

What kind of legacy is in store for President Clinton? Well...in the world of weeds, he will probably be best remembered for signing the Invasive Species Executive Order of 1999. A major component of the Executive Order is to establish a Federal Invasive Species Council that will prepare a National Invasive Species Management Plan. Although the current funding connected to this effort is meager (\$28 million to address plant and animal problems nationwide), the action underscores the seriousness and grow-

ing recognition of the problem in the United States. The problem of invasive plants in natural areas is (*finally*) becoming mainstream.

The Exotic Pest Plant Councils are the lead organizations in this field, and must play a major role in the development of this national strategy. The entire text of the President's Executive Order and minutes from the inaugural Council Meeting are included in this issue. It can also be accessed on the Internet through the Florida EPPC web site (www.fleppc.org). Please read the Executive Order and help make this national initiative successful through the efforts of your EPPC. -Amy Ferriter

Tamarisky Business

National Park Service Crew Sets Their Sights on Tamarisk

The Tam Crew at Coyote Gulch in the Escalante - Grand Staircase National Monument, Utah.



By Bonnie Hoffman

What's new and trained, and works all over?...the National Park Service's Tamarisk Control Crew. Tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) is well known in the desert southwest as an aggressive invader of riparian areas. Roughly one million acres of public and private lands in the southwest are infested with tamarisk. As these infestations continue to spread, tamarisk has become an overwhelming challenge for park service managers charged with protecting natural ecosystems.

Tam Crew

The Tam Crew, as they are known, was formed three years ago to make the control of tamarisk more achievable for individual parks. As a traveling, trained control crew specializing in tamarisk, the 5-10 member team works throughout the southwest on exotic plant infestations. Formed un-

der a Department of Interior Weed Management Initiative, the team is hosted by the Lake Mead Recreation Area.

The crew operates with four main objectives: to complete initial tamarisk removal from high priority areas, to develop maintenance schedules for park staff, to develop a corps of National Park Service resource managers trained to continue exotic plant management programs, and to provide each work site with a complete working report.

After pre-season training in herbicide use and chainsaw operations, the crew spends 4-14 days at a park working on the initial removal of tamarisk stands. Occasionally other invasive weeds such as Russian olive, palo verde, and tree of heaven are treated as well. All work is documented and is then passed on to the park, including information on acreage treated, site maps, and recommendations.

The park's staff are then responsible for follow-up efforts, including monitoring and revegetation. The crew also leaves park personnel with equipment, herbicide, and training so they can continue treating tamarisk sites. The Tam Crew coordinator works with park managers to determine which locations will be visited. Priorities are set according to accessibility, riparian importance, watershed importance, and the overall "do-ability" of a project.

On the road again...

Already tamarisk has taken the crew from California to Colorado, and work is planned as far as Texas's Big Bend National Park. Many parks have reported high success rates in treated areas; some sites in Colorado National Monument reported 90%-95% mortality. Last year over 300 acres were treated and the crew is still going strong.

Many national parks in the desert southwest have tamarisk invasions,

but not all have the funding and the trained staff to successfully control the weed's spread. With funding through a Natural Resource Preservation Program grant, and support from cooperating southwestern parks, the Tamarisk Crew has been a way for national parks to work together, sharing resources, to meet a common goal. While independent control efforts in the past have been costly and less effective, the results from this group approach show how coordination and prioritization can achieve more immediate and cost-effective success.

"Men in Brown?"

The park service is currently trying to secure permanent funding for this program. For more information, contact Curt Deuser at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005. (702) 293-0178.

Ian Torrence and Jane Rodgers contributed to this article which was reprinted, with permission, from *Noxious Times* (Volume 1, No. 2).

EXECUTIVE ORDER - INVASIVE SPECIES

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), Lacey Act, as amended (18 U.S.C. 42), Federal Plant Pest Act (7 U.S.C. 150aa et seq.), Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and other pertinent statutes, to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause, it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

(a) "Alien species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

(b) "Control" means, as appropriate, eradicating, suppressing, reducing, or managing invasive species populations, preventing spread of invasive species from areas where they are present, and taking steps such as restoration of native species and habitats to reduce the effects of invasive species and to prevent further invasions.

(c) "Ecosystem" means the complex of a community of organisms and its environment.

(d) "Federal agency" means an executive department or agency, but does not include independent establishments as defined by 5 U.S.C. 104.

(e) "Introduction" means the intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement of a species into an ecosystem as a result of human activity.

(f) "Invasive species" means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

(g) "Native species" means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

(h) "Species" means a group of organisms all of which have a high degree of physical and genetic similarity, generally interbreed only among themselves, and show persistent differences from members of allied groups of organisms.

(i) "Stakeholders" means, but is not limited to, State, tribal, and local government agencies, academic institutions, the scientific community, nongovernmental entities including environmental, agricultural, and conservation organizations, trade groups, commercial interests, and private landowners.

(j) "United States" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and all possessions, territories, and the territorial sea of the United States.

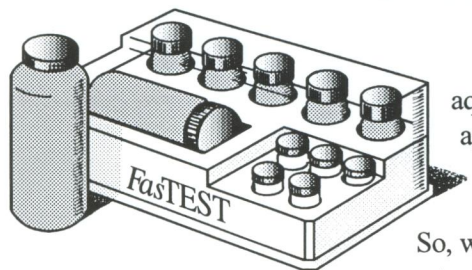
Sec. 2. Federal Agency Duties.

(a) Each Federal agency whose actions may affect the status of invasive species shall, to the extent practicable and permitted by law,

(1) identify such actions;
 (2) subject to the availability of appropriations, and within Administration budgetary limits, use relevant programs and authorities to:

(i) prevent the introduction of invasive species; (ii) detect and respond rapidly to and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner; (iii) monitor invasive species populations accurately

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