

Risk Assessment Workshop  
Cal-IPC Symposium 2003  
Peter Warner, Moderator  
Deanne DiPietro, Note taker

Peter provided background on the origin and purpose of the weed list, and then the idea of the ranking of the species. Now want to open the process to review.

Questions and answers ensued- some highlights:

20 have been done; it is a slow process.

Once they're completed they will be posted on the website.

Q- How well have you been able to get ranges? A- That has been difficult; need more input from people on distribution, impacts, and invasiveness.

Still developing criteria, so to do that and finish the list will take ~ 2 years. In the meantime, what has been done is already useful for management decisions because it's completely open to review.

Q- If you want to add to one of them, how does one do that? A- Contact p. Warner, send all the info you have about how the plant effects wildland systems.

Q- Regarding expertise: field observation are useful but what if you don't think you are an expert? A- You can still contribute by sending your info in.

Q- Natives? A- There are a few natives.

Q- Is the ranking system broken out in zones? A- The first weed list is a statewide list, but we hope to move toward bioregional lists, and this will move more quickly with the initial info done.

Q- CEQA applications? A- We're hoping it can be used in CEQA documents, by citing the info therein. It would be nice if these documents could help with detection, but how to bridge with CDFA's list? Much discussion followed about flagging the invasives in an EIR. Anne Howald said you can set up your EIR so that weed invasion is a significant impact by defining what you mean by significant impact and saying that whatever is on the CalEPPC list is a problem. Can also work with your county to ban certain plants- the Ag. Commissioner's office can be asked to exert pressure on places selling these listed pests.

Review of the criteria: Some points-  
Categorizing, not really ranking  
Economics not considered  
Constraints on management

Short course on using the form:

Must do a thorough literature search (not just the WWW), document and then rank the documentation. First become familiar with the questions, then find and score the documentation, then go back and use the info to answer the

questions. You can in some instances use info about a related sp. when it is defensible and helpful (ie., when there is a lack of info). The reasoning is documented in the rationale section.

The process for arriving at the conclusions is transparent, so people can judge for themselves its usefulness.

You should cite primary literature sources (rather than citing the CalEPPC review-type book- this is somewhat circular, because we're citing ourselves). Or, if the sp. has little peer-reviewed info, and it's in the CalEPPC book, you might cite the book and rank the documentation accordingly. This helps identify gaps in information- an intended purpose of the effort. When we know little or nothing about a sp., this is important to know; it creates research opportunities.

Example section- Impacts on ecosystem process

Sometimes it's difficult to know, and can be very subjective, But it's an iterative process, and open in nature. your input will be reviewed by experts on the review committee and augmented.

You can sort the list online so you can look by common name and find out the scientific name.

Species outside CA are considered, with info from out of state, for planning for possible problematic spp. by looking at same or similar ecosystems, especially when there is a species that appears to be spreading rapidly but is still in small populations.

Primary products:

- Hoping to revise the list
- Hoping to motivate other states to do the same thing.

The list does not have regulatory authority because Cal IPC has no power to regulate or enforce. There probably won't be a direct relationship with the CDFA list. An agency can decide to use the list as the basis for their policy. Making it a regulatory tool or enforcement mechanism would require stakeholder involvement.

If you have questions, contact Peter Warner.