

Oregon Invasive Species Council

Tour at Lake Billy Chinook
June 21, 2006

Kah-Nee-Tah Resort
6823 Hwy 8 • Warm Springs, OR
June 22, 2006

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Present

Samuel Chan, Chair
Don Farrar
Chris Gunterman
Randy Henry
Dan Hilburn
Bill Reynolds
Mandy Tu
Mark Wiegardt

Absent

Dave Bridgwater
Martin Nugent
Meredith Savage
Mark Sytsma

Others

Shannon Brubaker, ODA
Robyn Draheim, PSU
Brad Knotts, ODF
Kev Alexanian, Crook County
Gary Clowers, Raven Research West
Robert Marhinie, PGE
Sandy Smith, Wasco County
Mark Hansen, UAP
Avalyn Taylor, The Nature Conservancy
Justin Stevenson, USDA/APHIS
Kit Rouhe, PSU
Terri Gromm, Sonata, Inc.

Tim Butler, ODA
Jim Gores, ODFW
Merle Keys, Wasco County
Doug Daoust, USFS
Debbie Bunch, Crooked River CWMA
Clay Pennel, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Floyd Paye, Jefferson County
Steve Buttrick, The Nature Conservancy
Pei-Jung Wang, World Forestry Center
Vern Holm, NW Weed Partnership
Dan Sherwin, Deschutes County
Jeff Grimm, Sonata, Inc

INTRODUCTIONS

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

TOUR AT LAKE BILLY CHINOOK

Sam Chan gave an overview of the Oregon Invasive Species Council past activities.

The Council toured Lake Billy Chinook including the Deschutes, Metolius and Crooked River arms. Members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Jefferson, Deschutes and Crook County, local CWMA's, PGE and others were along to discuss the current invasive species in the lake. Most important was yellow flag iris that seems to be entering the lake through irrigation canals that feed into the lake. The Council was able to visit sites that had not been treated showing the potential impact of the plant, they also saw treated sites, some of which were fall treatments and others that were spring. Fall treatments appear to be more successful.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2006

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 22 and 23, 2006 MEETING

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

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

Total expenditures to date are \$29,254.44 while the balance of the trust funds account is \$4,000. Total remaining GF for fiscal year 2006-07 is \$5,544.77.

Shannon explained that there were some errors in billing codes, which will add some to the Councils budget but that the Council should be looking toward additional funding sources, as current spending patterns show that we will be in the negative by the close of the biennium. Doug Daoust with the USFS indicated that it is possible for the Forest Service to offer some additional funds toward the Council's efforts. Additional comments were made asking members to consider sponsoring either meetings or portions of meetings in the future.

REVIEW BYLAWS

The Council reviewed the by-laws and it was decided to add a section into the bylaws that allows an authorized person to vote on the behalf of a council member in the event of their absence. Members are to make the Council Chair or Council Secretary aware of the situation in advance whenever possible.

MEMBER UPDATES

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY – ROBYN DRAHEIM FOR MARK SYTSMA

Portland State University – Center for Lakes and Reservoirs (CLR) and Aquatic Bioinvasions Research and Policy Institute: Update

This past spring Mark spent two weeks in Vietnam and Thailand where he and Greg Ruiz of SERC/ABRPI went to explore joint research initiatives in the fields of aquatic nuisance species and aquatic ecology. Mark and the ABRPI are also actively exploring a joint ANS course with universities in places such as Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Panama, where graduate students would be able to experience a standard ANS curriculum with the option of an international exchange program for the field portion of the course.

Ian Davidson has completed his initial hullfouling survey of selected Mothball fleet vessels for the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and we expect MARAD to issue a final report in the coming months. Ian is also in the process of completing his assessment of hullfouling as a vector of invasive species research. He just finished up a week of video work on commercial vessel hulls in San Francisco Bay for the California Department of State Lands.

CLR has recently hired several graduate students to work on a variety of reports. Kit Rouhe will discuss his work on the Oregon Feral Pig Management Plan at the OISC meeting. Ingrid Larsson is working on an overview of alternative ballast water management plans for the Columbia River, looking at characters and properties of the Columbia River Estuary for ANS survival as well as exploring the shared water policy issues of the river under Oregon and Washington law.

CLR is coordinating two regional meetings this September: The Pacific Northwest Regional meeting of the North American Lake Management Society (in conjunction with the Oregon Lakes Association and the Washington State Lakes Protection Association. Meeting in conjunction with PNALMS is the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. Both meetings will be held at PSU on September 13- 14.

CLR is also tackling a new database project for the USGS. CLR will be creating a PNW ANS hub for the USGS NAS database (including all nonnative aquatic plants, invertebrates and vertebrates).

