



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Meeting at:
Menucha Retreat and Conference Center
38711 Historic Columbia River Highway, Corbett, Oregon
February 14 and 15, 2007

Minutes

Attendance

Council Members

Present-

Dave Bridgewater
Mandy Tu
Samuel Chan
Don Farrar
Chris Gunterman
Randy Henry
Martin Nugent
Bill Reynolds
Meredith Savage
Mark Systma
Mark Wiegardt

Absent-

Dan Hilburn

Weed Board Members

Present-

Patti Milne, Oregon State Weed Board
Bill Hansell, Oregon State Weed Board
Jim Harris, Oregon State Weed Board
Jerry Erstrom, Oregon State Weed Board
Don Richards, Oregon State Weed Board

Others-

Tristen Berg, ODA
Robyn Draheim, PSU
Paul Heimowitz, USF&WS
Steve Buttrick, TNC
Colin Park, USDA-PPQ
Ed Jahn, OPB
Shannon Brubaker, ODA
Bonnie Rasmussen, ODA
Jo Davis, ODA
Eric Coombs, ODA
Nancy Phelps, USFS
Merle Keys, Wasco County

Jim Gores, ODFW
Brad Knotts, ODF
Mike Dennis, TNC
Mitch Nelson, USDA
Gary Brown, USDA-APHIS
Mark Hitchcox- USDA-APHIS
Tim Butler, ODA
Kim Lawson, ODA
Tom Forney, ODA
James Altland, OSU
Vern Holmes, NW Weed Management Partnership
Sandy Smith, Wasco County

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11 and 12, 2006, MEETING

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with no changes.

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

Tristen Berg gave an update on the budget. Total expenditures to date in general fund are \$32,024.55, while the trust account balance is \$2,608.75. Total remaining in General Fund is \$2,774.66.

It was moved and seconded that the Biological Subscription be cancelled. Mark Systma, has access to online subscription, he will look into getting the online subscriptions going and will be sending out the updates. It was moved and seconded to approve the budget as presented.

MEMBER UPDATES

USDA-Forest Service – DAVE BRIDGWATER

The USDA-Forest Service will be providing cooperative funds to Oregon Department of Forestry for *Phytophthora ramorum* eradication in Curry County, and funds to Oregon State University for diagnostic work for *Phytophthora ramorum* once budget is received.

In addition to each National Forest treating invasive plants on Forest Service lands, Forest Service has challenge cost share grants with other organizations for treatment of invasive plants on other lands such as the one with TNC for knotweed treatment in the Sandy River basin.

The Forest Service invasive weed EIS team has been presenting “roll out sessions to several Oregon National Forests to assist them in preparing their site specific EIS for invasive weed treatment.

Following several years of a pilot test on EDRR for selected invasive bark beetles and wood borers, anticipate that funding will be available to make that project a operational program where we will provide states with cooperative funds for this work.

Oregon Marine Board – RANDY HENRY

The Marine Board is participating in developing an invasive species prevention plan for Diamond Lake. Now that Diamond Lake has been treated and tui chub removed, efforts have turned to preventing future infestations. While tui chub represent the most immediate (and historically catastrophic) threat, any invasive species would be viewed as a major setback. Therefore, the effort will focus on all activities that could introduce invasives into the waterbody and will, hopefully, include a broad education effort that will serve a much broader purpose than just Diamond Lake. We intend to have a very visible plan in place by ice-off. The plan will include very visible signage locally and regionally, a media strategy, a volunteer corps to monitor and educate, check stations for boats, signage for swimmers and anglers, handouts and portable wash stations. Much work remains.

The Marine Board is also meeting with Rep. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) regarding legislation to prohibit boats from being launched if vegetation is attached or other aquatic nuisance species are so contained. The general concept was developed by OISC committee and is as follows:

Legislation would direct the Oregon State Marine Board to adopt regulations to prohibit the launching of any watercraft into Oregon's waters under the following conditions:

- The watercraft has on its exterior hull or attached to any motor, propulsion system or components, anchor or other attached apparatus outside of the hull, or on the trailer or other device used to transport the watercraft, any visible aquatic species;
- The watercraft has within its bilge, livewell, motorwell or other interior locations any aquatic species determined by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife or the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to be detrimental to the fish, wildlife or their habitats in this state.
- Any watercraft or trailer found in violation of this law must be cleaned using methods described by OSMB prior to launching. Law provides authority to impound watercraft if owner/operator refuses to comply.

Exemptions:

- Vegetation used for the purposes of concealment, such as for photography, observation or hunting blinds, is exempt but must not be of a species identified by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture as a noxious weed.

Violation of this law is a Class B violation punishable by a fine of \$245.

The so-called "Clean Launch Law" works well with the efforts at Diamond Lake and could also provide a significant boost to our outreach efforts.

Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture – DAN HILBURN given by Tristen Berg

Two gypsy moth eradication projects are being planned for this spring (April - May). One square mile near St. Helens will be treated with the biological insecticide, B.t.k. for Asian gypsy moths. A smaller area north of Bend will be treated about a month later with the same material for European gypsy moths.

A redesigned nursery certification program for P. ramorum (sudden oak death) will begin in late February. Nurseries that ship host material out-of-state will receive additional inspections. The Department is working with OSU to develop an education program for nursery employees with the hope that self-inspection will lower the incidence of all Phytophthora diseases and lessen the risk of shipping plants infected with P. ramorum.

Demand for noxious weed control grants is at an all-time high -- 67 applications were received in the latest grant cycle. The Governor's budget would add another \$1.2 million to this program.

Two bill related to terrestrial invasive species have been introduced in the legislature: HB 2068 would add the Oregon Department of Forestry to the Oregon Invasive Species Council; HB 2289 would authorize the Department of Agriculture to regulate noxious weed seed in wild bird

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife– JIM GORES FOR MARTIN NUGENT

Since October, ODFW has been focused on the pet industry and trade in illegal pets. Pet shop sweeps in Portland, Roseburg and Medford netted red-eared sliders, bullfrogs, crayfish and numerous other illegal frogs, fish and reptiles. Further pet shop sweeps are planned for the Eugene, Salem and Corvallis areas in the near future. Oregon State Police have stepped up and participated in training provided by ODFW. Pond businesses and flea markets are recent additions to the list of potential pet retailers into which ODFW is investigating. The Internet has also been a focus of research, with few solutions offered. Illegal offerings on Craig's List have been flagged and the sellers contacted, but enforcement is difficult. Potential partnerships have been developed with the Oregon Zoo and the American Zoo Association, Pacific Northwest Division to create educational displays at zoos around the PNW. Early discussions with the Oregon Zoo, regional zoos and a Lower Willamette Valley Turtle group have been fruitful and highly encouraging. Would like to see ODA involvement in the Pond stores visits for finding weeds and pond material. Jim is working with pet stores wants USFWS and ODFW and USDA to work together believes education is the key to getting illegal wildlife animal trade stopped in Oregon.

Mitch Nelson, from USDA offered assistance from federal agencies if assistance is needed. He said USDA regulates 103 weeds, Weed process is currently being reviewed by USDA. USDA also has jurisdiction with animals, plants, insects as well as weeds. Hard hitting education campaign is the key to getting this to work, Mitch would like to see programs get more funding to add to the success of this campaign.

Jim believes more cooperation would be given if all agencies combined to go and look at some of the pet stores at the same time, believes the more cooperation that there is between USDA, ODFW, USFWS and ODA will make for a more successful cooperation and education of the pet store owners. Illegal wildlife trade is only second to illegal drug trade.

Other activities within ODFW include the review of the Feral Swine Action Plan and coordination with Justin Stevenson with USDA – Wildlife Services on feral swine sightings. Justin has in turn coordinated the removal of feral swine from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and from the Fossil/Spray areas. Work has begun to build momentum to generate support and funding for feral swine control and eradication, but we've got a long road ahead of us. The next 6-12 months will be critical if we are to successfully implement the Feral Swine Action Plan.

Finally, Jim will be coordinating an all-day Invasive Species Workshop in Pendleton on April 10th in association with The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting. Topics will include feral swine, nutria, quagga/zebra mussels, herbicide effects on wildlife, the pet industry, reclaiming sagebrush ecosystems after invasives move in, risk in natural resource management and other current topics. The cost will be \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members and \$40 for students. More information will be following shortly.

The Nature Conservancy- Mandy Tu

Invasive Species Projects:

a. Early Detection/Rapid Response Networks – We are working on developing 3 early detection networks as pilot projects in Oregon with local CWMAs. This is being done in SW Oregon, central Oregon coast, and in the Portland Metro area. What this involves is identifying those weeds that are not yet present or only present in small infestations, identifying and confirming the reporting pathway, training staff and volunteers to look for these new infestations, then rapidly responding to those small infestations on TNC and partner properties. We are working closely with ODA weed folks on this, and to share resources and reporting information.

Contact: Tania Siemens (tsiemens@tnc.org)

b. Knotweed management/education/outreach – Portland-Area Preserves Stewardship Team

Contact: Jonathan Soll

c. Gardener awareness and alternatives for planting - Working with OAN to implement the St. Louis Codes-of-Conduct at several key businesses in Oregon, and working on developing suitable alternatives for purchase and planting. Working with OAN and Portland-area CWMA Education/Outreach group, and communicating with similar efforts in WA and CA.

