



State Agriculture and Rural Leaders

2013-5 Resolution in Efforts Toward Greater Federal/State Collaboration on Invasive Species Management

Passed June 9, 2013

- Whereas,** the State Ag and Rural Leaders, (SARL) is comprised of agriculture and rural leaders of state and provincial legislative bodies from the US and Canada; and
- Whereas,** noxious weeds and other invasive species have drastically changed native environments, displaced desirable vegetation on public and private lands, severely impacted agricultural production, diminished the habitats of native wildlife, reduced the quantity and quality of water supplies in affected watersheds, and created catastrophic wildfire conditions; and
- Whereas,** left unchecked, the spread of noxious weeds and other invasive species has the potential to increase exponentially and to threaten the long-term economic viability of agriculture, to adversely impact critically-needed water resources, and to damage tourism and recreational economies; and
- Whereas,** the federal government owns and manages large percentages of lands, particularly in the western states and must play a key role in the management of noxious weeds and other invasive species; and
- Whereas,** the solution to effectively managing noxious weeds and other invasive species lies in the cooperation and collaboration of federal, state, and private land and water managers with access to dramatically increased levels of on-the-ground resources applied by the states to actual treatment of affected lands and watersheds; and
- Whereas,** legislation including the Invasive Species Control and Management Act is being considered in the U.S. House of Representatives that would encourage significantly greater federal-state collaboration and cooperation, dramatically increase the availability of on-the-ground resources to the states, and enhance the transparency and accountability of funding allotted to the states; and
- Resolved,** that SARL supports efforts to assist state governments in addressing the threats posed by noxious weeds and other invasive species and urges the U.S. Congress to enact such legislation; and be it further
- Resolved,** that this resolution be submitted to members of the United States Congress.