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NAISN Begins to Track Invasive Species Costs and Information in Canada and U.S.

The North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) will begin to annually track invasive species data from the provinces and states of Canada and the United States and publish the results of this data request on its website found at <http://www.naisn.org>. A future NAISN survey will target Mexico's provincial invasive species management activities costs and information.

Why is NAISN tracking these costs and information on invasive species?

There has been considerable debate about the amount of resources devoted to invasive species activities within the provinces and states of Canada and the United States concerning invasive species found on public conservation lands and waterways. As of now, no federal agencies within these countries have comprehensively tracked these costs over time. Similar to the way the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks information regarding disease prevalence/incidence, NAISN will begin to annually track invasive species data from the provinces and states of Canada and the United States and publish these results on its website found at <http://www.naisn.org>.

As part of this effort, NAISN is gathering specific information on the costs and resources devoted to invasive species activities on public conservation lands and waterways in terms of prevention and early detection efforts, invasive species control operations, monitoring and surveillance activities, present invasive species research efforts, and education and outreach.

It is hoped this information will be useful as a tool for the states and provinces to use to develop and justify budgets and determine the level of funding changes necessary to achieve a positive change in overall invasive species management activities that will lower the environmental and economic impact of invasive non-native species in Canada and United States.

The North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN), a 501(c)3 non-profit science-based organization, was formed in 2010 by university and government scientists across North America. Presently, the network is comprised of eight hubs: the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (University of Florida), the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (University of Georgia), the Center for Invasive Species Management (Montana State University), the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Mexico), the Geosystems Research Institute (Mississippi State University), the Invasive Species Centre (Ontario, Canada), the Invasive Species Research Institute (Algoma University), and the National Institute of Invasive Species Science (Colorado State University).

We encourage you to visit www.naisn.org, and share your work and data with us. Please email suggestions or feedback to NAISN.coordinator@gmail.com