



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians Resolution #ABQ-03-092

Title: Addition of Invasive Plants to Department of the Interior Non-Native Invasive Species List

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 which was to encourage the federal agencies to work with partners to address Aquatic Nuisance Species issues; and

WHEREAS, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has maintained a list of nonindigenous invasive species, from which financial support can be obtained for the research, control and management of these listed species by federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, tribal economic development, natural resources and the quality of tribal environments have been negatively impacted by this invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the BIA is the cognizant federal agency for Tribes, and as such is supposed to represent the Tribes' interests at the Department of Interior; and

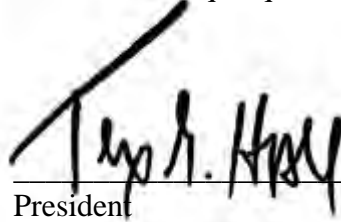
WHEREAS, there are currently no funding mechanisms to support Tribes' invasive species control program without the species being listed on the Department of Interior Invasive Species list.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby request that the Bureau of Indian Affairs appoint a staff person to work in close coordination with the Department of Interior Invasive Species Advisory Committee and all Tribal Governments to pursue the listing of Lygodium microphyllum (Old World Climbing Fern), Melaleuca quinquenervia (Cajeput), Schinus terebinthifolius (Brazilian pepper), and Styela clava (Tunicate) as a non-native invasive species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

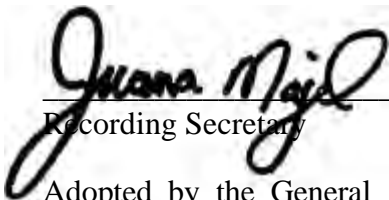
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on November 21, 2003 with a quorum present.



President

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during 60th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from November 17-21, 2003.