



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

September 22-23, 2009

Cascade Locks, Oregon

### Members Present September 22, 2009

Don Farrar, Rian Hooff, Bradley Knotts, Jennifer Goodridge, Dave Bridgwater, Steve Buttrick, Robyn Draheim, Dana Green, Glenn Dolphin, Martin Nugent, Dan Hilburn

### Members Present September 23, 2009

Don Farrar, Rian Hooff, Brad Knotts, Jennifer Goodridge, Dave Bridgwater, Steve Buttrick, Mark Sytsma, Noel Jinings, Martin Nugent, Sam Chan, Dan Hilburn

### **ACTION AND DECISION ITEMS HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN**

#### **Agenda Item #1 – Iberian Thistle**

Don Farrar provided details on the Iberian thistle incident in Wheeler County. He was driving by a field within 100 feet of the John Day River and spotted a plant that seemed out of place. Closer examination revealed an acre of Iberian thistle in a 9-acre field. That same day, Don was able to secure \$3,000 in federal funding from BLM, and the next morning, the site was sprayed with herbicide. The landowner of the field purchases hay from a variety of places, including CA, WA, OR, and ID.

This examples serves as a great example of EDRR, and reinforces why it is so important to have a county weed program in every county in the state.

#### **Agenda Item #2 – Listserv**

Rian Hooff described a wiki medium called Sharepoint that functions as a virtual work environment – allows for collaborative editing and sharing of documents, news items, and even calendar functions. Sharepoint allows the user to designate permissions, and has numerous other functions. Some of the barriers to implementation by the Council includes issues of security and sharing of documents outside of state agencies. It was suggested that the Council consider this type of option in the future, however, it was also suggested that we need to consider ways to effectively use this technology, while ensuring the advisory committee members have access. **Lisa is going to pilot using GoogleDocs with the Outreach and Education Committee of OISC to test the effectiveness and interest of using this wiki tool.**

The Council voted to NOT to allow anyone to post to the network listserv to minimize the number of emails and ensure that this information sharing tool does not become a blog that inundates people's email.

#### **Agenda Item #3 – Budget, fundraising, and emergency fund**

Lisa reviewed the OISC budget (attachment a) and the list of pending grants (attachment b) – the Council currently has \$1,016,244 in outstanding grant requests, plus an additional \$2.7 million ask from the federal government to address noxious weeds along Oregon's state-managed highways (attachment c). Mike Dennis from TNC presented the information on the noxious weed grant proposal.

Lisa provided the background on the emergency fund, updated Council members on the meeting that Mark, Dan, Brad, and Lisa had with OPRD staff, and informed them that legal counsel was looking at the specific language in the legislation to make a determination on whether or not the strings attached to the ATV fund carry forward to the emergency fund.

Lisa and Vern Holm will work together to obtain support for the federal grant.  
Lisa will set up a meeting with Joan Plank and Mike Dennis.  
Lisa will obtain a map of all the noxious weeds in the State of Oregon, and ensure that Mike Dennis receives a copy of that map.

#### **Agenda Item#4 – 100 Worst List**

The discussion centered on whether or not we could improve the way we create the 100 Worst List for Oregon.

Doug Daoust mentioned that Washington plotted invasive species by environmental threat and ease of prevention or control, and produced a quadrant display to create a visual presentation of Washington's invasive species. That chart can be viewed at [www.invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov).

Lisa will update the 100 Worst List to ensure that all species that have completed risk assessments are highlighted.

Everyone that submits a nomination for the 100 Worst List must provide an accompanying risk assessment for that species.

Robyn Draheim will send Lisa a copy of the US Forest Service risk assessment template to accompany the request for nominations to the 100 Worst List.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Top 10 Stories for 2009 Report Card, 2010 Invasive Species Calendar, Nominations for OISC seats in 2010, and 2009 Awards**

**Top 10 Stories** – The Council determined the top 10 stories for the 2009 Report card will be:

Eradication Successes: Granulate Ambrosia Beetle in The Dalles, Asian Gypsy Moth in St. Helens (#7)  
Spotted-Wing Drosophila, a new species of fruit fly that attacks ripening fruit (Mark Hitchcox) (#6)

OISC legislative successes (#1)

The dirty boat incident (Glenn Dolphin and Robyn Draheim) (#5)

Iberian Thistle in Wheeler County (#3)

Gypsy Moth in Eugene – the backlash (#2)

Launch of the OISC calendar (#8)

Feral swine corral traps in central Oregon (Rick Boatner) (#9)

The firewood outreach campaign (#10)

Federal stimulus funds from the US Forest Service to ODA (\$260,000 for weeds) and ODF (\$2.7 million for Sudden Oak Death and \$260,000 for weeds) (Doug Daoust) (#4)

**OISC 2010 Calendar** – The Council reviewed the species on the 2009 OISC Calendar and determined the species for the 2010 calendar would include the following species – in parenthesis after the species is the organization responsible for producing a risk assessment no later than two weeks prior to the appearance of the species in the calendar. For example, the Asian carp risk assessment is due December 15, 2009.

