

Exotic Animals Update to the Working Group July 2001

The Task Force and Working Group have expressed an interest in expanding the initial invasive exotics work on plants being done by the Noxious Exotic Weed Task Team (NEWTT) to include animals. Bob Doren has spoken with John Ogden regarding working with the Science Coordination Team to begin the development of an invasive animal task team (Noxious Exotic Animal Task Team [NEATT]), along the lines of NEWTT. Initially this will be to evaluate the issues with invasive animals, including the review and use of previous reports like the one produced by Carol Goodyear, and determine the various technical disciplines and people that may be needed to create such a group. Unlike the plant task team, an animal task team will require people from many diverse disciplines such as entomologist, herpetologists, ornithologists, etc. Bob has offered to assist in helping the SCT to organize and coordinate this group. His experience in organizing NEWTT has shown that the structure, strategies and concepts, and even many of the tasks involved in areas such as education and outreach will be the same or very similar for both plants and animals. The SCT plans to schedule this issue on the agenda of their September 2001 meeting for preliminary discussion towards developing a task team for invasive exotic animals.