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**APPENDIX 11. EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS**

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## EXISTING AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS

Relevant programs that currently address the invasive species problem at the international, national, tribal, state, county, and local level are described briefly below with emphasis on those that have been active in Arizona and are necessary to facilitate the implementation of this plan. Where possible, the Buffelgrass Working Group has developed the management actions outlined in the BUFFELGRASS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS Section based on expansion of the capabilities of these existing programs, particularly at the county and local level.

### INTERNATIONAL

There is no single entity at the international level focusing primarily on invasive species issues. Invasive plant species issues are typically described under the auspices of international agricultural trade or biological diversity and research. However, there are a number of existing networks for exchanging information related to invasive species that may prove helpful as management strategies are defined.

#### *International Agreements and Conventions*

##### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The CBD was one result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The CBD commits governments to take steps to conserve biological diversity, ensure the sustainable use of biological resources, and promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. Under the CBD, governments agree to identify genomes, species and ecosystems crucial for conservation and sustainable use; monitor biodiversity and factors affecting biological systems; establish effectively managed systems of protected areas; rehabilitate degraded ecosystems; conduct public programs; and various other activities. The CBD has also established an interim financial mechanism, the Global Environment Facility, which provides approximately \$100M per year to projects for implementing the Convention in developing countries.

##### International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

The IPPC is an international treaty intended to secure action to prevent the spread and introduction of plant pests and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The scope of IPPC covers any invasive alien species that may be considered to be a plant pest – both on crops and on natural flora. The IPPC is a component of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. There are currently (as of 29 August 2007) 164 governments, including the U.S., as signatories to this treaty.

### *International Organizations, Programs and Activities*

In addition to the international organizations described above, several international programs exist that have invasive species management or prevention as designated program areas.

#### Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America (CEC)

The CEC is an international organization created by Canada, Mexico, and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. The CEC was established to address regional environmental concerns, help prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts, and to promote the effective enforcement of environmental law. The Agreement complements the environmental provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The CEC's four main program areas are: Environment, Economy and Trade; Conservation of Biodiversity; Pollutants and Health; and Law and Policy. Under the Conservation of Biodiversity program area, the CEC has a long-term strategy in place to further the conservation and sustainable use of North American biodiversity including promoting collaborative responses to common threats (such as invasive species) facing North American ecosystems, habitats and species.

#### Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN)

The GISIN was formed to provide a platform for sharing invasive species information at a global level, via the internet and other digital means. A pilot system for the GISIN is currently under development. It is intended to be a one-stop-shop for biological and management information on species in their native habitats and in non-native habitats where invasions have occurred. (<http://gisinetwork.org>)

#### Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)

The GISP was established in 1997 to address global threats caused by invasive alien species, and to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Global Strategy on Invasive Alien Species. GISP seeks to improve the scientific basis for decision making on invasive species; develop capacities to employ early warning and rapid assessment and response systems; enhance the ability to manage invasive species; reduce the economic impacts of invasives and control methods; develop better risk assessment methods; and strengthen international agreements.

#### Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) Invasives Information Network (I3N)

The I3N is a thematic network that was initiated by the U.S. Geological Survey in 2001. It integrates information from Western Hemisphere countries to support the detection and management of invasive alien species. I3N provides capacity building, electronic tools, and support for database development and increased access to information. Network tools include cataloging and data output tools; a listserv; a virtual online community; a bilingual site that hosts data submitted by participants; information on database standards and on creating XML and serving data on the internet; fact sheets; contact information; and pilot project documents. (<http://i3n.iabin.net>)

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)

ISTA develops and establishes standard procedures for sampling and testing seeds to promote uniformity in seed testing and evaluation of seeds moving in international trade. There are currently 76 countries with laboratories using these standard procedures world wide, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)

NAPPO is a regional plant protection organization of the IPPC, and coordinates efforts among Canada, the United States and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the entry, establishment and spread of regulated plant pests, while facilitating intra/interregional trade. NAPPO develops regional standards and coordinates the input of NAPPO countries on IPPC standards.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) International Services

APHIS International Services supports the mission to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources by: (1) safeguarding the health of animals, plants, and ecosystems in the United States; (2) facilitating safe agricultural trade; (3) ensuring effective and efficient management of internationally-based programs; and (4) investing in international capacity building through various training programs abroad to enhance technical, administrative, and diplomatic skills and competencies.

