

#24

While many non-native species brought into the United States through commerce are highly beneficial, many species are also highly destructive. Asian carp threaten significant Great Lakes fisheries. Large constrictor snakes endanger threatened and endangered species in Florida's Everglades. Lionfish are steadily migrating up the East Coast, and nutria continue to threaten Louisiana's marshes. The price tag associated with hosting alien invaders such as these and others is enormous, estimated at tens of billions of dollars in damages and losses annually. Our primary tool to address such introductions, the injurious wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act, is outdated and needs to be significantly updated. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working on a comprehensive review of its ability to prevent invasive species introductions and develop recommendations that will more effectively address this challenge. The talk will focus on the general issues we need to address, recognizing that we have a lot to do and will need to work with partners and stakeholders to ensure meaningful change is implemented.