



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL APPOINTS FOUR MEMBERS

SALEM, Oregon—The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) has selected four members to help achieve its mission to conduct a coordinated and comprehensive effort to keep invasive species out of Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in Oregon.

The Council recently selected the following individuals to two-year Council seats to help carry the momentum on invasive species issues:

John Cochran—Turf Merchants, Inc.

Vern Holm—Northwest Weed Management Partnership

Jeanne Standley—Bureau of Land Management

In addition, the Council approved existing Council member Glenn Dolphin of the Oregon Marine Board to serve a second two-year term. Council members are allowed to serve up to two consecutive terms.

“This new slate of candidates and a second term for Glenn Dolphin creates exciting opportunities for the Council to work with other entities in Oregon’s fight against invasive species,” said OISC Chair Rian Hooff. “In 2011, our Council is supporting five invasive-species related pieces of legislation, is continuing the tri-state firewood outreach campaign, will be developing an invasive species strategic plan for Oregon, and will be involved in a variety of other activities to reduce the threat of invasive species to Oregon’s economy, environment, and quality of life.”

There are 15 seats on the Council. Six of them are permanently assigned to:

- Oregon Department of Agriculture—Dan Hilburn
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality—Rian Hooff

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife—Rick Boatner
- Oregon Department of Forestry—Rosemary Mannix
- Oregon Sea Grant (Oregon State University)—Sam Chan
- Portland State University—Mark Sytsma

The six permanent members are responsible for appointing nine at-large members from government agencies, universities, industries, organizations or individuals having an interest in invasive species. Existing at-large members include:

- Doug Daoust—US Forest Service
- Glenn Dolphin—Oregon Marine Board
- Vanelle Peterson—Dow Agrosiences, LLC
- Mark Porter—Wallowa Resources
- Mitch Nelson—US Department of Agriculture—Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Health, Plant Protection and Quarantine
- Nancy Willmes—SOLV

Council members that recently completed serving their terms include Steve Buttrick of The Nature Conservancy, Marla Harrison of the Port of Portland, and Dan Walters of DLF International, Inc.

Formation of the Council by the legislature was a major step in addressing invasive species problems in Oregon. Non-native weeds and undesirable exotic animals threaten vital habitats and jeopardize important commercial species. Nutria, European starlings, Dutch elm disease, European green crabs, Himalayan blackberries, and German yellowjackets are all examples of invasive species now established in Oregon. Other species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and kudzu, threaten to invade.

The Council began work on January 1, 2002. Its purpose is to facilitate communication, education, and cooperation on invasive species problems. In the past year, the Council:

- implemented a tri-state outreach campaign with Idaho and Washington to improve awareness of firewood as a pathway for the introduction of invasive pests and diseases;
- hosted a statewide invasive species summit in 2010 to share understanding of the threat invasive species poses to Oregon's economy and environment and introduce legislative concepts for the 2011 Oregon legislative session;
- spearheaded an effort to raise funds for a 2nd major reprint of *GardenSmart Oregon*. A total of \$30,000 was raised, and 67,000 booklets were printed and distributed; and
- raised \$54,288 to launch iMapInvasives in Oregon, a database to track invasive species;
- maintained www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org, an online database for people to report suspected sightings of invasive species.

Any questions about the nomination process should be directed to OISC Chair Rian Hooff at hooff.rian@deq.state.or.us.

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