



NISIMS Purpose and Overview

Purpose

The National Invasive Species Information Management System (NISIMS) is the NPS standard invasive species data management tool. NISIMS was originally created to be a comprehensive tool by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to standardize the collection of invasive species data. NPS has adopted and modified this tool as a means to standardize our exotic plant data collection and management, and to provide for the reporting of exotic plant management program data at the National, Team, and Park Unit level.

Overview

To standardize the collection and management of exotic plant data collected by the Exotic Plant Management Teams (EPMT), the Biological Resource Management Division (BRMD) adopted the BLM's data management system for invasive species. NISIMS was identified as an appropriate replacement for the Alien Plant Control and Monitoring database (APCAM), the previous exotic plant data management system, because it requires the input of data identified as important to collect by NPS but also includes a spatial component that allows for the mapping and further analysis of infestations. Further, NISIMS was chosen due to its potential for standardizing exotic plant data management across DOI agencies.

NISIMS maintains five categories of exotic species management spatial data: weed survey, weed infestation, proposed treatment, treatment, and photo location data. Each of the five categories of location data are linked to attribute data that provide more detailed information related to each location.

- **Weed survey** data is collected as part of an exotic plant surveillance program. The results of surveillance for this category are included whether an exotic plant species was detected or not.
- **Weed infestation** data is collected when a new species infestation has been identified. Data maintained in this category includes those infestations which have been identified as part of a formal monitoring program and those infestations identified incidentally.
- **Proposed treatment** data is collected as part of the formal treatment proposal process. Data in this category includes information that is important to know prior to treatment and the steps that were taken in obtaining proposal approval.
- **Treatment** data is collected during the treatment and control of an infestation in the field. Data in this category includes detailed information on the methods used to control and eradicate exotic plants at an infestation location. Treatment component data is further split into six components: biological, chemical, fire, manual, mechanical, and revegetation.
- **Photo location** data is collected to identify the locations where photos were taken in the field. Photo locations are not spatially related to the other types of data; however, may be mapped to identify which infestation the photos represent.

The NPS web interface of NISIMS allows users to upload and create reports from the categories of data described above. Reports are currently under construction; however, they will be designed to help the EPMT program and the individual EPMTs meet their reporting needs and identify the rate of change in exotic plant infestation size and location at each park unit. User access will only be granted to those who upload data and require access to reports for a given team. The reports that will be available to each user will depend on the type of permissions available to the user for NISIMS.