



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

JUNE 24-25, 2009

Port of Portland
Portland, Oregon

ATTENDANCE

Members Present

Dave Bridgwater (USDA Forest Service)
Steve Buttrick (The Nature Conservancy)
Glenn Dolphin (Oregon Marine Board)
Jennifer Goodridge (City of Portland - Bureau of Environmental Services)
Marla Harrison (Port of Portland)
Bradley Knotts, Chair (Oregon Department of Forestry)
Martin Nugent, Co-Chair (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Sam Chan (Oregon State University)
Dan Hilburn (Oregon Department of Agriculture)
Mark Sytsma (Portland State University)
Dan Walters (DLF International, Inc.)
Todd Zilbert (Wood Tatum)

Other Council Affiliates Present

Tristen Berg (Special Assistant to the Council)
Lisa DeBruyckere (Oregon Invasive Species Council Coordinator)

Members not present

Don Farrar (Gilliam County Weed Board)

AGENDA ITEM #1 – The 2009 Legislative Session—A Recap, Lessons Learned, and Next Steps

Legislative Committee Chair Mark Sytsma discussed the results of the 2009 legislative session, and walked through the following bills that were passed into law:

House Bill 2212 – consolidates Oregon’s plant quarantine laws, enhanced definition of integrated pest management	Signed by Governor – effective January 1, 2010
House Bill 2213 - Adds two seats to the OISC; an	Signed by Governor – effective May 21, 2009

ex- officio seat for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and another at large seat.	
House Bill 2221 - makes it a crime to knowingly allow feral swine to roam on private land or to sell or purchase hunts for feral swine.	Signed by Governor
House Bill 2424 - Expands the role of the Adopt-A-Highway program to include weeds.	Signed by Governor
House Bill 2583 - prohibits a person from launching a boat into waters of the state if there were any visible aquatic species on the hull, trailer or other related equipment, or any invasive species inside the boat.	Signed by Governor
House Bill 2625 - amends existing statute to provide explicit DEQ authority for vessel boarding, inspections and collection of ballast water samples for compliance verification purposes.	Signed by Governor – effective January 1, 2010
House Bill 2714 - continuation of the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force.	Signed by Governor – effective May 26, 2009
Senate Bill 105 - Increases maximum civil penalties for non-compliance with ballast statute regulations (reporting and discharge requirements) from \$5,000 to \$25,000.	Signed by Governor
Senate Bill 571 - Increases penalty for releasing or attempting to release live fish into body of water without permit to maximum of five years imprisonment, \$125,000 fine, or both. Requires State Fish and Wildlife Commission to revoke all angling licenses and tags of person convicted of releasing or attempting to release live fish into body of water without permit. Allows commission to institute suit for recovery of damages for control or eradication of live fish released into body of water without permit.	Signed by Governor
House Bill 2020 - establishes an invasive species rapid response fund of \$350,000 million using ATV funds from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.	Signed by Governor
House Bill 2220 – cannot operate a manually propelled boat or motorboat more than 10 feet in length without first obtaining an aquatic invasive species prevention permit. This bill also establishes an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund administered by the Oregon Marine Board to prevent and control aquatic invasive species.	Signed by Governor
Bills that did not pass	
Senate Bill 629 - Requires State Department of Agriculture to establish program for issuing grants to counties for noxious weed control.	Funding could not be located to support this bill.

Success during the legislative session was attributed to the strong backing of the conservation community (and others such as Terry Witt of Oregonians for Food and Shelter), which had an ongoing supportive presence throughout the session, a few legislators that ultimately became champions for several of the bills, the commitment of many OISC members to attend work sessions and hearings on the bills, Mark's leadership and relationships with legislators, and the coordinated approach the Council took to packaging the bills (a result of the statewide summit outcomes), among others.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Conference Call with Washington, Idaho, and California Invasive Species Councils

Idaho's Amy Ferriter discussed the outreach campaign to inform boaters about aquatic invasive species. The campaign includes 37 highway signs, 10 billboards at state lines, 30-second radio spots in 7 markets (they hired a marketing firm to coordinate outreach activities), decontamination stations (private contractors are inspecting and decontaminating boats) focused on 87 critical and high priority water bodies. We discussed the potential for seasonal messaging, focusing on clean boats in summer and "don't move firewood" during the other months of the year.

