

OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION AFFECTING INVASIVE PLANTS. Lee R Van Wychen, Director of Science Policy, National and Regional Weed Science Societies, Washington, DC 20002.

The North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) needs to continually be proactive on local, state and national invasive plant issues. The election results from November 7, 2006 will impact invasive plant policy over the next two years and beyond as there will be an anticipated shift towards environmental priorities and conservation program spending. NCWSS members can play an important role in advancing invasive plant research priorities through a consolidated constituent voice to their elected officials as well as working with state and federal agencies.

This presentation will provide an update to Federal weed and invasive plant management related legislation and appropriations passed by the 109th Congress. In particular, this presentation will cover the initiatives described in the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (Public Law 109-320) that was passed by Congress and signed by the President on October 11, 2006 and the Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act, which was passed by the Senate on September 29, 2006.

This presentation will also provide analysis of potential new legislation and policy leaders in the upcoming 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The NCWSS members will be well represented on key Congressional committees such as Agriculture, Environment/Resources, and Appropriations. This includes the Chairman of both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. One legislative vehicle where NCWSS members can have an impact will be the 2007 Farm Bill which is now expected to move forward in the new year.