



STATE WEED COORDINATORS ALLIANCE

March 4, 2022

Stanley W. Burgiel, Executive Director
National Invasive Species Council (OS/NISC)
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW (Mailstop 3530), Washington, DC 20240
Email: invasive_species@ios.doi.gov

Dear Mr. Burgiel,

The State Weed Coordinators Alliance (SWCA) is an informal association of lead officials responsible for implementing noxious weed-related policies and programs with state departments of agriculture across the western states. In addition to the in-state responsibilities of the state weed coordinators, SWCA members promote and coordinate responses to the spread of noxious weeds across state boundaries.

We are writing to express our support in selecting Slade Franklin, Wyoming State Noxious Weed Coordinator, as a member of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). Slade's easy going, yet passionate, disposition gives him the ability to work very well with a variety of stakeholders including the farmers and producers in Wyoming, county weed districts, commissioners, state and federal agencies, as well as legislators and national policy makers. Through these relationships he has his finger on the pulse and keeps other state coordinators abreast of upcoming bills, funding, and opportunities to advance invasive management programs.

Slade has proven to be a leader amongst his peers and has been a key member of both the Western Weed Coordinating Committee and the SWCA for many years. He was instrumental in helping create the Western Weed Action Plan (WWAP) and is currently leading an effort to implement the plan throughout the western states in conjunction with fellow state weed coordinators, NGO's, and federal agencies. The WWAP has been supported by several regional and national organizations including Weed Science Society of America, Society for Range Science, the Sagebrush Executive Oversight Committee, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and many others.

Slade had the opportunity to serve on ISAC previously and the SWCA fully supports his decision and desire to continue the work that was started and bring not only his unique knowledge, experience, and perspective as a state weed coordinator to the group, but to represent most western weed coordinators on emerging issues, important topics, and their need for specific programs or initiatives. Many state weed programs rely on the coordination and assistance from federal partners to support prevention and eradication efforts, as well as engage in cooperative management projects with local governments or private land managers. Decisions made at the federal level surrounding invasive species, directly impacts how ecosystems are protected and restored at state and county levels.

The western states are unique in many ways including the species we manage, the geography and climate, and the large tracts of public land dispersed among private landowners. In addition to those challenges, we also must manage for second-level impacts to a variety of issues across the western states like the loss of wildlife species habitat (e.g., big game and sage grouse), and the prevention of wildfire and soil erosion. We need an advocate on the committee who understands these unique issues and what state and local programs need to be successful.

Slade Franklin would be an asset and excellent resource as a member of ISAC and by selecting him, the committee would also gain the support and voice of the western state weed programs. Please take our wishes into consideration and select Slade Franklin to serve on the committee once again.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Chaffee, SWCA Chair
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