

Oregon Invasive Species Council Meeting

July 9, 2013 – BLM office in Coos Bay, Oregon

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Hilburn, Glenn Dolphin, Thea Hayes, Rian Hooff, Vern Holm, Judi Sanders, Ann Ferguson (for Mark Hitchcox), Dana Green, Mark Sytsma, Sam Chan, Rick Boatner, Wyatt Williams, Dominic Maze, Lisa DeBruyckere.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Daoust, Mark Porter (conferenced in for a portion of the meeting), Todd Thompson

- The meeting started at 8:00 am, and BLM District Manager Ralph Thomas welcomed the Council to Coos Bay.
- **DECISION ITEM:** The Council unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the February 2013 meeting.
- Ellen Goheen, USFS Plant Pathologist at the Southwest Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center, gave the Council a presentation on Sudden Oak Death and efforts to contain the disease in southwest Oregon (PowerPoint Presentation A).
- Panel discussion with local legislators. Senator Arnie Roblan, Representative Caddy McKeown, Jason Atkinson (currently on sabbatical from the Oregon Legislature), and Michael Mason (consultant) served on a panel to interact with the Council re:
 - How can Council best be of service to your constituents?
 - What do you see as the future for natural resource funding and how the Council the can inform legislative decisions?
 - How can we facilitate getting concerned legislators in the different states in our region to be aware of existing and emerging invasive species issues and coordinate state statutes and policies? What is the best venue for this type of discussion?
 - What key issues do your constituents care about or see as priorities in natural resources, the environment, and associated well-being of their communities and economies?

Each of the panel members provided introductory comments. Rep. McKeown noted Oregon is in the beginning of a recovery phase, and there is hope to increase the amount of General Fund for natural resource programs in the state (she stated it is currently below 2% of the GF). She noted getting people back to work will increase the tax base and generate revenue. Sen. Roblan commented on his personal experience of observing invasive species in his home state of Washington as well as in Oregon (he taught in Coos Bay

schools for 32 years). Mr. Atkinson served in the Legislature for 14 years, and is currently on sabbatical from public service. He is making a national documentary on why the Klamath matters – redefining conservation in this century. He emphasized it is important we do the right thing because we are Oregonians. Mr. Mason serves the Coquille, Siletz, and Warm Springs Tribes. He commented on the success of Senate Bill 838 (suction dredge mining), which sets limits on the number of permits issued.

The following perspectives (take home messages) were shared relative to the questions that were asked:

- We have to produce good outreach materials so people understand why they have to take personal responsibility and why they should want what is native. We need more information at boat launching sites, more social media (consistent), and more presence during new development.
- The Legislature should have a package of invasive species bills every session to keep the issue alive – it needs to be planned, not haphazard. The Council should call legislators prior to every session to bring new bills forward, even bills that aren't fully fleshed out. Continue to bring bills forward that put important issues in front of the public and the Legislature. Bring bills to both long and short sessions, even if the likelihood is such that the bill will not pass – it starts the conversation.
- Fee-based state agency programs create inappropriate tensions within agencies as the agencies are statutorily authorized to manage the resource but are funded by the very individuals they regulate. That paradigm needs to change.
- Bringing schoolchildren and their parents to the annual awards banquet is a great opportunity. Figure out how to bring more legislators to that event – do it when we are not in session (September).
- Look for opportunities at points of sale to inform the public about invasive species.
- Invite us to your council meetings.
- Be in the building when we are in session. Get face time with legislators.
- Consider port associations as one way to connect on regional issues – these groups are well connected with legislators.
- Partner with other groups (e.g., Sen. Roblan is working with Kevin Ranker in the State of Washington and PNWER on ocean acidification and shellfish).
- Make a solid human connection to invasive species issues – explain why the issue is important. Give people tools to tell the story (snippets of information, YouTube videos, etc.).
- Invite natural resource directors from the tribes to your Council meetings.
- Dealing with invasive species issues is about preserving jobs (agriculture, hydro and dams, etc.).
- Look at ways programs connect – e.g., more funding for Farm to School

benefits elderly, schoolchildren, and agriculture. Make those kinds of connections with invasive species.

