



Invasive Species Risk Analysis and Prevention Checklist



This checklist is designed to help reduce the risk of invasive species movement during habitat restoration and monitoring activities. It should be used early in the process of the planning and design of the activity and/or to help guide funding and permitting decisions. It can be used in concert with more comprehensive risk management methods like Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point planning.

Risk evaluation

- Has there been a review of existing nonnative species known to occur at the activity site and at the locations of any equipment, materials, and people involved with the activity?
- Has there been an evaluation of the potential for this activity to move nonnative species inadvertently to new locations?
- Have climate change effects on invasive species (modified range, impacts, and introduction pathways) been considered?
- For habitat restoration/conservation activities:* Has there been an evaluation of the likelihood that existing nonnative species will reduce the effectiveness of habitat or population goals for the project?
- For habitat restoration/conservation activities:* Is there an opportunity to incorporate prevention tools into the project (e.g., educational signage) that can limit other sources (e.g., boaters) from introducing invasive species that would affect the project's success?

Prevention measures

- Are all reasonable means being employed to use local equipment, materials, and people that would not represent a risk of introducing nonnative species from other locations?
- Are there adequate¹ methods in place to remove nonnative "hitchhikers" from equipment, materials, and people prior to their movement to non-infested areas?
- Are there inspection procedures or other quality assurance methods in place to ensure that prevention methods are working effectively (and that don't simply rely on looking to see if the target invasive species become established in the area)?
- Is there a policy in place for handling cases where a prevention method fails to effectively remove an invasive species risk?

Early detection and rapid response measures

- Does the introduction risk warrant implementation of early detection monitoring and response preparedness to promote rapid action if the activity does inadvertently introduce new invasive species?

¹ Note that for many species or types of equipment, there are no standardized protocols or documented decontamination thresholds. Some proven, standardized methods (e.g., pesticides) may be effective for the target invasive species but inappropriate for other reasons. For aquatic invasive species, the general principle "wash, drain, dry" can be used as a minimal approach.