

Oregon Invasive Species Council
Honeyman State Park-Woahink Meeting Hall
Cox Island Field Tour
Florence Oregon
September 16 and 17, 2004

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Present

Mark Sytsma
Samuel Chan
Mandy Tu
Paul Heimowitz
Kev Alexanian
Sue Cudd
Martin Nugent

Absent

Blaine Parker
Risa Demasi
Keith Warren
Rick Mishaga

Others:

Shannon Brubaker, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Robyn Waldeck, PSU, Center for Lakes & Reservoirs
Sidney Howard, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tim Butler, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Tom Forney, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Sandy Diedrich, City of Portland
Mary Pfauth, Portland State University
Vanessa Howard, Portland State University
Debbie Pickering, The Nature Conservancy
Steve Buttrick, The Nature Conservancy
Kevin Anderson, The Nature Conservancy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM June 23, 2004 MEETING

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

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

The total expenditures to date amount is \$15,671.47 while the balance of the other funds account is \$10,175.00. Total remaining for fiscal year 2005 is \$7080.16

COUNCIL SEATS AND AWARDS

There was a brief discussion regarding the replacement of members on the council. Council discussed the feasibility of having an awards banquet in the winter.

MEMBER UPDATES

PAUL HEIMOWITZ, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

In follow up to the lower Columbia River ANS baseline survey (report anticipated by September 30), USFWS has just allocated an additional \$100,000 to extend this survey upstream to cover the mid-Columbia Rivers (below Priest Rapids Dam) and lower Snake River (below Lower Granite Dam). The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission will manage the project.

The national New Zealand Mudsail (NZMS) management and control team met in Bozeman, MT last month to continue working on a national plan; the draft is anticipated in December. Region 1 of USFWS has funded a pilot-scale study at the University of Idaho regarding use of ozone, copper barriers, and other control methods for managing NZMS at fish propagation facilities.

As part of the 100th Meridian zebra mussel prevention program, USFWS recently distributed the "Clark and Lewis" PSAs to thousands of media outlets throughout the West, and is preparing to launch its Lewis and Clark outreach van to distribute ANS materials at events in Idaho and Washington this fall. USFWS has provided continued funding to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to work with marinas and traveler information systems throughout the Columbia basin to disseminate ANS prevention information to boaters. In order to help fill 100th Meridian boater survey data gaps in Oregon, USFWS recently provided PSU with an electronic PDA-based boater survey tool, designed to be shared by agencies in Oregon working under the Oregon ANS plan.

USFWS, working with Sea Grant and the pet industry, will be launching the "Habitattitudes" educational campaign next week at a pet trade show in Las Vegas. Similar to the ANS Task Force "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" campaign, this branded marketing program will distribute educational materials to aquarium and water garden hobbyists and retailers.

MARK SYTSMA, PSU

Research at Portland State University's Center for Lakes and Reservoirs spans a broad range of topics. We are conducting research on dispersal and the survival of *Spartina* fragments; researching the biology of Brazilian elodea in the Pacific Northwest and its potential impact on drinking water quality; researching curly leaf pondweed turion production in cooperation with METRO; conducting research on hull fouling as a vector for ANS introductions in the PNW; investigating mitten crab larva behavior and potential range expansion and mitten crab survival under several ballast water management regimes; and we have been surveying lakes and reservoirs for aquatic weeds.

Our management activities include: continued participation in national mitten crab and New Zealand mudsnail management plan development; participation with in the Pacific Ballast Water Group and the Columbia River Basin ANS Task Force / 100th Meridian Group; attendance at the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ANS workshop on invasive species enforcement; completion of aquatic weed management plans for four lakes in Clatsop Plains in cooperation with OR DEQ; continued coordination of volunteer monitoring for Zebra Mussels (western USA) and Mitten Crabs (OR, WA); continuing education and outreach on New Zealand mudsnails; development and testing of a HACCP protocol for field

biologists to prevent further spread of ANS, especially NZMS; participation in coastal ballast water management protocol development meetings; development of an aquatic weed management plan for Blue Lake, OR in cooperation with METRO; development of aquatic weed management plans for Wind River, Drano Lake, and Rock Cove, WA, in cooperation with Skamania County and WA Department of Ecology; and the completion of aquatic weed management plans for four lakes in Clatsop Plains in cooperation with OR DEQ.

We also have some exciting program development news. The Center for Lakes and Reservoirs has developed and secured funding for the first 3 years of a cooperative program on aquatic bioinvasions with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

We continue to provide technical assistance to others in the region. We are working with the Interagency Cooperative Weed Management Group in the Portland Metropolitan area to develop and coordinate outreach and education on aquatic plants and terrestrial weeds; evaluating the utility of NatureServe protocol for prioritizing management of aquatic weeds as part of ODFW Wildlife Conservation Strategy, and participating in other aspects of the development of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy. We are developing an ANS prevention sign for Oregon portions of the Columbia River; we have created and currently maintain a database of ANS signs posted by a variety of agencies along the Columbia River, we participated in an NPR piece on ANS in the Pacific Northwest that aired in the Seattle area; and are finalizing an on-line database of ANS education and outreach materials. We participated in a noxious weed management funding workgroup, taught an aquatic weed section of Chemeketa Community College pesticide applicators relicensing course; made presentations to watershed councils on invasive species; and provided technical assistance on aquatic weeds to counties, cities, agencies, and private individuals

In addition we continue to coordinate with other agencies and groups on invasive species issues. Currently we are sponsoring two ODFW employees' participation at the natural resource HACCP training workshop in West Virginia and we coordinate the Columbia River Aquatic Nuisance Species Initiative in cooperation with Columbia River Steamship Operators Association, ports of Portland and Astoria, and US Senator Ron Wyden.