APHIS International Services develops and implements programs that identify threats outside U.S. borders and reduces those threats at their source by building animal and plant health infrastructures abroad, which helps reduce the likelihood of undetected pathways into the U.S.

**NATIONAL**

At the national (federal) level, no single agency has authority over the management of invasive species. Rather, multiple agencies have developed invasive species programs, largely in reaction to severe invasive species issues. The National Invasive Species Council was established to oversee and coordinate all federal actions on invasive species.

*National Invasive Species Council*

The National Invasive Species Council, established in 1999 as per Executive Order 13112 (Appendix 13), has completed a National Invasive Species Management Plan that is reviewed and updated biennially. This plan serves as a blueprint for all federal actions on invasive species, including prevention, early detection and rapid response, control and management, restoration, international cooperation, research, information management, and education and public awareness.

### *Legislation*

There are 33 federal laws and over 300 programs that have some role in invasive species; the laws pertaining to terrestrial noxious plants are summarized below.

#### The Federal Seed Act of 1939 (and amendments):

This act prohibits the importation of seeds of unknown type and origin by ensuring the purity and proper labeling of seed imports.

#### The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (and amendments):

This act requires that management entities consider the environmental effects of their actions through preparation of environmental impact statements (EIS) – effects of non-native species, if harmful to the environment must be included in the EIS.

#### The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (and amendments):

This act can be used to authorize the eradication or control of an invasive species in the case that a listed species is threatened by the invader's presence or spread.

#### The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (7 U.S.C. §2814):

This act prohibits the importation or transport of regulated noxious weed species into or through the United States.

#### The Plant Protection Act of 2000 (amending the Noxious Weed Act of 1974):

This act gives the USDA–APHIS the authority to prohibit the import and interstate transport of species included on the Noxious Weed List developed by the USDA. In cooperation with state agricultural departments, APHIS annually designates priority agriculture pest species for annual intensive monitoring efforts.

#### The Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004 (amendment to the Plant Protection Act of 2000):

This act requires the establishment of a USDA program to provide financial and technical assistance to control or eradicate noxious weeds, and allows the department to enter into agreements with weed management entities to provide financial and technical assistance for the control or eradication of noxious weeds. This act refers to federal lands managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

#### The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005 (§6006):

This act includes a provision that makes activities for the control of noxious weeds and the establishment of native species eligible for Federal-aid funds under the National Highway System (NHS) and the Surface Transportation System (STP). The control of terrestrial noxious weeds and aquatic weeds is commonly done by maintenance districts or contracted crews of each State department of transportation. **Note:** See associated Guidance on Title 23 U.S.C. §329 on the Control of Noxious Weeds and Aquatic Noxious Weeds and the Establishment of Native Species provided by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (16 May 2006).

### *Programs and Activities*

In addition to the legislation outlined above, several government agencies have recognized the severity of the invasive species problem, and have adopted the management and control of invasive species as priority program areas.

#### USDA – APHIS

Through the APHIS Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS), the USDA works with state agricultural agencies to monitor for agricultural pests and noxious weeds. Individual state monitoring programs are directed by a state survey committee, which is made up of representatives from state agencies and scientific institutions. Each year, the state survey committee reviews an APHIS recommended list of potential pests for survey (the Noxious Weed List), and selects one or more for annual surveillance efforts. Target species may include weeds, plant diseases, insects, and other invertebrates. APHIS also cooperates with the U.S. Customs Service to limit the import of specified plant pests and their hosts into the country.

#### The USDA Forest Service (USDA-FS)

The USDA-FS has identified invasive species as one of four critical threats to the Nation's ecosystems. Subsequently, they have established an integrated Invasive Species Program (<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/>). The goal of the USDA-FS invasive species program is to reduce, minimize or eliminate the potential for introduction, establishment, spread, and impact of invasive species across all landscapes and ownerships. They also administer many grants that could be used for invasive species management, research or control (<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/docs/toolkit/usdagrants2005.pdf>).

#### The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

The FWS provides technical assistance to states in developing aquatic invasive species control plans. The FWS also administers grants that can be used for invasive species management through the Wildlife Restoration Program.

