Prediction, Detection, and Monitoring of Invasive Species in Forest, Rangeland, and Aquatic Ecosystems: A Synthesis of USDA Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station Research Program

Mee-Sook Kim and Jack L. Butler; USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station; Contact Author Email: jackbutler@fs.fed.us

The Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) has the broad scientific expertise to conduct multidisciplinary research on invasive species issues with special emphasis on terrestrial and aquatic habitats throughout the Interior West. RMRS scientists provide the basic ecological and biological information to help managers detect and eradicate new invaders that are still confined to limited areas. For well-established, widespread invasive species, RMRS contributes to the development and testing of landscape-scale mitigation strategies to prevent further spread into new areas and to manage invasive species to ecologically and socially acceptable levels using environmentally compatible tools and integrated control programs. Integrated research at RMRS provides management tools to restore and rehabilitate landscapes that have been degraded by diverse invasive species. Although considerable research-based information on invasive species is available, no comprehensive and easily accessible source is currently available for land managers in the regions served by the RMRS. A multidisciplinary Invasive Species Working Group was formed to facilitate the direct transfer of research products to diverse users, while also enhancing feedback from the users to the researchers. The RMRS Invasive Species Working Group has developed synthesis papers that summarize current RMRS research activities on invasive species, and has established an electronic newsletter - Invasive Species Science Update (http://www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/docs/invasive-species-science-update/2008-06.pdf) that will provide RMRS invasive species research information to our cooperators. This model serves as a consolidated conduit of RMRS invasive species research products and allows for the continuous improvement of research products and outreach activities across regional, national, and international landscapes.

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