

PHIL BREDESEN  
THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE

15 April 2008

Mr. Gary Frazier, Co-Chair ANSTF  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Interior Building #3245  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Timothy Keeny, Co-Chair ANSTF  
U.S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Herbert C. Hoover Building #5804  
14<sup>th</sup> Street & Constitution Ave  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Co-Chairs Frazier and Keeny:

Tennessee is blessed with an abundance of aquatic resources. Our water habitats vary greatly from the clear cold mountain waters in the eastern part of our state to the warmer muddy waters of the Mississippi River on our western border. However, with these diverse aquatic resources, we have a diverse set of problems including aquatic nuisance species (ANS).

Under the provisions of Section 1204 of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act, we would like to submit Tennessee's Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan for your review and ultimate approval and funding. We appreciate the comments that you and other members of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force have already provided on this plan, and we have incorporated those comments as well as other public comments into this final Tennessee ANS Management Plan.

The goal of this plan is to control existing ANS in Tennessee in order to minimize the adverse impacts on native species, water quality, and economics by preventing the introduction and spread of any aquatic invasive species and by managing the impacts from those that are already in Tennessee.

Aquatic nuisance species are a serious problem in Tennessee. More than 55 species of non-indigenous aquatic plants and animals have been identified in our state, with more on the horizon. This plan was developed to comprehensively address specific aquatic nuisance species and provide guidance for the prevention, management, and eradication of ANS that threaten the

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waters of the Volunteer State, our native inhabitants, and their recreational, commercial, and other public uses. Some specific actions identified for implementation of this plan include the development of educational materials on ANS; hiring a statewide ANS coordinator; improving enforcement and regulations that prohibit possession, purchase, and transport of ANS in Tennessee; developing a rapid response plan to control or eradicate priority ANS populations; and coordinating responses and plans with full partner participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this plan. I ask that notification of approval be sent to Bobby Wilson, Tennessee ANS Task Force Chairman, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204. We look forward to any suggestions or recommendations to improve upon it and make it more effective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Bredeesen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phil Bredeesen