

Oregon Invasive Species Council



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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Oregon's Grade Slipped to a B- in its Fight Against Invasive Species

The Oregon Invasive Species Council's Yearly Grade of the State

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SALEM, Oregon –

The report card from the Oregon Invasive Species Council assesses how the state is doing in its battle against unwanted invasive species. The report card evaluates the state's success at:

- keeping the 100 worst invaders from creating a home in Oregon
- maintaining a reporting system for invasive species
- outreach and education initiative
- the statewide action invasive species action plan
- administering the Council's trust account

In addition, the report card offers recommendations on how grades can be improved in each category.

“There are many individuals and groups who are working together to prevent new introductions of damaging, non-native species and to manage invasive species that are already here. This report card describes how we are doing collectively and provides suggestions for what we can do better in 2014” said Mark Sytsma, chair of the Council. “Unfortunately, our overall grade is down a bit from last year. We hope that with the rebound of the economy that the state can reinvest in the fight against invasive species.”

Keeping Invasive Species Out of Oregon Grade: A-

Survey and eradication programs against Japanese beetle, zebra mussel, giant hogweed, feral swine, and other species on the 100 Worst Invaders list continue. 9,524 gypsy moth traps were set resulting in detection of an infestation near Grants Pass. 7,441 boats were inspected, with a compliance rate of 72.8%. 289 boats were decontaminated due to invasive plants or animals (17 for quagga/zebra mussels). Since 2008, 477 feral swine have been removed in Central Oregon. Funding cuts threaten to undermine the effectiveness of taxpayer-funded invasive species programs. The grade could be improved next year by increasing the number of boats inspected and the number of other invasive species surveys conducted in the state; and by increasing efforts dealing with vectors of introduction.

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Reporting of Invasive Grade: B

The website <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/> and a hotline (1-866-INVADER) continue to function. This grade could be improved through an outreach campaign that leads to increased awareness and use of the hotline.

Outreach and Education Grade: B+

The “Squeal on Pigs” campaign resulted in several sightings. “Firewood: Buy it Where you Burn It” and the “Clean, Drain, and Dry your Boat” campaigns continued. OISC assistance helped the success of the “Eradication by Mastication” cook-off. The grade could be improved next year by expanding outreach campaigns and developing more regional collaborations.

Planning and Coordination Grade: D+

Planning and Coordination took a hit this year when the OISC’s budget was cut and the Coordinator’s contract expired. A new contract is in place and a new Coordinator is on board for 2014.

OVERALL Grade: B-

In spite of challenges related to budgets and OISC Coordinator staffing, Oregon managed to hold the line on the worst invasive species threats facing the state.

About the Oregon Invasive Species Council

www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org

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 the threat of invasive plants and animals. They collaborate with a wide group of people to spearhead initiatives to increase citizen understanding and involvement in protecting the state against the harms of invasive species. Activities of the council include: an online reporting system for people to report suspected sightings of invasive species, a variety of information and outreach programs, helping to craft related policies, and providing training to citizens and professionals on how to best support these efforts. The council was created by the Oregon legislature in 2001 and receives funding through a variety of state, federal and private donations.