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## **OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL WELCOMES THREE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021**

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 who provide leadership and coordination in the collaborative effort to protect Oregon from invasive species. Each year, the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) sends out a request for nominations to fill available appointed member seats. Council members are drawn from government agencies, tribes, universities, industries, organizations, and the public with an interest and expertise in some aspect of invasive species management. Two new Council members were selected to serve on the Council for a two year term (2021-2022) and a new representative of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will also be joining the OISC as an ex-officio member.

In addition to the new council members, Rick Boatner (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) will serve as the OISC Chair for 2021 and Troy Abercrombie (Western Invasives Network & North Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area) will serve as the 2021 Vice Chair.

The OISC welcomes the following new members:

### **Eugene Wier, The Freshwater Trust**

*1st term on the Council*

In his role as Restoration Project Manager, