



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For release: February 24, 2009

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL RECOGNIZES STATEWIDE CONTRIBUTIONS TO INVASIVE SPECIES EFFORTS

SALEM, Oregon—They say it takes a community to raise a child—the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) proved last week it also takes a community to fight invasive species. Hydrologists, students, agricultural specialists, cooperative weed management area staff, and county, city, state, and federal employees gathered with the Oregon Invasive Species Council for the annual awards luncheon.

Each year, the Oregon Invasive Species Council gives awards to people whose individual efforts protect Oregon's natural resources, economy, and quality of life from the devastating effects of invasive species.

“We had a great list of nominations and award winners this year,” said OISC Chair Brad Knotts. “When all of these individuals representing so many different organizations and regions of Oregon come together, it demonstrates how much is happening throughout Oregon to protect the state from invasive species.”

The 2008 award winners were recognized at a February 19 awards luncheon, which included guest speaker Dr. William Loges from Oregon State University, who discussed the relationship between the cost of sharing information and the quality of information—new media lower the costs of distributing information widely, and as a result people are less likely to think twice about distributing poor quality information—and the tendency for people to limit their information-seeking to sources that share their beliefs, attitudes and values.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council awarded the following:

The Eagle Eye Award is presented for reporting the most important sighting of an invasive species. The award was presented to Bureau of Indian Affairs contractor, Andy Gallagher, who

discovered an African rue infestation in Harney Co. in August of 2008. This is an A-rated (highest priority) weed previously known from only one site in Crook Co. This sighting spawned a multi-agency, multi-landowner eradication program designed to protect the state from a very serious weed that is toxic to livestock.

An Honorable Mention Eagle Eye Award was presented to Vanessa Howard and Dave Ambrose, who discovered a *Spartina* (cordgrass) infestation in Young's Bay during an aerial survey. Within a couple of weeks, the seed heads were clipped and the plants treated with an herbicide. This sighting and action serves as an excellent example of early detection, rapid response.

The Sandra Denyes Diedrich Award is given for making the most outstanding contribution to protecting Oregon from invasive species. It was presented to Dave Clemens for his lifelong commitment to invasive species efforts. Dave chaired the Baker County Weed Board and was a founding member and the first director of the Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), which covers Baker, Union and Wallowa counties. Dave coordinated effective management efforts among the three counties, forged agreements between county, state and federal agencies as well as corporate timber interests, testified to the state legislature; and educated and inspired many people to act on the belief that we will have a great positive impact if we are committed, diligent and persistent in weed control efforts. Dave was instrumental in creating the Canyonlands Partnership, a watershed-based CWMA that coordinates and implements weed control across jurisdictional boundaries, working in both sides of the Oregon-Washington border.

The 10 Fingers in the Dike Award is presented for going above and beyond the call of duty to keep new invaders out of Oregon. This year's recipient included Customs and Border Protection Agricultural specialists Chris Johnson, Nicole Brooks, Osvaldo Menegol, Mike Steinmann, Paul Taylor, Lance Miller, Olga Ramos, and Lynne Foster. This group exhibited increased diligence in Port of Entry inspections for Asian Gypsy Moth, and for action taken to protect Northwest forests from the potential introduction of an invasive defoliating pest. Oregon's Customs and Border Protection staff have higher than average inspection rate for packing materials, pallet and other misc. wood products than most other ports. This has resulted in numerous finds of high risk exotic wood boring pests that Oregon has been able to take action on to reduce the risk of spread.

Two 10 Fingers in the Dike Honorable Mention Awards were given. One was presented to Dave Loomis (Douglas County Public Works Department), Mikeal Jones (hydrologist, Umpqua National Forest), and Al Johnson (hydrologist, Willamette and Umpqua National Forests), who helped outfit three hot water pressure washers funded by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and Port of Portland. These washers will be used to clean boats infested with aquatic invasive species to prevent spread to water bodies in the state.

And the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services received honorable mention for their work on invasive species in the past year. The bureau has been a key partner in co-leading the development and overall production of the *GardenSmart Oregon* booklet, a full-color publication that informs gardeners of species that can be planted that are not invasive. In addition, the City of Portland is a regional leader within Oregon on invasive species issues, working to coordinate

invasive species efforts across multiple bureaus and departments in the city and Multnomah County.

The Invader Crusader Award is presented for making a difference in protecting Oregon from invasive species, and was given to students Megan McGinnis and Shannon Reiter, and their teacher Linda Wolf, for the production of an illustrated story on the impacts of aquatic invasive species.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2002. Its mission 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. Current members of the council hail from the Oregon Marine Board, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, DLF International, Inc., USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Gilliam County Weed Department, and Port of Portland. In addition, agency representatives include Center for Lakes and Reservoirs at Portland State University, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Sea Grant at Oregon State University, and Oregon Department of Agriculture.

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