



**Indiana Invasive
Species Council**
Strategic Plan



This strategic plan has been developed by the Indiana Invasive Species Council in order to provide a disciplined approach to the management of invasive species in Indiana over the next three years. The members of the council are:

Council Chairman John Jachetta Dow AgroSciences

Council Secretariat Steve Yaninek Purdue University

Amy Cornell Indiana State Department of Agriculture

Bill Fielding Indiana Department of Transportation

Philip Gramelspacher Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association

Doug Keller Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife

Kristopher Krouse Shirley Heinze Land Trust, representing land trusts, conservation and/or parks and recreation organizations

Stuart Lowry Indianapolis Parks and Recreation

Phil Marshall Department of Natural Resources' Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology

Dr. Sandi Norman Indiana State Board of Animal Health

[Open position, representing industry]

The IISC will focus on addressing the duties set forth by the Indiana General Assembly.

In 2009, the Indiana General Assembly established the Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC) within the Purdue University College of Agriculture to enhance the ability of state agencies to detect, prevent, monitor and manage new and long established invasive species.ⁱ This action was based on the recommendation of a task force established by a joint House and Senate committee. Invasive species are exotic insects, plants, fish, birds, mammals and other organisms that are a serious threat to Hoosier homes, environment and economy. The goal of the IISC is to work with responsible agencies and partners to effectively and efficiently slow the spread and thwart the impact of invasive species in Indiana. The council's most important function is to give citizens and industries a way to voice concerns and opinions about management of invasive species in Indiana while providing science-based, relevant information about current or emerging issues. The IISC does not have any regulatory authority over invasive species.ⁱⁱ

An Invasive Species is Defined as a Species that is:

- Non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
- Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms including microbes.
- Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions.

1. Recommend project priorities, funding, rules, and laws

Few governmental agencies and partners have adequate staff and/or funding to fully address invasive species threats and infestations. Therefore, setting priorities will assist agencies and their partners in implementing the most cost-effective long-term control and/or eradication program.

IISC will identify and prioritize funding needs. Funding needs may include research, management and education and outreach programs.

IISC will review the regulatory framework of invasive species in Indiana and make recommendations on the regulatory structure needed to successfully implement invasive species goals and objectives.

Guidelines for Prioritization:

- Identify significant and important resources to protect.
- Inventory properties to identify invasive species population sizes and locations.
- Prioritize populations for management based on the significance of the resource, the existence of effective control methods, the invasiveness of the species, and the potential for long-term control.
- Implement control and document our successes/failures.
- Reevaluate priorities based on our experiences with control and as we learn about new information and control methods.ⁱⁱⁱ

2. Recommend a lead state agency to develop an invasive species inventory for each invasive species taxon (plants, insects and plant diseases, aquatics, animal diseases) and maintain a data management system

In Indiana, jurisdiction over invasive species is divided between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Board of Animal Health (BOAH), Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), County Weed Boards, and township trustees. Currently, there is no agency charged with gathering and maintaining data on invasive species in Indiana. This information is crucial for agencies and land managers to determine which new invasive species threaten which parts of Indiana, whether eradication of new infestations is feasible, and what are appropriate control strategies.

3. Communicate with other states, federal agencies, and state and regional organizations to enhance consistency and effectiveness in preventing the spread of, early detection of, response to; and management of invasive species

Invasive species know no borders and can move in ways that negate political boundaries. Where appropriate, IISC will seek to coordinate with other state and federal agencies and organizations to leverage their experiences and approaches to invasive species management and funding.

4. Coordinate education and outreach activities

The IISC must identify key audiences, determine what educational materials are needed, tailor messages for each audience and determine the appropriate agency or partner to disseminate the information. The council has a duty to plan and conduct a public informational meeting every 2 years.

5. Assist governmental agencies in reviewing current invasive species policies and procedures, addressing any deficiencies or inconsistencies in such policies and procedures and reviewing the agencies' performance measures for accountability concerning the agencies' invasive species actions

Given the many state agencies and their varied missions in Indiana, it is not surprising that there are inconsistencies in policies and practices on invasive species between them. In some cases, one state agency is actively working to eradicate or control an invasive species that another agency may be deliberately introducing into Indiana. IISC needs to identify the roles, responsibilities and lines of authority between state agencies and partners to assist governmental agencies in reviewing current invasive species policies and procedures. Information exchange between programs is critical to support regulatory coordination and facilitate invasive species management. The IISC provides a regular forum for reviewing state agency policies and practices to identify ways to improve consistency and address any deficiencies.

6. Receive and manage reports from all governmental agencies that act on the council's recommendations

The science and economic impacts and management of invasive species are more than one person or agency can expertly know or expertly implement as policy. As a representative council, the IISC can address the science and policy issues in a way that results in an outcome that is fair and practical. This activity may include a formal request for reports on government agency actions resulting from this council's recommendations

7. Apply for and provide grants for education and management of invasive species

Additional funding may be needed to improve prevention, early detection and control and management of invasive species in Indiana in a cost-effective manner. The IISC can identify alternative funding sources that may be available and position Indiana to take advantage of them.

ⁱ Ind. Code § 15-16-10

ⁱⁱ Ind. Code § 15-16-10(b)

ⁱⁱⁱ DR. JULIE RICHBURG, THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS, INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT: GUIDELINES FOR MANAGERS 5 (Sept. 29, 2008), www.thetrustees.org/.../Invasives-Plant-Guidelines-Final_Sep08.pdf.