



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Invasive Species Program  
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To: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission

From: Robert Walters, Invasive Species Program Manager

Date: December 31, 2020

Subject: CPW Invasive Species & Native Pest Management

Invasive species and native pests have the potential to significantly impact the natural resources within Colorado Parks and Wildlife properties and their surrounding areas. These impacts can be mitigated with land management practices directed at preventing and managing invasive species populations.

The former Parks Board believed in this tenet and approved Board Policy B-300 (Noxious Pests) in July 1990. CPW staff have drafted for consideration by the Parks and Wildlife Commission an updated version of that policy. This draft Policy prioritizes active management of invasive species to protect Colorado's native ecosystems and recreational experiences. Details relating to the management of invasive species are included in an Administrative Directive. Administrative Directives are internal documents that provide staff guidance from CPW's Director on internal programs or procedures.

To inform the Commission's consideration of the updated invasive species and native pest policy, I will present an overview of invasive species and current management actions that are being taken at the January Commission meeting.

Policy B-300 and suggested language for a new Policy are included with this memo for your reference.



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

### TITLE: INVASIVE SPECIES AND NATIVE PESTS

Effective Date:

#### I. PURPOSE

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission recognizes the agency's responsibility to prevent and manage invasive species and native pests for the purpose of conserving natural resources, wildlife species and habitats, and providing outdoor recreational opportunities.

#### II. AUTHORITY

- A. C.R.S. § 33-10-102, 33-10-106, 33-10-107, 33-1-102, 33-1-104, 33-1-105, 33-1-107 - Definitions, General Duties of Commission, Powers of Commission
- B. C.R.S. § 35-5.5-110 - Colorado Noxious Weed Act
- C. C.R.S. § 33-10.5 - Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Act
- D. C.R.S. § 35-4-101-116 - Colorado Pest Act

#### III. DEFINITIONS (If Needed)

- A. **Invasive Species:** noxious weeds, aquatic nuisance species, invasive wildlife or other biological organisms that are not native to Colorado and are known to cause or are likely to cause harm to natural resources or the human benefits derived from those resources.
- B. **Native Pests:** species native to Colorado that have traits that are detrimental to effective resource management and/or the identified management purpose of the property.

#### IV. POLICY STATEMENT

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission is dedicated to prevention and management of invasive species and native pests to eliminate and reduce their impacts on the natural resources within Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) properties and surrounding areas. The Commission expects CPW to practice land management procedures at or above industry standards and acknowledges that managing infestations of invasive species is a priority to protect Colorado's native ecosystems and recreational experiences.

It is the policy of the Commission that invasive species will be actively managed on CPW properties to protect native habitats, ecosystems and the identified management purposes of the properties.

Native pests may be managed when control is specified in lease or management agreement, or they are creating significant human health and/or safety concerns, threatening to reduce the biological diversity of the property, impairing the integrity of infrastructure, and/or where these species impact the identified management purpose and use of the property.

STATE OF COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Policy No. B-300

SUBJECT: NOXIOUS PESTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the Colorado Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's position on natural resource management.

II. POLICY

WHEREAS, the Colorado Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is dedicated to the preservation of the natural resources of the State Park system; and

WHEREAS, the Division is expected to practice good land management procedures; and

WHEREAS, there is a presumption that infestation of noxious pests are cyclical in nature and tend to be controlled by inherent existing ecological conditions; and


WHEREAS, it is recognized that certain of these natural processes may have been interrupted by human activities.

NOW THEREFORE, it is the policy of the Colorado Board of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to let nature take its course, except where control of injurious plants and animals (noxious pests) are dictated by statute, or in intensive use areas where maintenance of existing vegetation is essential and cost effective.

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Policy No. B-300 is approved this 20th day of July

19 90, by:



Patricia B. McClearn  
Parks Board Chairwoman

DOC:6564B

# COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

## TITLE: INVASIVE SPECIES AND NATIVE PESTS

Effective Date: XX day of Month YEAR

### I. PURPOSE

The ~~purpose of this policy is to identify the~~ Parks and Wildlife Commission recognizes the agency's responsibility to ~~'s position on~~ prevent and manage ~~natural resource management as it applies to~~ invasive species and native pests for the purpose of maintaining wildlife species and their habitats.

### II. AUTHORITY

- A. C.R.S. § 33-10-102, 33-10-106, 33-10-107, 33-1-102, 33-1-104, 33-1-105, 33-1-107 - Definitions, General Duties of Commission, Powers of Commission
- B. C.R.S. § 35-5.5-110 - Colorado Noxious Weed Act- Public Lands
- C. C.R.S. § 33-10.5 - Colorado Aquatic Nuisance Species Act
- D. C.R.S. § 35-4-101-116 - Colorado Pest Act

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Invasive Species:** noxious weeds, aquatic nuisance species, invasive ~~wildlife animals~~, or other biological organisms that are not native to Colorado and are known to cause, or are likely to cause, harm to natural resources or the human benefits derived from those resources.
- B. **Native pests:** are species native to Colorado that have ~~undesirable traits that and~~ are detrimental to effective resource management and/or the identified management purpose of the property.

### IV. POLICY STATEMENT

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission is dedicated to ~~prevention and management of~~ ~~invasive species and native pests to eliminate and reduce their impacts on~~ ~~the~~ ~~preservation of~~ the natural resources ~~within~~ of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) properties. The Commission expects the Division to practice ~~good~~ land management procedures ~~at or above industry standards~~; and acknowledges that ~~managing~~ infestations of invasive species, ~~which tend to increase and outcompete native species,~~ ~~is~~ ~~should be a~~

priority managed aggressively to protect Colorado's native ecosystems and recreational experiences on CPW properties.

~~The Commission acknowledges presumes that infestations of native pests are cyclical in nature and tend to be controlled by inherent existing ecological conditions, but also recognizes that certain of these natural processes may have been interrupted by human activities.~~

It is the policy of the Commission that invasive species will be actively managed on CPW properties to protect native habitats, ecosystems, and the identified management purposes of the properties. ~~The Commission further directs that native pests may not be actively managed in most situations, except where control of native pests are dictated by statute, specified in lease or management agreements, are creating significant human health and/or safety concerns, are in intensive use areas where maintenance of existing natural resources is essential and/or where these species impact the identified management purpose and use of the property.~~

Native pests may be managed when their control is specified in lease or management agreements, are creating significant human health and/or safety concerns, threatening to reduce the biological diversity of the property, and/or where these species impact the identified management purpose and use of the property.