



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon's 100 Worst Invaders

Updated List of Invasive Species that Pose a Threat to Oregon's Economy, Clean Water, and Natural Areas

SALEM, Oregon –

They can come, but they can't hide—not from all of us, anyway. The Oregon Invasive Species Council has updated the 100 Worst List for 2014, a list of 100 of the worst invasive species to keep out of Oregon this year. The list is updated and produced annually to promote a watchful eye on those invasive species capable of causing the greatest harm to Oregon's economy and natural resources.

The 100 Worst List includes some of the bad organisms already on other lists, such as the state noxious weed list and aquatic invaders in Oregon's Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan. Others come from information supplied by experts at Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Portland State University, and other groups and agencies. There was no shortage of input and it was difficult to whittle the list down to the top 100. The complete list can be found online at oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/100worst.

"The list could contain many more than 100 species," says Council Chair Mark Sytsma. "When we discuss which species to include, we take in to account a variety of factors, such as the risk to human health, the likelihood that the invader will cause significant economic loss and ecological damage in Oregon, and whether the species has been invasive elsewhere."

Some of the species listed have been found in Oregon but are not fully established and are considered eradicable. If a species becomes established in Oregon, or becomes so widespread that eradication is no longer possible, it is removed from the list. This year one invader was added back to the list after being taken off previously. In 2012, the



Council removed the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death because it had become established in Curry County, and eradication is no longer possible. However, other damaging strains of this pathogen are showing up in nurseries and natural areas across the world. Each strain behaves differently and utilizes different hosts. The Council placed the pathogen back on the list because it is essential to remain vigilant for these additional strains.

Various agencies have direct responsibility for prevention, monitoring and responding to threats caused by the species on the 100 Worst List. For example, Oregon Department of Agriculture deals with weeds and insect pests, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality manages the ballast water program aimed at preventing introduction of marine organisms via shipping, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife manages animal invaders. The Invasive Species Council coordinates these activities and keeps a focus on prevention of new introductions to the state and outreach to the public. Working together and focusing on exclusion is the best way to manage invasive species.

The more Oregonians are aware of invasive species, the more likely we are to prevent their introduction, find them soon if they are introduced, and control or eradicate them in the most cost-effective way.

A special Invasive Species Hotline (1-866-INVADER) receives calls from Oregonians who see species they think don't belong. As the 100 worst potential invaders are publicized, officials expect even more action on the hotline.

About the Oregon Invasive Species Council

www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org

The Oregon Invasive Species Council includes representatives from state and federal agencies, scientists, educators and members of the public. The Council leads Oregon's efforts to prevent and manage invasive species and works with a variety of organizations and individuals on initiatives to increase citizen understanding and involvement in protecting the state against the harmful, invasive species. Activities of the council include an online reporting system for people to report suspected sightings of invasive species; information and outreach programs; helping to craft invasive species 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.