

Oregon Invasive Species Council
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Classroom
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive • Salem • OR
Nov 19 - 20, 2013

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Present

Vern Holm
Judi Sanders
Samuel Chan
Barry Horowitz
Dan Hilburn, Chair
Doug Daoust
Rian Hooff
Mark Hitchcox
Glenn Dolphin
Wyatt Williams
Mark Sytsma
Dominic Maze
Rick Boatner

Absent

Thea Hayes
Dana Green
Todd Thompson

Others

Jo Davis, ODA
Randy Henry, OSMB
Gary Sizemore, American Bird Conservancy
Linda Beck, USF&W, Malheur NWR
Martyne Reesman, ODF&W
Pat Mitchell, ODA
Craig Rowland, USF&W
Jennifer Rowe, OSU
Tom Forney, ODA
Tristen Berg, ODA
Susan Barnes, ODF&W

Josh Vlach, ODA
Jennifer Hart, USDA APHIS
Mike Pinker, City of Gresham
Gary Brown, USDA APHIS
Melissa Yslas, USDA APHIS
Glenn Miller, ODA
Robin Roseta, OSU

Karen Kraus, Feral Cat Coalition
Bob Sallinger, Audobon Society of Portland

Tuesday, Nov 19, 2013

Introductions

Introductions from the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) and attendees were made.

OISC Coordinator Candidates

Final candidates for the Council Coordinator's position made presentations to the Council. The selection committee asked the candidates a set of questions.

2013 EDRR Updates for 100 Worst Species

Tunicates, Glenn Dolphin, Steve Rumrill

An invasive tunicate has established in the Charleston Boat Basin and the Winchester Bay in Coos County. A draft action plan has been prepared. The council may consider funding proposed actions in the future.

Sudden Oak Death, Wyatt Williams

Discovered in 2001 but present since 1998, the origin of infestation is unknown. Tanoak is the key host species for this pathogen. Many native plants can become infected when growing in close proximity to infected tanoaks. More than 4,500 acres have been treated. Initially, the goal was complete eradication of the pathogen by cutting and burning all infected and nearby

host plants. However, after that effort failed, treatments aimed to slow the pathogen's spread. For a couple of years prior to 2012, we were no longer able to keep up with intensification of the disease near the center of the quarantine area.

We chose to focus treatments on infested sites to prevent or slow spread beyond the quarantine area: sites near the quarantine boundary as well as sites at the leading edge of northward and eastward spread. In 2013, we identified infected outside of the generally infected area (GIA). As of November 2013, the quarantine area is 264 square miles and the GIA is 56 square miles. We plan to treat all sites outside the GIA in order to slow spread but must modify the treatments to save money. Adjustments to treatment practices include:

- Excluding herbicide treatments to only those sites of long-term importance;
- Prioritizing the scale of the treatment based on proximity to core area – large areas treated on outliers; small on sites near core area;
- Reducing burn area - burn all host close to known infected trees, cut and lop remainder.

In 2013, aerial detection modifications were made. We collected digital imagery over most of the quarantine area; detected new sites; tracked overstory mortality in GIA and fixed wing survey near perimeter of quarantine area and beyond; took oblique photos from the survey plane to improve sketch map accuracy; and reduced or eliminated helicopter use.

Zebra/quagga mussels, Glenn Dolphin, Rick Boatner

In August 2011, the Oregon legislature passed a bill that authorized the state to require a person transporting a watercraft to stop at a check station to inspect the watercraft for the presence of aquatic invasive species. There is \$110 fine for passing a posted inspection station. There is no violation if something is found during inspection process and the person cooperates in the decontamination process. In 2013, watercraft inspections/decontaminations were set up in Gold Beach, Central Point, Klamath Falls, Lakeview and Ontario. 7,487 watercrafts were inspected with a 66% compliance rate, and a total of 287 decontaminations. 17 of the 287 decontaminations were due to the presents of zebra/quagga mussels or standing water from suspected waterbodies.

“A” Rated Weeds, Tom Forney

Prevention of introduction and early detection to prevent widespread occurrence is a priority. Timely response to new invaders requires planning, identifying partners and landowners, and to implement containment and eradication of weeds. Long term planning, treatment and monitoring are important. In support of these efforts, ODA networks with partners, performs surveys, and implements a variety of education and outreach activities. The Program creates Risk Assessments of potential plant invasives and then presents a list of those which pose the highest risk to the Oregon State Weed Board.

