

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Region Policy
Minimizing the Introduction of
Invasive Species by Service Activities**

December 7, 2016

Presentation For

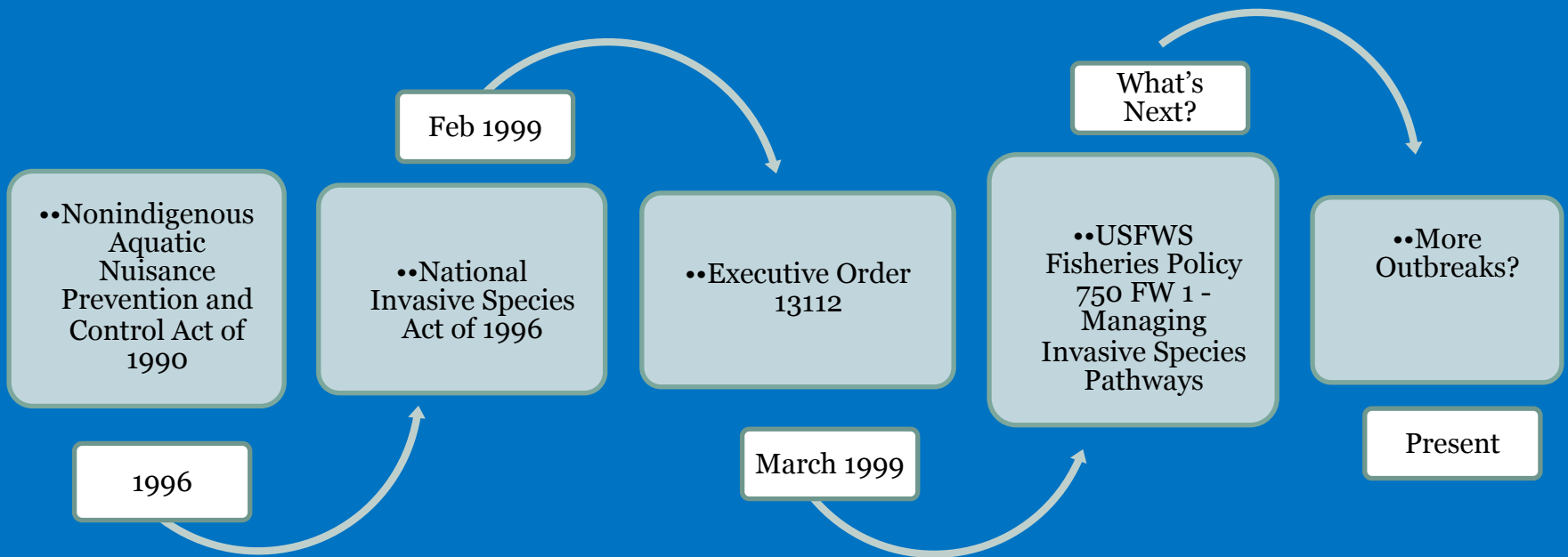
The Columbia River Basin Team Meeting

Portland, Oregon

Region 1 takes the bull(frog) by the horns...led by Paul Heimowitz, Inez Lawson and the Pacific Region Invasive Species Team



Another Federal Policy- Oh My!

