



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For release: January 2, 2009

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL LAUNCHES ONLINE CALENDAR WITH TEACHER ACTIVITIES

SALEM, Oregon—A crab with mittens? In Oregon? Most hope it isn't so, but the Oregon Invasive Species Council is ramping up its efforts to spread the word to all Oregonians about this and other invasive species through their new online calendar.

The calendar, featured online at www.oregon.gov/OISC, includes a posting of an Invasive Species of the Month. Information about each species includes a physical description, where it is found, possible lookalike native species, and what should be done if the species is seen. In addition, Oregon teachers can benefit with species activities, an answer guide, and additional resources for further study and exploration. For example, in January, students can learn about the curious role of the “mittens” on the Chinese mitten crab, the definition of catadromous, a debate about eating this species of crab, and a “crab quest.”

Other features of the online calendar include a pest risk assessment for each species, so that Oregonians can understand the level of threat for species highlighted in the calendar. Potential for spread and establishment are rated as well as potential environmental, economic, and human health impacts.

And the calendar functions as a calendar of events for invasive species activities throughout the state, such as when gypsy moths hatch, when Japanese beetles are most commonly seen on plants, and when special invasive species events, such as weed pulls, are held.

Sure to be a favorite with students is the February Invasive Species of the Month—Rock Snot, which will be posted online the third week of February.

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.

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