WHISKEY CREEK SHELLFISH HATCHERY – MARK WEIGARDT

Update on *Spartina* in Willapa Bay, Washington State.

Again the treatment for *Spartina* in summer of 2005 covered around 5000 acres. The ground and helicopter application was done with Habitat. Observations this summer have shown that last summers treatment has an efficacy rate of between 85 to 95%. For the summer of 2006 the treatment of *Spartina* has begun.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY – MANDY TU

New Invasive Species Projects/Topics:

a. Pacific Northwest Regionwide Invasive Plant Conference – We are working with the USDA-Forest Service, the University of Washington, and several other partners to put on a regionwide conference on invasive plants in natural areas titled “Meeting the Challenge: Invasive Plants in PNW Ecosystems.” We will have participation from OR, WA, BC and AK, and our objectives are to provide an active forum for sharing the latest information and science on invasive plants in the region. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Ann Bartuska, Deputy Chief for Research and Development in the USFS, and it will be held September 19-20th, 2006 in Seattle. <http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/invasives/homepage.htm>

Contact: Mandy Tu

b. Early Detection/Rapid Response Networks – We are working on developing 3 early detection networks as pilot projects in Oregon with local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs). This 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 anticipate working closely with ODA weed folks on this, and to share resources and reporting information.

Contact: Mandy Tu

Ongoing Invasive Species Projects:

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

Contact: Jonathan Soll

b. 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

c. 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 NIISS (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.

Contact: Mandy Tu

d. 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)

Additionally, on TNC preserves where there are significant aquatic resources, we now are monitoring (early detection) for a few new aquatic invaders – namely zebra mussels and New Zealand mud snails – using aquatic substrates provided by PSU.

Active Research:

We have several ongoing research projects involving invasive species management. A few examples of these projects are:

- Knotweed control and management research ongoing

- Reed canarygrass control and management, needs to be submitted to journal

- Plateau (imazapic) trials on cheatgrass and medusahead

- Remote sensing of weeds in NE Oregon

TNC's main internet website on invasives <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/>

TNC's Invasive Species Initiative website <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS – BILL REYNOLDS

In April we finished treating the Yellow Flag Iris on the reservoir. This is a cooperative project with PGE, Tribes ODA, State Parks and Jefferson County. We revisited last falls treatments. A number of clumps have some regrowth. When we visit in June that will tell the story. These were treated using Habitat (Arsenal) and Aquamaster plus a seed oil spreader. This project is funded by an OWEB grant. In May we surveyed and treated Leafy Spurge on the Deschutes River. June and July Wasco Jefferson County will be treating White Top, Perennial Pepper weed, Mediterranean Sage, Spotted and Diffuse knapweed on the reservation and along Hwy 26 near Beaver Creek. Part of this is funded by an OWEB grant. July thru September we will survey for Yellow Star thistle and Purple Loosestrife. September and October fall treatment and survey knapweed and Yellow Flag Iris and this will finished out the year. We will be working with the Forest Service on Ribbon Grass in the Metolius River system.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – DAN HILBURN

Eight hundred and sixty acres in and around the railroad tie treatment plant in The Dalles were treated with an insecticide in early April. This was a continuation of the eradication project for granualte ambrosia beetle and other exotic wood borers initiated last July. Trap setting for other exotic pest insects has begun; over 28,000 traps will be deployed this spring for gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, and other invasive species.

In Curry County, *P. ramorum* has been detected on understory tanoak in Loeb State Park. Eradication activities have required coordination with several agencies due to the presence of spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat in the area. Nursery *P. ramorum* certification is 80% complete. By the end of June, 2,000 nurseries will have been inspected and tested. So far 11 positive nurseries have been identified.

Several new giant hogweed sites have been discovered this spring. Sites treated last year have greatly reduced numbers of plants encouraging our belief that this plant can be eradicated from the state.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – JAMES GORES FOR MARTIN NUGENT

Cleaning house - In February, we removed invasive species from our Deer Resistant Plant List. Due to noxious weed concerns, we are also reviewing and editing our Naturescape book and removing some very outdated information. We hope to have ODA and the Native Plant Society of Oregon review the book prior to releasing the new edition.

Taking stock - Jim has been meeting with district biologists around the state. During his visits, he takes a large map along and has the biologists map out their invasive species problems. He is then working with the GIS folks to put this information into a database and GIS layers. It is our hope to eventually use this data to better develop management actions for invasive species.

Oregon Conservation Strategy - Oregon's recently approved Conservation Strategy has taken a front seat and ODFW staff have been actively working to promote its benefits. A major component of the Strategy addresses invasive species and their management. ODFW has been working to develop beneficial partnerships and bridges that will hopefully begin to produce new funding sources and management options for invasive species and other issues identified in the Strategy.