In 2013, ODA worked on 20 “A” listed species with 18 cooperators, reviewed and monitored OSWB grants and received help and funding from federal partners. ODA and partners have succeeded in the control and monitoring of woolly distaff thistle from Douglas County, African rue in Crook and Harney Counties, yellowtuft alyssum and barbed goatgrass in the Illinois Valley of Southern Oregon, Spartina on the coast, giant hogweed in northwestern Oregon, goatsrue in Portland, Taurian thistle in Klamath County, orange and yellow hawkweeds in several northern and central counties, purple starthistle in Wheeler County, Paterson's curse in Southern Oregon, plumeless thistle in Klamath and Wallowa Counties, squarrose knapweed in Grant County, and yellow floating heart in the western and central counties. These “A” rated weeds will be monitored and integrated control methods will continue in the future. In the mean time, ODA continues to look for new invaders.

Japanese Beetle/Gypsy Moth, Josh Vlach

Fifty cargo airplanes were inspected from 2011 to 2012. No Japanese beetle was found on either FedEx or UPS. There were about 2,262 traps placed in Oregon. Thirty-six Japanese beetles were caught, 32 in the Portland International Airport area, 4 in Troutdale and 0 in Cave Junction. Eradication (turf treatment with Acelepryn, followed by foliar treatment with Tempo) was conducted at the airport (154 acres), Troutdale (72 acres), and Cave Junction (38 acres).

Two gypsy moths were found in Southern Oregon from traps set by ODF. For 2014, it is estimated that 15,000 traps are needed for good coverage; budget constraints limit ODA to 12,000.

Feral Swine, Rick Boatner

Feral Swine/Pig is defined by OAR 603-010-0055 as: free roaming swine on public or private lands; they are not being held under domestic management confinement; no notification of escape within a radius of 5 miles during the past 5 days; swine do not appear to be domesticated are not tame; and do not meet the identification and description of escaped swine. Oregon does not allow selling of feral swine hunts, requires a person who owns or controls land to notify ODF&W within 10 days of discovering feral swine on the land and submit a feral swine removal plan within 60 days and must implement the plan. 70% of a population must be removed every year to keep a population at its existing level. Harvest rate by hunters on average is less than 50%. Several traps have been used and tested with varying results. Trapping efforts have been implemented in Wasco, Wheeler, and Jefferson Counties. Some feral swine have been fitted with a GPS device that tracks their roaming activities.

Aerial gunning has proven to be the most effective way of control. The new PNW “Squeal on Pigs” education and outreach program has generated several reports generally of one pig per site but a report in Douglas County reported a group of 15-20.

Interesting Projects and Emerging Pests

Malheur Lake Carp Eradication, *Linda Beck*

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is now home to over 10 million exotic carp. There has been a 90% decline of bird population that is attributed to the carp invasion on the lake. The effect of carp on plants and water quality is obvious. They are bottom feeders, uprooting plants thus releasing nutrients from sediment and increasing algal blooms which shades beneficial plants that other migratory birds feeds on. Control attempts on carps have been tried since 1955 with Rotenone treatments. The refuge works with partners for the best available science to collect data. Common carp is the dominant fish species in Malheur Lake.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) and Azalea lace bug, *Josh Vlach*

- First documented commercial damage of brown marmorated stinkbugs were on apples and hazelnut in 2013. The apples have no sign of injury when put into cold storage, but 4-5 weeks later, visible injury makes the stored apples useless for commercial use. ODA plans to keep the public informed and respond to residential queries, to conduct manual searches near known infested areas and collaborate with researchers developing survey methods. Problems facing the control of BMSB are finding efficient traps and lures and management issues. ODA tested aggregation pheromone and trap types and continues to test and develop effective monitoring traps. OSU and ODA are testing an egg parasitoid biocontrol at the OSU Quarantine facility in Corvallis.
- Spotted wing drosophila continues to show up in Oregon’s farms and gardens. ODA is cooperating with ARS testing lures. So far there are 4 volatile chemicals identified that are co-attractive to SWD, however wine and vinegar are just as effective as a lure for SWD. Lures may be used to detect the presence of the flies, indicate its abundance, and assess the threat level to crops.
- Azalea lace bug can damage a wide range of Oregon’s ericaceous crops and ornamental plants such as kinickinick, strawberry tree, heath, trailing arbutus, mountain laurel, kalmiopsis, azalea, blueberry, cranberry, and huckleberries. Damage can be extensive to minor. Azalea lace bugs generally live and feed on the underside of leaves. Nymphs and adults cause damage by piercing and removing cell contents from leaf tissues. Because of the removal of most of the chlorophyll containing tissues located near the upper epidermis, the leaf surface becomes bleached or silvery. Damaged leaves become heavily discolored and eventually dry or fall off. The presence of brown varnish-like excrement with cast skins attached, suggest lace bug damage.