Washington's Genevieve Keesecker mentioned her Council received an EPA grant to implement some of the recommendations in their strategic plan, including a baseline assessment that analyzes 15 species in Puget Sound (will determine locations most affected and at risk), and prevention and control strategies to eradicate invasives; creation of an information clearinghouse to provide a one-stop shop for invasive species managers; and an education campaign that includes common messaging and speaking points. The EPA took the Washington Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and set the framework and infrastructure for the rest of the state. Gen also mentioned educational posters were developed for state parks—2 posters describing highlighted species they are most concerned about. The poster describes their new telephone number to report potential invasives—877-9INFEST.

California's Doug Johnson (Doug is with the Invasive Plant Council, a nonprofit) reported on the newly formed California Invasive Species Council, which includes only state agencies. The Council is developing an advisory committee, which Doug hopes to participate in. Doug mentioned that the economic conditions in California will create a likely shuffling of state agencies to enhance efficiencies. Weed management area funding that was secure in the past, may no longer be present, although federal stimulus funding will help offset some losses.

The OISC discussed the successful 2009 legislative session and opportunities for the representatives of the four states to meeting in the near future. Doug suggested the National Areas Association Meeting in September might create that opportunity. In addition, the Council asked Doug Daoust, who is a member of the Washington ISC, if OISC could potentially be on their agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Presentation by Lisa Arkin of the Oregon Toxics Alliance

Lisa Arkin, Director of the Oregon Toxics Alliance, spoke about “The Toxics Issue Relative to Invasive Species Eradication—What are the Concerns for Future Projects?” Lisa stated that the OTA and OISC have common goals which are to protect the environment. She also discussed the use of the precautionary rule (alternative assessment) will best evaluate the consequences of our actions (versus using a risk assessment). She mentioned that when we act with precaution, society must be able to choose alternatives to avoid harm. She said that conventional risk assessments are limited in their cost/benefit scope because they fail to account for costs to society over time. Risk assessments also ask the wrong question—how much harm is tolerable or legally defensible? In addition, we know scientific findings change over time so when a risk assessment concludes that something is safe today, we know that there may be different findings in the future. Alternative assessments, on the other hand, incorporate knowledge of safer alternatives by exploring all possible risks and then choosing the least harmful alternative. Inherent is the belief that a risk that is unnecessary and not freely chosen is unmanageable.

Discussion that followed Lisa’s presentation focused on an analysis of what government agencies are currently doing and the language being used (risk assessment) versus what Lisa discussed (alternative assessment). Several individuals believed there was little difference between the two types of assessments in terms of what agency staff consider when they select the specific tool used to treat invasives, because public health and consideration of alternatives is paramount.

Jennifer Goodridge suggested some next steps might include working with Lisa to ensure agencies communicate the process used to ultimately make the decision on how to treat invasives, closing the perceived gap between risk and alternative assessments.

AGENDA ITEM #4– Field Trip

Council and advisory committee members (and other members in attendance) took a field trip, arranged by OISC member Marla Harrison, to the Port of Portland to explore commercial shipping, commercial air travel, and commercial air delivery as invasive species vectors. Customs and Border Protection staff helped lead the tour and discussed efforts to control those vectors.

AGENDA ITEM #5– Updates

OISC Coordinator Lisa DeBruyckere provided updates on the following:

- *Invasive Species Database Project* – Lisa distributed the copy of the draft report that includes the results of the database manager and database user surveys. She mentioned that the next step was to meet with the database committee to develop next steps to address the recommendations in the report.

- *OISC Budget* – Lisa provided a one-page report on the budget, which indicated the Council has about \$5,000 remaining (of its \$15,000 biennial budget). June meeting costs were estimated to be about \$1,500, and about \$1,800 was spent on outreach items for state and other fairs. With the remaining money, a pallet of “bricks” (manufactured logs) were purchased as giveaways for fairs (to encourage people to consider their use instead of firewood, especially when they are traveling).
- *Fundraising*— Lisa submitted a \$25,000 grant to the Wal-Mart Foundation for reprinting *GardenSmart Oregon*. She’ll know on November 4, 2009 if the Council received the grant, which was applied for through Cascade Pacific RC&D. Lisa also applied for a \$25,000 matching grant to the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species for the interpretive exhibit at PDX (and other locations).
- *Adoption of Endorsement Guidelines*— The Council adopted new guidelines for OISC letters of support. Added to the guidelines draft was timeline (allow 3 business days for Council response) and process (send requests to all Council members) recommendations.
- *2009 Statewide Invasive Species Summit*— Council members voted to not host an invasive species statewide summit in 2009, rather to wait until 2010 just prior to the legislative session to “tee up” issues for legislators and others.
- *Asian Toad Report*— Lisa distributed the final copy of the Asian Toad report and USFWS Paul Heimowitz commented on the utility of the process and the newly established listserv.
- *OTAC*— Lisa mentioned that she is now a member of NRCS Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (on behalf of the Council). This may be an opportunity to make recommendations on types of grant projects funded by NRCS in Oregon.