KEITH WARREN, J. FRANK SCHMIDT AND SON CO.

Phytophthora ramorum, commonly known as sudden oak death, continues to be the most significant invasive species issue of concern to the nursery industry. Oregon has very successfully implemented a certification program to establish nurseries as being free of the disease. But just released in the last few days are preliminary findings indicating that bark dust may be implicated in the disease. Also, the finding of another nursery infection has raised new worries in the industry.

Emerald ash borer continues to be the invasive issue of second most concern to Oregon growers. This Asian insect has continued to spread slightly in the upper Midwest, but major USDA actions are presently being taken to contain and eliminate the pest. Success is quite uncertain.

Nursery plants as invasives: New England continues to be the area of greatest legislative action against invasive plants, some of which are important in the nursery trade. New Hampshire has passed a law similar to Connecticut's which significantly affects sales of certain nursery stock. The situation continues to be controversial and adversarial.

Keith recently read of a proposal for interesting research on the subject of ornamentals as invasives. The research concept is to use DNA analysis of invasive plants in natural

environments in order to determine what percent of the new germinating plants come from parents already established in the environment, and how many come from outside ornamental plantings. The object is to provide a scientific answer to a question of practical importance: if an invasion of a species has already occurred and is well established, does it really help to ban ornamental plantings?

MANDY TU, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Nature Conservancy's work on Invasives in Oregon

TNC site managers continue to actively manage against terrestrial weeds on TNC properties. 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
- New CWMA in Northwest Oregon Coast
- 4-County CWMA in Portland/Willamette Valley

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 continues
- 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

Specific Invasives Projects:

Federal transportation safety act (SAFETEA) – Currently on hold. Probably will not be discussed until be after the November elections in Oregon. By the next calendar year, we may start generating interest again, especially in the Senate. Contact: Jana Setzler

Knotweed management/education/outreach – Portland-Area Preserves Team
Contact: Jonathan Soll

Gardener awareness and alternatives for planting - Working with OAN to implement the St. Louis Codes-of-Conduct, and working on developing some suitable alternatives for purchase and planting. Working with OAN and Portland-area CWMA Education/Outreach group.
Contact: Mandy Tu

TNC WIMS (Weed Info Mgmt System) application – TNC has developed a MS Access database that can help natural resource managers better 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. We will be working with the NBII (Natl Biological Info Infrastructure) to make WIMS accessible on the NBII California Node and add further capabilities to SWEMP (Southwest Exotic Mapping Project). Contact: Mandy Tu

Potential Project for Oregon:

Creating an developing an Early Detection Network in Oregon, involving locally-trained volunteers statewide. I have corresponded very briefly with Tim Butler about this idea, but still need to develop the idea further. I am thinking of working with ODA to create a short-list of "watch-for species" for different regions in Oregon, and training volunteers to look for these species when they are out in natural areas. Potential volunteer groups to approach include the Native Plant Society of Oregon, local hiking groups (Mazamas, Sierra Club), etc. NPSO has expressed some interest, and they also have many qualified botanists. This follows a model suggested by FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee on the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds), and currently implemented in the Northeastern US – the IPANE (Invasive Plant Atlas of New England) project. Also need to develop a good resource for reporting (just the 1-800-INVADER line? Perhaps WeedMapper?) and mechanism for rapid response (similar to state Spartina plan, but for multiple species).

For more info:

<http://www.invasivespecies.gov/toolkit/detection.shtml>

[http://ficomnew.fws.gov/Proceedings%20on%20the%20Web/index%20\(home%20page\).htm](http://ficomnew.fws.gov/Proceedings%20on%20the%20Web/index%20(home%20page).htm)

<http://invasives.eeb.uconn.edu/ipane/index.html>

BLAINE PARKER, COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

Read into record by Mark Sytsma:

Since this spring I have been more active on invasives species outreach, activities include:

- Close coordination and partial funding from PSU for I&E
- Presentations to tribal staffs about invasives, particularly NZMS
- Tribally staffed research project looking for NZMS in salmonid habitat in NE Oregon
 - Worked with staff from USFS to train techs to be aware of their activities and how they may spread invasive aquatic species
- Cooperated with USFWS to prepare and present a one day HACCP training session on aquatic invasives for state, Federal, tribal, and NGO workers

RISA DEMASI, GRASSLAND OREGON

Read into record by Mark Sytsma

The American Seed Trade Association has approved a one time \$500 payment to the OISC for the Educational Outreach project.

