

NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Invasive Species Council selects a new Coordinator

The Oregon Invasive Species Council has selected the emerging Oregon firm, Samara Group LLC to coordinate efforts between the state agencies, organizations, and scientists who are working hard to protect the state from invasive species. The coordinator's contract was awarded based on a competitive selection process led by a committee of Council members and concluded in May 2015.

Samara Group was founded by two local environmental businesses Tall Oaks Environmental Research and Littlejohn Environmental Assessment & Planning. Samara group is based on a whole systems approach that integrates rigorous, research-based science with powerful communications and inclusive community building.

Samara Group has identified an experienced and dynamic team to coordinate with the Council including Jalene Littlejohn who specializes in collaborative environmental projects as Lead Coordinator; Leslie Bliss-Ketchum, an experienced wildlife ecologist as Assistant Coordinator; Christian Parker who specializes in internet and ecological data systems as Web & Data Coordinator; and a subcontract with Brian Turner, a doctoral candidate focusing on invasive species management as Outreach & Communications Specialist.

"Samara Group is thrilled to work with Oregon Invasive Species Council members to facilitate communication and collaboration between their efforts," said Assistant Coordinator, Leslie Bliss-Ketchum "Council members work diligently to protect our beautiful state's natural, agricultural and economic resources from invasive species."

Together, Samara's team will provide coordination services to promote cooperation, coordination, and communication among government agencies, tribal governments, industry, nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, landowners, and educational institutions relative to invasive species management and early detection activities in Oregon and with regional partners.

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: the [Annual Oregon Invasive Species Report Card](#), [Top 100 Worst Invasive Species List](#), in addition to support of [popular invasive species educational campaigns that promote a collective knowledge of how to protect Oregon](#), online reporting system for people to report suspected sightings of invasive species, and a variety of information and outreach programs. The council was created by the Oregon legislature in 2001 and receives funding through a variety of state, federal and private donations.