

Climate Change and Invasive Species

Michael W. Slimak, Ph.D.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

- The Earth is getting warmer; climate is changing with a regional texture
- Excess Green House Gases (GHG) are the cause of global warming; CO₂ the most important
- Rate of GHG increase and rate of global warming is of concern
- Climate change and invasive species are inextricably linked
- As climate changes, we can expect ecosystem changes
- Ecosystem changes results in shifts in plant and animal distributions
- Rapid ecosystem change favors species with genetic plasticity
- Many successful invaders have high plasticity as they are pioneers
- Profound impact on co-evolution of ecosystems and their components