

THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (NISC)



Meet the Invasive Species Challenge. Know the NISC Plan, Manage the Problem. PREPARE, PREVENT, PROTECT.

U.S. Department of the Interior • Office of the Secretary (OS/SIO/NISC) • 1849 C Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20240
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The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of Florida
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

JUN 12 2007

Dear Governor Crist:

On behalf of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC), and its Federal advisory body, the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), I want to thank you for the hospitality your Administration provided us at our recent meeting held in Miami on April 30 – May 3, 2007. Established by Executive Order 13112 in 1999, NISC is charged with providing coordination and planning for Federal invasive species programs and working with State, local and Tribal governments to facilitate the prevention and control of invasive species.

Jeff Schardt, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), did an outstanding job of organizing a field trip into the Everglades on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 so that members of the ISAC could see firsthand the challenges the citizens of Florida face with regard to invasive species. ISAC also benefited from many informative presentations from state officials about their invasive species programs and issues.

Typically, ISAC participates in field tours during most of our meetings and members of ISAC have learned how agencies, associations, and individuals throughout America contend with invasive species, whether in Yellowstone National Park, the Islands of Hawaii, or the Great Lakes. We all agreed that the program that Jeff and his colleagues put together was among the most enlightening, impressive and meaningful field trip experiences we have enjoyed.

Jeff was assisted by several state employee professionals who impressed all of us. Bill Torres, Don Schmitz, and Greg Jubinsky of the FDEP Bureau of Plant Management; François Laroche and Dan Thayer of the South Florida Water Management District; as well as Bill Haller and Amy Richard of the University of Florida's Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants were outstanding examples of professional natural resource managers. Their expertise, professionalism and commitment to the common good for the benefit of all Floridians and visitors alike reflect great credit on all state employees of Florida and your Administration.

Thank you for the singularly outstanding opportunity to learn more about Florida's invasive species program. Your state's response to and successful removal of invasive species has indeed been extraordinary! On behalf of the 30 members of ISAC, NISC Staff and representatives of the 13 Federal NISC member agencies, please pass on our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to everyone involved for such a well planned educational experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lori C. Williams".

Lori C. Williams
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior
Paul Hoffman, DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary, PAHR

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