

## **Invasive Species Management: Green Jobs for the Nation**

Stimulus package – up to \$1 billion/year to federal agencies for the next five years to:

- **Create contract jobs** in the private sector. Stimulate acquisition and services through the secondary job market.
- **Mobilize a national workforce** to stop the spread of invasive species through:
  - Inventory and monitoring of lands and waters
  - Prevention programs to protect healthy habitats
  - Early detection and rapid response utilizing “citizen scientists”
  - Managing and containing invasive species
  - Restoring degraded parks, trails, campgrounds, prairies, and rangeland
  - Building healthy fish and wildlife habitats
- **Encourage entrepreneurship** by stimulating innovation and start-up businesses, and creating a stable market for native plant seed, weed-free hay and mulch, and land and water restoration services, for example.
- **Support invasive species management businesses in the private sector**, including:
  - land management organizations and consultants
  - community- and watershed-based natural resource groups
  - manufacturers and suppliers of management tools and materials
  - conservation, recreation, and sportsmen nonprofits
  - land and water restoration specialists
- Support invasive species management efforts of **public entities** such as state and local governments, universities/extension, wildlife agencies, existing regional invasive species centers.
- **Support invasive species management in rural and urban communities.**

Invasive species management is a **non-partisan issue** with a history of support from Democratic and Republican legislators, as well as diverse interest groups ranging from The Nature Conservancy and Union of Concerned Scientists to the Farm Bureau, National Cattlemen’s Association, Western Governors’ Association, and sportsmen’s groups led by Wildlife Forever.

This is a win-win proposal. **Winners** resulting from a government stimulus package for invasive species management:

- The public – healthier public lands
- Fish and wildlife – healthier habitats
- Private sector businesses – new jobs
- Federal land-management agencies – strong partners in the private sector for land and water management