



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Invasive species impact Oregon's infrastructure, economy, and natural resources that Oregonians hold dear. Public and private partnerships are essential to strategically tackle invasive species.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) acts as a catalyst to provide leadership and support collaborative efforts to protect Oregon from invasive species across the network of its members representing state and public agencies, tribes, scientists, land managers, industry leaders, educators, and members of the public.

By working together to address invasive species challenges, we will:

PROTECT OREGON'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMY

Invasive species pose a serious statewide threat to Oregon's economy, infrastructure, food and water systems, and environment. They have been known to impact agriculture, forestry, hydropower, water delivery systems, outdoor recreation opportunities, and tourism.

KEEP OREGON'S PEOPLE AND PLACES HEALTHY

Invasive species can jeopardize public health and transform ecosystems, resulting in widespread economic and environmental harm. Out of control invasive pests can lead to increased pesticide use and associated concerns affecting people and the environment.

SAVE MONEY THROUGH PREVENTION

Global trade and transportation accelerate the risk of introduction of new invasive species. By tackling pathways of introduction, we can prevent entry and avoid costly containment.

COLLABORATION MAKES INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION POSSIBLE

Invasive species infestations have wide-reaching consequences. Prevention or eradication of invasive species is possible when there are adequate resources to work across organizations, sectors, and regions to achieve early detection and rapidly respond. The OISC provides a forum for communication and coordination to advance collaborative efforts such as these:

PROTECTING THE COLUMBIA RIVER FROM NORTHERN PIKE & FLOWERING RUSH

Northern pike are carnivorous fish invasive to the Pacific Northwest. They are not yet found in the salmon-migrating portions of the Columbia Basin of Oregon, but if Northern Pike are established in the habitats of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River, there will be cascading detrimental consequences.

Within the **Columbia River Basin**, the potential economic and environmental impacts of Northern pike threaten the environment and economy associated with anadromous salmon and steelhead. These voracious fish pose risks to meeting mitigation license requirements for the hydropower system, will affect fish abundance and harvests for tribal, commercial, and sport fisheries, and pose threats to the recovery of threatened or endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, and orca.

Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife are working closely with Washington state agencies, tribes, federal agencies, and other partners to implement early detection efforts for Northern pike and also for aquatic plants like flowering rush that provide habitat and cover for Northern pike, increasing their negative consequences.



OREGON FOREST PEST DETECTORS

Oregon's forests and agriculture are vulnerable to potential new invasive pests. The Oregon Forest Pest Detector (OFPD) program, developed by **Oregon State University & Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)** and funded by **U.S. Department of Agriculture**, has trained over **500 professionals** as "First Detectors" to detect emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetles, and other exotic forest insects when eradication is still feasible. OFPD graduates working in the field use the Oregon Invasives Online Hotline, a product of the **Oregon Invasive Species Council and Portland State University**, to record an image, GPS points, and details of possible invasive species using their smart device.

In 2019, two graduates of the OFPD independently submitted reports to the state's invasive species hotline of suspicious exotic insect damage to native twinberry plants in Portland. ODF Forest Health staff, alongside partners with the **Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)**, responded to the reports and identified an exotic woodborer, *Agrilus cyanescens*, previously unknown to the Pacific Northwest. ODF is assisting ODA and other partners in monitoring and outreach of this discovery.



PUTTING OREGON'S STATEWIDE INVASIVE SPECIES STRATEGIC PLAN TO ACTION

While there is no central authority for the management of invasive species, there are many agencies & organizations actively working to protect Oregon from invasive species. Below is a snapshot of the impressive work carried out by on-the-ground invasive species managers.

Nearly

27,000 boats inspected



at **6 stations** located at entry points around the state. **HIGHLY INVASIVE QUAGGA OR ZEBRA MUSSELS WERE INTERCEPTED ON 16 OF THOSE WATERCRAFT** and **383 other forms of bio-fouling organisms** were kept out of our waters.

(Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Oregon State Marine Board)

95% of landowners



within the Japanese beetle treatment area consented to treatment.

THIS INCLUDED:

8,500 residences,
6 schools,
8 parks,
3 shopping centers, &
1 golf course.

Compared to the previous year, there was a **65% reduction**

in the number of beetles trapped within the **2018 treatment boundary.**

(Oregon Department of Agriculture, Metro, WA County, Oregon DEQ, and many more supporting organizations)

Oregon's Invasive Species Hotline received

276 reports

including **139 regulated species reports.**

(Portland State University, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Western Invasives Network, and many expert invasive species managers responding to reports)

The Pacific Northwest Garlic Mustard Working Group held its 5th annual meeting bringing together



35 collaborators

 from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, BC, and Alberta

THE WORKING GROUP ENHANCES COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF GARLIC MUSTARD IMPACTS AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS.

Oregon's Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) continued their efforts to manage invasive plants across the state.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019 INCLUDED:

- 4-County CWMA had **173 attendees** at their annual events
- Columbia Gorge CWMA connected with **1560 members of the public** during a tabling event
- Jackson/Josephine CWMA treated more than **27 acres** of noxious weeds during multiple events

OUTREACH

- Appointed 8 council members representing private industry, the public, and 6 regions of the state in response to revised statute.
- Supported outreach for events, including the 2019 USDA Forest Service Region 6 Technical Meeting, CONNECT 2019, and the Oregon Vegetation Management Association 2019 Conference.
- Formally engaged with hundreds of stakeholders including landowners, industries, agencies, NGOs, and elected officials and their staff from all corners of the state regarding invasive species threats to agriculture, forestry, and biodiversity. This included an information forum and field trips in the vicinity of Boardman, OR to share information, combine resources, and help build partnerships. OISC information forums averaged 50+ attendees across agencies, disciplines, and backgrounds.
- Expanded OISC's communication efforts with participants in the large and diverse invasive species network in Oregon.

PLANNING

- Established a Strategic Plan Update Working Group to update the Statewide Action Plan (2017-2019) that prioritizes the implementation measures that are designed to: 1) enable NGOs and local governments to prioritize invasive species projects where they are most needed and 2) to assess the progress towards meeting the state's objectives since implementation of the plan.
- Coordinated with other state invasive species councils across the western U.S. with the goal of strengthening regional strategies to maximize the efficacy of early detection and rapid response efforts and prevent further spread of the most harmful invasive species within Oregon.

EDUCATION

- Collaborated with students from Portland State University to create an interactive story map to illustrate the ways that destructive invasive species threaten Oregon's economy and native biodiversity.
- Highlighted emerging invasive species threats and strategic opportunities for prevention and control with newly elected county officials.

DETECTION

- Maintained Oregon's Invasive Species Hotlines, including the Squeal on Pigs Hotline serving OR, WA & ID.

GRANTS

- Developed Oregon's first statewide invasive species outreach & education grants program.
- Budgeted additional funds for the Invasive Species Emergency Control Account.