AGENDA ITEM #6– Review Business Plan – Action Items/Assignments

OISC Chair Brad Knotts led a discussion on the review of the OISC 2008 business plan to determine which items had been completed, and which needed further action. He started on page 19 of the plan, and worked through each of the goals.

- *Goal 1*— All 14 items under this goal either have been completed or are in process. The EDRR item, #3, can be completed with the NFWF grant TNC recently applied for (provides funding for Tania Siemens and the OISC Coordinator). It was noted that item #7 (2009 legislative session) was completed in terms of supporting legislation, however it was noted that Senate Bill 629 (provide base funding for counties to deal with noxious weeds) did not pass, and that funding for feral swine eradication has not been secured. Brad mentioned there is no state funding for Sudden Oak Death eradication in Curry County, but Doug Daoust noted that Oregon will be receiving \$2.4 million in federal stimulus dollars for eradication.
- *Goal 2*— Items 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 have been addressed, however, the cross-cutting budget analysis (#4) is part of the statewide assessment, and will not be completed until this fall. In addition, there has been no formal effort to complete #7, supporting initiatives in the Governor’s Climate Change Integration Group.

- *Goal 3*— The first four items have been completed or are underway (statewide assessment). Item #5, contributing to the development of an incident command system, has occurred with zebra and quagga mussels, but it was noted a state annex to the rapid response plan is needed.
- *Goal 4*— Items 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 have been completed. Securing funding for the invasive species interpretive exhibit (#2) is underway, with the Port providing the initial \$25,000 and the grant request for a matching \$25,000 submitted to the Western Regional Panel. There was discussion about further engaging the *Oregonian* in invasive species issues (#4), and Lisa offered to contact Abby Haight. The group discussed reviving Invasive Species Awareness Week (#5), noting the importance of this event being outcome based with key messages. Action item #6 (developing base materials) was completed for the 2009 legislative session, but there is work to do to develop the speaker's bureau. Follow-up work to assess results of the effectiveness of the awareness campaign needs to be completed (#8), and there has been some forward momentum on item #11, developing consistent marketing materials on invasive species.
- *Goal 5*— All items under goal 5 have been completed.

AGENDA ITEM #7– Tillamook County Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) — What is it and How Does it Work?

Rob Emanuel from Oregon State University gave a presentation on the recent formation of Oregon's first PRISM, a Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management in Tillamook County. A PRISM is a voluntary, non-regulatory, non-governmental, local/regional partnership among organizations and citizens that is formed to prevent, manage, map, monitor, research, educate about, and mitigate impacts of invasive species in a specific geographic region. A PRISM is based on Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), which have goals to protect, restore, detect, eradicate, and control invasive plants as well as educate the public. PRISMS expand that goal to address all invasive species: plants, animals, pathogens, aquatic, terrestrial -the entire range of possible taxa. PRISMS develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU); long-term management plan; annual operating plan; and structure and leadership roles. The mission of the Tillamook County PRISM is to protect important natural resource values, such as forest and agricultural production as well as estuaries, wetlands, riparian areas, and aquatic ecosystems. Membership consists of Tillamook County, Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Tillamook Bay Watershed Council, Nestucca/Neskowin Watershed Council, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, Stimson Lumber Company, Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Northwest Weed Management Partnership, Oregon State University Extension Service, Tillamook School District#9, United States Forest Service, and Siuslaw NF. For more information about the Tillamook County PRISM, contact: Robert Emanuel, Ph.D., Water Resources & Community Development Specialist, OSU Extension Service, Tillamook & Clatsop counties, (503) 842-5708 x 210, robert.emanuel@oregonstate.edu.

AGENDA ITEM #8– Firewood as a Pathway of Pest/Disease Introduction

Dan Hilburn and Lisa DeBruyckere co-presented information on firewood as a pathway of pest/disease introduction. Dan provided some initial results of a survey of bundled firewood sold throughout the West. The results:

One hundred and thirty six bundles were observed in over 30 towns in 11 states. Sixty percent of sampled firewood was from the state the sample was taken leaving 40% of the firewood from companies with home offices out of state or country. Thirty six percent of the firewood was hardwood, 52 % conifer and 11% both hardwood and conifer. Most of the wood that was reported was found at convenience and grocery stores. *Sixty percent of the wood had evidence of past or current insects* and 57% had evidence of past or current fungal infections.

