



Center for Invasive Plant Management BYLAWS 2008

I. MISSION

The mission of the Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) is to promote proactive, ecologically sound management of invasive plants in western North America by sponsoring research, conducting public education, and facilitating collaboration and communication among researchers, educators, policy makers and natural resource managers.

II. STEERING COMMITTEE

A. Representation – The Steering Committee shall consist of one representative of:

1. USDI Bureau of Land Management
2. USDA Forest Service
3. Tribes/USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs
4. Universities
5. State agencies
6. Conservation groups
7. Private landowners – Montana
8. Private landowners – outside Montana
9. Industry groups
10. Research interests
11. Other federal agency
12. Montana State University, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences (LRES) Department Head (*ex-officio*)

Steering Committee members shall be drawn from throughout western North America to represent diverse geographical areas, constituencies, and approaches to land management.

B. Terms of Office – Steering Committee members shall be elected for three-year terms with the opportunity for re-election for an additional three-year term. Terms of office commence on membership start date. New appointments are encouraged.

C. Election – Steering Committee members shall be nominated and elected by a majority vote of current Steering Committee members. The participation of agency representatives must be approved by the agencies that they represent.

D. Officers – Steering Committee members may elect among themselves a Chair to help facilitate decision-making and get quorum decisions from the Steering Committee, and to run Steering Committee meetings. The Chair may serve a two-year term with a fall election.

E. Voting – Proposals and initiatives will be recommended for approval with a positive vote of two-thirds of the Steering Committee, working toward consensus. Votes may be registered in person, by phone, by e-mail, or in writing. Votes may be conducted via e-mail/fax between meetings.

F. Expectations – Steering Committee members shall advise the CIPM Director and the LRES Department Head; attend semi-annual Steering Committee meetings; advocate CIPM programs; identify new partnership opportunities; and support funding existing and new initiatives.

G. Conflict of Interest – Steering Committee members shall abstain from voting on issues or providing direction that directly affects their financial or legal standing personally or professionally.

III. MEETINGS

A. Time – One in-person meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in the fall and conference call meetings will be held as needed.

B. Notification – Steering Committee members will be notified at least 30 days in advance of meetings.

C. Quorum – A quorum shall consist of seven of the 11 voting Steering Committee members.

IV. DECISION-MAKING

A. Long-term decisions – The entire Steering Committee shall be solicited for their advice and votes on issues regarding long-term vision and planning for CIPM, as well as programmatic focus and financial support.

B. Immediate decisions – The Center Director shall have the authority to make day-to-day decisions, hire staff, and act in the best interests of CIPM when immediate action is required.

V. COMMITTEES

A. The Steering Committee may form subcommittees as needed.

B. Science Advisory Council (SAC) shall: 1) function as a regional, scientific sounding board for the CIPM – providing scientific guidance and oversight, and helping identify emerging research/management needs; 2) assist CIPM in building regional technology transfer, education and research consortia that strategically address invasive plant issues; 3) serve as a review panel for CIPM’s research grant program, when the program is active; and 4) provide specific grant writing advice to the CIPM as requested. Five or six members shall be appointed by the CIPM Director for two-year terms.

C. The Education Advisory Committee shall: 1) advise the CIPM Assistant Director for Outreach and Education on the informational needs of educators/land managers who

work on invasive plant issues; and 2) review and advise in the development of educational materials and programs produced by CIPM. Members shall be appointed by the Director for two-year terms.

VI. CENTER DIRECTOR

A. Hiring and Dismissal – The Steering Committee, in partnership with Montana State University, shall select, interview, and hire the Center Director. The LRES Department Head shall be the hiring authority and lead the search process. The LRES Department Head shall provide direct oversight of the Director as far as university policies, office space, grants and contracts, personnel, and administration. The Steering Committee, according to MSU policies and procedures, may recommend termination of the Director to the LRES Department Head.

B. Responsibilities – The Center Director shall: conduct semi-annual Steering Committee meetings; communicate regularly with and follow the intent of the Steering Committee; facilitate collaboration among researchers, educators, and land managers to restore, maintain, and protect healthy ecosystems by managing invasive weeds; coordinate CIPM research and education activities; negotiate agreements; generate funding; manage personnel and budgets; and facilitate correspondence among all interested regional and national partners.

C. Oversight – The Center Director is responsible to his/her LRES Department Head and to the CIPM Steering Committee. Written annual reports, including financial reports, shall be provided by the Director to Steering Committee members and the LRES Department Head, as well as to Center funders.

D. Other staff – With justification provided to the CIPM Steering Committee and LRES Department Head, the Center Director may hire and terminate CIPM staff as needed.

VII. RELATIONSHIP WITH MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

A. Partnership – Montana State University will support CIPM by providing office space and facilities, janitorial services, administration (personnel, grants and contracts, fund administration), legal advice, purchasing agreements, computer network services, and other benefits and services associated with the university.

B. Funding – As established with other MSU centers and institutes, MSU upper administration may fund with broad earmarks to MSU-CIPM high-priority university programs that complement and support CIPM activities, provided that the allocation does not impinge on CIPM's historical baseline funding. Plans for and outcomes of that funding will be reported to the Steering Committee. The MSU LRES Department Head will communicate with the Steering Committee concerning such funding

VIII. BYLAWS

- A. Changing – Bylaws may be added, amended, or deleted with a two-thirds vote of the entire Steering Committee, either in writing or in person.
- B. Notification – Proposed bylaws changes shall be provided to Steering Committee members in writing at least 30 days preceding the vote.