

A multi-level and multi-actor approach to biosecurity management and risk governance: a conceptual framework to support policy development for Ambrosia weed control

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Invasive species such as Ambrosia (an annual weed) pose a biosecurity risk whose management depends on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of many stakeholders. It can therefore be considered a complex policy and risk governance problem. Complex policy problems are characterised by high uncertainty, multiple dimensions, interactions across different spatial and policy levels and the involvement of a multitude of actors and organisations. This paper provides a conceptual framework for analysing the multi-level and multi-stakeholder dimensions of Ambrosia management. Potential and existing public, private and public-private management strategies are identified to address the interests and needs for different stakeholder groups across different levels. We conclude that policies that promote a mix of public and private Ambrosia management strategies may better respond to the needs and interests of different actor groups across different levels as compared to an “one-size-fits-all” approach. However, multiple policy strategies need to be aligned in order to lead to synergies and spreading coherent messages to the public. Collaboration may enhance the likelihood that biosecurity management and risk governance of Ambrosia is adequately implemented and enforced, but is most likely challenging to realize.