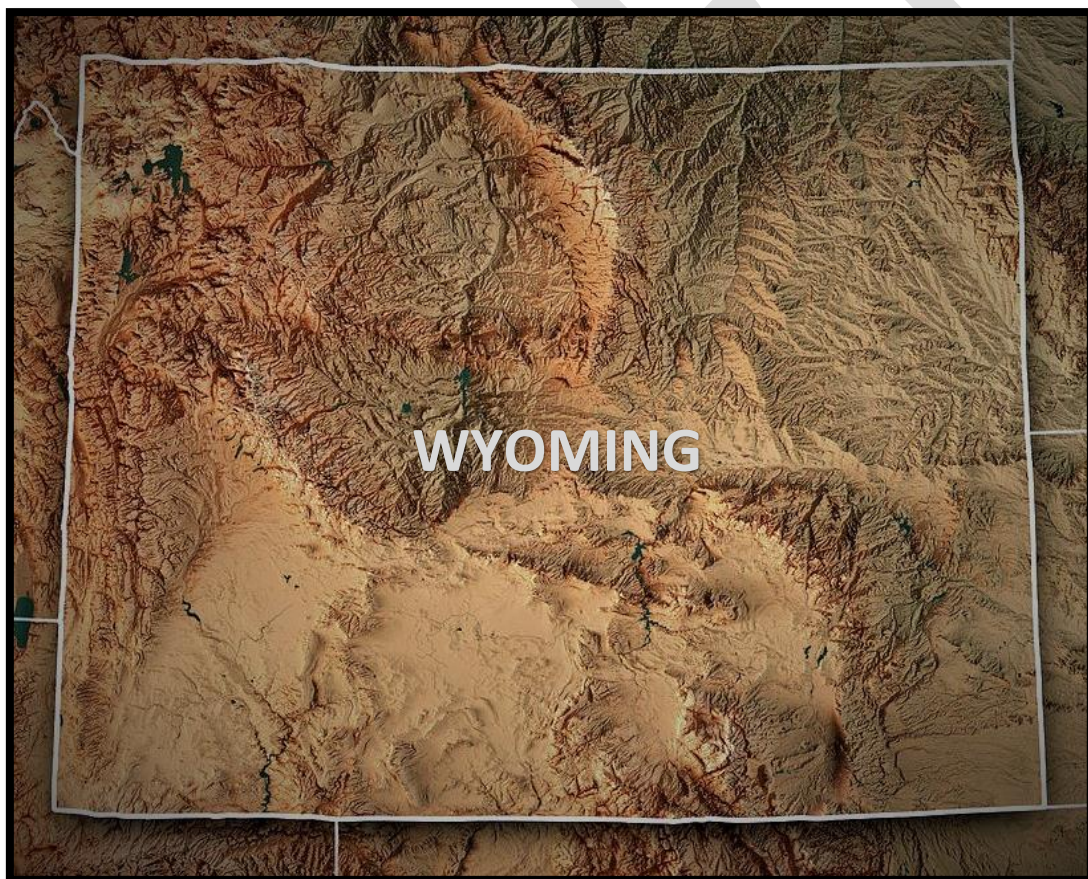


FINAL DRAFT REPORT:
GOVERNOR'S INVASIVE SPECIES
INITIATIVE
MONTH, DAY, 2020



BACKGROUND

In August of 2019, Governor Mark Gordon began assembling a team to develop a report regarding invasive species and their management in Wyoming. Team members were selected based on a number of factors including, but not limited to: experience (either in policy or technical implementation of invasive species management), location of the team member in Wyoming (to avoid pulling all parties from a single part of the state), industry (to represent different interests across user groups from railroads to agriculture), and agency affiliation (to ensure federal, state, and local governments were well represented).

The larger team, comprised of 32 individuals including the chairs, were then split into two distinct teams – one for policy and one for technical expertise. The teams first met in Lander on October 30, 2019 as a single group. Following this initial meeting, the teams worked individually to develop answers to the question posed in the Governor's October 3, 2019 letter (Attachment 1). In his letter, the Governor asked seven broad questions:

- 1) What species, or groups of species, are the highest priorities for Wyoming?
- 2) What are the gaps, in terms of both policy and technical expertise, in managing these species? How could these gaps be addressed?
- 3) How do we assess the current extent of invasion and how do we use that information in the future?
- 4) Is a statewide strategy appropriate? Can and should we develop goals at this level?
- 5) Is there a sustainable funding model for invasive species management, at any scale?
- 6) How do we organize and engage stakeholders in large-scale management and implementation? And,
- 7) How do we define success and how do we monitor long-term success?

This report has been developed based on each teams' work, combined work over the course of XX meetings of the full team, and countless hours of editing and emails by team members. The report revolves around the seven question the Governor asked in his original letter and includes recommendations on ways to either further refine the Governor's questions, answer portions of them, or other actions that should be considered. Many of the questions overlap, or are extremely related, and therefore require similar discussion or combination to better inform the reader. Additionally, the teams felt it most appropriate to address the questions based on a progression of conversation, rather than in the specific order detailed by the Governor in his letter. The Governor's Invasive Species Initiative (GISI) was specifically tasked with reviewing the Governor's questions in the vein of terrestrial invasive plant species and therefore does not address aquatic invasive plants or animals, insects, or terrestrial animals.

The report is organized into three main chapters: Importance of Acting Now; Discussion of the Governor's Questions; and, Overall Conclusions and Recommendations.

This report is a culmination of all team members input and should not be construed as any agency, federal or state, lobbying for a particular change. Many agencies represented on the teams are devoted solely to an area of science or policy and overall recommendations should not be viewed as derivatives of any agency's perspective, rather as the recommendation of the whole.

Tables 1 and 2 below show the make-up of each team and their respective chairs.

POLICY TEAM	
CHAIR: Steve Meadows	WWNRT Vice Chair
Wyatt Agar	WY Senate
Brian Boner	WY Senate
Josh Coursey	Muley Fanatics
Jessica Crowder	WLA
John Elliott	BLM
Jack Engstrom	BP
Colleen Faber	Anadarko/OXY
Jamie Flitner	WY House
Slade Franklin	WY Weed & Pest
Rob Hendry	County Commissioner/Ag
Mark Hogan	USFWS
Matt Hoobler	Pathfinder Ranches
Steve Lohr	USFS
Astrid Martinez	NRCS
Tom Walters	WY House

Table 1 – Policy Team members and affiliation

TECHNICAL TEAM	
CHAIR: Justin Derner	ARS
Bob Budd	WWNRT
Ben Bump	OSLI
Todd Caltrider	WGFD
Justin Caudill	WDA
Scott Gamo	WYDOT
Lindy Garner	USFWS
Ken Henke	BLM
Brian Jensen	NRCS
Julie Kraft	WY Weed & Pest
Rod Litzel	WY Weed & Pest
Brian Mealor	UW
Dwayne Rice	USFS
Pete Stahl	UW
Amanda Thimmayya	WY Military Dept
Mahonri Williams	US BoR

Table 2 – Technical Team members and affiliation

The chairs would like to thank the Governor for his attention to this issue and willingness to put together a group of professionals to begin working towards larger goals and organization for Wyoming, the team members and alternates for their dedication of time and energy, and members of the public who attended the meetings and provided input. We respectfully suggest the Governor make this report available, upon his approval of a final document, to the public and to local, state, and federal agencies.

On behalf of all the team members, thank you again for your support and the opportunity to serve on these teams.

Steve Meadows – Chair, Policy Team

Justin Derner – Chair, Technical Team