Contact: Mandy Tu

d. TNC's WIMS (Weed Info Mgmt System) application – TNC has developed a MS Access database that can assist natural resource managers manage their weed data, including keeping track of weed locations, assessments over time, and any management treatment applied. It can be used on handheld computers with GPS units, and has GIS capabilities. We have been involved in a national-level pilot project with USFWS (funded by USFWS, NWRA (Natl Wildlife Refuge Assoc), USGS NISS (USGS Natl Inst. Inv. Spp. Science) and TNC) where we have trained 6 refuges across the country (1 refuge per region) on the use of this database application. This application is now available for everyone to use at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/wims.html> and we are now actively training TNC staff across the U.S. and partners in its use. A new updated version will be available in Spring 2007.

Contact: Mandy Tu

e. TNC site managers continue to actively manage against terrestrial weeds on TNC properties, and work with partners to develop and implement invasive species management strategies at larger landscape scales. Most have been very active in local CWMA's, where there is one present. For instance, we have been very active in:

- Wallowa County weeds/Tri-county CWMA/Tri-state CWMA in NE Oregon
- CWMA in Northwest Oregon Coast
- 4-County CWMA in Portland/Willamette Valley
- Developing CWMA in SW Oregon (near Medford)

TNC's main internet website on invasives <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/>
TNC's Invasive Species Initiative website <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

Oregon Association of Nurseries – CHRIS GUNTERMANN

The Oregon Association of Nurseries Natural Resources Committee has met twice since the last OISC meeting. Actions to report include:

The upcoming 2007 issue of the OAN *Annual Buyer's Guide and Directory* has been vetted against ODA quarantines and purged of plants on those lists. Members have also been updated of recent listings, and also advised of plants under scrutiny for potential listing. The process of invasive risk assessment has been advertised to members as a means of generating involvement at all levels.

The e-mail newsletter *Member Update* has been increased to every two weeks. This venue has been used several times for invasives discussion and announcements. Now published more frequently, we are better able to communicate issues with out membership.

The NR Committee is heavily involved with erosion control plans. Erosion can occur along roadside ditches close to nurseries. A Member Education Program is under study on how to promote modern erosion control practices, and how those best practices are to be defined. Such practices will also prevent the spread of invasives into and along eroded or disturbed soil at roadsides, or edges of fields. The OAN welcomes any contribution to our knowledge base as our efforts move forward.

The NR Committee is in full endorsement of the Feral Swine Control Plan. Recommendation is being made to the OAN Board for endorsement and further actions in support of the measures. The OAN Legislative Committee will follow any Feral Swine initiatives, and is willing to offer support as needed.

The American Nursery and Landscape Association is a national organization that has an ongoing series of articles on Invasives published in the NMPro Magazine. The most recent series article was written by Salem nurseryman, Mark Krautmann in support of the VCC and other control concepts. Mark heads up the OAN's NR Committee.

Oregon nurseryman Bob Terry (Fisher Farms) will ascend to the presidency of the ANLA this year. This will provide Oregon a vital link to the national issues; especially how they affect trade exports from Oregon to other states.

The GMO Bentgrass issue is being watched as an example of future process improvements and limits that might be placed on ornamental GMO's in the future.

Portland State University – ROBYN DRAHEIM, MARK SYTSMA

Website <http://www.clr.pdx.edu>

Not quite a zebra mussel but still a threat

See extra handout for specifics on the Quagga mussel introduction to the Western US. Early detection efforts are ramping up throughout much of the West. The zebra/quagga mussel veliger identification laboratory at the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs is expanding its ability to process samples. In addition our substrate sampling project is being modified to better address quagga mussel detection and we will be expanding our sampling efforts throughout the coming months.

That's not a beaver!

The nutria (*Myocastor coypus*) is an invasive rodent that has established feral populations in wetland habitat throughout the Pacific Northwest. Nutria populations have existed in the region since the late 1930s, and populations continue to grow and spread. Research suggests that the highest densities of nutria in the world are in Oregon's freshwater marshes. The Oregon Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan lists nutria as a management class 3 species, which acknowledges that the species is established and has negative impacts throughout the state. This classification also indicates that no management techniques exist, and further evaluation and research should be pursued to prevent further establishment. The goal of this new project is to provide the framework for a regional nutria management plan. The project will address three immediate needs concerning the nutria problem in the Pacific Northwest: coordinated regional communication, accurate distribution information, and evaluation of impacts on restoration sites. The scope of work for the project will include three activities: a regional nutria management workshop (tentatively scheduled for April/May 2007), a current distribution map of nutria in the Pacific Northwest, and a field study of the ecological and economic impacts on wetland and/or riparian restoration sites resulting from nutria damage. The work is a collaboration between the CLR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the USGS Wetlands Research Center in Louisiana, and the USGS National Institute of Invasive Species Science in Colorado.

