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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Invasive Species Advisory Council Formed to Take Action

(Phoenix, AZ) -- The Arizona Department of Agriculture and the Arizona Game and Fish Department will be responsible for the newly formed Invasive Species Advisory Council in an effort to further protect the Grand Canyon State. After careful evaluation of the threat presented by invasive species in our state both now and in the future, Governor Janet Napolitano has issued an executive order mandating the formation of this council.

The 27-member council (members have not yet been chosen) will be required to evaluate the following:

- * Current invasive species management activities.
- * Current statutory authorities.
- * Opportunities to create efficiencies and improve coordination among and between Agencies.
- * Amount of funds spent annually on invasive species management activities in the three fiscal years immediately preceding the adoption of this Executive Order.
- * The Advisory Council shall:
 - * Develop a consensus vision for a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach to invasive species management in Arizona and develop recommendations on how to coordinate between private, local, tribal, state and federal entities on invasive species management efforts and issues.
 - * Make recommendations for the definition of "invasive species" for Arizona.
 - * Identify duplications and inconsistencies among and within agencies.
 - * Identify gaps in state invasive species programs
- * Develop recommendations for a statewide invasive species management plan to guide state actions in addressing the invasive species issue.

The council has until June 30th, 2006 to make all recommendations to the Governor.

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