

Invasive Plant Management and Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation:



**WESTERN WEEDS SUMMIT
17-19 NOVEMBER 2015
BOISE, IDAHO**

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NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

Perspectives from Six Different Personalities

No. 1

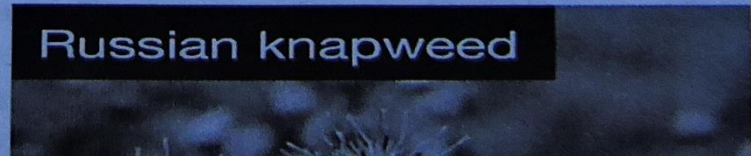
The Program Manager

among land management agencies and states. This has impeded the development of an effective regional or national program to ameliorate the threat of invasive plants across the range of the GRSG.

Executive Order 13112, signed in 1999 by President Clinton, requires federal agencies to establish, coordinate, and implement invasive species management programs across the U.S. The Executive Order also establishes a cabinet-level National Invasive Species Council (NISC), co-chaired by the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and calls for the development of a National Management Plan to address invasive species in the U.S. Despite the existence of this Executive Order, and the development of two national management plans since 1999, federal invasive species research and management programs remain largely uncoordinated, and highly variable in structure, capacity, and functionality. The NISC has not met since 2008, and an update to the previous national management plan (which expired in 2012) has not yet been completed. Additionally, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), the Federal Advisory committee Act (FACA)-chartered advisors to the NISC, is another potentially excellent resource that has been underutilized since the passage of Executive Order 13112. While current ISAC activities have provided some value to federal government partners, their activities have not been well-guided by the three Department-level co-chairs of NISC. Thus, some ISAC's efforts and recommendations under FACA may be perceived as duplicative, underutilized, or low value to the federal agencies. In general, the three co-chair Departments of the NISC provide poor oversight and administration, of the activities, membership, and expertise of ISAC.

Over 20 federal departments and agencies have responsibil-

Russian knapweed



Improving NISC Enabling Environment

- **Staff**

- Reporting to DOI PDAS
- Aligning duties with E.O. 13112
- Portfolios to include explicit coordinating functions (Feds, States, Tribes)
- Supporting Principal priorities
- Guided by Management Plan

- **NISC Principals**

- Designating senior political level leads
- Regular consultation among Principals
- Directing technical Policy Liaisons
- Seeking advice from ISAC

- **Policy Liaisons**

- Designated functions re implementation
- NISC staff to support at technical level
- Toolkit/Coaching

- **ISAC**

- Responsive to NISC priority needs
- Task teams – focused, time-delimited
- High impact outputs/timely

- **Improved reporting at all levels**



Co-Chair Principal Priorities



October 28-30, 2015

1. Implementation of EDRR Framework
2. Analysis of impact of federal authorities relevant to E.O. 13112
3. National assessments on cross-cutting invasive species issues to link science with decision making (includes socio-economic component)
4. Communication strategy to strengthen NISC outreach efforts
5. Regional-scale coordination and cooperation on invasive species at landscape level

Immediate Next Steps



1. Release EDRR Framework
2. Finalize 3rd National Invasive Species Management Plan
 - Inter-Departmental Actions
 - Shorter list (priorities)
 - Shorter timeline
 - Tracking/reporting
3. Improve NISC website
4. Select new ISAC members
5. Enact priority task teams
 - Foundation setting
 - Principal priorities

How You Can Help...

1. Patience and flexibility
2. Share Federal Register notice for ISAC nominations
 - www.doi.gov/invasivespecies
3. Non-feds: Apply to serve on ISAC
4. Feds: Establish effective communication with Depart leads
5. Participate on task teams
6. Continue to let us know what we can do better
7. Let us know when and how we are making a positive difference



Message 1.

Conservation is an art and
science of motivating and
empowering people

No. 2

The Ecologist





Lessons From Some Great Basin Frogs

I. Everything is in relationship

- No invasive species exists in isolation
- There is always a 'conversation' taking place among all the elements in the system
- It's our job to listen for and to the conversation...
- And then decide how best to foster the generative relationships



Lessons From Some Great Basin Frogs

II. All relationships are context specific

- Invasive species...not really
- Invasive populations
- Inter-acting organisms
- Contexts are unique
- Contexts are spatio-temporally dynamic
- Role in system is not going to be static
- We need to be systems thinkers...and doers



Message 2.


"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." ~ John Muir

No. 3
The Psychologist

What's Stopping Us?



NEURO-LOGICAL LEVEL	FOCUS
Spirit	For What or For Whom
Identity	Who
Values	Why
Capacity	How
Behavior	What
Context	When, Where, Who



What's Stopping Us?



NEURO-LOGICAL LEVEL	FOCUS
Spirit	For What or For Whom
Identity [heart, soul, emotions]	Who
Values	Why
Capacity	How
Behavior [linear rational thinking]	What
Context	When, Where, Who

What's Stopping Us?



