



# **Vegetation Management & Invasive Species**

**July 15, 2008**

**Monterey, CA**

APR 21 2003

# Definitions

- Invasive Plants are alien species whose introduction is likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment, or to human health.

Introduced plants from another region

Native plants that become aggressive when moved to another region

- Noxious Weeds – a legal designation that compromise agriculture, harm humans, or degrade natural areas.

*Noxious weeds are usually invasive plants, but only noxious weeds have legal standing.*

Each state has a uniquely appropriate weed law and list.

# Problematic because...

Invasive plants degrade our environment at a cost of \$123 billion annually

Displace native plant communities

Compete for the same natural resource and life requirements

Cause extinction of natives

Alter fire regimes

Increase soil erosion

Alter hydrology

Decrease quality and amt of range habitat



# Sources of Invasive Plants

- Erosion control plantings
- Ornamental introduction of plants
- Movement by construction and maintenance equipment
- Everyday vehicle air disturbances
- Importation of top soils and gravels

# Sources continued...

- Ill-timed blading, mowing, dredging, etc
- Use of non-certified mulches
- Adjacent agricultural practices
- Bare-ground spraying
- Commercial wildflowers can include pest plants

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# Executive Order 13112

- Signed into law in Feb 1999 established National Invasive Species Council

Definitions

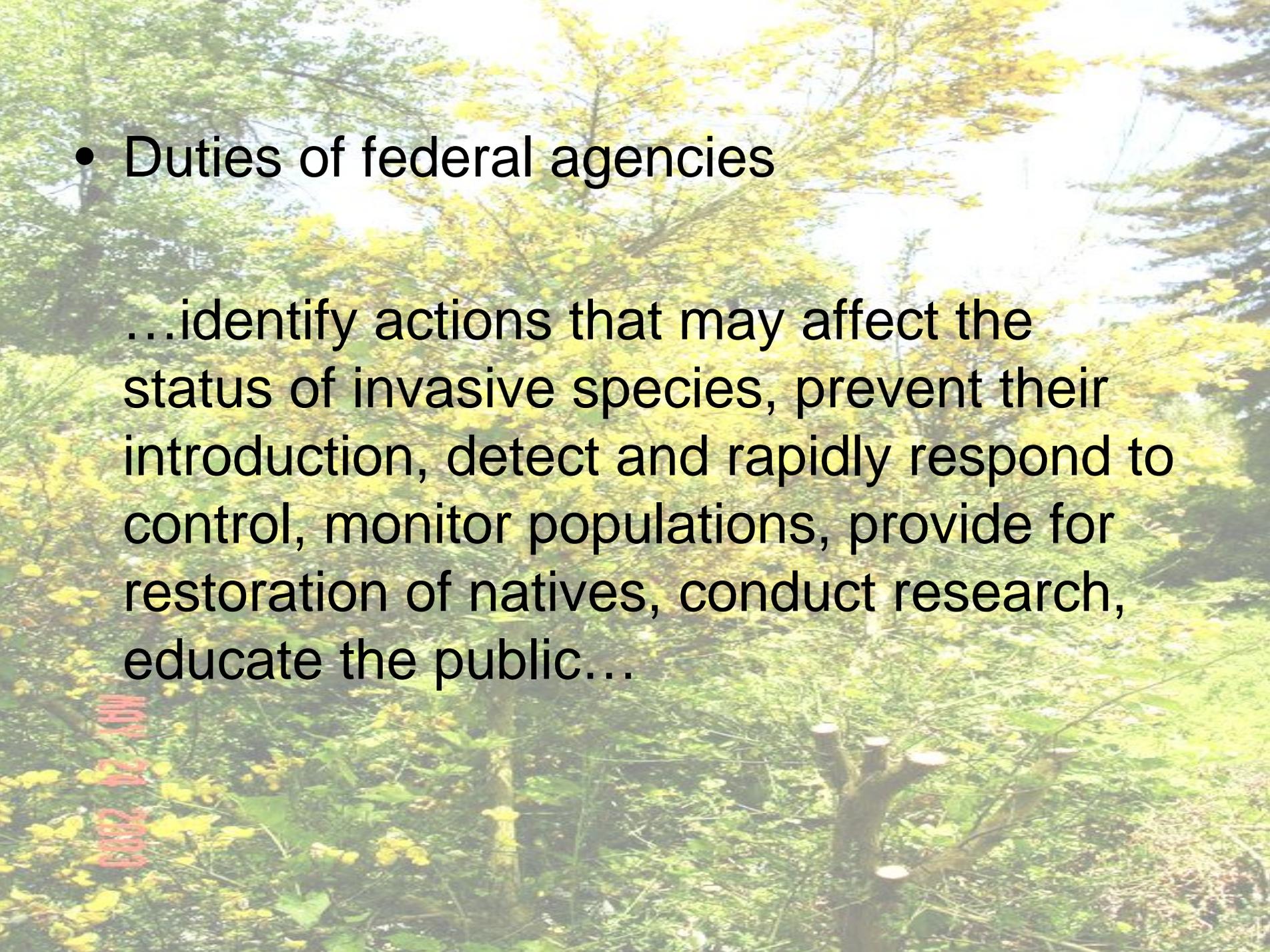
Federal agency duties

Invasive Species Council

Duties of NISC

Invasive Species Management Plan

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- Duties of federal agencies

...identify actions that may affect the status of invasive species, prevent their introduction, detect and rapidly respond to control, monitor populations, provide for restoration of natives, conduct research, educate the public...

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Duties continued...

Do not authorize, fund, or  
carry out actions like to cause  
or promote the introduction  
or spread of noxious species...



# SAFETEA-LU 6006

## Subsection 329

- Provides for Federal-aid eligibility for weed control by State vegetation managers
- Supports work concurrently with, in advance of, or following the construction of a funded project.
- Expands eligibility to establish native plants

- **Guidance issued from FHWA**
  - Use of federal funds
  - NEPA analysis
  - State DOT activities and funded facilities
  - Innovative Design
  - Research (NCHRP 36-05)
  - Training
  - Interagency
  - Cooperation