The plants are back!

Many of you are likely familiar with the USGS's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database (available here: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/>). This site was established as a central repository for accurate and spatially referenced biogeographic accounts of nonindigenous aquatic species (primarily freshwater). Through the site you can obtain information, maps, or issue queries to the NAS database regarding different nonindigenous aquatic species. Although aquatic plants were originally included in the database, records were heavily skewed towards southeastern invasions and for the past three or so years plant entries lagged behind other taxa. Through an agreement with the USGS Center for Aquatic Resource Studies, Vanessa Howard at the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs has begun updating the aquatic plant records and collection information with an additional focus on bolstering records relevant to the Pacific Northwest. If you aren't already familiar with the NAS electronic alert system, we recommend you log on and subscribe. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/AlertSystem/default.asp> You will automatically receive customized new species/new record alerts for the areas/taxa you select. For example, you can choose to just receive new aquatic plant records for Oregon or instead get all the new fish records throughout the US.

Swine update: The feral pig management plan has been completed and is available for distribution. Copies of the Feral Swine Action Plan for Oregon was included in the packets and is available on the OISC website.

Field work for the Middle Columbia River ANS Survey was completed in late fall 2006. Preliminary results indicate the movement of the invasive Asian copepod *Pseudodiaptomus inopinus* from the lower tidally influence portion of the river upstream through at least five dams/reservoirs and into the lower Snake River.

Pending legislation: New ballast water legislation is being introduced this legislative session. The task force proposed changes to the existing program that would expand the scope of the existing legislation to cover barge traffic and hull fouling as important vectors

LINCOLN CITY DEPT OF PLANNING AND COMM DEVELOPMENT,- MEREDITH SAVAGE

Meredith Savage has a new job, she is a planner for Lincoln City. She is not sure if her old conservation position will continue work with invasives. County Public Works in Lincoln City did not receive Title 2 money. Public Works will be cutting their weed management program down to the basics. The only invasive work for plants or otherwise will be done only if program can get grants.

Meredith's new supervisor at Planning and Community Development has agreed to support her position with the Oregon Invasive Species Council. Recently Lincoln City passed an ordinance that all private land owners have the responsibility to eradicate knotweed on their property.

Meredith would like to see her new position as a place to educate the public on invasive species. She would like to start a city-wide education campaign on the importance of clean fill dirt, and its role in spreading invasive species, such as knotweed. She also will be working with Devils Lake project for the control of Mud Snails.

OSU Extension Sea Grant- Sam Chan

Creating education trunk curriculum that will consist of three part kits. Invasives Species will be a topic for kit in the classrooms. Teachers will be able to incorporate reading, writing, biology, science and to incorporate the knowledge of invasive species.

There is a new Resource Guide book on Aquatic Species, that will be relevant to the West Coast, which will include field guide. When the new Resource Guide is complete he will get it out to OISC members, and field people. More education on invasives needs to be in schools, as invasive species are still coming in and apart of curriculum. There needs to be a campaign to the educators. National level needs to be aware of the programs and the supply houses that are supplying invasives to the educators.

New graduate student will be working on helping OISC begin to develop focus groups to find public awareness on invasives. Other graduate students are working on Mudsnaills, acquatic invaders, and another is working with the Watershed Council

Sam has been asked to use speak and develop OSU Fisheries Seminar series, he is going to develop series using OISC theme for presentation.

Gilliam County Weed Department- Don Farrar

On a local level of weed he has been busy spraying.

Through the state trying to get a disclosure statement added with the realators. Disclosure statement would ask seller if there were invasive weed species on the property. It will be added to the checkmarks on documents at time of home sell.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Warm Springs- Bill Reynolds

Yellow flag iris map is complete and was on display. Biocontrol workshop is being planned for somewhere in the region probably The Dalles area.

Lake Mead and invasives species funding is being proposed for tribes.

Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery- Mark Wiegardt

Spartini program area application is almost complete and looks successful. Area is starting to see an increase of migratory birds and improvement in conditions

Beach Grass- Native grasses are coming back and as well as an increase in birds.

100 WORST LIST UPDATE-2007

The council had a brief discussion on the 100 Worst List. Jim Gores felt the list was sided more on the ag side and would like to see more wildlife added. Meredith also brought up the issue of having some varieties of Clematis added.

Council decided that the list does need to be reviewed but there was not enough time to allocate further discussion. 100 Worst list needs to be reviewed, for new possible species of concern, some species could possibly be grouped, and if there are any on the list that could be removed. Second list might need to be created for Species of Concern.

The Council decided the 100 Worst List should be given review and then approve changes at the June meeting.

