EXECUTIVE ORDER 2007-07

Re-Establishing The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council

WHEREAS, Arizona's land, water, and other resources face severe impacts from harmful, unwanted, invasive plant and animal species that are increasing yearly in number and area in Arizona and throughout the Southwest, including, for example, the recent discovery of quagga mussels in Lake Mead; and

WHEREAS, these impacts include ecological damage to Arizona's natural environments, economy and human health such as: (1) decreasing land productivity; (2) impairing water quality and reducing water yield; (3) increasing instances of livestock poisoning; (4) degrading fish and wildlife habitat; (5) impairing forest and rangeland health by altering natural or desired fire regimes; (6) creating disease vectors; (7) increasing allergens; (8) increasing erosion and watershed degradation; (9) altering landscapes that affect visual aesthetics; and (10) destroying agricultural crops, wetlands, waterways, and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, prevention, early detection, rapid response, and eradication are the most effective and least costly strategies to combat new biological invaders before they expand beyond control; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the above strategies requires leadership by the State of Arizona and coordination with federal, tribal, international, and local partners and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order 2005-09, the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council ("AISAC") identified invasive species as an immediate threat to the State and that Council's report has put Arizona in a position to take a lead nationally in invasive species management;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order as follows:

1. The consensus definition of invasive species developed by the AISAC pursuant to Executive Order 2005-09 is hereby adopted as an advisory, non-regulatory definition for Arizona's Executive Branch agencies. Pursuant to that definition, an invasive species is defined as: "A species that is (1) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and, (2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health."

2. The AISAC is hereby re-established, and shall serve as a new, permanent Advisory Council that shall be chaired under the joint leadership of the Arizona Game and Fish Department and Arizona Department of Agriculture. It shall consist initially of twenty-one (21) members to advise the State regarding planning and implementation of invasive species policy for Arizona

3. Members of the AISAC shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Governor may appoint additional members as deemed necessary.

4. Members of the Governor's AISAC may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the council; provided, however, that such designees shall have been delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.

5. AISAC shall include the Directors (or their designees) of the following State agencies and these entities shall be considered the AISAC Executive Committee:

   - Arizona Game and Fish Department
   - Arizona Department of Agriculture
   - Arizona Department of Transportation
   - Arizona Department of Water Resources
   - Arizona State Land Department
   - Arizona State Parks
   - Arizona Department of Health Services
   - University in Arizona
   - Office of the Governor

6. AISAC shall also include representation from each of the following entities:

   - Native American community
   - Agricultural interests
   - Conservation community
   - Forest health management interests
   - Ranching industry
   - Nursery and landscape industry
   - Pet industry
   - Cooperative Weed Management Areas, invasive species councils, or vegetation management associations
   - Federal agencies with an interest in invasive species
   - Academic community and University Cooperative Extension
   - Other members as deemed appropriate by the Governor

7. AISAC shall develop a comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan for Arizona based upon the framework recommended in the report, "Arizona's Invasive Species Situation: unwanted plants and animals – June, 2006" ("Report"). As recommended in the Report, the framework shall center around five focal strategic concepts:

   - Leadership and Coordination
   - Research and Information Management
   - Anticipation and Outreach
   - Control and Management
   - Funding

This comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan should also provide guidance and identify expertise for the recommendations outlined in the Report.

8. The Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council shall submit this comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan for review and evaluation to the Governor by June 30, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 24th day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-First.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer
SECRETARY OF STATE