



PRESS RELEASE

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New Council Members Needed to Help “Stop the Invasion”

The Oregon Invasive Species Council Seeks Nominations for Five Council Seats

SALEM, Oregon—Oregon’s clean water, wildlife habitats, and economy are threatened by invasive species—harmful organisms that are introduced into Oregon and are particularly adept at surviving and reproducing in their new environment. Difficult to control and eradicate, their presence can lead to economic and environmental harm. One study estimated the cost of invasives is more than \$140 billion a year nationally.

While all Oregonians have a role to play in protecting the state from the threats of invasive species, the Oregon Invasive Species Council coordinates efforts statewide. Since January 1, 2002, this group of volunteer professionals have facilitated communication, provided education, and fostered collaboration on tackling the problems of invasive species.

Each new arrival of an introduced species is a potential threat to the diverse tapestry of life that makes Oregon unique. Recognizing that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” the Council’s first priority is to prevent new introductions. Every year, the Council updates a list of the top 100 most dangerous invaders to keep out of the state and works with management agencies to interdict pathways of introduction. The Council’s second priority is to facilitate early detection of new, human-mediated introductions so that on-the-ground efforts to control and eradicate harmful species may be successful.

The Council is comprised of representatives from seven state agencies: Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University (Sea Grant), Portland State University (Center for Lakes and Reservoirs), Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State Marine Board, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Nine at-large members are appointed by the agency representatives. Council members are drawn from government agencies, universities, industries, organizations, and individuals with an interest and expertise in some aspect of invasive species management.



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Five of the at-large member seats will be open at the end of December. The Oregon Invasive Species Council is seeking nominations for these open seats.

Strong nominees will have expertise in one or more of the following areas: environmental law; marine and estuary ecology, including shellfish aquaculture; horticulture; weed control; small woodlands; parks and recreation; science education/K-12; pet industry; regional coordination; and seed or nursery industry. The council is particularly interested in nominees from Eastern and Central Oregon. Nominees should be willing and able to serve for two years. Council members are expected to attend three, 1.5-day meetings per year in various parts of the state, participate in conference calls, and contribute to other Council activities. There is a two-term limit. Council members are not paid, but are reimbursed for travel expenses when on Council business, including meetings.

“The benefit to participating on the Oregon Invasive Species Council is being involved in the important work of protecting Oregon’s economy and natural resources. Members gain an increased understanding of the damage caused by invasive species and help to design policies to minimize their harm,” says Mark Sytsma, current chair of the council. “We hope to be able to select members from a pool of nominees who have demonstrated the ability to think creatively about policy and support the implementation of plans that lead to the elimination, reduction, and mitigation of invasive species’ damage.”

Nominations and questions about the process should be directed to OISC Coordinator Carolyn Devine at c.m.devine@comcast.net. Please include the individual’s name, title, phone, fax, e-mail, and mailing address as well as a brief description of their qualifications (self nominations are acceptable). In addition, the Council requests a statement from the person being nominated that explains their interest and contributions they are willing to make to the Council. Letters of support for the nominee are helpful. The deadline for nominations is January 10, 2014. The council will welcome the new appointees at the February 24-25, 2014 meeting in Portland.

ABOUT THE OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

The Oregon Invasive Species Council is a group of representatives from state and public agencies, scientists, educators and members of the public who lead Oregon’s fight against invasive plants and animals. The Council collaborates with a wide group of people to spearhead initiatives that increase citizen understanding and involvement in protecting the state against future and current harmful, invasive species. Council activities include: an online reporting system for people to report suspected sightings of invasive species, information and outreach programs, policy development, and statewide and regional coordination of invasive species management. The council was created by the Oregon legislature in 2001 and receives funding through a variety of state, federal, and private donations.