Insects and pathogens that have been or could be transported via minimally processed wood include the following type examples:

1. Tree Insects

- Bark beetles: banded elm bark beetle (*Scolytus schevyrewi*)
- Wood boring insects: emerald ash borer, Asian long horned borer (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Sirex wood wasp (*Sirex noctilio*)
- Defoliators: Asian and European gypsy moths (*Lymantria dispar*), hemlock adelgid
- Stressors: scale insects

2. Tree pathogens

- Canker fungi: Ramorum blight-*Phytophthora ramorum*, Chestnut blight-*Cryphonectria parasitica*
- Vascular wilt fungi: Dutch elm disease pathogen-*Ophiostoma ulmi*
- Stain fungi: Blue stain complex related to bark beetles
- Decay fungi: Any fungus that can withstand the moisture content of the wood in transit.

As a result, the Council decided that a “don’t move firewood” campaign would be a great project for the Outreach and Education Committee. In addition, Idaho is considering posting billboards with firewood messages in the fall and winter (those same billboards will have aquatic invasive species messages the other months of the year).

Lisa DeBruyckere will send an email announcement to Council and advisory committee members asking for their participation on the Council Outreach and Education Committee, and Sam will follow up by sending a meeting request to those individuals to gather the first part of August to begin strategizing the campaign. Lisa will also contact Beth Casper at the Statesman Journal regarding the investigative journalism piece on firewood.

AGENDA ITEM #9– Sterile Butterfly Bush – A Good Idea or Not

Keith Warren, of J. Frank Schmidt and Son, Co. gave a presentation on sterile butterfly bush. ODAs current noxious weed quarantine requires all nurseries to cease production and sale of

Buddleia davidii by the end of 2009, but ODA is considering making exceptions to the rule because of recent claims about new sterile varieties of butterfly bush.

Keith noted that *Buddleia davidii* was introduced in the United States over 100 years ago, and the plant became increasingly popular as a butterfly attractant in backyards. About 10 years ago, the plant was determined to be invasive. There are two common misperceptions: hybrid plants are sterile and triploid plants are sterile. He cited the example that mules are supposed to be sterile, but that some females are not, so there is always some chance that plants characterized as sterile will produce viable seed. However, this was discussed in the context of risk. The burden of proof for sterility should be proportional to the risk of the plant. In other words, buddleia is not a high risk plant—kudzu is. In that context, if we accept a 98% or 99% reduction in viable seed, there would be a significant reduction in the spread of this plant. Keith also noted that it's important to consider the nursery industry and how plants are purchased. Most buyers seek to buy their stock from the smallest number of buyers to reduce transportation costs and enhance efficiency. If some nurseries are not selling buddleia, a very common plant, it forces the buyer to split their order among several nurseries – or it causes a nursery to lose an entire order, because the buyer will simply purchase all of their product from another nursery that does carry buddleia, a popular plant.

Dan Hillburn noted that ODA wants ensure the sterile varieties are clearly labeled for their inspectors and that ODA will have a public comment period in August for the proposed lifting of existing quarantine restrictions for this species. Jennifer Goodridge described the need for any approved sterile varieties to be phenotypically different to aid land managers in removal projects.

AGENDA ITEM #10– OISC Committee Updates

Most OISC members circulated summary documents of their activities. In addition, the following information was given:

- DEQ — In June of 2010, a task force will present recommended legislation for the 2011 legislative session.
- DLF International, Inc. — ODA recognizes that the Willamette Valley has a specialty seed growing area. – they're moving toward doing risk assessments before listing anything.
- ODA — working on a legislative concept to pin the cost of eradication on the source. For example, if Japanese beetles are found on airplanes, and we trap them on an adjacent golf course, perhaps the airline would be responsible for eradication costs. Paul Heimowitz mentioned that there is model legislation, and he will provide the contact.
- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services — a subcomponent of the statewide assessment will include an invasive animal assessment for the City of Portland. BES is working with their 4-county CWMA to submit a grant to fund an EDRR coordinator in the Clackamas River basin. BES just treated 170 acres of garlic mustard – takes 2 to 3 site visits per year to kill all plants in an area.
- OSU Sea Grant — Sam discussed the survey on what teachers ultimately do with the plants and animals they use in their classrooms. He noted that 32% of the teachers disagree with euthanization of live classroom animals, and that many noted they give

the specimens to the students, release them to the wild, etc. Sam discussed the ethical dilemma of learning (through survey work) that a company is selling a species it should not be selling – yet Sea Grant learns about it because the company willingly filled out a survey.