- Look at how ODFW recently raised fees – they didn't come to the Legislature and say they were going to raise fees. They worked with their constituents and made the case – this allowed legislators to feel safe supporting the fee increase.
 - The Legislature is more willing to support funding if there is a package involving others (industry, e.g.). We'll invest if others invest.
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- Ann Ferguson, USDA-APHIS PPQ, gave a presentation on the wrinkled dune snail and its effects on coastal Oregon habitats (PowerPoint Presentation B).
 - Rick Boatner, ODFW, gave an update on smallmouth bass in the Coquille basin (PowerPoint Presentation C).
 - Tim Butler, ODA, gave a presentation on biocontrols for Himalayan blackberry and gorse.
 - Vanessa Morgan, Portland State University, gave a presentation on *Spartina* along the West Coast (PowerPoint Presentation D).
 - During lunch, Council members discussed existing and emerging hot topics
 - Portland Public Schools adopted a new curriculum that includes mussels, human intervention, and how that affects our environment.
 - DEQ has implemented new ballast water management enforcement guidance policies since January 1st, involving the issuance of citations including a new field ticketing option that may be used for minor violations (offers a penalty at a 40% reduced value – the responsible party has 30 days to pay – and aims to reduce administrative and legal expenses). DEQ has issued eight tickets, and all have been accepted and paid. A formal enforcement action was taken against a vessel that entered the Willamette River and commenced operations without having completed the required coastal ocean exchange of its ballast water. The ship was carrying high-risk ballast water from San Francisco and had discharged 6 of 20 tanks while in Portland before operations were halted. The vessel opted to delay operations by 5 days in order to return to the high seas to complete proper ballast exchange requirements for remaining ballast on board. A formal penalty of \$3,500 was issued for the non-compliant discharge that had occurred prior to detection of non-compliance.
 - The Institute for Applied Ecology Cookoff is the 25th of August from 2-7pm. There is an upcoming meeting of the Outreach and Education Committee to discuss outreach materials as well as potential activities, such as a trivia contest/game.

- The Native Plant Society of Oregon has a new program to familiarize botanists with native plant issues. The organization hopes to have 1 to 2 workshops per year.
- USDA-APHIS PPQ is working on a contract with the Oregon Department of Forestry to monitor for Emerald Ash Borer.
- Treatment of the Japanese beetle infestation at PDX continues. Foliar treatments to kill adults are underway. The first beetle captured this year was found in the new landscaped median along Airport Way. In addition to examining the indirect effects on downstream water quality, the Port now has to consider terrestrial species in terms of indirect effects of chemical treatments. The streaked horned lark is a species being considered as potentially affected by management activities.
- Gypsy moth trap placement is almost complete – no gypsy moths have been detected yet, but the traps have not yet been checked.
- At the Port of Portland, airport travel is increasing, with record numbers of passengers, but the marine terminal business is experiencing shortfalls. The imbalance in the business portfolio of the port could threaten its livelihood.
- The Pacific Northwest Economic Region meeting is in Anchorage next week. David Lodge, an ecologist from Notre Dame, is a keynote speaker. PNWER and others also led a meeting May 15 that resulted in a Declaration of Cooperation among attendees pledging to work together to keep the Pacific Northwest Free from quagga and zebra mussels.
- Oregon Sea Grant currently has an interim director. As a result, project development grants from Sea Grant may be delayed as much as 4-6 months.
- Assistant Attorneys General and Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinators will meet in Denver, Colorado in mid-August to develop a consistent system for inspection, decontamination and certification protocols.
- A Sea Grant student completed a thesis looking at best management practices for aquatic pesticides relevant to NOAA trust species – the information we be made available via a smartphone application called “Beyond the Label.”
- Jennifer Lam recently completed a tsunami watch species guide and guide for identifying tunicate species.
- Training was completed for BLM and Forest Service crews in the region – to be able to recognize 15 aquatic invasive species.
- ODFW and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services are now meeting monthly with several other entities involved in feral swine eradication to communicate and coordinate efforts. A total of 129 swine have been taken since December, and the first conviction for selling feral swine hunts occurred in Wasco County.

- Wyatt is develop two top 10 lists of forest invasives that aren't here and those that are here, but are worth focused management efforts because of the potential for eradication.
 - The City of Portland appreciated everyone's support for its Bureau of Environmental Services Invasive Species Program, which was scheduled for potential elimination, but remains function, albeit at a slightly reduced funding level.
 - Metro has offered \$75,000 for an Oregon IPM website that will mirror the IPM Center at UC Davis website. The idea is to create a local scale (focus on Portland metro area) effort initially, then expand statewide. Paul Jepson, the state IPM coordinator, enthusiastically supports it.
 - The State Weed Board is going to visit the SW part of the state to view the Alyssum project.
 - Tunicate spring surveys occurred in the Winchester Triangle, and salinity loggers were installed at depth and surface to provide salinity and temperature profiles to biannual sampling. October is the next survey date. Also, mechanical removal and weed cloth installation in a lightly used recreational lake was conducted to address yellow floating heart in the Applegate drainage.
 - Tower of Jewels is a potential local EDRR species in the Coos Bay area. It's an escaped ornamental and the public is engaging in plant sharing.
- Dan Hilburn led a discussion about the status of invasive species funding in Oregon. An outline has been developed for a white paper. The outline includes:
 - A summary
 - An introduction
 - 7 good reasons Oregon needs a new approach to invasive species
 - They are coming, but we don't know which ones, when, or where
 - 7 ways Oregon would benefit from an integrated, sustainably-funded invasive species program
 - Vision for a nimble response program
 - The rest of the story (outreach, biocontrol, habitat health, research)
 - Coordination and cooperation
 - New funding paradigm
 - Recommendation

It was noted the effort has been heavily agency centric to this point, and that to be successful, reaching out to constituents (e.g., summit, task force, assistance crafting white paper) would help to ensure buy-in and success. It was suggested that perhaps the Council should be significantly expanded to bring in additional expertise and perspectives. Another option suggested was to potentially contract the Council and make it state agency-specific, then create a second group – perhaps as a nonprofit foundation - that is a broader based working group that consists of all stakeholders.

