

NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL LB391

Challenges to Nebraska's Natural Resources

- The land, water, and other natural resources in Nebraska are being severely impacted by an increasing number of invasive species.
- The impacts are resulting in damage to Nebraska's environment and are causing economic hardships.
- The public and private organizations in Nebraska interested in preventing the spread of invasive species, need a mechanism for coordination to meet these threats.

Proposed Legislation LB391

- A bill, to introduced into legislation, would form the **Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council**
- The Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council would:
 1. Serve as a forum for understanding invasive species issues
 2. Facilitate cross-agency communication, cooperation, and coordination
 3. Assist with public outreach and awareness
 4. Inform legislature of invasive species management and prevention

Nebraska's Current Threats

Noxious Weeds Infest nearly 1.5 million acres of Nebraska's landscape causing millions of dollars in damages and production loss. The list includes: Leafy Spurge, Plumeless Thistle, Canada Thistle, Knapweed (Diffuse and Spotted), Musk Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Saltcedar, and Common Reed (Phragmites).



Emerald Ash Borer An exotic beetle that causes wide-spread mortality of ash trees. If introduced into Nebraska, it is estimated that Nebraskans will lose over 2.2 million Ash trees, causing over \$1.6 billion in damages and replacement costs.

Feral Hogs The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has confirmed the presence of feral hogs in at least four Nebraska counties. Damages from feral hog populations have been estimated nationally at \$800 million annually.



Zebra and Quagga Mussel These mussels are notorious for clogging power plant and irrigation pipes. Zebra mussels have recently been identified in Zorinsky Lake (Omaha) and Lake Offutt, Offutt AFB. Prior treatment of the small Offutt AFB Lake cost over \$500,000.

NEBRASKA INVASIVE SPECIES PROJECT

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