

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update

State/Interstate ANS Management Plans = Thirty-nine plans have been approved by the ANSTF. The Service receives annual funding for plan implementation. For FY11, a request for proposals was disseminated and proposals were received for 36 plans. The proposals were reviewed and funding letters will be sent to the recipients as soon as the FY11 funding amount has been determined.

The Arizona State ANS Plan has been reviewed by ANSTF members. Comments were compiled and sent back to the state for incorporation. Once the changes have been made, the plan will be reviewed one more time by the ANSTF, and its approval will be discussed at a future meeting.

Information on plan FY10 accomplishments has been collected for development of an annual report.

ANSTF Charter = ANSTF charters expire every two years with the current one expiring in September 2011. The Service is now in the process of renewing the charter. It has been amended to reflect the balance of ANSTF members based on both geography and function.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) = The ANSTF participated in NISAW by providing a presentation on ANSTF activities and hosting a reception at the National Aquarium in Washington DC. Service staff participated on two panels during the week focusing on funding sources for AIS projects and Federal/state AIS responsibilities.

ANSTF Recreational Guidelines = At the fall ANSTF meeting, the ANSTF agreed to form an ad-hoc committee to update the recreational guidelines, which were finalized in 2000. An ad-hoc committee is being established and will include Federal, state, and local entities and non-governmental organizations. A timeline have been developed for updating these guidelines.

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans Training = HACCP plans are developed to help prevent the spread of invasive and non-target species. Training has been provided to those requesting it. The HACCP training manual is also being updated.

FWS AIS Regional Coordinator Efforts: The Regional coordinators continue to participate on ANSTF regional panels and work with partners to address the prevention, management and control of invasive species.

Development of Pet Industry Best Management Practices: FWS staff have been working with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Committee to develop short, easily readable, BMPs to provide people handling non-native species with best practices that can be used to minimize the risk of organisms escaping or being released into the wild.

ANSTF Behavior Change Campaigns: Given the government's traditional challenges in communicating and engaging America's citizenry with conservation issues, developing and implementing grassroots branding strategy has been critical for expanding these campaigns and leveraging extensive communications regarding the targeted prevention message. In nine years, Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! has attracted 1008 partners and in seven years, Habitattitude has attracted 214 partners to help spread the prevention message and catalyze community-based conservation.