

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The United States Geological Survey

And the Reston Association

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish cooperation between the Reston Association and the United States Geological Survey, John W. Powell National Center regarding the important issue of invasive species. Reston is a unique community in regards to conservation of natural resources. Approximately 1000 acres of the 6000 acres that encompass our community is maintained as open space by the Reston Association, to be used as recreation and to maintain natural habitats for all the valuable services they provide: wildlife, purification of our air and streams, education, beauty, and a strong sense of community and place. The John W. Powell Center is one of the largest tracts of forest remaining in Reston, and much of the property is undisturbed forest. The John W. Powell Center is a vital portion of Reston's open spaces. Invasive species of plants and animals threaten the integrity of both our properties.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Invasive species, that is, species that are not native to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes harm to the environment, our economy, and to wildlife and human health, are recognized as major environmental and ecological problem nationally and internationally. Weedy species of plants overwhelm native communities and our yards, gardens, and commercial spaces; non-native bird species such as starlings harm or out compete our native songbirds; diseases such as West Nile virus pose a risk to both human and wildlife health. Although actions are required of every level of government, cooperation at the local level is needed and is effective. The Reston Association has been vigilant in keeping several species of invasive plants out of our community. The USGS has removed ornamental species from our property, such as purple loosestrife, that may pose a risk to nature habitats in our community. Acting individually, we have contributed to the continued health of Reston and its natural communities.

## 3. AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST

USGS and the Reston Association can combine efforts to more effectively control invasive species in our community and bring focus to and educate the public on their detection and control. We have the shared interest in protecting the important values already described for our properties, we have the shared mission of outreach and education to our community, and we have shared and complementary technical and expert personnel to make Reston a model of action to keep invasive species out of our community and protect the open spaces that benefit us all.

#### 4. GOALS

The Reston Association and the USGS, John W. Powell Center will cooperate in the control of invasive species on our properties. Our shared goals include:

USGS will consult and cooperate with the Reston Association in the application of horticultural practices and forest and water management practices at the John W. Powell Center. We will take steps to control the introduction of invasive species and control species already threatening our properties.

We will share education resources to provide information and opportunities to inform the public about invasive species, the problems they pose for our environment and economy, and how to control and eradicate these species from our open spaces and other properties.

We will share professional expertise and employees between our two organizations, including shared volunteer educational and monitoring and management of invasives as well as educational materials and activities.

The USGS will provide access, upon request, for Reston Association employees and/or representatives to monitor USGS property to detect and/or control invasive species. Reston Association and the USGS will also cooperate to re-establish native species that can utilize USGS property as habitats and for propagation of native species.

Finally, we will continue work together to discover additional ways in which we can enhance to values of our properties and resources for the Reston community, and will meet and alter and/or expand this MOU to achieve these stated goals.

We enter into this agreement at a time that marks Weed Awareness Week for our nation. We hope by our agreement and action we can provide a model of local action to address growing global issue.

Signed this date March 4, 2003

*(Signed Original on File)*

Chip Groat  
Director, USGS

*(Signed Original on File)*

Susan Jones  
President, Reston Association

*(Signed Original on File)*

Jerry Volloy  
Executive Vice President, Reston Association