

Listening Sessions

DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan Revision

JULY 8, 9, 15, 16, 2026



Damages from invasive species are costly and wide-ranging.



Fuels fires that put people, places, and species at risk
(cheatgrass)



Damages water and power delivery systems
(invasive mussels)



Spreads disease to people and wildlife
(Asian longhorned tick)



Deteriorates levees, dikes, and roadbeds
(nutria)



Eliminates native species
(brown treesnake)



Degrades recreation and fisheries
(invasive carps)



Kills trees important for timber and cultural practices
(emerald ash borer)



Reduces rangeland productivity
(leafy spurge)

Coordination across Interior and with partners is essential for effective invasive species management.



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION



--- Interior-wide approach ---



Statutory Requirement

John D. Dingell, Jr.,
Conservation,
Management and
Recreation Act
(PL 116-9)

Sect. 7001,
Section 1,
Sec. 10,
(c) Strategic Plan

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Secretary concerned shall develop a strategic plan for the implementation of the invasive species program to achieve, to the maximum extent practicable, a substantive annual net reduction of invasive species populations or infested acreage on land or water managed by the Secretary concerned.

“(2) COORDINATION.—Each strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall be developed—

“(A) in coordination with affected—

“(i) eligible States; and

“(ii) political subdivisions of eligible States;

“(B) in consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes; and

“(C) in accordance with the priorities established by 1 or more Governors of the eligible States in which an ecosystem affected by an invasive species is located.

“(3) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In developing a strategic plan under this subsection, the Secretary concerned shall take into consideration the economic and ecological costs of action or inaction, as applicable.



DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan, 2021-2025



- Extensive outreach to inform the plan's development (2019-2020)
- Outreach and in-reach after the plan was finalized (2021-2025)
- Implementation focused on 5 goals (16 Objectives and 69 Strategies):
 - Collaboration and Partnerships
 - Prevention
 - Early Detection and Rapid Response
 - Control and Eradication
 - Data Management

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/doi-invasive-species-strategic-plan-2021-2025-508.pdf>

DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan Accomplishments Report, 2021-2025



<https://www.doi.gov/media/document/invasive-species-accomplishments-report-2021-2025>

Accomplishments Report - Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HIGHLIGHTS

DOI plays a vital role in invasive species management across the country. From preventing the introduction and establishment of new invasive species to eradicating and controlling existing infestations, DOI bureaus and offices are actively engaged in a wide range of efforts.

While this report cannot capture all activities between 2021 and 2025, the following examples highlight the breadth and impact of DOI's work in collaboration with partners.

The BLM Tase Field Office Fire and Weeds programs conducted a 330-acre aerial spray of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) in the Pot Mountain burn scar in New Mexico utilizing drones. (Rocky Mountain Ecology LLC)

4



1. Collaboration & Partnerships

Interagency coordinating groups, education campaigns, Memoranda of Understanding, funding opportunities



2. Prevention

Training, spread prevention tools, injurious wildlife interceptions



3. Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR)

Surveys tools, methods, and monitoring, Strike Teams, Invasive Plant Management Teams, National EDRR Framework



4. Control & Eradication

Targeted eradications (e.g., islands), species-specific suppression, biological control, categorical exclusion



5. Data Management

Nonindigenous Aquatic Species database, decision support tools, data standards and integration, community science

Accomplishments Report – Strategies for Success

FIELD NOTES



STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Customs and Biosecurity team successfully intercepted the highly destructive little fire ant on cargo arriving from Guam after receiving training from USFWS, funded by OIA. (Top image credit: CNMI Customs and Biosecurity Team. Bottom image credit: USFWS)

Across DOI, collaborative action made a substantial difference in protecting U.S. resources and restoring impacted public lands. The successful strategies below feature the power of partnerships, innovation, and persistence.

These snapshots offer a glimpse into what effective invasive species management looks like in practice – and the success we can achieve when we work together.

8

Featured examples of:

- Coordinated, Multi-Agency Actions
- Proactive Efforts
- Innovation and Technology
- Results On-the-Ground

Accomplishments Report – Species Spotlights

INVASIVE SPECIES SPOTLIGHTS: CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

BROWN TREESNAKE



⚠️ PROBLEM

Brown treesnakes (BTS) cause costly power outages, prey on native wildlife, and disrupt ecosystems – as it has already done on Guam, where BTS eliminated nearly all native forest birds.