Shipbreaking - ODFW has been actively following and participating in the shipbreaking issue in Coos Bay. The issue provided a good opportunity for ODFW to review its Wildlife Integrity Rules, regulatory gaps and work with multiple partners.

Management Tools - During visits with ODFW field staff, Jim identified the need to have a Prohibited Species ID Tool for our Wildlife Integrity Rules. The first edition of the tool should be ready for release by OISC meeting time for those who would like a copy.

Feral Swine - Jim met with Kit Rouhe of PSU and Justin Stevenson with USDA regarding feral swine. With the upcoming release of the Feral Swine Action Plan, ODFW is gearing up to focus more time on the feral swine issue. The recent Oregonian articles on feral swine have resulted in numerous calls from interested hunters.

Asian Clam Harvest - Jim received a request to commercially harvest *Corbicula* from the Columbia River near Astoria. He has been working with the individual and ODA to review numerous concerns regarding the request.

Prohibited Species - Jim has been working with ODFW field staff and OSP to begin stronger enforcement of our Wildlife Integrity Rules. Educational outreach work with exotic pet fairs, clubs and sellers should begin this fall if not sooner.

CWMA's - ODFW just signed 5 MOU's with all of the CWMA's within the NW Weed Management Partnership coordinated by Vern Holm. Jim has been attempting to attend every CWMA meeting he can. ODFW is now looking to increase its profile and participation with other CWMA's in Oregon.

OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD – RANDY HENRY

The Marine Board participated and helped coordinate the Water Craft Inspection Training at the annual Pre-Season Law Enforcement Conference held in Hood River in mid-April. The training was given during a general session and involved nearly all attendees including about 80 marine officers. I was asked to do the law enforcement analysis to see what existing statutes or rules could be used to enforce transport of invasive species in Oregon. It was determined that adequate authorities exist to prohibit transport by boat or boat trailer of species listed in ODFW's wildlife integrity laws, such as zebra mussels and New Zealand Mud Snails. We made the case to officers that they do have authority to stop a suspected boat and vehicle and require them to clean it out, and also to detain or take possession if the operator refuses to cooperate. The training stressed voluntary boat checks and compliance first, though. Research indicated a decided lack of authority to prohibit transport of aquatic weeds, such as hydrilla or milfoil, attached to boats or trailers. Bill Zook and Robyn Draheim each did an excellent job presenting overviews of the primary threats and identification of key species.

OSMB provided additional training and information on aquatic nuisance species to new recruits at the Marine Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Rilea in May.

The Marine Board is also in the process of adding an ANS section to the Clean Marina Guidebook. Program manager Kristin Feindel is considering adding questions to the Clean Marina Certification checklist criteria about doing ANS outreach, checking for ANS, etc. More research needs to be done on this. Kristin has also handed out some of the "stop harmful species" and mitten crab signs to marinas and have seen them up at the two marinas where she performed confirmation site visits. She is in need of more of the signs to continue handing them out.

100 Worst List, Action Plan, IS Coordinator Position

100 Worst List:

It was approved by the Council to:

Remove:

Japanese oyster drill, *Ceratostoma inornatum*
Blueberry maggot, *Rhagoletis mendax*
Glassy winged sharpshooter, *Homalodisca coagulata*

Add:

Rock snot, *Didymosphenia geminate*
Granulate ambrosia beetle, *Xylosandrus crassiusculus*
Amur goby, *Rhinogobius brunneus*

Action Plan:

The sub-committee working on changing the action plan into a more marketable document did not have the opportunity to meet and address the potential changes to the plan. Dan Hilburn has made some suggested changes for the public portion of the document and those will be discussed during future works sessions with the sub-committee.

IS Coordinator Position:

Dan Hilburn reported to the Council that the Proposed Option Package made it through the agency approval process and has been sent for consideration as a part of the Governors proposed budget. He pointed out that a minor change was made to the funding source section, in previous versions of the position description the Council had asked for 100% General Fund, Agriculture's Deputy Director advised the Council to add additional funding sources, so it will move forward with 1/3 general fund, 1/3 federal fund, and 1/3 other funds. Dan indicated that there might be an status update available for the fall meeting.

A proposal for a statewide invasive species assessment – Avalyn Taylor and Steve Buttrick, The Nature Conservancy

Steve gave a presentation on a proposed statewide invasive species assessment, he pointed out that invasive species pose enormous economic and ecological threats to the State of Oregon. It is important to look at this through a big picture to identify the most effective and critical steps that must be taken to combat invasive species in Oregon. He pointed out that with numerous landowners working toward the fight against invasive species that in many cases a lack of coordination and

information still exists. Additionally, Oregon has no comprehensive legislation that covers invasive species, resulting in gaps of legal authority for different areas of management. Steve proposed to the council that a statewide assessment of invasive species management would better equip the OISC, elected and agency officials, land and water managers, and other stakeholders as they work in various capacities to combat invasive species. This assessment would summarize existing efforts in Oregon to address the threat of invasive species, identify gaps in management, funding, and authority, examine strengths and weaknesses of existing efforts, and suggest priority actions, laws, and policies for future implementation. The Assessment would have two parts, a statewide review of legislative authority, and activity as it applies to all invasive species and a review of local on-the-ground roles, responsibilities and activities.