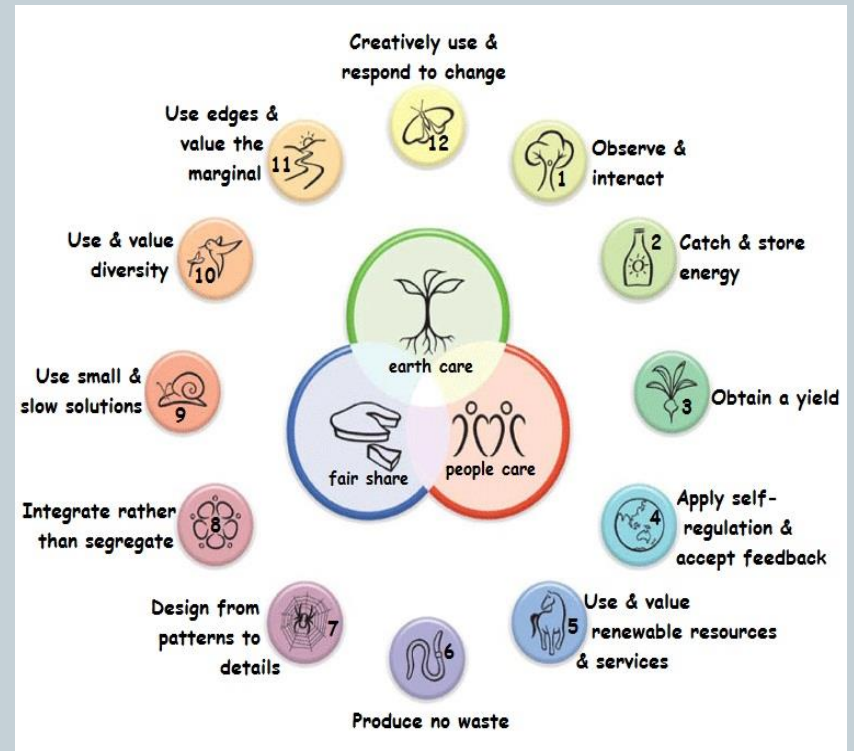
NEURO-LOGICAL LEVEL	FOCUS
Spirit	For What or For Whom? (reduce fire risk, save GRSG, or...?)
Identity	Who? (manager or steward?)
Values	Why? (to kill or protect?)
Capacity	IPM
Behavior	Manage Invasive Plants
Context	Great Basin

Message 3.

“No problem can be solved at the same level of thinking that created it.” ~ Albert Einstein

No. 4
The Farmer

Permaculture Principles



Permaculture Principles



Foster hognut
Cardboard
Build soil
Recover native meadow



Eat them out
Foster native *Rubus*
Support Neotropical
migrants



Chicken tractor
Cardboard
Build soil
Recover native
perennial herbs

“You don’t have
a snail problem,
you have a duck
deficiency!”

~Bill Mollison

Message 4.

“In what way is the problem
the solution?” ~ Permaculture 101

No. 5
The Writer

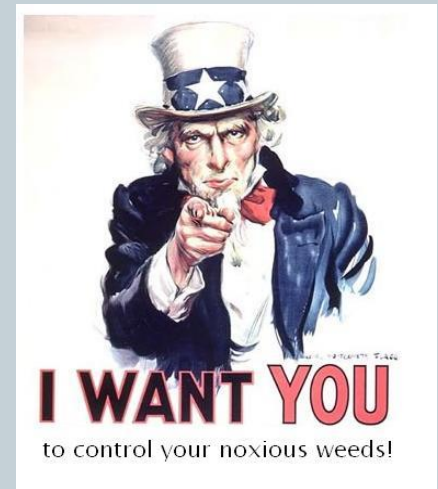
Story Telling

Humans are wired for story telling

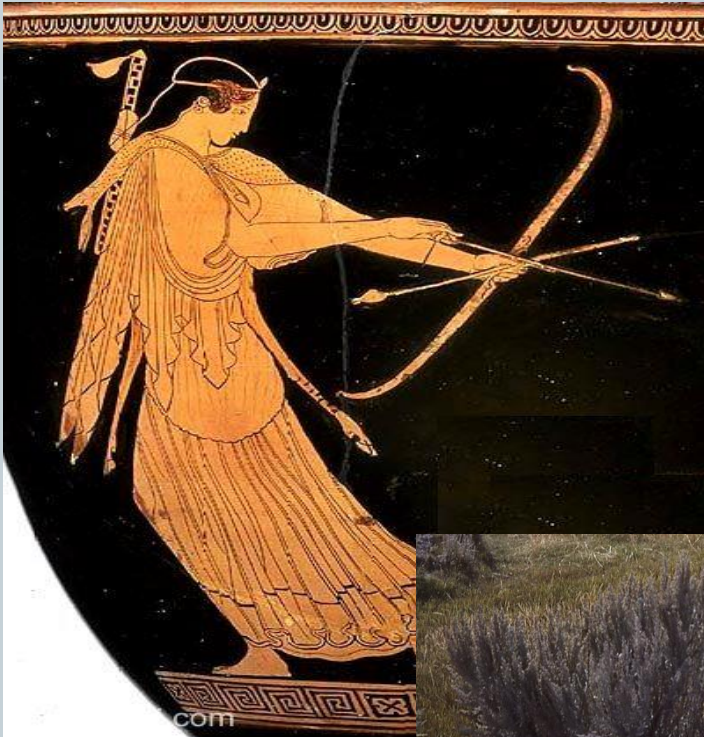
- Security: family systems, communities (cultural norms), knowledge of resources through time
- Provide necessary info for the linear rational mind (how, what, when/where/with whom)
- Provide the necessary 'experience' engage the imagination and evoke emotions (why, who, for whom)
- Change the story about world or self, everything else has to change

PCI-Media Impact

**Learn how to become a
Weed Warrior!**



Story Telling



Message 5.

“Everything is held together with stories. That is all that is holding us together, stories and compassion.” ~ Barry Lopez

What are the compelling stories we need to be telling?

No. 6

The Poet

