



INVASIVE SPECIES MITIGATION FUND

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
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ISSUE BRIEF

The purpose of this issue brief is to provide background information about the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund, in preparation for the program manager's report that will include an update on the program's projects, performance measures, and results.

The 2008 Legislature passed S.B. 89, *Mitigation of Invasive Species*, which created the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund and appropriated to the new fund \$2 million one-time from the General Fund for FY 2009. The total funding appropriated through FY 2015 to this fund is \$7.5 million, all coming from the General Fund.

The Department of Agriculture and Food created the Invasive Species Mitigation program to use the fund for projects that rehabilitate or treat areas infested with or threatened by invasive plant species. The fund can also be used for research projects related to invasive species. These funds are available for projects conducted by the following:

1. A state agency;
2. A federal agency;
3. A federal, state, tribal, or private landowner;
4. A political subdivision;
5. A county weed board;
6. A cooperative weed management area; or
7. A university.

The guidelines for awarding the grants are outlined in UCA [4-2-8.7](#).

The statute allows the department to use up to 10% of the restricted fund for administration or project planning, monitoring, and implementation expenses. Currently the program employs one FTE.