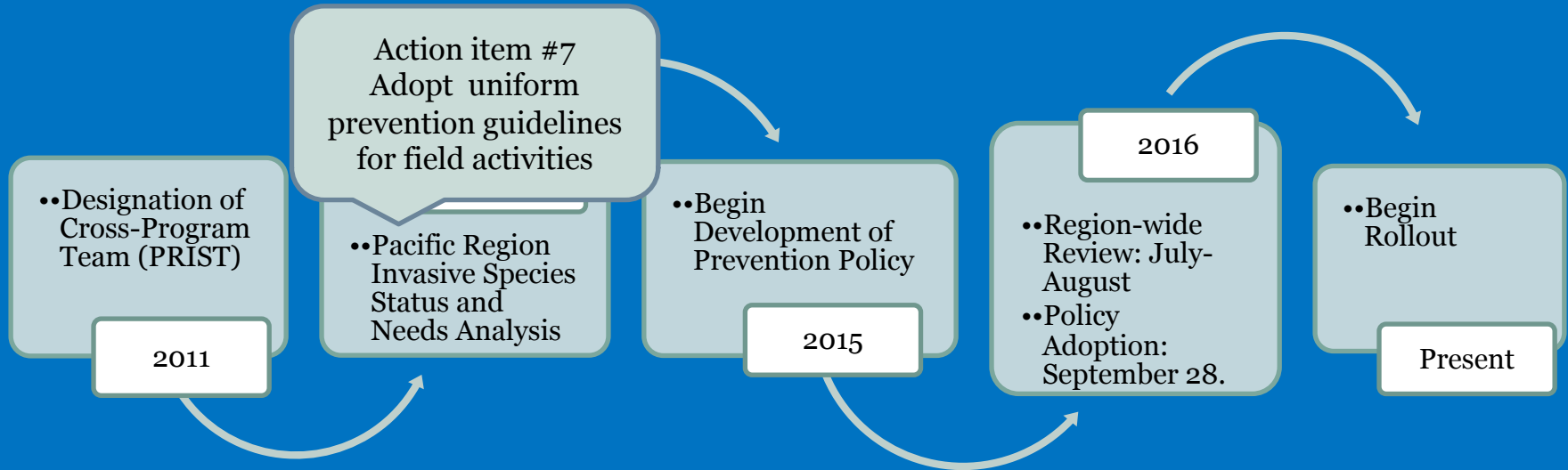


Is The USFWS Fully Covered?

- ✓ Fisheries
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Ecological Services
- Migrator Birds
- Law Enforcement
- Science Applications
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
- Terrestrial Species?
- Are We Even Covered At Least Regionally?



Moving the Ball Forward

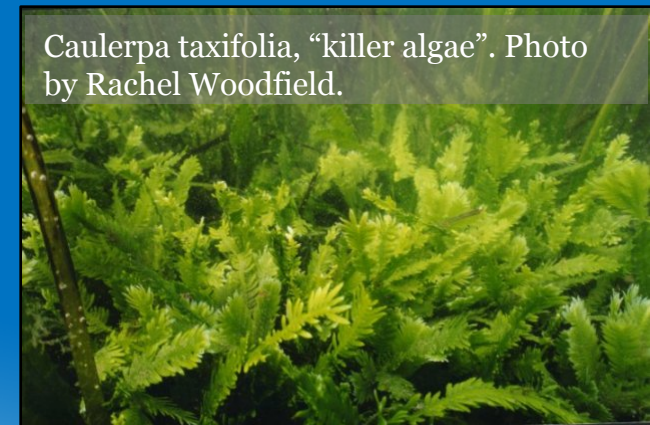


Current Policy Status?

- Signed on October 3, 2016

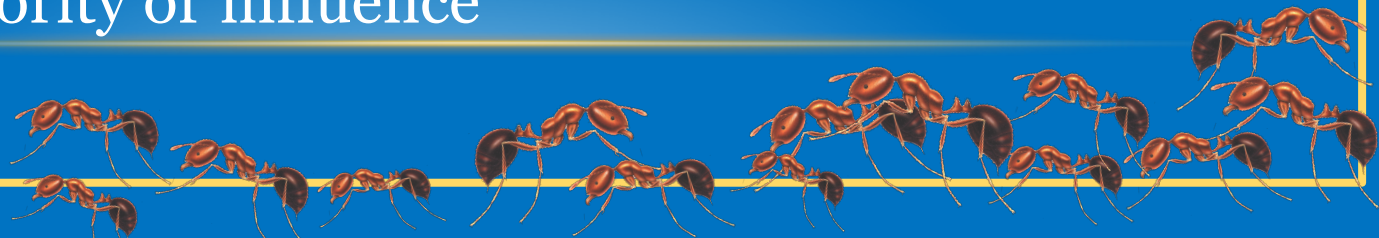
Policy: Purpose and Intent

- Reduce harm from invasive species
- Establish minimum expectations for Program Guidelines
- **Complement current prevention guidelines**
- Promote adaptive and collaborative approach
- Prevention ideal but need to invest in early detection, rapid response, and long-term control

