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OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL WELCOMES MANY NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, EXPANDS CAPACITY

The Oregon Invasive Species Council has greatly expanded to better represent the diversity of geographic regions and industries and natural resources key to Oregon. Invasive species pose a serious threat to the economy, infrastructure, and food & water systems, and can impact outdoor recreation opportunities and tourism. The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) is a group of state and public agencies, tribes, scientists, land managers, industry leaders, educators, and members of the public that provides leadership and coordination in the collaborative effort to protect Oregon from invasive species.

The Council broadened, increasing its ability to successfully thwart invasive species, following passage of Senate Bill 445 (sponsored by Senator Roblan), in the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session. The bill diversifies member representation to enhance communication among local, state, and federal efforts and to advance invasive species coordination efforts throughout the state. Consistent with this new expanded structure, eight new voting Council members were selected in December 2019 from a pool of diverse and qualified nominations for an upcoming two-year term (2020-2021), following an annual request for nominations to fill available seats. Council members are drawn from agencies, tribes, universities, industries, organizations, and the public with an interest and expertise in some aspect of invasive species management. Additionally, this year new ex-officio (not term-limited) member organizations and their representatives were added from various levels of government to fill out the OISC's new structure per revised statute. These include:

- Oregon State Parks (represented by Noel Bacheller, Botanist/Natural Resource Coordinator)
- State Legislature:
 - House of Representatives (represented by Representative David Brock Smith, District 1)
 - Senate (represented by Senator Arnie Roblan, District 5)
- Oregon Governor's Office (represented by Amira Streeeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor)

- U.S. Federal Agencies from Department of Interior, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Department of Agriculture:
 - Bureau of Land Management (represented by Erin McConnell, Oregon & Washington Invasive Species Program Coordinator)
 - Bureau of Reclamation (represented by Heidi McMaster, Regional Hazmat & IPM Coordinator)
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (represented by Brendan White, Conservation Partnerships Division Manager)
 - U.S. Customs & Border Protection - Agricultural Inspection (represented by Nicole Brooks, Agricultural Specialist)
 - Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (represented by Meg Raabe, Pest Survey Specialist)
 - U.S. Forest Service (represented by Karen Ripley, Forest Entomologist/Forest Health Monitoring Coordinator)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (represented by Kathy Pendergrass, Oregon Plant Material Specialist)

In addition to these ex-officio appointments, the OISC welcomes the following new appointed members:

Troy Abercrombie, Coordinator of Western Invasives Network

1st term on the Council

Troy currently serves as the Coordinator for the Western Invasives Network (WIN), a network of 11 Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) that encompass 21 counties in western Oregon and southwest Washington. In this role, Troy facilitates and assists with the coordination of the CWMAs and their associated activities while serving as a resource to their membership, providing support for project development, partner recruitment, and community engagement. Troy represents an entity with a headquarters or principal operations in Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln or Tillamook Counties and with a purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.

Jas. Adams, Public Member

2nd term on the Council

Jas. developed a particular interest in invasive species issues while advising the OISC in the role of Attorney-in-Charge of the Natural Resources Section at Oregon DOJ (2007-14). His work on invasive species has included conceiving and crafting 2011 legislation making it mandatory for all boats being transported on roads to stop at check stations and be inspected for aquatic invasive species or be subject to civil penalties. This is his second term on the Council. During his first term on the Council (2015-2016), Jas. helped develop the 2017

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Oregon Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species by serving as committee chair and chief editor. Jas. is serving on the Council as a member of the public.

Peter Kenagy, Farmer at Kenagy Family Farms & Regional Representative of the Oregon Farm Bureau

1st term on the Council

As a lifelong resident, farmer, and manager of 450 acres along the Willamette River in Benton County, Peter has seen firsthand the shifts in vegetation and pressures of invasive weeds both on agricultural lands and natural areas over the last 45 years. He is the Region 10 (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln County) regional representative on the state Farm Bureau Board and has been part of the Benton County CWMA since its inception. Peter has a unique and broad perspective on the issues and challenges that invasives present for both our natural areas and working lands. Peter represents an organization or association that advocates on behalf of private industry in this state.

Tim Newton, Chair of Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District

1st term on the Council

Tim is the current Chairman of the Malheur County SWCD and has 50 years of experience working in agriculture with progressive irrigation and water conservation techniques. In his role, he works with producers and landowners in Malheur County to address invasive species issues. Currently, they have 6 on-the-ground projects that deal with invasive species. Tim represents an entity with a headquarters or principal operations in Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Klamath, Lake or Malheur Counties and with a purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.

Dave Pranger, Weed Coordinator/Inspector in Morrow County

2nd term on the Council

For nearly 30 years, Dave has been the Morrow County Weed Coordinator. He is also a board member and past President of Oregon Vegetation Management Association. This is Dave's second term on the Council. During his first term on the Council, Dave was an active participant in Council meetings and serves as the Chair of the OISC's Eastern Oregon Working Group, which he helped form. Dave represents an entity with a headquarters or principal operations in Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco or Wheeler Counties and with a purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.

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Cheryl Shippentower, Plant Ecologist at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

1st term on the Council

Cheryl is a Plant Ecologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Department of Natural Resources. In this role, her primary responsibility is the protection, enhancement, and ecological restoration of First Foods that are critical to Tribal culture. Because invasive species impact ecosystems that support First Foods, invasive species management is a major component of her work. Cheryl represents a Native American or Indian tribe or association of tribes within this state.

Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Oregon State Representative, District 17

1st term on the Council

Sherrie has served in the Oregon House of Representatives since 2008. During that time she has been a member and Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, which frequently deals with invasive species issues. During her service in the Legislature and on the natural resources committee, she has become familiar with a host of issues relevant to the Council, ranging from wildlife management and conservation, to K-12 education, to parks and recreation. Representative Sprenger represents an entity with a headquarters or principal operations in Benton, Lane, Linn, Marion or Polk Counties and with a purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.

Alex Stauch, Operations Manager/Project Manager at Mosaic Ecology

1st term on the Council

Alex is an Operations Manager/Project Manager at Mosaic Ecology, a private habitat restoration contracting and consulting firm based in Portland, OR. In this role, Alex manages a diverse portfolio of monitoring, surveying, and mapping projects and he uses his background in taxonomy and plant systematics to identify rare natives and new non-natives on the ground. He also manages on-going wetland restoration projects in the Willamette Valley and leads terrestrial restoration efforts in the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area. Alex represents an entity with a headquarters or principal operations in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington or Yamhill Counties and with a purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.

The Council now includes 28 members altogether. Dr. Catherine de Rivera will serve as the Oregon Invasive Species Council Chair for 2020. Catherine is a Professor of Environmental Science & Management at Portland State University, and represents the Portland State University Center for Lakes & Reservoirs on the Council. Wyatt Williams, an Invasive Species Specialist from the Oregon Department of Forestry, will serve as Vice-Chair.

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About the Oregon Invasive Species Council

The [Oregon Invasive Species Council's](#) mission is to protect Oregon's natural resources and economy by planning and leading a coordinated and comprehensive effort among state and public agencies, tribes, scientists, land managers, industry leaders, educators, and members of the public. The [Oregon's Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species](#) was adopted in 2017 and outlines strategies to achieve the following objectives: 1) Prevention; 2) Early Detection & Rapid Response; 3) Control & Management; 4) Education & Outreach; and 5) Coordination & Leadership.

The full list of Oregon Invasive Species Council Members can be found here:
<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/council>