January – Asian Carp (PSU)

February – Mute Swan (ODFW)

March – VHS (ODFW)

April – Snapping Turtle (ODFW)  
May – Zebra/Quagga Mussel (PSU)  
June – Asian long-horned beetle (ODF – lead – and ODA)  
July – Light brown apple moth (ODA)  
August – Kudzu (ODA)  
September – Hydrilla (PSU)  
October – Iberian and purple thistle (ODA)  
November – Potato wart (ODA)  
December – Sudden Oak Death (ODF)

**Nominations** –The following Council member terms expire the end of 2009: Dave Bridgwater (US Forest Service), Steve Buttrick (The Nature Conservancy), Don Farrar (Gilliam County Weed Department), Marla Harrison (Port of Portland), and a current vacant seat. In addition, the Council is adding one additional member-at-large seat as a result of adding an additional ex-officio seat in 2009 (Department of Environmental Quality). Steve Buttrick has asked to serve a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, and **the Council asked Lisa to ask Marla if she would continue to serve**. If Marla continues to serve, there will be four open seats for 2010. If she decides to leave the Council, there will be four open seats.

**The Council requested that Lisa include the following thematic areas in the news release that announces open seats for 2010: boating, ATVs, aquaculture, forest pests, nursery, and eastern Oregon weeds.**

**The Council also asked Lisa to send the announcement for nominations and 2009 Awards so that these can be wrapped up prior to the end of 2009.**

**2009 Awards** – The Council requested that Lisa wrap up the award nominations by the end of 2009.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Bear Mountain Forest Products Tour**

The Council was given a tour of Bear Mountain Forest Products by owner Bob Sourek. Members discussed the types of products the company produces at its mills in Brownsville and Cascade Locks, including small and large wood “bricks,” stove pellets, chips for smokers, and animal bedding. It seems like opportunities exist for companies like Bear Mountain Forest Products to site a new facility near Brookings to use the large amount of wood that is being cut annually to address Sudden Oak Death, especially give the fact that temperatures high enough to kill spores can be achieved through production processes. In addition, a local mill will lessen spread of the disease via transportation vectors. There was discussion later in the meeting about potentially meeting in Brookings for an upcoming OISC meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Committee reports**

**Outreach and Education** - Sam reviewed the notes from the August 14 Outreach and Education Committee meeting (attachment d). There was a great deal of discussion about the first agenda item from that meeting, which focused on community outreach to inform the public about accurate, peer-reviewed scientific information that exists about the use of pesticides for invasive species, inaccurate information that is being distributed, and information gaps.

It was emphasized that the Council should not focus on “end of the spectrum” groups, but rather focus on more moderate groups, such as Xerces and Audubon. Concern was expressed about national groups that are opposing many types of facilities and programs that include animals, such as zoos, rodeos, etc, and that we may have a problem with feral swine in the future.

It was suggested that the Council would be most effective if it wasn’t reacting to a “crisis” in a community (i.e., the gypsy moth spraying in Eugene), but rather to gauge each situation on a case-by-case basis, and determine what needs to be addressed.

One member commented that the public would rather see money spent on prevention than on EDRR, and that **the Council needs to develop a Powerpoint presentation about pesticides that can be used in a variety of forums.**

Sam discussed the firewood campaign and its elements (attachment e). Discussion focused on the fact that Oregon doesn't have firewood regulations, but that regulations without outreach and education would not work – they must exist together. Although ODA has the authority to enact firewood regulations without legislation, perhaps the Council should consider proposing legislation, because it would elevate the importance of the issue and tie nicely with the statewide campaign proposed for 2010. **The Council supported the firewood campaign as a major part of the business plan.**

Council members learned that the US Forest Service has no authority to tell a commercial firewood harvester that he/she cannot transport the wood out of state.