INVASIVE SNAIL AND SLUGS- MARK HITCHCOX, USDA

Mark Hitchcox, with USDA gave a powerpoint presentation on Surveys for Introductions of New Non-Native Terrestrial Stylommatophoran: Exotic Invasive Slugs and Snails. He gave us the big picture of the current impacts and an example in Oregon of Brown Garden Snail on grass seed, 16 % of seed was found infested. Resulting in loss of product and profit. Other areas where contamination could be a concern are vineyards, orchards, field crops, backyards, and ecological.

He discussed new threats should be a great concern for Oregon. Slides were shown on the White snails in Australia and how severe the contamination can be. Oregon is a risk because of the entry of ships into our ports from foreign waters. Origin of invasives can be traced to tile, granite, and travertine from countries like Spain, Italy, and France. Surveys have been done to detect high, medium and low risk areas in Oregon. A survey protocol has been developed looking at pathways. The survey resulted in *Candidula intersepta* being found in 7 positive sites in Southern Oregon coastal ports (Coos Bay -4 sites, Port Orford, Goldbeach and Sister Rocks)

Safeguarding steps that are being followed: Port Inspection (CBP), Treatment (PPQ), and Detection Survey (PPQ).

NPAG recommendations- PPQ policy for *Candidula intersepta* will continue as reportable/actionable. PPQ will conduct delimiting surveys for *Candidula intersepta* in Oregon and Washington. If feasible, PPQ will support eradication. An ad-hoc request to review the pest potential of *Candidula intersepta* will be submitted to the CPHST. Human assisted movement of the snail out of infested areas will be looked at. If eradication is not possible, PPQ will use the protocol from the Terrestrial Mollusk Action Plan to manage *Candidula intersepta*.

USDA's EXOTIC PESTS EXHIBIT- MARK HITCHCOX, USDA

Mark also presented USDA's Exotic Pests Exhibit. The display was developed after working with OMSI for 2 years. It was created to be a public outreach tool on Invasive species detection. As it was found the public had problems with detecting invasive species, as a result some species fly under the "radar". Outreach became a detection strategy for: ALB, CLB, CLB, EAB, GAS, and OISC.

The display was created to be attractive, engaging, educational, portable, adaptable and easily replicated. The future goal of the display is to increase personal action. As a result there should be increased calls on 1-866-Invader line. The display also plans to include items that can be taken home such as cards, pens, or magnets.

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL- LORI WILLIAMS

Lori Williams, Executive Director with the National Invasive Species Council via speaker phone. Lori gave an update of what the council is doing at the national level- National Weed Awareness Week is coming up and a great opportunity to bring awareness to the public across the country. At the National level she would like to see better relationship with state levels of Invasive Species Council.

National Invasive Species Council is in their 6th year. The council has 30 members, so far there is no one from Oregon on council. This year they have picked their 4th Advisory Committee, Council members serve for 3 year terms. Each year they try to hold meetings in different parts of the country. Their next meeting will be in April in South Florida. The National Invasive Council is also involved in the following:

- in the process of revising the National Plan, draft of plan will open to public comment in late May or early summer. There are grant opportunities available and a catalog can be requested for OISC to review.
- At federal level they are working out measures to watch invasive pathways. For example, Korea as an area of possible increased risk.
- Guidelines are available on Invasives Aquatics and Invasive Specie Projects. The National Invasive Council is revising their web site and look at better ways to link within their site. They will trying a mock site for searching by the end of May

It was discussed the OISC host a National Meeting in 2008. Last time National meeting was held on West Coast was 5 years ago in Seattle. She would need to know by April if we would be interested. Possibly hosting a National or Regional Invasive Council Meeting would be an excellent opportunity to better communicate with National or Regional councils. Another option would be to invite one or two members from other state councils to discuss common invasive issues. Good opportunity for a speaker for future meeting

Action- Add Lori to our list serve.

QUAGGA MUSSELS/ OREGON'S PREPAREDNESS- PAUL HEIMOWITZ, USE & WS

Paul Heimowitz, gave a powerpoint presentation to update the council on the "Curse of the Quagga". He compared Zebra Mussel to Quaggas. Quagga can be found as far as 130 meters down and do not like heat or light. Zebra mussels are found in shallow areas. Quagga had until recently had been contained in the Great Lake. Quagga came in to the United States after Zebra mussels, have not spread to the degree of Zebra mussels.

On January 6, 2007, Quagga mussels were found in Lake Mead. As a result Columbia River Basin Rapid Response Plan for Zebra Mussels and other Dreissena species was created. Elements of Rapid Response Plan for Columbia Basin include the following:

- Goal is to maximize delineation and control
- Serve as a roadmap to actively guide response activities
- Operational, not strategic
- Rapid - initial steps take hours and days, not weeks

Rapid Response Activities

- Prevent further spread via pathway management
- Initiate available/relevant control measures
- Long-term monitoring
- Evaluation of response and plan

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Jahn, with Oregon Public Broadcasting gave a brief overview on OPB's new Field Guide Series on invasive species. Series will start recording and collecting information this spring and summer. OPB will be partnering with SOLV, but is needing additional funding for program. He is requesting any information, or updates on what is going on with invasive species for video clips.

