



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For release: May 19, 2008

Contact: OISC Coordinator Lisa A. DeBruyckere
Telephone: (503) 704-2884
Email: lisad@createstrat.com

PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT SET FOR JULY

SALEM, Oregon—One way to deal with the threat of invasive species to Oregon is to bring the best of the best together to strategize and develop solutions, according to the Oregon Invasive Species Council.

On Tuesday, July 22, 2008, the council is hosting a gathering of state and federal agency directors, legislators, and stakeholders contributing to invasive species efforts in Oregon to develop a shared understanding of the threat of invasive species to Oregon's natural resources, economy, and quality of life; develop cost-effective, focused, proactive, shared strategies and commitments that adequately fund and implement invasive species control and prevention efforts in Oregon; and develop a shared understanding of and support for legislative concepts for the 2009 legislative session that will provide Oregon with adequate legal protections from invasive species. The summit will be held in Salem, Oregon at the Northwest Viticulture Center.

“The time to act is now,” said Oregon Invasive Species Council Chair Mark Sytsma. “Other states that have lost or are losing the battle to invasive species are looking back and saying, ‘We wish we had done something sooner.’ Oregon needs sustainable long-term funding to monitor and manage invasive species, emergency funding to quickly and efficiently respond to new invasives, and legislation to adequately protect Oregon.”

Governor Kulongoski's office is supportive of the campaign and the summit. “This campaign truly represents the highest level of collaboration amongst government, nonprofit, and private entities in Oregon,” said Governor Ted Kulongoski. “This is an excellent example of what can happen when people work together to leverage resources to make a difference to Oregon's native fish and wildlife resources, economy, and quality of life. The summit represents the next critical step in protecting Oregon.”

The summit is part of “Stop the Invasion,” an overall statewide awareness and engagement invasive species campaign that is garnering national attention because of the unprecedented level of cooperation and collaboration among state, federal, and local agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, industry leaders, and the media.

Recent outcomes of the campaign include a one-hour documentary on invasive species produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting; a new website called <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org> for the public to report sightings and download photos of suspected invasive species; *GardenSmart Oregon: a Guide to Non-invasive Plants*, that identifies 25 of the most threatening invasive plants across Oregon and recommends non-invasive alternative plants for gardeners and landscapers; efforts by SOLV to coordinate weed pulls with 10,000 Oregonians; an ongoing monthly series on invasive species in the *Statesman Journal*; and pre- and post-campaign surveys to determine how much Oregonians know about invasive species, and what citizens can do to help prevent their spread.

Other participants in “Stop the Invasion” include The Nature Conservancy, the Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Agriculture, and Forestry, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Marine Board, Port of Portland, Bureau of Indian Affairs—Warm Springs, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SOLV, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Portland State University, many cooperative weed management areas and county weed boards, along with numerous citizens, corporations, private foundations, and organizations.

The mission of the Oregon Invasive Species Council is to conduct a coordinated and comprehensive effort to keep invasive species out of Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in Oregon.

###