



CENTER FOR  
INVASIVE PLANT  
MANAGEMENT

[www.weedcenter.org](http://www.weedcenter.org)

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The Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) at Montana State University is recognized in a recent GAO report as one of only two federally funded programs in the U.S. “dedicated solely to weed management.”

CIPM was established at MSU in 2000 through a congressional earmark, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management.

The GAO report (GAO-05-185), “Invasive Species: Cooperation and Coordination are Important for Effective Management of Invasive Weeds,” describes entities that address invasive weeds in natural areas, barriers to effective weed management, and federal, state, and local officials’ opinions about how additional weed management resources could be distributed. CIPM Director Janet Clark was interviewed for this report in September 2004.

The GAO report (p. 27) notes that MSU “created the center following discussions among public and private stakeholders. From fiscal years 2000 through 2004, the center received about \$3.3 million in federal funds specifically for weed management. The center supports the efforts of weed management areas in the West by offering them small, competitive grants. From fiscal years 2002 through 2004, the center made 58 grants to weed management areas in 14 states, for a total of about \$282,000.... The center has also used funding from BLM to create an online course in ecological land management, provide grants for weed management research and for synthesizing research libraries, establish restoration projects for weed-dominated lands, and publish numerous public education and outreach documents, among other things.”

In 2004, Congress passed the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act (S. 144). [Sens. Burns and Baucus were among the cosponsors, while Rep. Rehberg cosponsored a related House bill.] If appropriated, this bill will provide grant funding through USDA to weed management entities across the country. The GAO report concludes with the recommendation that USDA and Interior agencies collaborate “(1) in developing the mechanisms for allocating funds to weed management entities, and (2) in determining what entities should receive such funding, using the agencies – along with other regional, state, and local experts – as technical advisers, as appropriate.”

Full text of the GAO report, which was released March 29, can be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05185.pdf>.