OBP wants to be the mega phone and see invasive species be the next big issue.

GATHERED FOR COMMITTEE WORK SESSIONS

NEXT MEETING

The next council meeting will be in Salem. The projected date for the next meeting will be June 12 and 13 with back up dates being June 21 and 22. Meeting location to be determined.

February 15, 2006 - Joint meeting with Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC)

Bill Hansell (OSWB-Chair) – called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Tim Butler, ODA – OSWB/ODA Overview of 2006 Projects

An overview of the Noxious Weed Control Program's mission in Oregon. Highlighted the biocontrol program and 2006 projects. Program implemented 135 projects with 672 treatments, 419 on federal lands and 253 on other lands. Biocontrol releases were made on 100 sites and monitored 220 biocontrol sites.

Oregon Pilot Weed Free Forage and Hay Certification Program were established. Certified noxious weed-free products are now available. A total of 900 acres were inspected by ODA by different growers. There is a list of participating growers and will be made available on the ODA website or upon request. A Program Option Package (POP) was submitted to the governor's budget. An increase of \$1.2 million for the OSWB Grant Program that includes the new grants position.

Sam Chan, OSU- Sea Grant- (OISC) Overview 2006 Projects

The Oregon Conservation Strategy incorporates information and insights from a broad range of natural resources assessments and conservation plans, supplemented by the professional expertise and practical experiences of a cross-section of Oregon's resource managers and conservation interests. It has a wide variety of applications both inside and outside of state government. The strategy will provide the basis for a common understanding of the challenges facing Oregon's wildlife, and a shared set of priorities for addressing the state's conservation needs.

Jim Gores, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife- Feral Swine Action Plan

The rapid proliferation of feral swine can be attributed to humans releasing them in the wild for game hunting purposes. In the South and the Midwest, some folks are herding up pigs into horse trailers and literally releasing them in the middle of the night to areas where they'd like to hunt them. Even though it may be possible that aggressive feral swine could potentially create a human safety issue, that is not the reason concerned folks from several agencies and organizations are discussing measures to prevent a feral swine explosion in Oregon. Feral swine do a tremendous amount of natural resource damage and are serious carriers of disease. They have been known to do considerable crop damage and can easily take out a garden in one night. Feral pigs threaten tree seedlings and can be as damaging as drought, if not more so. Some of their favorite targets are wetland areas and cool streams. They tear things up, increasing erosion and affecting water quality. Wild or feral swine can spread *Guardia*, a waterborne disease spread to humans who ingest water contaminated by animal feces. Recently feral pigs were also implicated in the spinach *E. coli* outbreak in California where over 204 people in 26 states and a Canadian province became ill and three people died. The bacteria were found in a creek, the gastrointestinal tract of a feral pig on a ranch, and in cattle feces. Health authorities speculate that feral pigs spread the *E. coli* from the ranch to the spinach field. Telling signs were tracks in the soil and torn-down fencing. The diseases feral pigs most commonly harbor are the pseudo-rabies virus and swine brucellosis. Both diseases cause abortions, infertility and other reproductive symptoms in adult domestic sows. Besides reducing the size of their herds, it affects the marketability of ranchers' livestock. Wild animals like elk aren't immune to the risk, either. Feral swine can be devastating to native, sensitive and endangered species. An indirect result can then be increased federal government and land use restrictions or implications. At the very least people need to report sightings of feral swine sightings to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. In Oregon, feral swine are considered a predator, just like coyotes. There aren't any bag limits and a landowner may shoot pigs on his private property without a license. If feral swine are hunted on public land, then only an Oregon hunting license is required. When you consider the dense understory and terrain of Oregon, it is often more cost-efficient to shoot feral swine than to try to trap them. Feral swine quickly learn they are being hunted and can readily make themselves scarce. Animal experts claim they can smell scents seven miles away and 25 feet underground, and they have been documented swimming ocean channels two miles wide with buoyant ease. More and more we're hearing about little pockets of pigs around the state, especially in southwest Oregon and coastal areas. As these little pockets of pigs start to reproduce, we're going to have some serious problems.

Eric Coombs, ODA – Biocontrol of Weeds Update

Biological agents were released at more than 100 sites in Oregon during 2006. Over 100 biocontrol sites were monitored to determine establishment and impact of agents. The USDA APHIS-PPQ (APHIS) biocontrol program, under the direction of Gary Brown, remains a very important partner in implementing biocontrol in Oregon. ODA and APHIS typically supply surplus biocontrol agents to many local agencies and other states. The ODA program continues to work on cooperative research projects with Dr. Jeff Miller and Dr. Peter McEvoy and his staff at Oregon State University. The ODA biocontrol program also serves as the state level biological control of weeds data center for the U.S.