**It was suggested that the Council do a “before and after” sampling of firewood coming into the state before and after the campaign to determine if the campaign made a difference.**

**Advisory Committee** – There are 35 members of the advisory committee. The Council requested **Lisa send another announcement out this fall to solicit additional advisory committee members.**

One council member asked how we determine if we're effectively working with advisory committee members. It was noted that we spent a portion of our June meeting working with advisory committee members to define their responsibilities, and that email traffic and recommendations from advisory committee members are routinely shared with the Council. One advisory committee member at the meeting commented that simply being a part of the communications of the Council – knowing what the Council is working on, etc., is very beneficial.

Brad noted that no forward progress had been made on changes to bylaws.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Overview of 2009 OISC legislation**

Mark reviewed each bill that passed, and gave Council and advisory committee members an opportunity to provide updates on the implementation of bills that passed.

The greatest discussion focused on House Bill 2220, which created the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund through the sale of an aquatic invasive species prevention permit. Randy Henry mentioned the bill will fund an IS Coordinator as well as an accountant function. The bill will fund ODFW seasonal boat inspection staff in strategic locations throughout the state as well as an overall supervisor for the program and a few permanent staff.

It was suggested that the Marine Board consider setting aside 1% of the fund and dedicate that to Oregon's Invasive Species Emergency Fund housed in the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Statewide Assessment**

Lisa provided the Council with an update on the statewide assessment, indicating about 80 groups had completed the survey, and that Lisa was working with another 30-plus groups to completely fill out the survey, or fill it out for the first time. Lisa also informed the Council that because of the volume of requests from organizations to fill out the survey after their field season, she extended the deadline – and thus, the contract for this assessment was extended until the end of December. Lisa also informed the Council she hired a graduate student at PSU to crosswalk the results of the assessment with the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – 2011 Legislation Priority Issues**

- a. There was a great deal of discussion about the need to pass the one bill that didn't pass in the 2009 legislative session –base funding for each county for weeds. It was suggested that we can tee this issue for up 2011 by:
- Obtaining a list of priority legislation from the Association of Oregon Counties
  - Talk with Bill Hansel about why he wasn't aggressively supporting the 2009 bill
  - Work with the State Weed Board to make this bill a priority
  - Identify those counties with active weed boards
  - Find a county commissioner that strongly supports the bill, identify other counties that do so, then start working with those counties that may be interested in the bill.

It was noted that there continues to be a big misunderstanding about places that have a weed district versus a weed board, and that for this bill to be successful in 2011, we must clarify this difference.

- b. Currently, cities are not included in weed districts. It was suggested, especially since the City of Portland manages Forest Park and thousands of acres within the City, that the Council support legislation to change ORS 570 and/or 634

Mark recommended that Tricia Sears and Jennifer Goodridge prep Mark and the OISC Coordinator prior to the 2011 legislative session so that this issue can be effectively represented.

- c. There was discussion about the potential to pass legislation in Oregon restricting movement of firewood into the state. Lisa was asked to compile existing laws on firewood from all states.

- d. There was discussion about potential legislation to reimburse ODA for non-Port of Portland spraying/eradication when ODA can identify the source of the introduction. Paul Heimowitz offered to share some model legislation with Lisa to get the ball rolling on this.

- e. There was discussion about the need for stopping authority for boats, and that this legislation could pass if it were carefully and narrowly worded to be specific to boats and invasive species. In addition, it was suggested the authority be expanded to non-law enforcement personnel.

- f. Council members talked about legislation to “refill” the emergency fund – find a way to submit a bill that ensures we always have a minimum amount in the fund.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – Governor’s Letter Back to OISC**

Jessica Hamilton Keys, a Natural Resources Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office, stated she would be the liaison for the OISC and the connection to the Governor's Natural Resource Policy Cabinet. Jessica referenced the letter from the Governor to the OISC (attachment f), and noted that the cabinet meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and fourth Wednesday of the month at 9am. The format of the meeting includes a presentation by an external group, and then updates by each agency. Jessica will email Lisa the agendas for the next several meetings, and Lisa will forward to the Council.

It was suggested that the Council provide an annual report to the Cabinet, and Jessica will help us schedule that presentation.

### **Agenda Item#10 – Roundtables**

Don Farrar – Gilliam County treated about 5,600 acres of weeds this year, and has 21 releases of biocontrols. There is no weed district in the county in which Bend resides, and Brenda Pace, instrumental in the 2009 Adopt-A-Highway legislation expansion to include noxious weeds, is working with Don to rectify this shortcoming. Don surveyed for skeleton weed and leafy spurge this summer, and has done work on hawkweeds in Mt. Hood National Forest.

Rian Hooff – Rian submitted a written outline of his presentation (attachment g).

