



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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.

OISC 2020 ACTIVITIES

The duties of the OISC are defined in ORS 570.755 to include conducting educational meetings, producing educational materials, encouraging the reporting of invasive species, developing a statewide plan, and providing grants/loans. Below is a summary of activities that took place in 2020 to fulfill these duties:

PLANNING

Created the following cross-agency Committees & Working Groups in 2020:

- Awards Committee: created to support planning and coordination of the Awards ceremony for those demonstrating excellence and going above and beyond in their efforts to protect Oregon from the impacts of invasive species.
- Worst Invaders Working Group: created to support enhancing and expanding Oregon's 'Invasive Species Information Hub' resource.

EDUCATION

- Restructured the OISC website to be more user-friendly, including creating an invasive species resources archive and adding a post-fire resources webpage.
- Collaborated with students from Portland State University on 8 invasive species projects that involved researching and visualizing the impacts of invasive species on people and places in Oregon.

DETECTION

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

NEXT STEPS

The COVID-19 Pandemic and historic wildfire events impacted operations across Oregon, but the resilience of our dedicated members and supporters has not dimmed. The OISC remains committed to supporting Oregon's invasive species network of organizations, programs, and people tackling invasive species issues. We are exploring creative solutions from all partners to support education, outreach, and early detection projects and working to enhance communications about the impacts of invasive species.

OUTREACH

- Enhanced the communication network, including among expanded OISC membership which took effect January 1, 2020.
- Formally engaged with hundreds of stakeholders including landowners, industries, agencies, NGOs, and elected officials and their staffs from all corners of the state regarding invasive species threats. This included one in-person forum in Salem, OR on January 28, 2020 to share information, leverage resources, and build partnerships to address critical invasive species issues. Due to COVID-19, all other meetings in 2020 were held virtually, including 5 business meetings.

GRANTS

- In January 2020, the OISC received 35 applications in response to Oregon's first Outreach & Education grants program for invasive species. Funding requests totaled more than \$450,000, demonstrating the need for more invasive species education and outreach efforts. While OISC members selected potential grant recipients with a potential expenditure of approximately \$100,000, the grant program was unfortunately suspended due to COVID-19 reallocation of state funds.

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.

POST-WILDFIRE INVASIVE PLANT EVALUATION

In 2020, twenty-one wildfires in Oregon exceeded 1,000 acres with many affecting multiple landownerships. Organizations that volunteered to lead post-fire invasive plant evaluations included: Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Marion Soil & Water Conservation District, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Cascade Environmental Group, and Western Invasives Network. Their activities included: evaluate fire impacts on vegetation and plant communities; assess potential impacts on threatened, endangered, and rare plants; and recommend invasive control, restoration and monitoring activities to be undertaken by public and private partners.

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.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

As part of the Fender's blue butterfly habitat restoration work at Hagg Lake, over

30 acres

were sprayed for the removal of Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and Canada thistle. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)



EASTERN OREGON

Eradication efforts for Turkish thistle took place at

5 new sites

and 3 acres were treated in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. (U.S. Forest Service)



STATEWIDE

The Oregon Invasive Species Hotline received

405 reports

including 250 regulated species reports.

(Portland State University, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Western Invasives Network, and more)

STATEWIDE

To detect new areas of Sudden Oak Death

220,000 acres

of high-resolution aerial imagery were examined to detect dead tanoak trees. (U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry)

STATEWIDE

To detect *Lymantria dispar* moths

21,463 detection traps

were placed. Two European moths (*L. dispar dispar*) and one Asian moth (*L. dispar asiatica*) were collected in the 2020 season.

(Oregon Department of Agriculture)

STATEWIDE

23,044 boats inspected

at 5 stations located around the state's border. QUAGGA or ZEBRA MUSSELS were intercepted on 12 watercraft. Other types of aquatic bio-fouling were found on 264 watercraft. (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and Oregon State Marine Board)