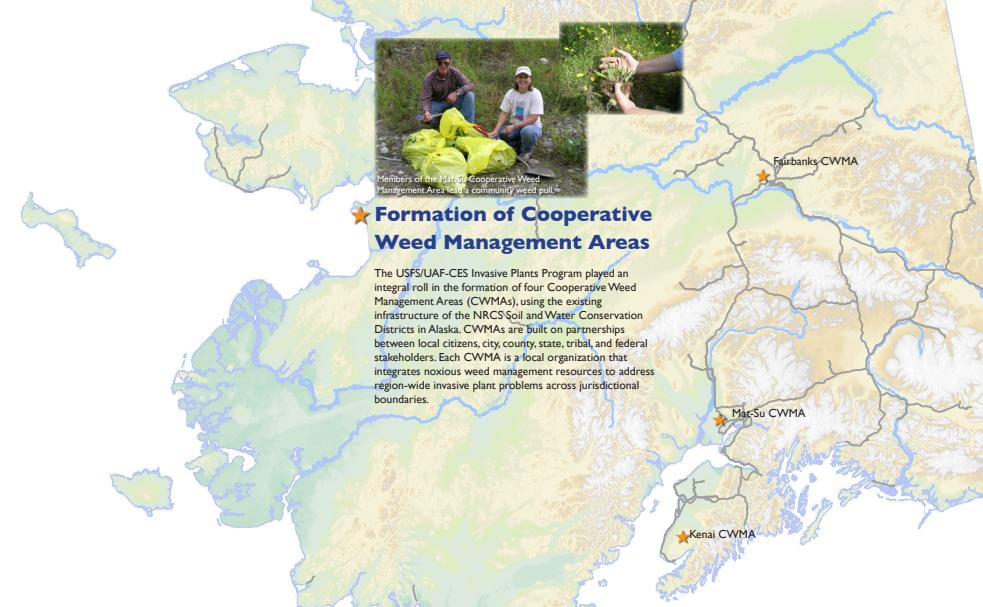


# Pulling Together to Control Invasive Plants in Alaska



A partnership between the USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, the UAF Cooperative Extension Service, and CSREES

For many years land managers thought Alaska's geographic isolation and harsh climates would buffer the state from invasive plants (noxious weeds in other states). In recent years many invasive plant species have been introduced and become established. Alaskans have a unique window of opportunity to prevent many infestations before they become widespread. A partnership between USFS, UAF-CES, and CREES has supported a statewide IPM Program for two decades. In 2001 the focus of the program expanded to include an Invasive Plants Program, focused on **invasive plant prevention** and **early detection**.



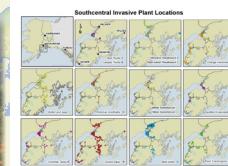
## Formation of Cooperative Weed Management Areas

The USFS/UAF-CES Invasive Plants Program played an integral role in the formation of four Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA), using the existing infrastructure of the NRCS Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Alaska. CWMA's are built on partnerships between local citizens, city, county, state, tribal, and federal stakeholders. Each CWMA is a local organization that integrates noxious weed management resources to address region-wide invasive plant problems across jurisdictional boundaries.

## Early Detection Outputs

- AKEPIC Statewide Inventory: the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC0 is a central database where invasive plant data can be stored and accessed for map making. USFS, UAF-CES, and many state and federal collaborators contribute new data each year. The database currently contains over 37,000 data points, all accessible online, at:

<http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/>



Maps by Melinda Lamb, USFS.

AKEPIC survey work.



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Additional Collaborators in Invasive Plant Prevention and Management:

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts  
Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation  
NRCS Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
University of Alaska Natural Heritage Program  
USDA Agricultural Research Service  
USDI Bureau of Land Management  
USDI National Park Service  
US Geological Survey

For more information on invasive plants in Alaska:

USDA Forest Service R10 State & Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/fohp/>  
The Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM): <http://www.cnipm.org>  
UAA Alaska Natural Heritage Program, Invasiveness Ranking Project: [http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/akweeds\\_ranking\\_page.htm](http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/akweeds_ranking_page.htm)  
Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC): <http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/>



## Invasive Plants Prevention Outputs

- Public Education and Outreach: Over 2,000 client contacts and 46 presentations were made in 2005, in response to the growing demand for invasive plants prevention, detection, and control information.
- The Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) annual statewide conference brings land owners and land managers from citizen's groups and local, state, and federal agencies together for 2 days of workshops and lectures by state and national speakers. Record attendance in 2005 reflects the growing demand for invasive plants information.

### • Publications:



Hands-on learning: Community members learn to ID invasive plants at a USFS/UAF-CES sponsored workshop.

## Outcome success story: Increased public awareness

- Television, newspaper, and radio coverage of invasive plant projects around the state has increased public awareness of invasive plant issues. This article from the Anchorage Daily News highlights the efforts of the USFS/UAF-CES team and 120 science students from Central Junior High School, conducting invasive plant surveys in a local park.



## Outcome success story: Cooperation

- In October, 2005 representatives of 12 agencies and non-governmental organizations, and citizens groups came together to eradicate the first known escaped population of purple loosestrife in Alaska.



Graphic Design: Susan Bybee, Cooperative Extension Service