NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Institution Building and Coordination Project

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In writing the report keep in mind the goals of your project under this category: the development of new or strengthening of existing multi-organizational collaboration that supports the development and maintenance of shared digital geographic resources, and to foster the establishment of cross-organizational coordinating councils that develop and advance the NSDI within a specific geographic area.

Project Narrative

The goal of this project is to build a consortium of those involved in invasive weed mapping in California, and to use this consortium to make existing datasets available more widely. This will enable landscape-scale analysis of weed distribution and spread. It will also provide a network for supporting new mapping efforts.

We have formed a core project committee for the process of creating the consortium. Along with Cal-IPC as the project lead, this committee comprises representation from the California Department of Food & Agriculture, the Sonoma Ecology Center, and the Information Center for the Environment at the University of California, Davis. The individuals involved cover both technical aspects of sharing online mapping data as well as the needs and culture of the state's invasive weed management community.

This group has developed a plan and timeline for the project. The first step is to invite other key partners to serve on a steering committee that will not meet as often as the core group, but will provide guidance on key issues. This includes representatives from several key organizations: the California Department of Fish & Game, the Jepson Herbarium, the nonprofit CalFlora. These groups will be close partners, and need to be in on shaping the project.

Beyond this group, there is a larger group of stakeholders that will be invited to guide the project at appropriate points. This includes representatives from the weed mapping community, including agencies such as Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Services, US Forest Service, CA State Parks, CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, The Nature Conservancy, and county Weed Management Areas.

We have had the first open stakeholder meeting at our annual Symposium in October, 2005. Approximately 50 people attended the Mapping Working Group, where the consortium was described, and comments were taken. There was strong support for the project.

An initial task is to assess existing resources. CalFlora has a plant observation database online which will display on a map, It also allows registered users to contribute new data. The Information Center for the Environment has a map server that displays several datasets. It makes sense to incorporate both of these tools into the plan, as long as data remains accessible.

One central resource is Cal-IPC's California Invasive Plants Inventory. This is the definitive reference for which species are considered invasive in the state, and it needs to be robust and accessible. The inventory is nearing the end of a major upgrade, and will be printed this spring. The core committee has made it a high priority to get this central reference online in an accessible format.

Below is our current timeline:

Task	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Core Cmte mtgs			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Steering Cmte mtgs					X			X			X		
Stakeholder mtgs	X												X
1. Get Invasive Plant Inventory online in accessible format							X						
2. Make a plan for integrating existing resources					X								
3. Create simple one-stop website for weed mapping													