

X. NEXT STEPS/ ACTION ITEMS

In their discussions at the workshop, participants identified a variety of next steps and actions to be taken to further the efforts in designing and implementing a National Early Warning and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants in the U.S. Most of the activities listed will be conducted by an acting Early Warning Coordinator in close cooperation with the FICMNEW Early Warning Sub-Committee. In addition to the key items which are summarized below, one participant noted that he and each of his colleagues at the meeting could do much in the near term to start working to implement the outlined plan in his/her state.

TASK 1: Hold a post-workshop meeting, USGS Field Office for Invasive Species, Whiteville, North Carolina. The meeting was held in August, 2000, and was attended by Deb Hayes, Bill Gregg, Bob Spaide (APHIS PPQ), and Randy Westbrooks.

TASK 2: - Appoint an acting National Early Warning and Rapid Response Coordinator to coordinate the development of the proposed system until a permanent coordinator can be selected.

TASK 3: Finalize workshop proceedings for publication (hard copy) by the U.S. Geological Survey and for posting on the FICMNEW Home Page (January, 2001).

TASK 4: Distribute the Workshop Proceedings and the proposed National Early Warning Strategy to all workshop participants, FICMNEW, and the National Invasive Species Council (February, 2001).

TASK 5: Post the Workshop Proceedings on the FICMNEW Home Page (February, 2001).

TASK 6: Share Ideas Related to the Proposed Early Warning and Rapid Response System.

- ❖ Develop a multi-media presentation on the proposed Early Warning System.
- ❖ Give presentations on the National Early Warning System at scientific meetings such as: Ecological Society of America, North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) meeting, Weed Science Society of America, North American Natural Resources Conference (Beginning February, 2001).
- ❖ Meet with State Weed Teams/Councils that are already organized to discuss their role in developing the National Early Warning System

TASK 7: Utilizing the Workshop Proceedings as a primary source document representing stakeholder input, develop a National Early Warning and Rapid Response Strategy Paper for FICMNEW, Agency, and Public Review (March, 2001).

TASK 8: Finalize the National Early Warning and Rapid Response Strategy Paper and post it on the FICMNEW Home Page (April, 2001)

TASK 9: Implement the National Early Warning Strategy (Beginning in May, 2001).

- ❖ Develop an Action Plan for creating and implementing a system for early warning and rapid response at the state and national levels, as envisioned in the final draft of the Proposed National Strategy.
- ❖ Organize a workshop on a national assessment/ risk assessment protocol that draws on all existing systems. Larry Morse, Bob Doran, Bob Eplee, John Randall, Sarah Reichard, and Rod Randall will lead this effort.