



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Special Environmental Resource Concerns

Clean Air Act  
Criteria Pollutants

Clean Air Act  
Regional Visibility Degradation

Clean Water Act

Coastal Zone Management Areas

Coral Reefs

Cultural Resources

Endangered and Threatened Species

Environmental Justice

Essential Fish Habitat

Floodplain Management

Invasive Species

Migratory Birds

Prime and Unique Farmlands

Riparian Areas

Wetlands

Wild and Scenic Rivers

# Invasive Species

## Invasive Species

Executive Order (E.O.) 13112, Invasive Species (February 3, 1999) directs Federal agencies to “prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause.” NRCS policy (190-GM, Part 414) is consistent with this E.O. and also requires that no action be authorized, funded, or carried out that is believed or likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the U.S. or elsewhere.

### What is it?

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) were formed to define how the objectives of the E.O. will be carried out. As defined in E.O. 13112, invasive species are species, not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species may include all terrestrial and aquatic life forms, including plants, animals, fungi, and microbial organisms. NRCS policy further defines a plant species as “invasive” only when it occurs on the Federal or State-specific noxious weed list or a list developed by the State-specific Department of Agriculture with their partners and approved by the State Technical Committee which prohibits or cautions its use due to invasive qualities.

### Why is it important?

Invasive species are reducing the economic productivity and ecological integrity of our Nation’s lands and waters. The rate of introduction of such species has risen markedly in recent years with costs to society growing commensurately. Invasive species harm native species and their habitats, degrade renewable resources, and diminish productive capacity of agricultural lands including cropland, forestlands, rangelands, and pasturelands. They negatively impact a wide variety of human activities and needs.

### What can be done about it?

Recognizing and addressing the presence of invasive species is an integral part of the conservation planning process and implementing NRCS policy and any existing county, State, or Federal regulations concerning noxious and/or invasive species. At a minimum, the conservation plan includes: 1) an inventory of invasive species; 2) a map outlining the affected areas; 3) identification of control/restoration strategies; and 4) analysis of their impacts.

### Invasive Species at a Glance

Problems / Indicators - Presence of invasive species	
Causes	Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land use changes/conversions without appropriate vegetative cover plan</li> <li>Ground-disturbing projects</li> <li>Improper livestock grazing management</li> <li>Restoration projects (upland and aquatic) without appropriate measures to ensure vegetative cover</li> <li>Accidental transport and introduction via equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critical area planting</li> <li>Pasture and hayland planting</li> <li>Prescribed grazing</li> <li>Streambank &amp; shoreline protection</li> <li>Restoration &amp; management of rare &amp; declining habitats</li> <li>Integrated pest management</li> <li>Establish monitoring protocols</li> </ul>

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March 2012