

## **MEMBER'S ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE**

March 6-8, 2023 Virtual Meeting

### **MEMBER'S NAME**

Slade Franklin

### **ORGANIZATION**

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

### **CONTACT E-MAIL / ORGANIZATION URL**

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### **ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

State Government Agency

### **PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023**

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and contribution to Wyoming quality of life.

The WDA assists the citizens of Wyoming to live safe and healthy lives, promote and preserve our agricultural community, be responsible stewards of our natural resources, and achieve integrity in the marketplace. One of the roles the WDA takes in fulfilling this mission is working with the Wyoming Weed and Pest Control Districts and the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council on the management of invasive terrestrial weeds and pests. The Council and the WDA work collectively to identify long-term and short-term goals to achieve this goal and its identified as a responsibility under the both Wyoming statutes and Governor Gordon's 2020 Invasive Species Initiative.

Some of the FY2023 goals of interest to ISAC:

- Encouraging cooperative agreements; Good Neighbor Authority agreements between federal and state agencies with the Weed and Pest Control Districts related to invasive terrestrial weed management on government lands.
- Expand education opportunities within the state and region with the recreational industry on the impacts of invasive species.
- Streamline and centralize statewide data related to invasive species and treatment efficacy.
- Utilize invasive weed management as a preemptive tool to combat western rangeland wildfires.
- Consistent state and federal agency funding, outside of grant opportunities, to ensure long-term management of public lands.
- Streamline risk assessment processes and unify approval systems to ensure new tools including herbicides are more readily available for landscape scale/cross boundary management efforts.
- Define current barriers impacting timely and/or effective invasive species management.

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### **PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023** *(continued)*

- Work together with partner states and government agencies on responding to Actions and Sub-Actions identified in the Western Weed Action Plan.
- Encourage the expansion of bio-control research and researchers for invasive species issues in the west.
- Work closely with the University of Wyoming - Institute for Managing Annual Grasses Invading Natural Ecosystems (IMAGINE) to monitor annual grass invasion and long-term success of management efforts.
- Evaluate and pursue Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding for implementing local, state and region wide management strategies.