💡 SOLUTION

NPS, OIA, USFWS, and USGS supported a Rapid Response Team, deployed control tools, led research, and partnered with other organizations and local communities to prevent BTS spread to other areas – particularly Hawai‘i, and other U.S. territories. They also reduced BTS in Guam for native species restoration.

✅ GOOD NEWS!

Prevention is working: BTS has not established on other U.S. and Pacific islands. And, DOI partnerships with community volunteers are controlling BTS at Asan Beach-War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam and creating habitats to restore native birds.

➔ WHATS NEXT?

Agencies are implementing newly developed BTS kill traps. Experts are initiating work on biological control and other tools and evaluating detection capabilities of Costimundi (a mammal that will be trained to climb trees and hunt BTS), with the goal of creating snake-free areas in Guam.

INVASIVE CARPS



⚠️ PROBLEM

Invasive carps threaten commercial and recreational fisheries and outcompete native fish for food and habitat due to their rapid reproduction, voracious feeding, and lack of natural predators.

💡 SOLUTION

BIA, NPS, USFWS, and USGS cooperated with federal and non-federal partners on detection, containment, and control measures to reduce populations in the Mississippi River Basin and stop their spread into the Great Lakes, focusing on key pinch points like Brandon Road Lock and Dam on the Illinois River.

✅ GOOD NEWS!

Coordinated actions successfully contained invasive carp within established ranges, preventing their spread into the Great Lakes. New tools continued to reduce risk of spread.

➔ WHATS NEXT?

Agencies are refining new detection and control tools to sustain containment and further reduce the risk of invasive carp spread.

13

NUTRIA



⚠️ PROBLEM

Nutria damage levees and irrigation systems and destroy wetland ecosystems by consuming native vegetation and destabilizing soil. This leads to costly infrastructure repairs, erosion, and habitat loss.

💡 SOLUTION

BIA, BLM, BOR, NPS, USFWS, and USGS collaborated with partners across the country to detect, control, and eradicate (when possible) nutria and restore damaged marsh habitat.

✅ GOOD NEWS!

Partners eradicated nutria from Eastern shore marshes of the Chesapeake Bay after more than 20 years of coordinated management.

➔ WHATS NEXT?

Experts are identifying new areas for eradication in the U.S.

ZEBRA/QUAGGA MUSSELS



⚠️ PROBLEM

Quagga and zebra mussels clog water infrastructure, impair recreation, and damage ecosystems, causing billions in maintenance and mitigation costs.

💡 SOLUTION

BIA, BLM, BOR, NPS, USFWS, and USGS collaborated with partners to prioritize actions and support integrated interventions, such as watercraft inspection and decontamination, monitoring, containment, control, research, and education and outreach.

✅ GOOD NEWS!

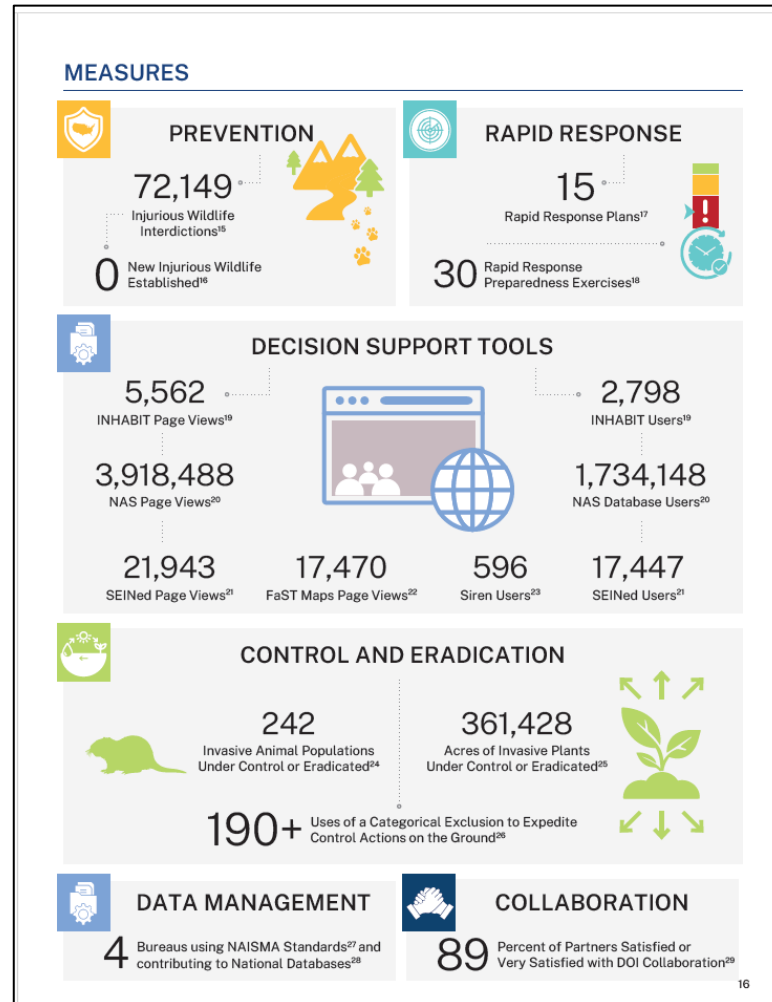
BOR and USGS in collaboration with other scientists and partners advanced promising treatments to reduce biofouling of critical infrastructure and control infestations in large-scale open-water systems.