The Seed Industry is continuing its efforts in creating 'White Papers' containing scientific data and information touting the benefit of crops we currently trade in domestically and internationally.

DAN HILBURN, OREGON DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Sudden oak death continues to dominate activities at ODA's Plant Division. All nurseries growing susceptible species have been tested as well as all Christmas tree plantations. A small number of additional facilities with infected material have been confirmed or are suspect. Together these represent less than one tenth of one percent of the total. Only four additional infected trees have been found in the Curry Co. eradication area.

KEV ALEXANIAN, CROOK COUNTY WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

Kev reports that this last field season was hectic. It seemed as though the noxious weeds appeared in areas they had not been in years and that there was a pretty major explosion of weeds this year. He also reported that the African rue project remains successful. Japanese knotweed was found in Redmond, this is the first known site in Central Oregon.

SHANNON BRUBAKER, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Shannon reported that the State government is being switched to a new webpage set up and software. All state agencies are required to switch to the new webpage by the end of the year. She reported that the OISC is included in this transition. The webpage will take some of the creativity away from the design but that the pages will be consistent with other state agencies so as to “Brand Oregon”.

SAM CHAN, OREGON SEA GRANT

As a new member Sam gave a brief career history.

MARTIN NUGENT, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Martin gave a brief update on the current programs that ODF&W are working on.

SUE CUDD, WHISKEY RIVER SHELL FISH

Sue reported that the Tillamook Estuary Partnership I focusing on invasive species Sue requested that the Partnership would like to have someone come talk to them about invasive species.

PRESENTATIONS

NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAIL RISK ASSESSMENT – PAUL HEIMOWITZ

Paul gave a brief powerpoint presentation on the risk assessment compiled for New Zealand Mudsnail.

OAN INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM – MANDY TU

Mandy briefed the council on the newly formed Invasive species program through the OAN, she added that the program is in its initial stages.

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER ANS SURVEY – ROBYN WALDECK

Robyn talked to the council about the recent survey done on the Lower Columbia River Estuary, the survey was for aquatic nuisance species.

AQUATIC WEEDS IN SOUTH COAST LAKES, SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT – MARY PFAUTH

Mary shared a powerpoint presentation on the recent surveys of lakes on the Southern Oregon Coast. She shared what species were found and different methods used for treating the species.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY RFP DISCUSSION – ROBYN DRAHEIM

Robyn went over the two proposals received one from Ant Hill Marketing and the other from The Metro Group. Robyn shared marketing material with the council such as videos and printed materials. The council reviewed the comments made by the subcommittee and concluded that the score was too close and there needed to be some additional information. Robyn said she would send out an email request with some additional questions for the marketing groups to answer and would report back to the council with the answers.

SPARTINA RESPONSE AND RESEARCH – TIM BUTLER, VANESSA HOWARD

Tim Butler with the ODA shared with the Council the Spartina Response Plan that was compiled by the ODA and PSU. Vanessa shared with the council the information on each spartina species and some outreach and education efforts that PSU is working on.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

The Council joined with the TNC for a tour of Cox Island, the only known site of Spartina in the state. The council saw the treatments methods being used and the current spread of spartina on the island.

ACTIONS:

- The council voted to change the chair position to Martin Nugent of ODF&W on January 1, 2005
- Paul brought up a possible topic of conversation for the next council meeting - Brown tree snakes in Corvallis
- Mandy requested a copy of the ODA "Noxious Weed Watch List" - this is an informal list that needs to be updated. Once it is updated Shannon will get a copy to Mandy.
- Sue Cudd presented the Council with a \$500 check and letter of support from the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association - This money will be deposited into the OISC trust fund for the Ed and Out campaign and a Thank You letter will be sent with Marks signature - Shannon will draft the letter.
- The council voted to draft a letter in support of the USFS EIS – Mandy Tu volunteered to draft the letter for Marks signature.
- Mark Sytsma will draft a proclamation for The Oregon Noxious Weed Awareness Week, to coincide with the National Noxious Weed Awareness Week
- Robyn will ask additional questions of the two proposals (Ant Hill and Met Group) to help come up with a finalist for the marketing campaign for the Ed and Out campaign. - Done!
- Paul Heimowitz volunteered to call additional references for the two marketing firms
- It was suggested that the OISC tackle the issue of "Non-native" via email once again...Robyn will collect any comments the council offers and try to come up with a compromise. OISC members are encouraged to submit your idea of the invasive definition outside the realm of non-native to the list serve.
- Term expirations:
Blaine Parker
Paul Heimowitz
Keith Warren
Rick Mishaga
Shannon and Dan will look up request for nominees letter update it and get it out in the mail.
- Awards for the next meeting - Shannon and Dan will look up the past nominees and the awards given and revamp the letter to request nominees to get it out in the mail.

- Shannon will be requesting information on Invasives for the Inter Agency Noxious Weed Symposium Dec 7-9, 2004 for a table/poster set up.

NEXT OISC MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Salem, date will be determined. The Council would like to invite the Oregon State Weed Board to have a joint meeting to discuss the Oregon State Noxious Weed Awareness Week and other like topics.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.