

House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Informational Meeting – Invasive Species of PA
September 8, 2023

Speaking Points

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1. Definition of an Invasive Species
 - a. Economic Harm, Environmental Harm, Harm to Human Health
2. What an invasive species is NOT
3. How invasive species get here
4. Why Invasive Species Thrive
5. Who says it's invasive?
 - a. Constantly changing list
 - b. Noxious weed versus invasive plant
6. Why Should we care?
 - a. Diminishing Diversity
 - i. Threatens ecosystems, native plants and animals
 - ii. Reduces recreation value and access – woods, rivers, lakes
7. Threatens Educational Opportunities
 - a. While there is a lot to learn about in an invaded space, it is far less than what we can learn from a healthy ecosystem.
 - b. Money spent on managing invasives could be spent on other learning opportunities, equipment, planting etc
 - c. Management not in the budget, not managed, invasion continues
 - d. Invasive Plants support increased deer populations which threaten educational displays and demonstrations, also threatens ecosystems, in addition to managing invasives, now funds and staff time must be spent on deer management
8. Era of Climate Change
 - a. 2021 Tornado, the new norm, a lot of disturbance
 - b. Invasions in the newly disturbed and open areas, rather than regeneration of healthy spaces, even if they were healthy to begin with

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