➔ WHATS NEXT?

Continued collaboration will apply proven treatments and integrated management strategies will protect critical infrastructure and ecosystems from new mussel infestations, including emerging threats such as golden mussel.

14

Accomplishments Report - Measures



Revision Process Overview for 2027-2031 Plan

- Reviewed 2021-2025 framework
 - *Solid foundation that remains relevant*
- Assessing each goal, objective, strategy
 - *Keep, edit, remove, add*
- Considering input from various sources (internal/external)
 - *Focus on where progress still needs to be made*



Spotted knapweed

DRAFT Scope

- Reflects DOI's depth and breadth of work underway
- Incorporates ongoing work and also opportunities to focus on emerging priorities
- Complements existing plans, e.g., Bureau and interagency plans, and reporting efforts
- Applies to DOI-managed lands and waters and supports external partners where DOI has a mandate
- Involves collaboration with States, Tribes, territories, local governments, other Federal agencies, and others, as appropriate
- Reflects a spectrum of strategies, species, and scales of implementation
- Assumes existing authorities and available resources
- Spans five years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2027, to be reviewed every five years



Strategic Plan DRAFT Outline

Key Terms

Executive Summary

- **Introduction**
- **Plan Development, Implementation, and Reporting**
- **Mission and Vision**
- **Crosscutting Principles**
- **Goals, Objectives, and Strategies**
- **Conclusion**
- **Appendices**
 - Bureau/Office Missions and Roles in Invasive Species Management
 - Examples of Invasive Species Plans and Related Plans
 - Invasive Species Strategic Plan Metrics
 - Laws and Policies Guiding Invasive Species Management at DOI

*New sections TBD

2021-2025 Mission

To manage resources and partner with others to cost-effectively protect the Nation's economy, environment, public health, infrastructure, natural resources, and cultural heritage from the harmful impacts of invasive species for the benefit of current and future generations.

2021-2025 Vision

- Prevent invasive species from entering and spreading within the United States;
- Collaborate with partners in establishing early detection and rapid response capabilities to eradicate newly detected species or small populations to prevent them from spreading;
- Manage established invasive species to limit their spread and reduce negative impacts;
- Support and use scientific and technological innovation that make the management of invasive species more feasible;
- Avoid having Interior-managed lands and waters become a source of invasive species that damage the lands, waters, and resources of our neighbors;



2021-2025 Vision cont.

- Share information and raise awareness to mobilize action to address invasive species;
- Manage Interior lands and waters so they are resistant to invasive species infestations and are resilient to disturbance;
- Integrate invasive species work into other Interior activities on regional and national levels to promote effectiveness and efficiency;
- Engage with partners to address mutual invasive species priorities, including those identified by State, Tribal, Territorial, and local governments and other Federal agencies; and
- Incorporate cost-effectiveness in all actions we undertake to achieve Interior's invasive species management mission.



2021-2025 Goals, Objectives, and Crosscutting Principles

Collaborate across Interior and with others to optimize operations through leveraging partnerships, joint educational efforts, and shared funding.

Increase engagement in partnerships at multiple scales and “do our share” to advance mutual priorities.

Increase information exchange across Interior and with others to share expertise on invasive species science and management.

Increase understanding about invasive species and motivate actions to address them.

Increase partner and internal awareness of Interior funding opportunities.

Increase coordination of resources and investments across Interior and with others to support mutual priorities.

Cost-effectively prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species into and within the United States.

Increase the use of cost-effective approaches to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the United States.

Prioritize prevention practices to inhibit the secondary spread of invasive species within the United States.

Leverage research and innovation to develop cost-effective tools, technologies, and methods to prevent invasive species introductions and secondary spread.

