

Oregon Invasive Species Council

Business Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021 | Virtual (1:00 - 4:00 pm)

Summary of Outcomes:

- January 2021 meeting minutes were approved.
 - The Invasive Species Threats & Opportunities A Primer for Oregon Policymakers was approved in present form, with minor text edits to be implemented
 - The report to the Legislature will consist of an executive summary not more than 2 pages in length based on the biennial report outline that was presented
 - The cost for using AirTable for the Worst List and other options down the road was approved.
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Welcome & Introductions

Rick Boatner, 2021 OISC Chair (Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)

See participants list at the end of the minutes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 2021

Rick Boatner, 2021 OISC Chair (Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)

Christine Moffitt moves to accept January 2021 meeting minutes as distributed.

2nd: Peter Kenagy

All voting members approved.

Overview of the Oregon Invasive Species Council

Rick Boatner, 2021 OISC Chair

The OISC started small in 2001-2008 (4 state agencies and 7 appointed members) and had no coordinator. Between 2008-2018, the OISC added Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB), and Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF). We also added a Coordinator, which made a huge difference and established the Emergency Control Account (originally asked for \$5 million, \$350,000 was approved), and started developing the Strategic Plan for the state. In 2019, the OISC added more members, so there are now 18 total voting members including an addition of: Oregon State Parks (voting), 10 appointed members representing specific seats (voting). Additional non-voting members were also added.

Q: Any opportunity to replenish that account (Emergency Control Account)?

A (Rick): We keep asking, but nothing has happened yet.

Q (Troy): What is the mechanism to make a request for replenishing the Emergency Control Account?

A (Rick): Through ODA.

A (Helmuth): Has to be put through a policy option package (POP) and approved by the Governor's office. Last Biennium, there Emergency Control Account money included, but was taken out due to COVID.

Leveraging Partnerships & Activities to Advance Statewide Objectives: Fire Recovery 2020: Lessons Learned & Future Opportunities

Troy Abercrombie (Western Invasives Network) & Sarah Callaghan (US Forest Service)

Erosion Threat Assessment & Reduction Team (ETART). 1.2 million acres burned in 2020. 21 fires total; 18 fires started in just 3 days. Suppression efforts exceeding \$350 million and counting. A "Burned Area Emergency Response" (BAER) assessment is done after all 500+ acre fires on federal land. It is uncommon to implement a formal assessment on non-federal land. Parameters include natural vegetation protection areas, invasive species, incident disturbance areas, and vegetation mortality. Once models are run, we review values of risk and use a matrix to look at probability of damage or loss.

We've had to continually recognize the impacts of COVID on this process and many folks who worked on these fires were also affected personally by the fire events. Some implementation challenges include entry barriers, lack of experience with BAER process & outputs, fragmented information and communication channels, finite availability of federal and state support, and data gaps. Were able to generate models and identify priority areas. \$1.13 million+ estimated for EDRR response costs on just 5 fires (within first 12 months). After the initial assessments were complete, we got together to identify future needs, including a designated HUB agency to coordinate ETART efforts and to have funding for team leads and supporting staff. Silver linings include: We can do hard things even when times are tough, demonstrated the importance of state programs, and highlighted critical importance of strong county and local programs.

Summary of the group discussion:

- Wyatt: Thanks to Troy and Sarah for leading us through this. 2020 was a historic fire season and lots of agency folks were affected. Some of us lost homes, lost state offices in Lyons, OR, long hours, hard work. Did see weed wash stations on sites!
- (Chat) From Sarah Callaghan to Everyone: Worth noting again that 3 of the 5 people conducting the assessments were working in completely different geographical/jurisdictional areas, adding to some challenges. Local folks were tapped out with other work or just didn't have experience or knowledge to conduct assessment.
- Helmuth: Thanks for all the work. What about prevention? What can we do? Have been shown over and over that prevention is more economic than reacting to a crisis. This all has to do with climate change. How can we as a Council, etc. work on prevention?
 - Wyatt: Prevention of invasive species or fire?
 - Helmuth: Both.
- Karen: Troy and Sarah demonstrated these assessment tools. Values at risk and current status could be a way to prioritize areas that are most valuable, etc. Prevention often is low priority, unfortunately. I bet this ETART group could make some recommendations.
- Helmuth: Heard someone say because we don't rake the forests, that is why the fires were so bad.
- Karen: Some fire suppression efforts get overwhelmed by the wind, even if you had raked the forest in advance. Not every event will be that severe. If we chose to, we could be better positioned.

