

News for Immediate Release

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Contact: Caroline Murphy, AWB® (301) 968-1903, cmurphy@wildlife.org

National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species submits recommendations to Biden-Harris Administration and 117th Congress

February 23, 2021 (Bethesda, MD) – A coalition of environmental organizations and professional societies provided recommendations to the Biden-Harris administration and Congress on ways to combat the growing costs and impacts of invasive species.

The [report](#), released by nine national organizations that are part of the [National Environmental Coalition of Invasive Species](#), suggests federal actions to address the introduction, dispersal, and establishment of invasive species in the United States. It provides specific guidance for agencies in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) and U.S. Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service). For each federal agency, the report describes existing programs and activities, analyzes barriers to their success, and recommends administrative and congressional actions to improve success.

“By implementing these recommendations, the federal government can protect the nation from invasive species at points of entry, along interstate transportation channels, and on public and private lands,” said Caroline Murphy, AWB®, Government Relations Manager at The Wildlife Society and current chair of the coalition. Thousands of invasive species currently affect the United States and cause billions of dollars in damages to taxpayers and landowners each year.

Many of the recommendations for administrative action focus on strengthening existing partnerships and communication. The report calls for enhanced invasive species management plans for federal lands, greater funding, increased research, standardized methods to collect and share information, and improved policies to protect [scientific integrity](#).

Recommendations for congressional action center on the inadequate funding of existing invasive species prevention and management programs. Many federal programs, including the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System, USFS Forest Health Management program, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, and APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine program, are fiscally limited in their ability to control and manage the invasive species issues they are mandated to address.

The Wildlife Society (TWS; [wildlife.org](#)) manages the operations of NECIS, and worked in concert with the National Wildlife Federation, Alliance for the Great Lakes, Entomological Society of America, Natural Areas Association, Ecological Society of America, Center for Invasive Species Prevention, National Association of Invasive Plant Councils, and American Bird Conservancy to craft these recommendations.

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NECIS is a partnership of environmental organizations and professional societies dedicated to strengthening the nation’s response to invasive species, with a particular focus on preventing new invasions. NECIS’ mission is to promote sound policies for preventing the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species in the United States. [www.necis.net](#)

Founded in 1937, TWS and its network of affiliated chapters and sections represent more than 15,000 professional wildlife biologists, managers, and educators dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship. TWS’ mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. [www.wildlife.org](#)