It was suggested that perhaps the Council needs another structure that could reach out to foundations/corporations/philanthropists. There could be some way to have a group of corporations/institutions/individuals fund an entity to support invasive species issues so that they don't have to hire scientists – and they receive the expertise.

The Healthy Habitats Coalition was cited as an example of a funding initiative that might bring significant funding to the states.

It was noted that the Governor's Regional Solutions for Economic Development currently does not include invasive species.

There was discussion about ways to elevate invasive species to the agency director's list of important topics.

It was suggested people view "The River Imperiled," Tom McCall's documentary that led to the cleanup of the Willamette.

It was noted that in Alaska, there is an individual appointed by the Governor to keep the Governor's office informed about invasive species.

It was suggested the Council invite representatives from industries to the next Council meeting to talk about how the Council might get into the corporate giving structure.

- Council website: The new beta OISC website was shown. It was suggested a disclaimer be added that acknowledges the content on the website is for informational purposes only. It was also suggested ODA may keep one page of its website that lists the OARs that created the Council and then directs people to the new OISC website. **DECISION ITEM:** The Council voted to launch the new website in 30 days.
- The OISC budget was discussed, and Dan Hilburn provided information on ODA's budget re: the Council. The Council received \$50,000 from the state to support Council activities during the biennium. ODA will be developing a request for proposals for a new OISC Coordinator contract in late July or early August. The existing contract, which expired June 30, was extended through September 31.
- Pest risk assessments: It was suggested the Council continue producing pest risk assessments because there are numerous requests for them by the public, and the monthly assessments provide great material for outreach. **DECISION ITEM:** The Council agreed to continue producing risk assessments for species on the 100 Worst List, and the following entities volunteered to complete these risk assessments by December 31:
 - Dominic Maze – hawkweeds, matgrass, squarrose knapweed
 - Ann Ferguson – purple nutsedge

- Vanessa Morgan – Asian kelp and giant salvinia
 - Wyatt Williams– exotic ambrosia beetles
 - Sam Chan – northern pacific sea star, dead man’s finger
- At-large vacant seat: One at-large vacant seat was created when the Oregon Legislature added the Oregon Marine Board to the Council in 2013. The Council decided to fill the vacant seat before the end of 2013 and asked Lisa to draft an announcement for Council review.
 - Declaration of Cooperation: At the May 15 meeting in Vancouver, WA, entities from the Pacific Northwest, including Canadian provinces met to discuss how to protect the PNW from quagga and zebra mussels. One outcome of that meeting was the creation of a Declaration of Cooperation that all attending organizations were asked to sign. **DECISION ITEM:** The Council unanimously voted to sign the Declaration of Cooperation.
 - Boat inspection stations: Glenn Dolphin and Rick Boatner provided an update on the 2013 boat inspection station program. It was requested that boat inspection crews take photographs of aquatic invasive species, particularly weeds.
 - In 2013, a total of 848 citations and warning for no AIS permit were issued, compared to 507 in 2012 (figures through June of each year).
 - In 2013, there have been 9 citations and 3 warnings issued for not stopping at an AIS inspection station, compared to 3 during that same period in 2012.
 - In 2013, there have been a total of 1,864 boat inspections, of which 73 boats were found dirty, and 3 boats were found to have zebra/quagga mussels.
 - The Outreach and Education Committee provided some updates since its recent meeting:
 - The Committee is working hard on the Institute for Applied Ecology Eradication by Mastication event to be held August 25.
 - Thea Hayes is leading an invasive species poster contest to gain publicity for the Council and the WISE (Watershed Invasive Species Education) teacher program. Sam noted there is another WISE teacher training in mid-October, and there is space for 5-6 more teachers. They are especially trying to recruit from the Tualatin area.
 - The Committee would like more guidance on the legislative toolkit – what are the key issues? What format should it be – a packet? Are there 3 issues we want to target for 2015?
 - It was suggested the Council propose a bill similar to Montana’s legislation to ensure suction dredges are included in the AIS program; watercraft or “device submerged under water.”

- Next Council meeting: The next Council meeting will be in Salem this fall, and in Klamath Falls in the spring of 2014. Lisa will find out when the legislative days are during the fall, and the Council will schedule its meeting and annual banquet around these dates.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.