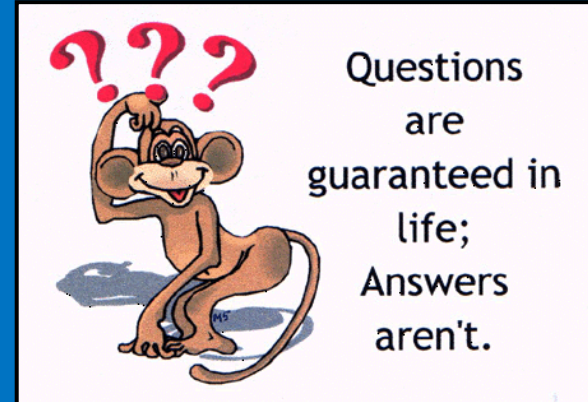


Scope

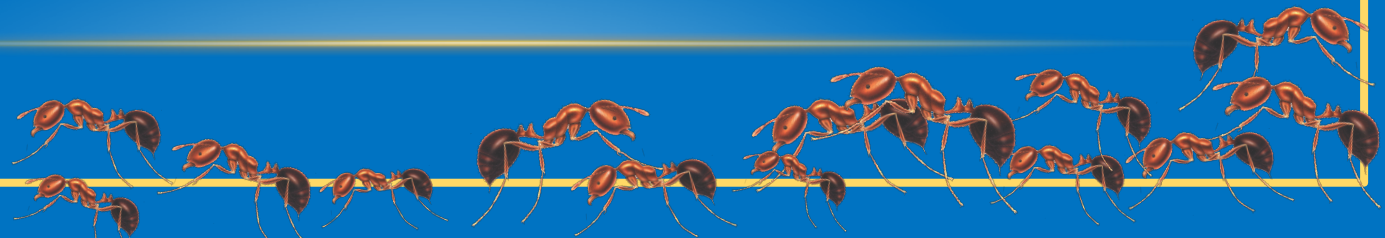
- Only Region 1 (ID,WA, OR, HI, Pacific Islands)
- All FWS Programs
- Covers aquatic and terrestrial invasive species
- High priority on prevention
- Minimize introductions by
 - ✓ Service employees
 - ✓ Other parties carrying out actions with Service funding
 - ✓ Actions of other parties where the Service has regulatory, permitting, coordination, or other authority or influence



Tackling Uncertainty

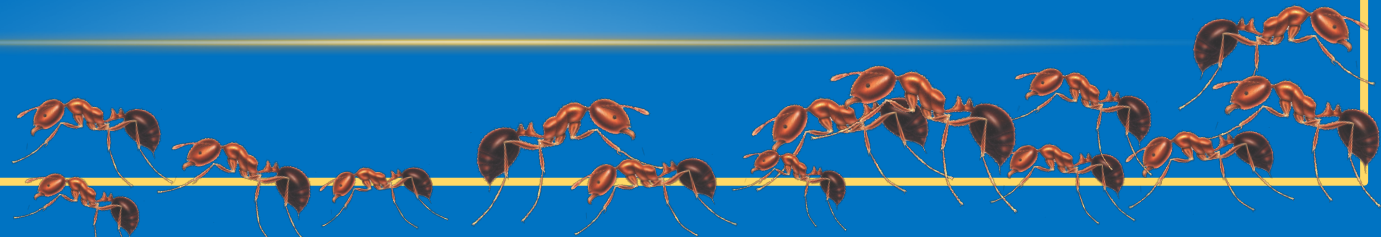


- Minimum Standards - Some form of risk evaluation will be required for activities or situations that are novel, or have an uncertain level of risk related to invasive species. Further assessment must occur before proceeding to develop effective prevention guidelines.