Dalmatian toadflax: The stem-boring weevil, *Mecinus janthinus*, is emerging as a very promising biocontrol agent which drastically reduced toadflax density in several counties in Oregon in 2005 and 2006. Collection for redistribution in Oregon began in 2006 and will continue for several years.

Knotweed: Prerelease studies on Japanese knotweed and its allies were conducted at several sites in Oregon. These studies are necessary before any new agents can be released in Oregon. A new quarantine facility, the first in Oregon, was opened at Oregon State University (OSU) Forestry Sciences, which will be used to conduct host specificity studies for prospective biocontrol agents. The project is being coordinated by Dr. Fritzi Grevstad and primarily funded by USFS, with ODA as a major partner. Prospective biocontrol agents are expected to arrive in quarantine in early 2007.

Mediterranean sage: An ongoing cooperative study with Dr. Jeff Miller, OSU Dept. of Range Science, is studying the regional long-term impacts of the root/crown weevil *Phrydiuchus tau*. Most ODA release sites from 1970-1983 have shown significant control, especially at sites now dominated by perennial grasses and shrubs. Results from regional studies will be submitted for publication in 2007.

Purple loosestrife: The *Galerucella* leaf beetles have reduced numerous infestations of purple loosestrife throughout Oregon by more than 90%. Cooperative biocontrol projects continued with APHIS staff, Dr. Ralph Garono, Earth Designs Inc., and Dr. Peter McEvoy of OSU, to monitor and redistribute the biocontrol agents throughout the lower tidal zones of the Columbia River area. Many purple loosestrife stands are declining following severe defoliation by the leaf beetles.

Tansy ragwort: In 2005, numerous sites in the Willamette Valley experienced a resurgence of tansy ragwort, especially in Marion County. Biocontrol agents were found at all of the recalcitrant infestations. Fewer ragwort rosettes were observed during fall of 2006 (less than 10 % of the density of the 2005 outbreak) therefore the severe local outbreaks are expected to be short-lived. No livestock deaths associated with the 2005 outbreak have been reported to ODA.

Garlic mustard: In 2006, ODA began pre-release monitoring studies in conjunction with Dr. Bernd Blossey, Cornell University, NY. Host specificity testing is currently underway and releases could be made in the next several years.

Legislative Updates: Randy Henry, OISC

House bill 2433 requires that seller of property larger than three acres disclose in seller's property disclosure statement certain information about noxious weeds.

House bill 2289 allows Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing maximum permissible amounts of viable noxious weed seeds in wild bird feed.

House bill 2470 makes livestock district and open range laws inapplicable to some bovine animals. Provides that landowner is not required to fence against hogs or bison to make owner or possessor of hogs or bison liable for damage by trespassing animal. Prohibits allowing bison to run on property of another. Makes violation punishable by maximum of \$90 fine.

Senate bill 432 – a person may in the waters of this state:

' (a) Dismantle for removal a ship that has been shipwrecked if the Department of State Lands determines, in consultation with others as the department finds appropriate including, but not limited to, other state agencies, the United States Coast Guard and the shipowner, that it is physically impracticable to move the shipwreck to a dry dock.

' (b) Partially dismantle a ship as may be required in the process of ship repair.

' (4) Subsection (2) of this section does not apply to the ship breaking of a flat-bottomed barge that is not self-propelled and that operates in the waters of this state.

Legislative 2967- Creates Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. Revises definition of 'cargo vessel'.

Brad Knotts, Oregon Department of Forestry

In November 2006, the Oregon Board of Forestry agreed to elevate invasive species management to one of the eight major issues it plans to focus on in the next several years. The Board directed the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to begin developing a Board work plan to address the invasive species issue. The plan is in the very early stages, but potential Board actions that could be outlined in the plan include the following: Direct ODF to develop a department invasive species action plan (this is very likely to be included in the Board work plan). Consider establishing an ODF

invasive species coordinator position. Direct ODF to identify and support voluntary actions and best management practices to address invasive species problems.

Support amendments to the Oregon Forest Practices Act to emphasize the seriousness of invasive species problems and encourage forest managers to address the problems. At the request of ODF, and with the support of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Invasive Species Council, Governor Kulongoski introduced HB 2068 to the 2007 Oregon Legislative Assembly. The bill would add the State Forester (the ODF agency director) as a voting, ex officio member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the bill on January 18, 2007, at which time ODF and ODA testified in support of the bill. There was no testimony opposing the bill. The committee then held a work session on January 23, 2007, at which time ODA provided explanatory testimony. At the conclusion of the work session, the committee voted unanimously to move the bill to the House floor with a do-pass recommendation. On February 8, 2007, the House passed HB 2068, which now is in the Senate awaiting committee referral. ODF is increasing coordination among its three land management programs, which are Private Forests, State Forests, and Protection from Fire. The State Forests Program is progressing on its formal invasive species management plan, and has identified field invasive species representatives for most of the ODF State Forests field administrative units.

