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Celebrate Invasive Species Awareness Week this week
Local activities planned in Anchorage and Seward

(Palmer, AK) – To highlight the risk of invasive species to Alaska, Governor Bill Walker has proclaimed this week (June 21-27) to be Invasive Species Awareness Week. This week, Alaskans are encouraged to spread the word about invasive species and join local efforts to control invasive species that are impacting their communities.

Invasive species are non-native to the ecosystem and their introduction threatens the economy, environment, or human health. They are estimated to cost the United States billions of dollars in economic damages per year. In Alaska, invasive species can impact hunting, fishing, camping, boating, floatplanes, wild food harvesting and wildlife habitat.

The Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game coordinate prevention, outreach and management strategies for invasive species that have arrived in Alaska, including Northern pike, elodea, Canada thistle, and bird vetch, to name a few. For more information, go to <http://www.plants.alaska.gov/invasives/index.htm> and <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=invasive.main>.

Alaskans can sign up to join the statewide marine invasive species monitoring network by contacting Catie Bursch at Catherine.Bursch@alaska.gov. In addition, the following activities are planned this week:

Anchorage:

June 24, 2-4 p.m., bird vetch removal at Campbell Tract.

June 25, 2-4 p.m., hempenettle, bird vetch, and European bird cherry removal at Campbell Creek Estuary Park.

For more information contact Tim Stallard at 907-347-2214.

Seward:

June 26, weed pull at Chugach National Forest, Exit Glacier Rd.

For more information contact Aaron Stover at 907-422-0550.

To view Governor Walker's Executive Proclamation visit:

<http://plants.alaska.gov/pdf/InvasiveSpeciesAwarenessWeek2015.pdf>

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