Efficient and Effective

- The cost of invasive species prevention can quickly outpace the return (risk reduction) on the investment (cost). The Pacific Region policy recommends developing several levels of effort/method commensurate to levels of risk of exposure or accidental transfer. Ultimately our goal is to be both effective while being efficient.



Timing – A Stepwise Implementation

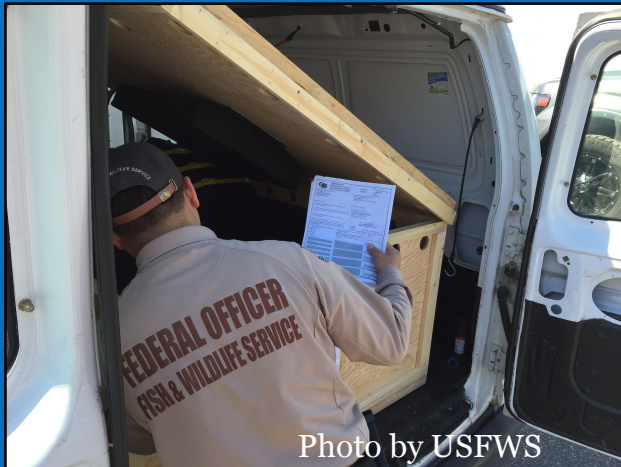
- Programs to develop guidelines- 1 year (Oct 2017)
- Project leaders and Division Chiefs are to designate Invasive Species Leads
- Programs have 2 years (Oct 2018) until full implementation of all guidelines



Those Directly Affected

- ✓ Service employees
- ✓ Other parties carrying out actions with Service funding
- ✓ Actions of other parties where the Service has regulatory, permitting, coordination, or other authority or influence

Policy Expectations: Field Activities by Service Employees



Funding Expectations: Service Funding of Partner Field Activities



Oversight Expectations: Service Oversight of Field Activities by Other Parties

Condit Dam breach. Photo by Taylor Goforth/USFWS.



What individual responsibilities are established by the Pacific Region's Policy on Minimizing the Introduction of Invasive Species by Service Activities?

Yellow Starthistle. Photo by G.Hartwell



Didymo (Rock Snot).
Photo by EPA.

Individual Responsibilities

- A. All Pacific Region Employees
- B. Regional Director
- C. Assistant Regional Directors and other Regional Directorate Team members
- D. Field Office Project Leaders and Regional Office Division Chiefs
- E. Supervisors
- F. Contracting and General Services Managers
- G. Invasive Species Prevention Leads
- H. Pacific Region Invasive Species Team (PRIST) members
- I. Pacific Region Science Applications Program



Individual Responsibilities

A. All Pacific Region Employees will:

- (1) Implement the guidelines adopted by their Program or field station/office pursuant to this policy.

E. Supervisors will:

- (1) Facilitate employee awareness of this policy.
- (2) Understand employees' needs for time and resources to comply with the policy, and seek to gain this capacity as warranted (see Section 2.G – Implementation Capacity).
- (3) Ensure compliance with State and Federal invasive species laws and regulations (see Appendix 3).



Individual Responsibilities

G. Invasive Species Prevention Leads will:

- (1) Help with interpretation, implementation, and evaluation of the policy.
- (2) Aid in dissemination of training materials and technical guidance as warranted, and provide technical assistance when feasible.

H. Pacific Region Invasive Species Team (PRIST) members will:

- (1) Meet periodically to assess overall progress with the policy and make recommendations to the Regional Directorate when changes are warranted.
- (2) Provide training and technical guidance as warranted.
- (3) Provide support to Invasive Species Prevention Leads.



Thanks for tuning in,
now for your questions....

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