

Call for Speakers – 1st announcement

Alaska Invasive Species Conference

“Nightmare Under the Surface”

October 28-29th, 2014

Anchorage, Alaska – Marriot Hotel

The Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) and the Alaska Invasive Species Working Group (AISWG) are proud to announce the upcoming Alaska Invasive Species Conference in Anchorage. This is a call for speakers at the 2014 conference. The theme, “Nightmare under the Surface,” represents the lurking threats from invasive species across Alaska-both new and on-going efforts included. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please submit an abstract following the guidelines listed below.

Presentation Abstract Guidelines: Please submit abstracts by August 29th, 2014. Email abstracts as a Word document to Gino Graziano at gagraziano@alaska.edu. An example is included to refer to when preparing your abstract.

Please follow these instructions to prepare your abstract:

- No more than 300 words
- Use Times New Roman, 12 point font
- First line: Title in bold font
- Second line: List primary author **last name first**, then other authors
- Third Line: Affiliation below author line
- Leave a space between the title, authors, affiliation, and abstract body
- Single space abstract body
- Spell check and proofread carefully (we will not be editing the abstracts)

After reviewing abstracts we will contact speakers that make the final agenda by September 19th. If you have any questions please contact Gino Graziano at gagraziano@alaska.edu or 907-786-6315. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you in Anchorage.

Abstract Example:

Purple Loosestrife in Alaska: An Action Framework for Potential Invasion

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Purple loosestrife is a significant threat to the health of Alaska ecosystems, particularly wetlands, riparian zones, and coastal regions. Infestations can negatively affect fish and wildlife populations in Alaska, especially salmon and waterfowl. If left untreated, purple loosestrife has the potential to spread to thousands of acres across the state, causing potentially irreversible damage to critically productive areas of Alaskan wildlands. We discuss the key findings from two recent projects to outline an action framework for preventing potential purple loosestrife infestations in Alaska. We analyzed distribution of three years of individual plant occurrence data in the only known state population in Anchorage to determine whether current hand-pulling methods are effective. Although a decline was observed, unusual climate conditions and flooding for restoration activity purposes in 2008 may have been contributing factors. We investigated the history of invasions in North America, as well as species life history, to determine the best control options for the local infestation. We used predictive bioclimatic habitat modeling to map current climate potential range, as well as future climate potential range in 2020, 2050, and 2080, to quantify the area across the state at risk of invasion. Our main finding is that eradication of current populations, future prevention, and an early detection-rapid response (EDRR) system, will be the key to keeping purple loosestrife from establishing in other locations or spreading further in its current location. We also discuss our recommended public education framework strategy to effectively reach the public and other stakeholders to spread the message of the potentially devastating effects of purple loosestrife infestation in Alaska.