Impacts of Wetland Restoration Efforts on Amphibians in a Multi-Invader Community, *Jennifer Rowe*

Amphibians are a worldwide conservation priority. Different threats are present within their freshwater habitat as well as on land, so the factors affecting amphibian densities can vary. At all life stages, amphibians are likely to encounter invasive species, with vertebrate predators and competitors commonly implicated in their declines. In the Willamette Valley, three invaders commonly co-occur and have the potential to impact native amphibians: the American bullfrog, reed canary grass and non-native warm-water fish species.

The bullfrog was introduced to the Western United States in the early 1900s via aquaculture. It is a widely successful invader and is implicated in the declines of native amphibians of conservation concern, including the extirpated Oregon spotted frog. Reed canary grass was intentionally introduced for forage and erosion control. It reproduces both vegetatively and sexually and has the capacity to form dense monocultures, which alter wetland function. Relatively little is known about its impacts on wildlife, especially amphibians. Management of reed canary grass is very common at Willamette Valley wetlands sites. Multiple warm-water fish species native to the Eastern U.S. were introduced to Oregon in the 1890s. These species are capable of influencing amphibian assemblages through predation, competition, and habitat alteration.

Committee Reports/Member Update

Oregon Department of Agriculture, *Dan Hilburn*

Japanese beetle is a growing concern as funding shrinks and Japanese beetles continue to be introduced. There were 2 gypsy moths caught from OR Dept of Forestry traps in southern Oregon.

USDA Forest Service, *Doug Daoust*

Doug Daoust is leaving OISC membership but will continue on Washington state's invasive species council. Doug gave an update on USFS alyssum project in southern Oregon and mentioned USFS grant funds that are being passed through ODA. USFS is aware of the yellow floating heart infestation in southern Oregon and they are working on it.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, *Rick Boatner*

Gave a quick rundown of the feral swine program, wildlife integrity review, and invasive species in the classroom.

Oregon State Marine Board, *Glenn Dolphin*

OSMB continues focusing efforts on clean boating, including prevention of introduction of invasive species and basic boater education about the issue.

Portland State University, Center for Lakes and Reservoir, *Mark Sytsma*

The Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at PSU coordinates the Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring Program to help prevent the continued spread of these invasive freshwater mussels. Monitoring and early detection of these mussels are key to minimizing the risks for western water bodies. There are multiple methods used for early detection monitoring including artificial settlement substrates, plankton, natural substrates, SCUBA, and ROV. There are many agencies and volunteers involved with these efforts. Prevention and containment efforts are dependent on accurate monitoring, early detection, and efficient information dissemination. The Center for Lakes and Reservoirs maintains the online, interactive Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring Map to increase the efficacy of these early detection efforts by identifying data gaps and increasing regional coordination.

Mark commented that yellow floating heart infestations are popping in ponds and waterways. The Center is working with ODA on the Columbia River survey. They have found a new infestation of *Spartina* in Coos Bay that is now under EDRR management by ODA.

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), *Wyatt Williams*

ODF signed its first ever cooperative agreement with USDA APHIS-PPQ to conduct a statewide survey of emerald ash borer (EAB). In May, ODF personnel validated a predictive model of ash occurrence produced by USFS-Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team. Traps for EAB were placed and visited. ODF did not detect any EAB adults in the traps nor did ODF observe symptoms of EAB attack in ash stands. In collaboration with Mark Hitchcox of USDA APHIS, ODF also randomly spiked traps in 8 counties. ODF and APHIS hope to use the spike study for improving the sampling protocol and for training purposes. With the help of an entomology graduate student, Ari DeMarco of Oregon State University, who help with EAB trapping, ODF has 142 new pinned specimens representing 22 families and over 30 species of beetles in its collection. In addition, ODF deployed 100 gypsy moth traps at EAB sites and found 2 male gypsy moths. This is the only positive detection of gypsy moth in Oregon in 2013.

