

**Vegetation (Invasive Species) Management
Submitted by Papio Missouri River NRD**

Whereas LB 701 created the Riparian Vegetation Management Task Force whose efforts shall be initially directed toward river basins designated by the Department of Natural Resources as fully appropriated or overappropriated.

Whereas many other basins of the state are experiencing a steady encroachment of invasive species and noxious weeds which have choked water ways, increased the risk of ice jams and flooding and deplete valuable surface and groundwater from streams, rivers and lakes.

Whereas those basins of the state not designated as fully or overappropriated are in a position to proactively and economically control invasive species to eliminate potential problems if positive action is taken soon.

Whereas the majority of state funding is directed toward those basins that are designated as fully or overappropriated, federal funding is rapidly declining and local resources are inadequate to fund a comprehensive and successful integrated vegetation management program that is based on 21st century technology and sound science.

Whereas proper vegetation management is vital to the mission of the Natural Resource Districts to develop, manage, utilize and conserve our ground and surface water, as well as, enhance our environment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts will work with the Legislature, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Dept of Natural Resources, Nebraska Game and Parks, County Weed Control Authorities and individual Natural Resource Districts to establish and fund comprehensive, integrated vegetation management programs in all basins of the state.