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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Invasive Weed Awareness Week: June 22-28th, 2014

(Palmer, AK) - Governor Sean Parnell has proclaimed June 22-28th Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Alaska. This week kicks off community events around the state focused on teaching people about invasive plants, how to find them, and how to prevent their spread. Check out the list of events below-These are great opportunities to get involved and learn more about invasive weeds in Alaska and what is being done to prevent their impact to our landscape and natural resources.

Anchorage

June 24th: Kincaid Park Weed Pull from 2-5pm. Meet at the Chalet Parking Lot

June 25th: Chugach State Park Weed Pull 5-7:30pm. Meet at Potter Trailhead on Turnagain Arm

June 28th: Little Campbell Lake Fix (Kincaid Park)-Will host Invasive Species Awareness Booth from 9am-noon

For information or to RSVP Contact Tim Stallard at weeds.free.ak@gmail.com

Fairbanks

June 21st: Weed Smackdown at the Fairbanks Dog Park off South Davis

Visit <http://weeds smackdown.wordpress.com/>

Glenallen

July 12: Copper Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area Weed Smackdown from 10-2pm

Visit <http://copperriver.org/events/copper-basin-weed-smackdown>

Metlakatla

Boys and Girls Club Invasive Plant ID Activities

Summer School Weed Pull

Contact Genelle Winter at 866-1560 for more information

Seward

June 27th: Herman Leirer Road Community Weed Pull

Contact Nicholas Kainrath 422-0550

How else can you get involved?

- Educate yourself about invasive weeds in Alaska and in your community. Visit <http://www.plants.alaska.gov/invasives> to learn more about invasive plants and to request a free pocket field identification guide
- Know where infestations of invasive plants are in your area. The Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse hosts a database and mapping application for non-native and invasive plants in Alaska. Visit <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/botany/akepic/>
- Avoid planting invasive plants in your garden! Check out this brochure for more information on alternative ornamental garden options: <http://www.plants.alaska.gov/pdf/altplantsbrochure.pdf>
- Clean, Drain, and Dry all gear and equipment between waterbodies.
- Never dispose of aquarium plants or organisms into waterbodies.
- Clean your ATV, bikes and other gear before using trails or the backcountry
- Purchase certified weed free hay, straw, and gravel
- GET INVOLVED! Ask your local Cooperative Weed Management Area or Conservation District how you can volunteer!

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