The Nature Conservancy is requesting the Council's support for this effort, the Council was supportive but felt that more details were necessary so a sub-committee will do some work and update the Council in the fall.

Weed Awareness Week, Oregon Weed Free Forage Pilot Program – Tim Butler, ODA

Tim Butler updated the Council on the 2006 Weed Awareness Week activities, including the signing of an MOU between the BLM, ODA and USFS which is intended to strengthen the three agencies cooperative work effort with a specific focus on:

- support of the National and State Weed Awareness weeks and other education/outreach efforts
- support and promote the use of the INVADER hotline
- support and promote the Weedmapper Project,
- support the formation of a state interagency weed coordinating committee
- facilitate cooperation among private and public land managers/users, increase collaboration, awareness and information exchange among cooperators
- identify opportunities to prioritize and coordinate funds, resources and skills for interagency actions and programs
- identify and recommend improved legal, policy and procedural remedies for managing weeds
- support formation and implementation of County Weed Board's and CWMA's.

Tim also gave an update on the statewide weed free forage program, he indicated that there will be certified weed free product for 2006, and that there will be a list of grower available on the internet. He pointed out the benefits of the program such as the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds, increased market value, and it will help aid in interstate movement and export. He concluded with a brief update on the State Noxious Weed Control Program.

Feral Swine Action Plan – Justin Stevenson, USDA and Kit Rouhe, PSU

Justin Stevenson is a Wildlife Disease Biologist for Oregon, Washington and Alaska, he shared a powerpoint presentation on the current feral swine situation in the state of Oregon. His talk included distribution of feral swine in the United States. Texas has the largest population of feral swine with many areas having 10 or less swine per sq. mile but a small section of the state has more than 10 swine per sq mile. There are many diseases that feral swine carry such as swine brucellosis, pseudorabies virus, among many others, this is a major concern for the livestock industry. Feral swine can do major damage by rooting in croplands, bottomland and watershed areas. Feral swine have also caused harm to livestock in some cases actually killing the animal. In Oregon, there are now 11 counties with confirmed sitings of feral swine.

Kit Rouhe is a graduate student at PSU working on the OISC Feral Pig Action Plan. He updated the Council on the current status of the feral swine action plan, below is the abstract taken from the draft plan, it summarizes his presentation:

Feral pig populations have expanded in range from Europe and Russia to habitats around the world. Range expansion has been facilitated by human transport of domestic pigs that have established wild populations of feral pigs. Unlike other large mammal invaders, pigs have a high reproductive capacity and an omnivorous lifestyle that allows for a quick assimilation into most habitats. Once a breeding population takes hold in an area, the population quickly increases and impacts the ecosystem. Impacts of feral pigs include erosion, losses to native flora and fauna, reduced biodiversity, alteration of species composition, inhibition of forest regeneration, crop damage, livestock depredation and transmission of disease to wildlife, livestock and humans. A successful invasion of feral pigs is difficult, and sometimes impossible, to reverse. Actions to reverse the effects of an invasion fall into three categories: management, control or eradication. Of the three categories, only eradication efforts have successfully slowed or reversed the effects of pig invasions. Management and control efforts, while effective in short term cases, have not successfully kept small feral pig populations from increasing to levels that are unmanageable and uncontrollable. This is of special interest to the state of Oregon due to the numerous and small but growing populations of feral pigs that are beginning to effect ecosystems. If Oregon is to avoid a large population of feral pigs that disturb native ecosystems, cause the extinction of vulnerable species, facilitate the invasion of subsequent invasive species, induce large economic losses to agriculture, and transmit deadly diseases to livestock and humans, then eradication must be the goal. The

feral pig action plan for Oregon must include six components that successful eradications in other areas have included: 1. Legislation to halt the invasion of pigs from private land sources. 2. Education of hunters, farmers, ranch owners, hikers and local private citizens about the dangers of feral pig populations in areas where small populations have been sighted or documented. 3. Identification of population locations through communication with educated groups. 4. Size estimation of each identified population. 5. Eradication of the population through ground hunting, trapping, and/or aerial shooting. 6. Two year monitoring of the eradication location for signs of persisting populations.

Public comment and next meeting

There was no public comment.

Next meeting will be October 11 and 12, 2006, details to be determined.