

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Research Project One: Soil Function and Invasive Native Scrub

What is the project about?

Much of the work done on Invasive Native Scrub (INS) management has concentrated on the effect of management on INS survival and regrowth. However, soils in INS areas can have obvious differences to the soils of non-INS areas. Soils in INS areas often lack permanent ground cover, and can be eroded, crusted, or hard-setting.

This project asks if the physical, chemical and biological processes that operate in the soil are impaired, and if so by how much? Does management of INS improve the soil and encourage soil processes? If this happens, how long does this take, and how much does the soil improve?

This project will explore these questions and the effect that managing INS has on the functioning of the soil (i.e. the processes and cycles that operate in soils).

This project is being run by Matt Tighe from the University of New England.

Why is it being done?

The objective of this study is to determine what effect INS has on soil function. It will ultimately determine the effectiveness of different INS management options in improving soil function.

How can I be involved?

Landholder's help is vital for this project. Landholders can be involved by letting us know if they have INS and INS managed sites adjacent to each other, or sites that are about to be managed for INS that could be used for the study. We would also need to know the history of the site, which would take a small amount of the landholder's time.



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About the overall INS Research Program

A range of research and communication projects dealing with Invasive Native Scrub (INS) are being undertaken in central-west and western NSW. This is a serious issue across the region and can have an adverse impact on habitats, wider landscape health, communities and farming operations.

The research program builds on community involvement, landholder knowledge and scientific research to complement and update previous INS studies.

It will ultimately lead to a better understanding of how INS treatment options vary between areas and need to be accommodated. Our intent is that regulations, incentives and advice will facilitate rather than constrain good practice.

The overall product will be a resource outlining what we

have learned from landholders and the research projects – what INS management techniques work under different circumstances.

This resource will provide a means of distributing research findings widely amongst landholders, government agencies and policy-makers alike.

Preliminary information is expected to be released mid-2008.

Various researchers and organisations are running the research projects and the overall program is coordinated by the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

Want to be involved?

We are keen to work with the farming community on these projects and hope you are able to help. Local knowledge and experience, and access to INS sites for research are vital to the success of the program.

To be involved or updated on the program's progress, please contact the Central West CMA:

Email: Rodney.campbell@cma.nsw.gov.au

Fax: 02 6881 3401

Post: PO Box 2105, Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: 02 6881 3430

Your details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Area of interest:

- General interest in INS
- Interested in INS management information
- Have INS sites on my property available for research
- Would like to share experiences in managing INS
- Would like to share examples of INS treatment
- Other _____

Your personal information will remain within the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and will not be divulged to other organisations.