

SCIENCE POLICY REPORT
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- **2021 National Invasive Species Awareness Weeks (NISAWs), www.nisaw.org/nisaw-2021/**
 - NISAW Part I - Information and Advocacy – was February 22-26, 2021.
 - Lee: “[Show Me the Money](#)” webinar on Feb. 26. BLM only spends \$0.06 per acre for invasive species management activities.
 - Very successful outreach. Webinars will be posted on www.nisaw.org
 - NISAW Part II - Outreach and Education – is **May 15-22, 2021**
 - Do you have a local invasive species prevention, removal, and educational events? Add it [HERE](#)
 - NISC funding was restored to \$1.2M in FY 2021. Working to reestablish Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). Working on a major “appropriations” campaign for FY 2022

- **Weed Science Presidents Congressional Visits**

- Looking at 2-3 “virtual” Congressional visits + 1 trip to DC in fall. Play it by ear.
 - Week of April 5-9
 - Week of June 14-18
- Weed Science Presidents Target House & Senate Appropriations subcommittees for:
 - Agriculture & Interior, Environment
 - Need constituents from GA, NE, ME & OH for House & WI, ND, OR, AK for Senate
- APMS leaders target 2020 WRDA approps in Energy/Water & Interior/Environment

- **USDA Appropriations and Policy Issue Work:**

- Establish an Areawide IPM (AIPM) program and funding in USDA-NIFA
 - We strongly support the AIPM funding in USDA-ARS, which has supported several successful weed AIPM programs such as Team Leafy Spurge, Tame Melaleuca, and currently the CA Delta Region Areawide Aquatic Weed Project (DRAAWP).
 - Working with Entomology and others to establish an AIPM program and associated funding within USDA-NIFA.
- Increase IR-4 Project funding to \$20M in FY 2022
 - Flat funding in NIFA budget at \$11.9M for over a decade. Will be subject to increased indirect cost charges from universities in FY 2022.
- Increase NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program funding to \$25M
 - Funded at \$20M for past 5 years. The CPPM program funds the 4 Regional IPM Centers, all the State Extension IPM programs and an IPM grants program.
- Explore the possibility of expanding the definition of a “Plant Pest” under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) to include “noxious weeds”. Funding for noxious weeds at APHIS-PPQ is severely hampered because noxious weeds are not considered a “plant pest”. Only “parasitic plants” are considered a “plant pest” in the PPA ([7 U.S.C. 7702](#)).
 - Work to implement the change in 2023 Farm Bill.

- **New USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Invasive Pests of Crops (weed science) – Steve Young**

- Email: stephen.young@usda.gov; Before joining USDA-ARS, Steve was at Utah State and prior to that served as the Director of the Northeastern IPM Center at Cornell.

- **New USDA-NIFA National Program Leader for Weed Science- Vijay Nandula**
 - Email: vijay.nandula@usda.gov; Prior to joining NIFA, Vijay was with USDA-ARS since 2011 in Stoneville, MS where he worked on herbicide resistance issues.

- **EPA Biological Evaluations (BEs) for Triazines and Glyphosate.**
 - Biological evaluations (BEs) are the beginning of EPA’s Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation review process for pesticides where they determine if an endangered or threatened species or critical habitat could be affected.
 - The Endangered Species Act is not a “risk-benefits” statute like FIFRA. ESA is pure risk. Any “exposure” is bad. Pesticide benefits not considered.
 - The BEs make effects determinations for 1,795 endangered or threatened species and 792 designated critical habitats. EPA’s draft BEs for atrazine and simazine predicted that they are likely to adversely affect 54% of all species and 40% of critical habitats; i.e. nearly all endangered/threatened species and critical habitats in the continental U.S., including some that are already extinct.
 - WSSA [submitted comments](#) on Feb. 19, 2021. An assessment process which essentially equates any exposure to a pesticide as a possible concern to any species does little to advance appropriate options which could be tailored to improve species protection. The implications of unrealistic analyses will result in unjustified restrictions on the use of triazine products which remain critical weed management tools across the U.S.

- **EPA’s draft BE for glyphosate predicts that:**
 - **glyphosate** is likely to adversely affect 93% of all species and 96% of critical habitats.
 - The application scenario assumptions aren’t realistic (i.e. assumes glyphosate is applied at 8 lb/A max rate every year on CRP and grazing land. For residential lawns, assumes glyphosate applied max number of times at over 40 lbs/A per year)
 - **Comments on the draft BEs for glyphosate are due Mar. 13, 2021.**
 - **2020 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)** – Over \$100 million “authorized” for new aquatic invasive species efforts. Looks good on paper, but we need to go after the appropriations:
 - Army Corps of Engineers (Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees):
 - \$25M Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) demonstration program;
 - \$50M to partner with states and other agencies for Russian olive and saltcedar control in five western U.S. river basins
 - a pilot program for terrestrial noxious weeds control on Army Corps lands.
 - Interior- administered through FWS (Interior & Environment Approps Subcommittees):
 - \$25M for invasive species eradication in alpine lakes;
 - \$10M to remove invasive plants that contribute to drought in the western U.S.;

- **APHIS-PPQ; \$3 million for cogongrass control in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina.**
 - Main Contact is Anne LeBrun, National Policy Manager for Federal Noxious Weeds, APHIS.
 - Congress took \$3 million out of Field Crop and Rangeland Ecosystems Pests and designated it specifically for a cogongrass pilot program.

- **National Survey of the Most Common and Troublesome Weeds**
 - 2020 weed survey results available at: <https://wssa.net/wssa/weed/surveys/>
 - **2021 survey will be for weeds in non-crop and aquatic areas**
 - Will go out around Memorial Day and close after Labor Day.