- Wyatt: A lot of other people are working on fire prevention, we should focus on prevention of invasive species. Private forests are pretty intensively managed. Could create more regulation or laws about cleaning equipment, but I would like to see more incentive programs.
- (Chat) Helen Lau to Everyone: Inventory and EDRR for several years is important.
- (Chat) E.C. Fisk to Everyone: I agree wholeheartedly with Wyatt's last point.
- Sam L: Comment about fire and invasive species - Riverside Fire was contained within one county. Spent a ton of time prioritizing work, areas to focus. Idea that we could have prevented it is pretty unrealistic, considering the weather conditions on the day in question. We could always be doing more. A lot is going on here. From an invasive species perspective, the fire was a unique scenario.
- Michelle: Sam L and I do similar work. Unlike Sam, I was called to a fire way outside where I had any personal knowledge (The Holiday Farm fire). Glenn Miller gave me a couple of pointers. He should have been out there with me leading the assessment but he was pulled over into the hemp inspection program. Would be great to make weed washes a thing, but at the same time when disaster strikes, we need to be able to rely on state noxious weed staff. There isn't a lot of weed work in that area. Struggle with what next steps will be.
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Ultimately, prevention happens at the individual level. The OISC Ed/Outreach grant program and OSWB projects are valuable tools in these efforts. Another situation that highlights their value.
- Eugene: We really benefited down here from the strength of local SWCD (which is funded by tax levy), CWMA, and trust between the community of applicators, etc.
- Wyatt: It was a perfect storm of sorts, with COVID and it affecting the economy. Cuts to forestry were planned right when fire season started. Leadership asked what would it take to help after the fire, for invasive species specifically. I put in a request for \$4 million. Not sure where that will go. We did the best we could, and there is room to improve.
 - (Chat) Wyatt Williams to Everyone: Ice storm assistance and information for urban forestry, from ODF. Please visit:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/pages/urbanforests.aspx>
- Sam Chan: Where strategically can OISC have the greatest role with fire mitigation? Species that are out there that can cause fire (gorse, etc.), forest health (are there non native pests or diseases that we can be more proactive with thinnings, etc.), how do we actually work with different landowners, during fire (ways to minimize invasive species spread, approved chemicals, etc.), post-fire recovery (weed free gravel, forage mixes, etc.). Is there an information guide or checklist that the OISC could put together?
- Eugene: Big need, assessment matrix. Pure Water Partners (PWP) information met that eventually. Not really anything like that for invasive species that I'm aware of.
- Troy: Thanks to everyone who contributed today and to the fire recovery. Amazing work!
- (Chat) From Wyatt Williams to Everyone: ODF "Help after a wildfire" page:
<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Pages/afterafire.aspx>
- (Chat) From Sam Leininger to Everyone: Thank you all for considering the ETART process, and looking at improving the resiliency of our state moving forward. Be well!

Q (Jalene): What would we like to see as next steps?

A (Troy): Everyone's needs are different. Individual prioritization and trying to find those intersection points would be critical next steps. Then we can look at what the Council can help with.

