



Head Office: Plumgarths, Crook Road, Kendal, Cumbria. LA8 8LX
t: 01539 816311 e: bekka@scrt.co.uk w: www.scrt.co.uk/cfinns

Press Release
Tuesday 24th January 2012

-----**Begins**-----

Battle plans drawn up

The 'Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan', produced through the Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species (CFINNS) Initiative has been launched publically today.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are animals and plants that have been transported or introduced outside of their natural range and which threaten the survival of rare native species and damage sensitive ecosystems and habitats. INNS are also costly in economic terms and in some cases raise risks to human health. Impacts of INNS are so significant, they are considered to be one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide.

The Cumbria plan is the first of its kind in England and has been developed with assistance from Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland (RAFTS), leaders in freshwater biosecurity planning and The Rivers Trust (RT), the umbrella body of rivers trusts in England & Wales. Following Cumbria's lead RT hope that a suite of these plans will be developed across England and Wales as part of a wider GB biosecurity and INNS programme of action.

Bekka Corrie-Close, CFINNS Initiative Coordinator said "The freshwaters in Cumbria are of great ecological and economic significance. The combination of extensive high quality water environments together with high usage and visitor pressure makes biosecurity and management of INNS a conservation priority for Cumbria. This plan and the actions arising are, therefore, very timely and will play a critical role".

Arlin Rickard, CEO of The Rivers Trust commented, "Cumbria is to be congratulated in taking this initiative. INNS do not respect political boundaries and it's essential that we develop biosecurity plans for every catchment in Britain. We must all work together to protect our beautiful island and our native species."

The Biosecurity Plan addresses freshwater and riparian INNS in the county of Cumbria. It identifies how to protect freshwaters from new INNS and best manage those already present. It also helps to coordinate and prioritise the work of a range of organisations whose support will be key to a successful outcome.

Implementation of the plan will bring a range of environmental and socio-economic benefits to the county, including a strengthening of the conservation of internationally recognised freshwaters, and the protection of endangered native species such as the white-clawed crayfish.

-----Ends-----



Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan logo



Stop the Spread logo

Notes to reporters/photographers:

The Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species Initiative was launched in April 2010 with the aims of coordinating a strategic approach to tackling freshwater invasive non-native species in Cumbria. The Coordinator is employed through the South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

For more information about the Cumbria Freshwater Invasive Non-Native Species Initiative please look at our website www.scrct.co.uk/cfinns, email bekka@scrct.co.uk or telephone 01539 816311.

To access the Cumbria Freshwater Biosecurity Plan, visit <http://www.scrct.co.uk/biosecurity/biosecurity>