

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER'S ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

March 6-8, 2023 Virtual Meeting

MEMBER'S NAME

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REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION

North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)

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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The mission of the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) is mission is to empower invasive species management in North America. NAISMA's programs and resources have supported invasive species professionals and organizations for over 30 years. NAISMA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a broad network of professionals that implement programs to prevent and manage the detrimental impacts of invasive species on our lands and waters.

PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023

Organizational Excellence:

NAISMA's volunteer board of directors and team members developed a Strategic Plan that serves as a foundation to drive success from 2023-2025. NAISMA's updated mission is to empower invasive species management in North America and our renewed vision is to ensure that all people have access to the support needed to effectively address the harms of invasive species in North America. NAISMA's five strategic directions include three programmatic areas: (1) The Connection: Education and Professional Development, (2) The Voice: Government Relations and Advocacy, and (3) The Tools: Prevention Tools and Advancement. NAISMA has more than 750 members and partner organizations, 10,000+ subscribers, and 38,000+ social media followers. NAISMA's reach continues to grow in service of the invasive species community, as we strive to form new partnerships that advance invasive species prevention and management.

InvasivesU:

InvasivesU is a new asynchronous online learning library intended to provide the knowledge, tools, and standardized training necessary to manage invasive species across jurisdictions. The development of InvasivesU was supported in part with a grant from USDA APHIS. In 2021, NAISMA launched InvasivesU with the WFP Inspector training and the Mapping Data Standards short course. In 2022, NAISMA released two professional certifications, Foundations of Invasive Species Management and Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management. Coming soon in spring 2023 is Biocontrol 101, thanks to funding from the USDA Forest Service. Over time, it is desired to have professional certification courses for aquatic invasive species, forest pest and pathogens, invasive animals, and other specialized courses related to implementation of standards.

There are numerous ways to engage with InvasivesU including taking a course, using the system to train your employees and/or volunteers, providing financial support to develop new courses, offering sponsorships to make opportunities available for free or low cost, joining the Professional Development committee to guide future activities, and volunteering as an InvasivesU instructor.

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PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023 *(continued)*

Certified Weed Free Products Program:

The Certified Weed Free Products (WFP) Program is the only program in North America that provides land managers with assurance that noxious weeds will not be spread through the movement of forage, gravel, or mulch. NAISMA maintains science-based standards, facilitates communications, and offers inspector training. New weed free compost standards are under development.

NAISMA was awarded a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to advance the WFP program. The focus of the grant is on establishing legal authority for weed programs and raising awareness to build partnerships that incentivize production and create market demand for WFP. This special project is a priority focus from 2023-2025.

The National Sea Grant Law Center (NSGLC) has partnered with NAISMA to develop a model legal framework for noxious weed programs. The legal framework will include a compilation of existing laws/regulations, model legislative provisions for weed programs, model regulations (inclusive of WFP), a model MOU, and a national gap analysis.

The grant objectives include a national assessment of the forage, gravel, and mulch industries and a market research study on each industry. This will inform the development of outreach and educational materials for governments, industry, and consumers. Finally, NAISMA will create an online national directory for WFP that includes locations where products are for sale and participating entities.

PlayCleanGo:

PlayCleanGo®: Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks® is NAISMA's education and outreach program aimed at stopping the spread of invasive species through outdoor recreational pathways. PlayCleanGo is supported in part with a grant from USDA APHIS. PlayCleanGo® Awareness Week is scheduled for June 3-10, 2023.

NAISMA's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes the installation of 102 PlayCleanGo surface mounted boot brush stations with interpretive signage on the Department of the Interior properties across the country. This project is a priority focus through 2025.

Government Relations:

NAISMA strives to elevate the voice of invasive species managers and collaborate with federal, state, and local governments on policy priorities. The legislative committee supports program activities and has identified the following focus areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Food and Water Security, and Protecting America's Forests.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW):

NAISMA coordinates NISAW which is an annual international event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat they pose, and what can be done to prevent their spread. NISAW was held on February 20-26, 2023, and is scheduled for February 26-March 3, 2024. NAISMA is committed to hosting NISAW in Washington D.C. in 2024 and is eager to form strategic partnerships that support and help to organize this event.