Julie DiLeone, East Multnomah SWCD (EMSWCD)– Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* Overview

Multnomah County is the center of garlic mustard infestation in Oregon. Garlic mustard is a biennial. The rosettes emerge in March then over winters. Leaves are alternate, triangular to heart shaped with scalloped edges and deep veins, has garlic odor when crushed. The plant flowers on the 2nd year in April or May. Flower stalk is 2 inches to 3 feet tall. White flowers with 4 petals White 's' shaped curve at stem base, similar to some natives and non-natives. Garlic mustard out competes native plants. It has Allelopathic-exudes a toxic chemical and forms a monoculture. In the Columbia River Gorge, garlic mustard infestations increased in just the just 3 years. It is spread by mowers, wildlife, pets, hikers, bikers, and water. The plant has the potential to negatively impact rare, sensitive, and threatened plant species in the Columbia & Sandy River Scenic Areas & Mt Hood NF. Each plant can produce hundreds of seeds that remain viable for 5 years. Plants die after seeding leaving stem and brown seedpods. Most common in partial shade but can grow in full sun and deep shade. Tolerates many soil types, but prefer wetter sites. Has been observed to reduce abundance of natives. Garlic mustard has a short window of opportunity for id- flowering. Mowing is the major vector. Do not mow during flowering or seed set. If cut too high, plant will still flower and seed. May be OK to mow/cut back in rosette stage during winter. Manual control can produce re-sprout, it does not eradicate and timing is crucial. Chemical control is limited on public land and can damage the plants we're trying to protect. Biological is promising but has some public resistance. Other efforts are being done by Forest Park. Public education, research, and control. 3 control points (winter, spring, fall)- doing monitoring to determine number of sprays at each control point. Hand pulling in some areas has mixed success. Forest Park is developing a Garlic Mustard Control Plan and work plan- will be on www.noivyleague.com in early 2007. The Garlic Mustard Working Group's goals are to identify edges of infestation and contain them as much as possible; Manage roadsides/equipment to avoid spread to new areas; Protect un-infested areas like Mt Hood National Forest; and raise public awareness. The Garlic Mustard Working Group have mapped infestation sites and developed a brochure that were mailed to property owners adjacent to known infestations. Successes that partners made happen: State Parks hired crews to hand pull, ODOT sprayed triclopyr in early June before seed set. Multnomah County sprayed triclopyr in October. ODA supplied technical assistance and the brochure. There was small response from private landowners. Plans for 2007: State Parks plans to do more mapping, pull both new sites and 2006 sites and evaluate need for use of herbicide. East Multnomah SWCD will conduct follow up roadside mapping, evaluate control, and will with USFS on mapping their sites. Continued control of ODOT and Multnomah County infestations. More outreach to private landowners and other potential partners.

To join Garlic Mustard Working Group, email at: julie.dileone@or.nacdnet.net

Acknowledgements to the following people: Lynn Gibbons - Menucha, Glenn Miller and Beth Myers-Shenai - ODA, Sandy Diedrich - Portland Parks & Rec, Vern Holm - NOIWMP, John Cowan - State Parks, Kevin Fitzgerald - Multnomah County, Brian Walker - ODOT, and Aaron Guffey, East Multnomah SWCD.

Weed Tour hosted by Lynn Gibbons, Menucha

2006 Oregon Invasive Species Council Awards

Recipients of the 2006 Eagle Eye Awards – Bruce O’Neil and Ken White, Premier Manufacturing. Honorable Mention Eagle Eye Awards: Richard Kelley, Kim Lawson & Mark Hitchcox. Outstanding Defender Award: Fred Arnold, South Coast Lumber; Honorable Mention as Outstanding Defender: Vern Holmes and Lynn Gibbons. Ten Fingers in the Dike Award: Lesley Richman, BLM Burns. Honorable Mention for Ten Fingers in the Dike Awards: Ian Davidson and Bill Woosley; Invader Crusader Awards: Kit Rouhe, OSU, Stefania Padalino, OSU; Outstanding Service Awards: Meridith Savage and Dan Hilburn. Certificate of Appreciation, Professor Gomi

It was a nice interactive display, that was displayed both days of the council meeting. The display is available for other OISC or related meetings by making arrangements with USDA.

Next meeting

Next meeting dates are still undecided possibly June 11, 12 or June 21, 22 in Salem.