Continued discussion via Chat:

- (Chat) Helen Lau-USFS to Everyone: I saw a real need for weed free straw during the fire.
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Yes! Stockpiles and/or interstate agreements would be something the OISC could explore.
- (Chat) Alex Staunch to Everyone: One note to make, besides EDRR species, more common structural weeds such as Himalayan blackberry have proven to be a large issue in the Eagle Creek Fire Zone. The open canopy will cause a large patch to spread to acres. Something to keep in mind.
- (Chat) Kathy Pendergrass to Everyone: I like the idea of building a good flow-chart sheet of if this, then what...high severity then this.
- (Chat) Sarah Callaghan to Everyone: I am up for joining future discussions!
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Could the OISC be the sanctioning body for the "Invasive Species BMP Certifications" that Wyatt spoke about? I think he's on to something there. The OISC, with state/local partners, could help develop the framework for "what it takes" to be certified. (i.e.-management plans, mitigation/restoration activities, etc.)
- (Chat) de Rivera to Everyone: I really like this idea. Does anyone know if there's precedent in any other state's ISC for weed-free or invasions-certified?
- (Chat) E.C. Fisk to Everyone: This could also be a selling point for contractors, if a standard is established.
- (Chat) H Rogg to Everyone: We also started weed-free gravel. We got the protocols and incentives for industry
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Cat- I think it is most often associated with an agency, as it is usually tied to some regulation (reactionary to the problem). This could be a unique opportunity for a more proactive, preventative approach.
- (Chat) de Rivera to Everyone: Thanks, Troy. Again, I like this preventative approach.
- (Chat) Sarah Callaghan to Everyone:
<https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/washington-weed-free-hay-and-mulch-program>
- (Chat) Alex Staunch to Everyone: I agree on a utilitarian resource. From the contractor end, sometimes it is difficult to track down weed free certified materials such as soil, mulch, straw, etc. However, it is out there.
- (Chat) Helen Lau to Everyone: I'm sure some of you are aware of this but here are some documents that include a new mulch standard from NAISMA.
<https://naisma.org/programs/weed-free-products/>
- (Chat) Sarah Callaghan to Everyone: Regarding weed-free materials, from a FS experience where we require those weed free materials, the availability really fluctuates based on things such as severity of fire seasons and also the economy. As an example starting around 2008, when the economy tanked, we had a lot more private gravel pits/quarries interested in providing clean material as they needed the FS business as they were not supplying the housing/construction industry as an example.
- (Chat) Amira Streeter to Everyone: I'm so sorry everyone - I appreciate the commitment and passion about these issues at this table, but I have to leave for another obligation. Many thanks
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2021 Policymakers Primer

Sam Chan (Oregon Sea Grant) & Jalene Littlejohn (OISC Coordinator)

Sam Chan

The Primer is a joint product of the Communications and Education & Outreach Committees. Concepts for this primer started years ago at the suggestion of Senator Arnie Roblan and Representative Caddy McKeown. The Primer is a synopsis or quick learning tool that combines a series of fact sheets for different areas of the state with additional information (economics overview, policy overview, etc.). The OISC doesn't really have any on-the-ground management responsibilities and is instead a network of organizations, agencies, and groups. It's important for policy makers to see what we do. Imagery is unique and beautiful, but alerting. The audience for the Primer is lawmakers, but also can serve as an informative recruiting tool.

Jalene Littlejohn

Intended to have this Council meeting last week and get approval for publishing then, but still hoping we can publish this week. We can make text edits, but would need those by tonight. The nice part about this is that it's a "snapshot document". It allows us to move forward with communication messages, demonstrating what the Council does as a network, and the importance of the work we do together. This publication demonstrates the value that we provide together. I've gotten a request for 2 additional pages - this could be a great way to refresh the Primer every 2 years. These illustrations will also be available individually so that we can put them in presentations, etc.

Group Discussion

- Karen: Terrific resource, really timely. Goal was to release it this week with Invasive Species Awareness Week.
- (Chat) de Rivera to Everyone: Great job on this primer ed & outreach groups!!
- Sam: This was designed to be a living document. My suggestion is to not fine tune it so much because a good primer will have refreshing every once and awhile. Should have a version number or publication month.
- Troy: Fantastic job!
- (Chat) E.C. Fisk to Everyone: Outstanding iconography and continuity! I was able to easily understand the objective with captioning, flow, and imagery. Nicely done.

