invasive plant problems. They engage local stakeholders in a collaborative process, and leverage significant amounts of other funding and in-kind support. Federal funding will complement state and local funding that supports successful existing efforts. It would also encourage more CWMAs to form, especially in eastern states.

Invasive plants cause extensive damage to agriculture and the environment. Conservative estimates place costs at more than \$30 billion to the U.S. each year. By addressing weeds on the ground in local areas, CWMAs are a key part of the solution to this critical problem affecting our nation's lands.

We urge your support for appropriating \$15 million for local weed management entities through PL 108-412. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Your name and title

Your contact info, if not obvious on the letterhead

cc: Sen. Herb Kohl
Sen. Bob Bennet
Rep. Rosa DeLauro
Rep. Jack Kingston
Title and Name

Title and Name
Title and Name
Title and Name e
Title and Name [continue as needed]

LETTER #2:

[**Note:** This letter should be addressed to a Representative from your state, then CCed to the rest of the Senators and Representatives on your contact list for this position. Copy the text below onto your group's letterhead, and fill in any information in *red italics*.]

Date

Honorable *Name [eg. Tom Harkin]*
DC Address

RE: Support S. 241, The Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act

Dear Representative *Name [eg. Harkin]*,

I am writing on behalf of the *your EPPC name*, a member of the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC). Together, NAEPPC member groups represent professional and volunteer natural resource managers in 31 states. Our organizations work to address the serious damage to public and private lands caused by invasive plants.

We strongly support the Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act (S. 241). We encourage you to cosponsor a companion bill in the House.

The act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with state, local or tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, private nonprofit organizations, or willing private landowners to protect natural resources in units of the National Park Service through collaborative efforts on land both inside and outside of National Park Service units.

Other federal agencies, such as the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, currently have such authorization. The National Park Service should have the same authorization, which is particularly important when dealing with challenging issues like invasive plants that often span jurisdictional boundaries.

We urge your support of the Natural Resources Protection Cooperative Agreement Act. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Your name and title
Your contact info, if not obvious on the letterhead

cc: Sen. Ron Wyden
Sen. Daniel Akaka
Rep. Nick J. Rahall, III
Rep. Don Young
Rep. *Name*

Rep. *Name*
Rep. *Name*
Rep. *Name*
Rep. *Name [continue as needed]*