

# CONSERVATION CROSSFEED

Notes from AFCEE/ECC  
January 2002

## INVASIVE SPECIES (E.O. 13112)

In February 1999, Executive Order 13112 "Invasive Species" was signed. *Invasive species* are alien (non-native) species (plants and animals) whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

This E.O. spells out Federal Agency duties:

- 1) **identify** actions which may affect the status of invasive species
- 2) subject to funds
  - a. **prevent** the introduction of invasive species
  - b. **detect** and respond rapidly to and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner
  - c. **monitor** invasive species populations accurately and reliably
  - d. **provide** for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded
  - e. **conduct** research on invasive species and develop technologies to prevent introduction and provide for environmentally sound control of invasive species
  - f. **promote** public education on invasive species and the means to address them
- 3) not authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are **likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species** in the United States or elsewhere

### So, you ask yourself, what can I do?

As a natural resources manager, you can implement the following actions:

- 1) talk with the local weed board or agricultural extension office and become familiar with noxious and invasive species in your area
- 2) inventory the land you manage and map current infestations
- 3) develop a management plan on how your limited funds can be used to have the greatest impact in control of or eradication of invasive species
- 4) analyze project sites during the NEPA process and offer recommendations to minimize spread of invasive species
- 5) avoid planting non-native plants (such as, Russian Olive, reed canary grass, crownvetch, tall fescue, tamarisk, black locust, white poplar, bush honeysuckles)
- 6) promote use of weed-free mulches
- 7) train yourself and base personnel and occupants to identify problems; establish a procedure and point of contact.

(Adapted from Fall 2001, Greener Roadsides, Federal Highway Administration office)



Purple Loosestrife  
(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Zebra mussels  
(*Dreissena polymorpha*)



Russian olive  
(*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

### Invasive Species Websites:

Roadside vegetation management ([http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/veg\\_mgt.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/veg_mgt.htm))

Homepage of the invasive species council with lots of good information (<http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>)

Weed Control Methods Manual and other valuable information (<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/index.html>)

"Weeds Gone Wild", more on alien plants ([www.nps.gov/plants](http://www.nps.gov/plants))

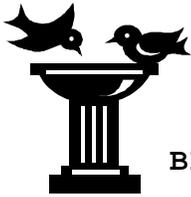
For more information on any of these articles. Contract HQ AFCEE/ECC, DSN 240-3808

AFCEE/ECC E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE: [frist.last@brooks.af.mil](mailto:frist.last@brooks.af.mil)

Check out our webpage: <http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/ec/cnr/cnr.htm>

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## TOP TEN TIPS FOR BIRD-FRIENDLY LIVING

- 10) Plan your yard for biodiversity
- 9) Use native plants whenever, wherever possible
- 8) Allow the "back 40" to become a little scruffy, build a brush pile
- 7) Hang Mylar strips or place feeders in front of large windows
- 6) Donate your old binoculars
- 5) Drink shade grown coffee
- 4) Reach out to others
- 3) Provide birds with food, water, and shelter
- 2) Be judicious in your use of pesticides
- 1) **Keep cats indoors!**



## WHAT TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS TREES AFTER THE HOLIDAY

Don't throw that x-mas tree into the landfill, consider the following options:

For "real" trees:

- A) use them to start a brush pile in your back yard; great habitat for birds and herps
- B) use them for stream bank or beach stabilization (great for erosion control)
- C) use them in ponds to provide hiding cover for fish
- D) put them in your yard and hang bird treats and water dishes on them
- E) use as mulch
- F) donate to community recycling service

For old "artificial" trees

- 1) donate to local charities
- 2) salvage useable "branches" for decorations
- 3) use them in the back yard as support for bird feeds and water dishes



from



to



EARTH DAY 2002 --  
"PROTECT OUR HOME"

For Earth Day 2002, we (earthday.net) will highlight an inclusive theme, a global call to **Protect Our Home**. This slogan will be arched above a photograph of planet Earth -- our home, our source of sustenance, and our lifeline to the future.