Q (Helmuth): Electronic document or intention to produce hard copy?

A (Jalene): There is a request to have some printed. Will be downloadable PDF, and also available as a link to view virtually.

Q (Troy): What does distribution look like?

A (Jalene): I would like for us to do a webinar and broadcast that.

A (Sam): I would suggest that everyone on the Zoom send to your boss. I would love to hear feedback. Start off with a smaller list, then do a larger release.

Christine moves to approve Policymakers Primer in present form with minor text edits.

2nd: Jas. Adams

All voting members approved.

2021 Legislative Session - Legislative Committee

Christine Moffitt (Friends of South Slough Reserve) & Peter Kenagy (Kenagy Family Farm, Inc.)

Peter Kenagy

Met with Representative Brock Smith. It was apparent that his focus is on two key invasive issues, sudden oak death (SOD) and gorse. He provided us with some reports on SOD. We also have a tentative informational meeting set up with Senator Golden, but it did not happen.

Christine Moffitt

We can make sure that he gets the fire documents that were shared today. Haven't heard back from Senator Dembrow. May need to make some calls. We're trying hard to provide information and let Senators know about the open OISC member seat, but this may take some time and thoughtfulness. For the biennial legislative report, we need to provide a 2-page executive summary and can provide attachments. What will the attachment be, the primer?

Group Discussion

- Jas.: Senator Dembrow is the liaison to the Global Warming Commission and understands the role.
- Peter: We need a way to track bills for invasive species. Rian tracked relevant bills when he was on the Council, but now we need a way to do this.
- Christine: We will be talking to Rian about how he did it. Jalene shared a link to a shared spreadsheet to add bills that are relevant to invasive species management.
- Rick: If you have information about relevant bills, please add them to the spreadsheet - they are coming fast.
- Jas: (regarding the biennial report outline) I like the idea of keeping it minimal. Primer says it all. I think we've fulfilled requirements.

Q (Chuck): #4 "COVID Provides a model of containment": what does that mean?

A (Christine): Part of our discussion, importance of communication and containment. Not a major point, but a model that everyone knows is appropriate.

Christine moves to approve, in concept, that the report to the Legislature consists of an executive summary not more than 2 pages in length and that we approve, in concept, the biennial report outline that was presented here.

2nd: Catherine de Rivera

All voting members approved.

- Troy: Not sure how we facilitate public oversight of voting through email. Decision comes when we approve the executive summary and updated primer.
- Jalene: Format was part of the decision today.
- Jas.: If it's just yes or no, I think that could be done through email. We are electronically communicating votes here.
- Rick: For this one, I think we can do email.

Chair & Vice-Chair Updates

Rick Boatner & Troy Abercrombie

Rick Boatner

I want to remind everyone that our bylaws require consensus or majority vote. Non-voting members are important for offering opinions, can call for a vote, etc. We are holding an Executive Committee meeting

on March 10th. Jalene to work with Amira to discuss options for presenting to the Governors Natural Resources Office.

- (Chat) Chan, Samuel S to Everyone: Great point that non-voting members can call for a vote!!

Troy Abercrombie

Now is the time to join or leave a committee. We are recruiting co-chairs for multiple committees. If you have interest, reach out to the chairs of those committees. Committee meetings need proper public notice. Committee chairs, please work with Jalene and Annie to get those posted.

- (Chat) JAS ADAMS to Everyone: Does the advice from Renee Moulun mean that ad hoc meetings involving less than a quorum of Council members must be published as a public meeting? I think council members should get an explanation as to what was actually said by Renee so we know what is being required -- this could be a summary from Cat.
- (Chat) de Rivera to Everyone: Yes, they do.
<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/public-records/attorney-generals-public-records-and-meetings-manual/>
- (Chat) From Jalene Littlejohn to Everyone:
<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/committee-signup>

Committees & Working Groups (Progress, Approvals, or Next Steps)

Governance Committee, Troy Abercrombie

The Vice Chair of Council is also the Chair of Governance Committee. I recently sent out the most recent version of the Bylaws for review by the Committee and want to get that done ASAP. Consider advantages/disadvantages of Bylaws being Oregon Administrative Rule instead.