Wyatt attended three concurrent meetings in China: International Congress on Biological Invasions, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations workshop on invasive species and international trade, and the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group. The meeting consisted of 1,000 scientists and resource managers from 34 countries and over 200 talks.

Western Invasive Network, *Vern Holm*

The Northwest Weed Management Partnership provides tools and information useful for detecting and reporting new invasive plants.

Native Plant Society of Oregon, *Judi Sanders*

The Native Plant Society continued to coordinate with other programs and held botanical workshops. Currently, they are surveying members to determine if the group can hire a full-time position to administer the organization.

Tour of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife New Building, *Rick Boatner***Feral Cats Panel Discussion**

- Audobon Society of Portland, *Bob Sallinger*
- Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, *Karen Kraus*
- American Bird Conservancy, *Grant Sizemore*

- Oregon Department of Fish & wildlife, *Susan Barnes*

Mark Wigg contacted the Council about the feral cat situation in Oregon and thanked the Council for putting this panel on the agenda. Each panel member gave a presentation on what his or her organization is doing with the feral cat problem in Oregon. Council members and other attendees were given a chance to voice their opinion on feral cat. A variety of opinions were expressed. A common theme was the need for education and outreach to change public attitude toward what it means to be a responsible cat owner as well as a change in behaviors so that cats are not allowed to roam freely.

Wednesday, Nov 20, 2013

Budget and Expenses

Dan Hilburn presented the 2013 budget to the Council. After some discussion, a Budget Committee was put in place with members Glenn Dolphin, Rian Hooff, Barry Horowitz, Doug Daoust, and Mark Hitchcox.

Action Item: The Budget Committee will work with ODA's financial analyst to better understand the Council's expenditures and how to set up the spreadsheet to make it easier to understand.

Year End Business

- **New and Outgoing Members**

Barry Horowitz was welcomed as a new member of the Council. Barry is a principal consultant at CMS Consulting Services, LLC at Port of Portland. Barry brings to the Council experience in transportation industry, one of the main vectors of invasive species movements. Barry has traveled extensively internationally.

Doug Daoust and Mark Porter are the Council's outgoing members. Two new members will join the council in 2014.

Action Item: Mark Sytsma and Rian Hooff will consult bylaws to develop chair rotation that includes new ex officio members.

- **Report Card**

2012 Report Card was discussed and agreed upon by the Council that it has to be reformatted.

Action Item: Dan Hilburn will draft a reformatted report card.

- **100 Worst List**

The Council reviewed the 100 Worst List.

Action Item: All Council members will forward their input to Dan Hilburn and Dan will make the changes. Some of the items on the list can be revisited and removed/replaced with current species.

- **Award Nominees**

Call for nominees for open positions.

Action Item: Dan Hilburn will send out a call for nominees in December.

2013 Campaign Projects

- **Task Force on Shipping Transport**

- **"Squeal on Pigs"**

Rick Boatner gave the Council an update on the feral swine project. Dave Williams of USDA APHIS also gave the Council an update on what APHIS is currently doing to help with the feral swine project.

Action Item: Mark Hitchcox will draft a letter of support from the Council to send to Washington DC.

2014 New Campaigns/Projects

- **Don't Let it Loose**

A press release will be sent out about the "Don't Let it Loose" campaign to make the public aware of the poster contest available to high school students to design and submit posters that encourage good environmental citizenship by discouraging the public from releasing invasive species into our watersheds.

- **Funding Invasive Species Programs**

A draft white paper was presented proposing a new way of funding invasive species programs. There was support for continuing to develop the idea with the plan to have the concept ready for the 2015 legislative session.

- **OISC Website**

The new Coordinator will be tasked to manage and update the OISC website.

Action Item: Vern Holm will check with Lisa to get the records and files that include information on the website that Lisa started.

- **OISC Coordinator: Past and Future**

The two final candidates for OISC Coordinator were graded by the Selection Committee.

Action Items: Dan Hilburn will coordinate with ODA's contracts specialist to set up the contract for the new coordinator.

Public comment and next meeting

There was no public comment. Next meeting will be February 24 and 25, 2014 at PSU, Portland.