Portland State University – Mark submitted written materials (attachment h), and also provided comments on the following:

- NOAA – surveys of organisms on commercial and recreational fishing vessels
- EPA and PSMFC – growth rates of quagga mussels in Lake Mead compared to their growth rates using Columbia River water. Also working on a risk assessment of quagga mussels.
- Received 319 funding to do aquatic weed management in Silt Coos Lake.
- Spartina – Siuslaw estuary, mouth of Skipanon River – EDRR
- Spartina management plan for State of Alaska
- Aquatic plant ID manual for Alaska
- Biocontrol of purple loosestrife
- Zebra mussel/quagga mussel response plan – Columbia River
- Lakes in Willamette National Forest
- Diamond Lake water quality has improved dramatically with elimination of tui chub

- Delta Ponds Wetlands – impacts of nutria – nutria eat 100% of new plantings if plantings are not protected; also questioning role of nutria in transmission of Salmonella
- NFWF and DEQ proposal to do surveys on Columbia River with Rian – AIS on Lower Columbia
- Marine Bioinvasions Conference a great success

Port of Portland – Continuing zebra mussel monitoring at Port. New invasions of tree of heaven and indigo bush. Dealing with Japanese knotweed at the airport. Have sprayed empress trees. Have found purple loosestrife in ditches at the Port. Just finished an IGA with ODA to ensure the Port reimburses ODA, to the extent possible, for Japanese beetle eradication work. Last year, 30 kestrels were killed from airplane strikes. The presence of the kestrels was linked to high numbers of grasshoppers at the airport. ODA treated the grasshoppers this year by spraying (and last year with granular treatment). This year, airplane strikes on kestrels were reduced to 8.

Oregon Marine Board – Provided written materials (attachment i).

ODFW – Martin spent the last 8 years on the council, but will be leaving because of a change in jobs. Eric Rickerson will be the new ODFW representative. ODFW participated in boat inspection trainings from Florence to La Grande. ODFW just completed their 10 Most Unwanted on their website. ODFW started an experimental program for feral swine using corral traps and cameras.

ODA- submitted written comments (attachment j) and noted that outreach during State Fair Ag Day was successful.

OSU –

- Sea Grant obtains 60% of its funding from NOAA.
- NOAA fisheries lab looked individually at 12 or so herbicides in riparian zones. None were deemed harmful on endangered runs of fish. However, at low doses, 3 organophosphates disrupt the olfactory systems of fish
- NOAA is relocating their Pacific Coast fleet to Newport – we don't know a lot of the baselines for invasive species in Newport Bay. Sam talked with Jim Carlton about the fact that these vessels are ocean-going ships. That, and the fact that there will be excavation equipment in the bay to make way for the large ships introduces the potential for invasive species.
- EDRR – educating teacher. Every teacher who is trained teaches 90 students, and for every teacher trained, about 70% continue to teach the subject matter 2-3 years after training.
- Student projects – (1) Japanese knotweed – collected seeds and found that contrary to popular knowledge, this species actually has high seed viability. (2) Devil's Lake will have a low-power radio station that broadcasts information on invasives.
- Near Hillsboro, someone found a goose feather that had saltwater barnacles attached. These were initially suspected to be zebra mussels.
- 6 focus groups were completed this summer. A common thread is that teachers admit to releasing live organisms because they were not aware of the issue. Also, these teachers have a high level of trust in the system – if someone is selling them these animals, it must be safe to release them. And many teachers have issues with euthanization.

Oregon Department of Forestry – Brad provided written materials (attachment k)

City of Portland – Jennifer provided written materials (attachment l).

US Forest Service – Dave provided written materials (attachment m).

The Nature Conservancy provided written materials (attachment n).

**Advisory Committee member updates**

PSMFC will soon be distributing an RFP to determine the efficacy of boat decontamination.

USFWS has been working with the Crane Certification Association of America to ensure their bladder systems they use to counterbalance weights are decontaminated before moving to another site.

**OISC Chair Position**

Martin Nugent (ODFW) is leaving OISC after serving 8 years. Eric Rickerson will be taking his place. Because both Eric and Rian Hooff (DEQ) are new to the Council, it was decided that Sam Chan would be the 2010 Chair, Rian Hooff would be the 2011 Chair, and Eric would be the 2012 Chair. This means, of course, that Rian is the Vice-Chair in 2010 and Eric is the Vice-Chair in 2011. The Council will follow its normal rotation from that point forward. In addition, there will be a new Oregon Department of Forestry representative on the Council in 2010.