Strategic Plan Working Group, Jas. Adams

From day 1, there was a lot of confusion about what kind of entity the Council really is. I had an epiphany moment thinking about what the Council does. The Council functions as a catalyst when it stimulates effective invasive species actions conducted by the Council's network participants, without the Council itself needing to find funds to implement those actions. The Statewide Strategic Plan and "Action" Plan was to start gathering actions from Council members, but then COVID hit. Only one person submitted actions. It is a mandatory thing we're supposed to do. Jalene has offered to set up appointment times to collect actions.

Discussion:

- Jalene: We want to be as flexible as possible. We are putting together a form to add to the website. Have an opportunity to think strategically about how we communicate about the work that is going on around the state and we really do need your input and contributions. You could upload an annual report through the form or set up scheduled meeting times to communicate what the most important actions are to capture.

Q (Sam): What is the timeline of when to come up with the first sample response?

A (Jas.): May 1, 2021.

- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Thank you, Jas. Will be great to get all of these actions compiled. Eventually we will be able to share out high impact "packages" that will include these actions, updated biennial primer, etc. Great work.

Worst Invaders List Working Group, Nikki Brooks & Roy Marler

Jalene gave a tour of the software (AirTable) and how this has been used to organize the OISC's Worst List. The Worst List has been shared as a static spreadsheet up until now. In 2020, Cat asked for a working group to be put together. AirTable is very easy to access and use. It could also potentially be used for the Strategic Action Plan reporting. In the future, we could use it to add links to agency resources, can filter, sort, etc. and can download as a .csv file.

Group Discussion:

Q (Jas.): Do you see this as a tool that could be used to input actions for the Statewide Strategic Plan?

A (Jalene): Yes. My recommendation is that we pull all into one place, including our Network directory too.

Q (Jas.): If this tool gets us to where we want to be, it could be linked to the Statewide Strategic Plan. Does this require Council members do this input?

A (Jalene): A lot of info can be pulled from annual reports, it just takes time.

- Jalene: AirTable does have a cost. \$29.00/month, billed annually. Not a huge cost, but does need to be approved.
- Nikki: I want to reiterate that Jalene put all this together in just a handful of hours. Such an easy platform to use and very professional looking.
- Karen: This also has benefits to collecting activities for publishing the OISC annual reports.

Q (Helmuth): We don't call it the 100 worst anymore? One of the KPM that ODA uses to report to the Legislators is the number of worst list species that we keep out. Need to discuss this.

A (Jalene): Took "100" off the title quite a while ago. We could easily accommodate this by sorting by species that have not been detected yet.

Helmuth moves to accept the cost for using AirTable for the Worst List and other options down the road.

2nd: Troy Abercrombie

All voting members approved.

Q (Sam): What's next step for AirTable?

A (Jalene): I need to work with ODA to get the subscription paid for and then work with the working group to continue putting in species information. Could set up a table and send out account information to taxa experts to make sure species information is correct.

Budget & Funding Committee, Rick Boatner & Helmuth Rogg

We may have money to fund some of those Education & Outreach grants. Stay tuned, but we need to meet as a Committee first.

Joint Education & Communication Committees

Sam Chan: 30+ proposals that we received last year for grant funding, I would like to invite those folks that we selected for the top 10 to share how they have adapted with COVID, etc.

Karen Ripley: The [new OISC brochure](#) is available on the website. A new [post-wildfire webpage](#) is also now available. The 2019 annual report is ready for review. Looking to acquire actions for 2020. Trying to

work on a way to expand the network and reach out to them. Maybe through regular contacts and short questions. Next joint meeting is March 16th.

