

# Alaska

## Exotic Plant Management Team

*Partner parks (Alaska): Alagnak NW&SR, Aleutian WWII NHA, Aniakchak NM&Pr, Bering Land Bridge NPr, Cape Krusenstern NM, Denali NP&Pr, Gates of the Arctic NP&Pr, Glacier Bay NP&Pr, Katmai NP&Pr, Kenai Fjords NP, Klondike Gold Rush NHP, Kobuk Valley NP, Lake Clark NP&Pr, Noatak NPr, Sitka NHP, Wrangell-St. Elias NP&Pr, Yukon-Charley Rivers NPr*

### Accomplishments

Inventoried Acres	6,060
Gross Infested Acres	2,082
Infested Acres	9.342
Treated Acres	2.013
Monitored Acres	0
Retreated Acres	0
Restored Acres	0
Time Lost due to Injury	0



Sweetclover control with USFS and volunteers, Kenai Fjords NP/Chugach NF

Alaska's climate and isolation are less of a barrier to invasion by exotic plants every year. The state and its National Parks regularly see the introduction of new species, and those that are here expand their ranges rapidly. We confront this problem in Alaska through a coordinated Early Detection and Rapid Response program. Education, information-sharing, statewide cooperation, and field survey and control are the essential elements of the Alaska EPMT program.

In this second year of the EPMT, we inventoried eight park units for exotic plants by mapping 250 infestations of 50 species along with vast uninfested areas. 130 patches were controlled, accounting for 20 species in six parks. Two parks were found to have no exotic plants, and two others are reported to have none. We controlled many species this year at singular park locations to prevent their establishment and spread, and certain species were targeted at all locations. There are few infested acres in Alaskan parks, and so their GPS documentation and control protects vast acreages from invasion.

Through an interagency agreement with the US Geological Survey – Biological Resource Division, we have now gathered baseline information on exotic species in 13 of the 17 park units in Alaska. We have also developed and contributed to a statewide web-based tracking database for exotic plant arrivals and distributions with the US Forest Service and the University of Alaska Natural Heritage Program. Alaska's exotic plants have been ranked for threat through this partnership,

including those in the parks (see table) and many more in the state. As important as these species are, we are preparing for the inevitable arrival of more notorious American weeds.

The Alaska EPMT grew this year to five employees assisting several parks each, working through the parks to address their needs. Hence, regional support for the program has grown tremendously. Volunteer events and educational presentations were held in four parks in 2004, gathering audiences of park staff, visitors, and local residents whose involvement is essential for the future. Through participation in the interagency Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management, we are presenting the issue to the Alaskan people and working with researchers and managers to address it statewide.

Visiting weed scientists regularly remark on the unique opportunity Alaska has to prevent the problems they have seen elsewhere. We are pursuing this objective on multiple levels, all necessary for the long-term defense against species invasion. In coordination with our partners, the Alaska EPMT program promotes the preservation of vast native landscapes through the support of the Biological Resource Management Division.

### Target Weed Species

bird vetch  
butter-and-eggs  
common dandelion

common eyebright  
European mountain ash  
European stickseed  
Japanese knotweed  
narrowleaf hawksbeard  
oxeye-daisy  
white/yellow sweetclover