#### The US Geological Survey (USGS)

The USGS has acknowledged its capacity to assist in combating invasive species in natural and semi-natural areas through early detection and assessment of newly established invaders; monitoring of invading populations; improving understanding of the ecology of invaders and factors in the resistance of habitats to invasion; and development and testing of prevention, management, and control methods. To that end, USGS has developed an Invasive Species Program (<http://biology.usgs.gov/invasive/>) and has developed a Five-Year Plan to assist Department of the Interior managers and the Nation respond more rapidly and effectively to the growing threat of invasive species in U.S. ecosystems.

#### The US Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The BLM lists ecosystem health as one of their highest priorities, and recognizes that invasive species pose an ever-increasing obstacle to achieving this goal.

### The DOI National Park Service (NPS)

The NPS developed a strategic plan for managing invasive nonnative species on NPS lands in 1996, and has established an invasive plant program that includes Exotic Plant Management Teams (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/invasivespecies/>). In order to better manage invasive plants on park lands, 17 Exotic Plant Management Teams (EPMT's) have been deployed across the country including Arizona.

## **STATE**

### *Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (AISAC)*

The AISAC was established in 2005 by Arizona Executive Order 2005-09 and was made a permanent council in 2007 by Arizona Executive Order 2007-07 (Appendix 14). The responsibilities of the Council include the development of a consensus vision for a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach to invasive species issues in Arizona. The Council is also tasked with developing recommendations on invasive species management for the State. The AISAC addresses management issues for invasive flora and fauna, and is jointly chaired by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

## **TRIBAL**

Although the Tohono O'odham Nation has participated in some buffelgrass management planning meetings and community-wide buffelgrass eradication efforts, there are currently no known tribal programs with an emphasis on invasive species being implemented on tribal lands within the geographic area.

## **COUNTY**

### *Pima County*

Various Pima County departments are actively involved in buffelgrass control and management, including the Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Transportation, and the Regional Flood Control District. Projects that have been financially supported (cash, in-kind or otherwise) include the Sonoran Desert Weedwackers (since 2005), within county-managed parks, and in county right-of-ways. Pima County has also contributed to education and outreach efforts and control efforts on the University of Arizona-owned Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill.

Pima County has adopted two resolutions to manage invasive species with buffelgrass being a first target species, and has begun to enact land development policies to control buffelgrass on new and existing developments.

## LOCAL

### *Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM)*

ASDM's Invaders Program was initiated in 2005, and is one of the major program areas within the Museum's Center for Sonoran Desert Studies – a hub for research, education and conservation of the Sonoran Desert Region. The Invaders program is designed to raise awareness about the negative impacts of invasive plants and animals and to inspire and prepare people to assist in tackling this problem through research, early detection, monitoring, mapping, on-the-ground control treatments, and community outreach. Buffelgrass is currently one of the species of interest for this program.

### *City of Tucson*

The City of Tucson initiated active buffelgrass control on its properties in Avra Valley, along select right-of-ways, on Sentinel Peak Park ("A" Mountain), and in the Santa Cruz River Park.

### *City of Phoenix*

The City of Phoenix Department of Parks and Recreation, along with a volunteer group (Phoenix Weedwackers) has begun to actively control buffelgrass in its extensive system of parks and natural areas. A current focus for the volunteer group has been Piestuwa Peak.

### *Sonoran Desert Weedwackers (SDW)*

The SDW, formed in 2000, are a group of dedicated volunteers who work year-round in Tucson Mountain Park to reconnoiter and eradicate buffelgrass infestations. They receive staffing and equipment support from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, database and mapping support from Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and financial support from the Arizona Native Plant Society. One large weedwacking event is organized and coordinated each month (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday), and they host twice-monthly trips to less accessible locations for buffelgrass control.

## OTHER COOPERATIVE WEED ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

### *Sonoran Desert Invasive Species Council (SDISC)*

The SDISC was established in 2002 by a Memorandum of Understanding between active partners (federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations and community leaders) to strategically address invasive plants across southwestern Arizona. The SDISC is currently comprised of two Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) consisting of the King of Arizona CWMA and Borderlands CWMA. Buffelgrass is one of 11 species of interest to the SDISC.

*Pima-Santa Cruz Basin Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (PSCB Cisma)*

The PSCB Cisma was established in 2004, and is intended to be a mechanism for sharing on-going actions, coordinating invasive species management activities, and increasing public awareness about invasive species in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. This organization is a consortium of agencies, groups, and individuals interested in invasive species management issues, including buffelgrass. There is currently no formalized structure or agreement associated with PSCB Cisma.