



August 20, 2020

Members of the Legislatures' Joint Agriculture Committee  
200 West 24th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Governor's Invasive Species Initiative

Members of the Joint Agriculture Committee,

This letter is intended to provide a brief update on the status of the Governor's Invasive Species Initiative (GISI), which is moving towards completion. At this time, a small editorial team made up of GISI members is working through a final draft of the report, focusing on recommendations, which will be found in Chapter 3, and attempting to structure the document in the most effective format.

The group held its final in-person meeting, then the GISI was split into sub-teams to craft a portion of Chapter 3. Chapter 1 is already completed and is solely devoted to discussion around why it is so important to act at this time and what the costs of doing nothing could be. Chapter 2 is intended to help advance understanding without entirely overwhelming readers with technical information, and Chapter 3 will be more detailed with actual recommendations for the Governor.

For the work in Chapter 3, the teams were given one of the seven questions that the Governor initially asked and were responsible for meeting and developing recommendations. The seven major areas are: The Importance of Acting Now, Statewide Strategy, Highest Priority Species, Assessing Invasion, Gaps and Challenges, Defining and Monitoring Success, and Funding. Currently, a small editorial group is working to finish Chapter 3 and increase readability as much as possible.

The discussions within the document are intended to help start some of the harder conversations, including those on issues like long-term funding and management, not to finish or dictate anything. Some ideas will likely fall within the scope of the Legislature or of Congress and will require considerable effort. For example, agreements between governmental entities, research needs, funding cycles, and policy challenges at the local, state, and national levels. Once the report is finalized, the Governor will have time to consider the recommendations. After the Governor reviews the report, it is anticipated he will provide direction on next steps which may include further work by GISI or other groups, working directly with Legislature or Congress, or direction to agencies. It is not anticipated that all recommendations will be ripe for action at this time.

The editorial group is hoping to have a final draft ready for the GISI to review by the end of the month and a final report to the Governor at the beginning of September. We look forward to sharing the document with you and other stakeholders soon.

Sincerely,



Joe Budd  
Natural Resource & Agriculture Policy Advisor  
Office of Governor Mark Gordon