- PSU — the 64th Marine Bioinvasions Conference is an international conference that will occur this fall. The Pacific NW Economic Region meeting is in July. The West Coast Governor’s Agreement calls for eradication of Spartina on the West Coast by 2018.
- US Forest Service — A wildlife biologist with the USFS is developing a response plan for feral swine.
- ODF — Brad’s position is eliminated at ODF with a 15% budget reduction. Brad will be assuming new responsibilities as a result of a retirement within the agency. BLM is leading an effort to use cleaning procedures on fire trucks to keep pathogens at bay.
- Port of Portland — is developing an invasive species policy that it will run by the Council.
- ODFW — Martin noted opportunities exist to extend outreach relative to invasives via the Oregon Conservation Strategy. ODFW staffs purchased corral traps for feral swine, and are meeting with landowners. Martin noted that companies in Oregon are purchasing live Tilapia from Idaho, however, it is a controlled species. Thus, it has to be permitted to enter the state, and it was found with New Zealand mud snails. New protocols are being developed as part of transportation permits. ODFW is rewriting the OCS to incorporate climate change issues.

AGENDA ITEM #11– OISC Committee Updates

The Legislative Committee provided their update during an earlier agenda item.

Sam distributed a paper titled, “Silent Invasion: Investigating Oregonians’ Self-Reported Awareness, Understanding and Behaviors toward Invasive Species,” and agreed to lead a new effort on “don’t move firewood.” Sam noted that much of the outreach and education work was channeled off to partners. Sam wants to reconvene the committee and launch the firewood campaign. Lisa will contact Council and advisory committee members to seek their interest in continuing to serve or serving on the outreach committee. Lisa will also contact Beth Casper to seek interest in purchasing firewood bundles and taking them to ODA/ODF for analysis of insect presence.

Lisa discussed the status of the OISC Advisory Committee (32 members), and the call for new members that will occur during the call for new OISC members this fall.

Bradley noted that the bylaws need to be revised.

AGENDA ITEM #12– The Willamette Model Watershed Program — Closing the Loop on Effective Invasive Species Management in Watersheds

Kendra Smith, Director of the Willamette Watershed Model Program, gave a presentation on ways to improve invasive species management in watersheds. Program partners include the

North Santiam Watershed Council, Long Tom Watershed Council, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, South Santiam Watershed Council, Calapooia Watershed Council, and Meyer Memorial Trust. The program focus is developing strong watershed councils and priority watersheds that include 280,000+ acres, 475 stream miles, 27,000 floodplain acres, and 6000 wetland acres. The goal is to achieve a scientific approach to monitoring & adaptive management while building institutional backbones in data management. The vision is to restore ecological process/function and build resiliency in social/economic systems over time; quicken the pace, focus, and effectiveness of local, community-driven restoration; and focus on performance, monitoring, and adaptive management with Councils and landowners. The programmatic strategy to achieve that vision is through infrastructure (GIS/Data Management, Monitoring Design/Protocols, Permissions to Access), implementation (EDRR Partnerships, Reveg and Maintenance, Technical Assistance) and capacity building (Ecosystem markets, PR and messaging, Education programming efficiency). The opportunities and challenges include:

- Diversity of working landscapes, habitats, and interests
- Predominantly private landowners (all sizes)
- Councils offer another option to government, for those owners who don't like government
- Collaboration and efficiency gains in implementation

It was noted that watershed councils need to incorporate weed warrior aspects into their programs for them to be successful in combating invasives.

AGENDA ITEM #13– Is Social Media in the OISC's Future? A Look at the Use of Social Media and its Potential for Invasive Species Communication

Cat deRivera helped to arrange for 2 PSU students, Danny Warren and Sara Zelan, to join Sam Leininger on a panel to discuss social media. There was discussion on the following:

- There isn't a good link between the OPB and OISC web page.
- The OPB website is out of date.
- The Maryland ISC has a great website – a really good model.
- It's important to have a really good web page.
- There are opportunities for the OISC to connect with young people at events such as Mt. Hood's "Vegetate."
- Distribute t-shirts at an event.
- Ask yourself how 15 to 20 year olds are affected by invasive species, and why should they care? What should they do about it?
- Podcasts are a great way to reach people.
- Can sections of *The Silent Invasion* be posted on UTube?
- The avenues people are using to obtain information are changing.

Lisa will contact Ed Jahn about putting *The Silent Invasion* on UTube (short segments), or simply putting *The Silent Invasion* on their website (short segments). She'll also discuss with them out-of-date aspects of the OPB website.

AGENDA ITEM #14– Next Meeting

The next meeting of the OISC will be held September 22-23, 2009 at Cascade Locks. Lisa will arrange for a field trip of the facility that produces an alternative to firewood.