- (Chat) Karen Ripley to Everyone: I'd like to (at the next meeting) brainstorm action areas that occurred in 2020 for the Annual report. And maybe this exercise can be linked to pilot/demonstrate how we could record and report those actions in the air table and/or in association with a worst species.
- (Chat) Rick Boatner to Everyone: Good suggestion
- (Chat) de Rivera to Everyone: You all are so productive, communications!

MOU Working Group, Catherine de Rivera

More limited in what we can do with MOU than what we originally thought. Some things that were learned include: statute puts OISC within ODA, there isn't much wiggle room from the contract process for the Coordinator, and ODA doesn't have the power to request invitation to the Natural Resources Cabinet meetings. We need to revisit the need for a line item for OISC budget in ODA's natural resource budget.

Q (Christine): Are committee meetings considered public meetings? Has that been confirmed?

A (Rick): Yes, it's in statute. Have to send our meeting information to Annie at ODA so they can be posted.

ODA Administrative Update: Contracts & Agreements

Helmuth Rogg

- Helmuth: I will send out the contract to current OISC members and then we will need to go over the process.
 - Rick: Add this topic to the Executive Committee meeting list (done).
- Rick: The state is changing its email server, so listservs will no longer be two-way communication. We will need to figure out how to move forward.
- Helmuth: Current listservs allow back and forth communication, GovDelivery doesn't allow that. Maybe someone else can host something.
 - Rick: Need to also add this to Executive Committee meeting list (done).
- (Chat) de Rivera to Everyone: Can it be a google group?
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: Probably not, initially. Lots of Google restrictions....I predict that agencies will cave to the realization that Google runs the show.
- (Chat) Josh Emerson, ODEQ to Everyone: or an MS Teams Group? I'm told that I'll have access to all state employee calendars starting Monday... but currently assuming that idea has some built in optimism.
- (Chat) Troy Abercrombie to Everyone: A better answer is that, yes we can use Google groups but not everybody will be able to participate in that infrastructure, at least initially, with their agency email platforms and internal restrictions. Great point, Josh. That could be an option.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action Items, Next Meeting & Close

See summary list of actions/outcomes at the top of minutes.

Meeting Participants

Council Members

Troy Abercrombie, Western Invasives Network
Jas. Adams, Public Member
Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Nikki Brooks, US Customs and Border Protection
Clint Burfitt, USDA, APHIS, PPQ - Alternate OISC Member
Sam Chan, Oregon State University & Oregon Sea Grant
Josh Emerson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
E. Chuck Fisk, F5 Wildlife Control
Peter Kenagy, Kenagy Family Farm Inc, Oregon Farm Bureau, Willamette Mainstem Cooperative, Specialty Seed Growers of Western Oregon
Roy Marler, US Customs and Border Protection - Alternate OISC Member
Heidi McMaster, US Bureau of Reclamation
Christine Moffitt, Friends of South Slough Reserve
Kathy Pendergrass, USDA NRCS
Jennifer Poirier, US Fish & Wildlife Service - Alternate OISC Member
Dave Pranger, Morrow County
Karen Ripley, USDA Forest Service
Catherine de Rivera, Portland State University
Helmuth Rogg, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Alex Staunch, Mosaic Ecology
Amira Streeter, Office of Governor Kate Brown
Brendan White, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Eugene Wier, The Freshwater Trust
Wyatt Williams, Oregon Department of Forestry

Council Members Excused: Noel Bacheller (Oregon Parks & Recreation Department), Rep. David Brock Smith (Oregon House of Representatives - District 1), Glenn Dolphin (Oregon State Marine Board), Erin McConnell (Bureau of Land Management), Sean McMillen (USDA APHIS PPQ), Tim Newton (Malheur County SWCD), Cheryl Shippentower (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation)

Other Meeting Participants

Sarah Callaghan, US Forest Service
Michelle Delepine, West Multnomah SWCD - OISC Committee Member & Former OISC Member
Helen Lau, USDA Forest Service
Sam Leininger, Clackamas SWCD
Jalene Littlejohn, Samara Group

Elaine Rybak, OISC Committee Member