Implement early detection and rapid response efforts in coordination with other Federal agencies, States, Tribes, Territories, and other partners to reduce potential damage and costs from new infestations becoming established.

Engage in coordinated, early detection biosurveillance efforts that inform decision-making for rapid responses.

Engage in coordinated, rapid response efforts based on the outcome of early detection biosurveillance.

Cost-effectively control or eradicate established invasive species populations to reduce impacts and help restore ecosystems.

Control or eradicate established invasive species on Interior-managed lands and waters and across jurisdictions, where practicable.

Reduce the role of invasive species in wildfire frequency, intensity, and extent.

Leverage research and innovation to develop safe and cost-effective tools, technologies, and methods to control or eradicate invasive species, restore ecosystems, and adapt to environmental change.

Increase efficiency of conducting environmental compliance for control or eradication activities.

Improve invasive species data management for decision-making at all levels of government.

Promote user-friendly, interoperable databases.

Increase invasive species data collection and its accuracy, consistency, level of reporting, and utility across Interior.

Crosscutting Principles: Promote and engage in collaborative conservation; Leverage science; Adaptively manage;

Manage on a watershed or ecosystem scale, including islands and other isolated or contained geographies; Promote innovative solutions;

Apply integrated pest management; Prioritize cost-effectiveness; Streamline regulatory and decision-making processes; and Demonstrate accountability.

Strategic Plan Revision - DRAFT Timeline

| Timeline | Action |
|------------------|---|
| Spring 2026 | Preliminary review by DOI team |
| Summer | External Listening Sessions: July 8, 9, 15, 16 Written Comments: July 31 deadline Internal review and input |
| Fall | Federal Register Notice for Public Comment on Draft Plan |
| Winter 2026-2027 | Finalize and Release Final Plan |

Proposed timeline that will be adapted as needed

Guidance for Written Comments

Submit written feedback to the Department **no later than 5:00 pm ET on Friday, July 31, 2026**, using one of the options below:

- **Email** your comments to invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov
Include “Comment: DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan Revision” in the subject line
- **Mail** your comments through the U.S. Postal Service to:
U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis—Mailstop 3530, ATTN: Invasive Species Comments, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240



Targeted Questions and Comments

Question 1: Overall Content

In reviewing the mission, vision, goals, objectives, and strategies in the 2021-2025 DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan, which components continue to serve your jurisdiction or community, and which should be updated, clarified, or re-prioritized?

Question 2: Implementation

Based on the accomplishments highlighted in the recent Accomplishments Report, which approaches or initiatives demonstrated the most meaningful outcomes for you?

What challenges, gaps, or unintended barriers remain?

Question 3: EDRR

DOI has placed strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response (EDRR) in recent years (i.e., proactively detecting invasive species early and rapidly responding to eliminate them before they establish, spread, and cause costly harm).

What specific resources (e.g., capabilities, protocols, data systems, partnership arrangements) would most strengthen EDRR across your jurisdiction or community?

What barriers (e.g., operational, regulatory, technical, cross-jurisdictional, or other) keep EDRR from happening?

Question 4: Prevention, Eradication, and Control

Similar to EDRR, prevention activities and eradication and control efforts remain core components of DOI's approach to invasive species management.

What specific strategies would most strengthen prevention activities and eradication and control efforts across your jurisdiction or community that are within DOI's mission and authorities to address?

Question 5: Emerging Issues

What emerging invasive species threats, pathways, or management needs have become more urgent since 2021 when the original plan was released – and how should these shape new or elevated priorities in the upcoming plan?

Question 6: Coordination

How can DOI improve coordination and co-production (the co-development and co-implementation of shared strategies) with your jurisdiction or community based on your experience with our implementation of the original plan?

Question 7: Partnership Opportunities

During the next five years, where would DOI partnership be the most beneficial (e.g., coordination, permitting/compliance efficiency, technical tools, training, data infrastructure)?

Question 8: Additional Input

What additional recommendations—large or small—should DOI consider so that the revised plan is responsive, actionable, and aligned with the realities and priorities of your jurisdiction or community?

Reminder: Guidance for Written Comments

Submit written feedback to the Department **no later than 5:00 pm ET on Friday, July 31, 2026**, using one of the options below:

- **Email** your comments to invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov
Include “Comment: DOI Invasive Species Strategic Plan Revision” in the subject line
- **Mail** your comments through the U.S. Postal Service to:
U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Policy Analysis—Mailstop 3530, ATTN: Invasive Species Comments, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

Thank you.



invasivespecies@ios.doi.gov

