

Ecological Impacts

Names: _____ Date: _____

1. Invasive Plant Species Name (Common and Scientific):
2. What type of habitat is this plant found in (riparian, forests, grasslands, etc.)?
3. What types of adaptations does it have to enable it to survive and out-compete native plants?
4. What, if any, characteristics does the plant have that makes it harmful or toxic to other organisms?
5. Come up with 4 native plant *and* animal species in the area and hypothesize, based on your research, **how** (increase, decrease, stay the same, etc.) the presence of the invasive plant affects each species. Use a variety of species. Do not use all one type of organisms, such as all songbirds or all trees.

Example: Species: white tail deer – “x” invasive provides more food for deer than native plants, thus this species could increase the deer population in the area.

a. Species:

b. Species:

c. Species:

d. Species:

6. Choose 2 of the native species above and explain how (increase, decrease, stay the same, etc.) their changes might affect other organisms.

Example: If the white tail deer population increases, the mountain lion population might increase because mountain lion prey on white tail deer.

If you find information on native species during your research, please cite your sources on the worksheet.

a. Species:

b. Species:

7. Does the invasive plant affect any abiotic (non-living) factors in the ecosystem (Examples: soil erosion, nutrient content, fire regime, etc.)?

If you find information on native species during your research, please cite your sources on the worksheet.