Educational and community learning materials are being developed, including information and resources for taking action on key issues such as forests, biodiversity, water, and energy. These will be available at Earth Day Network's website. <http://www.earthday.net>.

For more information on any of these articles. Contract HQ AFCEE/ECC, DSN 240-3808  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2002

Feb 6-8; Ecology and Management of Rare Plants of Northwestern CA, CA Native Plant Society, Arcata, CA. go to:

[www.northcoast.com/~cnps/symposiu.htm](http://www.northcoast.com/~cnps/symposiu.htm)

Feb 15-18; GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/gbbc/>

Feb 27 - Mar 1; [5th National Mitigation Banking Conference](#) in Renaissance Washington Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.. Contact: C. Bahler. Phone: 703/548-5473. Email: [cbahler@erols.com](mailto:cbahler@erols.com).

Mar 19-20; Air Force Cultural Resources Managers Annual Meeting, Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver CO (in conjunction with the 2002 Society for American Archaeology meetings 21-24 Mar 2002). Contact Jim Wilde at [james.wilde@brooks.af.mil](mailto:james.wilde@brooks.af.mil)

April 1-5; National Military Fish and Wildlife Meeting, Dallas TX. [www.nmfwa.org](http://www.nmfwa.org)

May 9-10; Ecosystems Restoration and Creation, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa FL. Contact [fwebb@hcc.cc.fl.us](mailto:fwebb@hcc.cc.fl.us)

### Planning for '02 training

Need information on what/who/where/when? Go to the ECC webpage "Management Training Courses" (<http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/ec/cnr/training.htm>)



## Lessons from the Chesapeake Bay

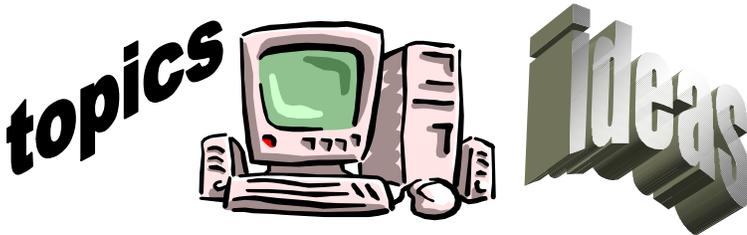
(Adapted from Ann Pesiri Swanson, Bay Journal, Dec 2001)



The Chesapeake Bay has often been referred to as the "Crown Jewel" of the US; it is the largest and most productive estuary in the US. Efforts to restore the Bay are now more than two decades and there are many lessons learned. Below is highlights of these 12 lessons that constitute a framework for ecosystem management on a very large watershed level. While it is unlikely the Bay model can be wholly transferred to another system, one central lesson stands out: *To truly succeed, management strategies must be comprehensive, interactive, and responsive as the ecosystem they are created to restore.*

While all of these lessons are reasonable, some are more appropriate for AF natural resource managers (those in *italic*).

- 1) *Begin with comprehensive scientific studies that combine, theory, detailed knowledge, monitoring, and modeling.*
- 2) **Involve the highest levels of leadership possible.**
- 3) *Embrace clear, strong, specific, comprehensive and measurable goals.*
- 4) *Encourage the participation of a broad spectrum of participants.*
- 5) *Provide incentives and methods for institutional cooperation.*
- 6) *Inform and involve the public.*
- 7) *Develop a balanced set of management tools.*
- 8) *Choose pollution prevention before restoration or mitigation.*
- 9) *Test scientific theories and management approaches on a small scale.*
- 10) *Focus on the integration of government agencies.*
- 11) *Conduct regular reassessments of goals and progress.*
- 12) *Demonstrate and communicate results.*



We are interested in what information we can bring to you through this publication. What topics are you interested in? Would you like more website reviews? Book reviews? Conference Assessments? Lessons learned from other agencies? One topic issues?

Please contact one of us in ECC: Jim Wilde or Julia Cantrell for cultural resources; Kevin Porteck, Dan Friese, or Mary Anderson for natural resources.