

Minimizing the Threat of Invasive Exotics to Wisconsin's forests



SESSION FORMAT

Champion: Fred Clark, Clark Forestry
Lead Facilitator: John Exo, UW Basin Educator
Total number of participants: 67

Objectives for session.

1. Provide some direction for future actions
2. Arrive at a decision and a clear direction for action
3. Highlight the affect that exotic species have on our natural ecosystems
4. Highlight the invasive plants and pests affecting our ecosystems
5. Develop an overall program to coordinate the control and monitoring of exotics, as well as to deal with the costs associated with these actions
6. Attempt to develop an assistance program for landowners
7. Address these issues and make recommendations for actions to Gov's Council
8. Identify best strategies to advance the 4 main issues highlighted in this session
 - Choose top goals/priorities for each breakout session, and then identify actions and strategies to achieve these goals.

Closing Suggestions / Key Points:

- This issue is probably the issue with the greatest potential for action.
- Already there is great public concern, awareness, and understanding of the problems that exotic invasive species present in our ecosystems.
 - Increased educational avenues need to be established to reach the public
- Solutions / BMPs need to be flexible, feasible, affordable, and seen as beneficial by public in order to gain support
- There is a need to organize / establish a centralized agency / center responsible for accumulating, synthesizing, and disseminating the information to the necessary agencies, partnership groups, landowners, and recreational users.

Session Format

- I. **Welcome, Introduction of topics, recognition of champion & facilitators (Fred)**
 - a. John Exo, UW – Extension, Jane Cummings-Carlson, Dan Bohlin, Nancy Berlin, Myles Falck, Peter Murray, Gene Roark, Dan Peterson
 - b. “The Invasive Species topic was rated as likely the most important issue regarding the health of our forests.”
 - c. New Forestry Plan/Report identified 28 different strategies for controlling invasive species, including funding, policy, research, and monitoring strategies.
 - d. Action and success with this issue requires partnerships

II. **Brief of Invasive Forest Pests: by Jane Cummings-Carlson**

- a. Definition: Species that are not native to an ecosystem, and whose introduction is likely to cause economic or environmental harm.
- b. Almost every ecosystem has been infiltrated by invasive species
- c. Increased trade with other countries have contributed to the spread of these species
- d. About 50% of the maritime containers contain invasive species.
- e. Starting in 2005, all wood products entering the US will have to be inspected, including packing materials, etc
- f. Since 1992 12 new exotic borers have been found
- g. Why do we care about natives vs. exotics when both can cause harm?
 - Cycles and co-evolution not adapted to the invasive species
 - Mortality from natives not as dramatic as exotics and often correlate with the population flux natural cycles.
 - No natural predators or control factors for exotics and thus can move quickly across ecosystems
 - Ecological and economical impacts are difficult to predict, thus increasing the threat to our natural resources.
 - Don't know all the impacts of these species
 - Unsure of the what interactions will take place in the wild
 - Interspecific species and hybrids of exotics cause even more of a problem for managers
- h. Discussed several examples of exotic species devastation
 - Sudden Oak Death, White Pine Blister Rust, Chestnut Blight, Dutch Elm Disease, Asian Long Horn Beetle, Beech Bark Disease, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer, Fungi, Cancers, etc
- i. Performed a state-wide soil survey to protect against cancers/fungi.
- j. Loss of much economic revenue as result of exotic species
 - Loss of about 7.5 million in sales just of Ash trees
- k. In summary, many steps which can be taken to prevent spread
 - Prevention, detection/early intervention, & long-term mngt.

III. **Brief of Invasive Forest Plants: by Eunice Padley**

- a. Thank you - Pleased to see the attention this issue is receiving
- b. There is no direct plan/program to deal with this issue yet
- c. Ecosystems can't adapt to the fast pace at which invasives move in
- d. Are several aggressive natives species as well - impact on ground flora
- e. Plants that choke out regeneration:
 - Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn, Reed Canary Grass
- f. Plants that climb and kill trees:
 - Oriental bittersweet, black swallow-wort
- g. Six species of most concern in WI:
 - Glossy & common buckthorn
 - Bush honeysuckles
 - Reed canary grass
 - Garlic mustard (allelopathic)
 - Black locust (native to southern Appalachians)
 - Japanese barberry (not wide-spread yet)
- h. Other species that are of concern:
 - Norway Maple (similar phenology to Sugar Maple)
 - Dame's Rocket
 - Multiflora Rose (very dense in southern WI)
 - Autumn Olive (planted for WL food)

- Japanese Knotweed (NE US)
- i. Variety of techniques to attempt to control invasives
 - Brush control, Spraying, Scarification, Layering, Tree shelters,
 - Prescribed burning, Planting, Conversion, mechanical techniques
 - WDNR does not plant non-native trees on state forests
- i. Problem: Many of exotics designated by agricultural community not same as major for. Threats
- j. Success stories with bio-control for purple loosestrife
 - Released beetles to control spread/population
- k. Lack information as to extent and location of species throughout state
- l. Monitoring (follow up) is needed!
- m. Cost is a major issue with many of the control techniques
- n. Policy updates:
 - 2002 Statute developed which authorized DNR to establish a statewide program to control invasives.
 - Classify invasive species
 - Gov's Council has appointed an invasive species control group
 - Make recommendations for control of these species
 - Working on criteria for classifying invasive species
 - If approved, start next July
 - Education and Outreach program developing

IV. Introductions for breakout sessions and room assignments

- a.) 4 breakout sessions:
 - Information and Education (w/ Dan Bohlin)
 - Continuing need with increasing private landowners & recreational users
 - Best Management Practices (w/ Nancy Berlin)
 - Important priority for Council and the best opportunity for this conference to reach a consensus for action
 - Use water quality model
 - Research and Monitoring (w/ Jane Cummings-Carson)
 - Limited amount of information available
 - Need to act in most efficient, effective way
 - Partnerships and Co-operative Management (w/ Fred Clark)
 - Strategies needed to ensure better cooperation w/landowners and agencies
 - Action plan for each breakout session:
 - Start with reviewing topic/goals, followed by brief brainstorming
 - Identify top goals/priorities and rank in order of importance
 - Identify specific strategies, timelines, necessary partnerships, barriers to success for each goal
 - Identify strategies and actions need to be taken to achieve the top goals/priorities for each session
 - Should be achievable in near future/short-term
 - Should be issues in which individuals will be willing to volunteer for and take responsibility for TODAY
- 1.75 hours allotted for breakout sessions with 15 minute break
- Theme leaders report back to larger group, See notes below, under "outcomes"
- Comments by audience members and panel reactions, See notes under "outcomes"

V. Wrap up by John Exo and Fred Clark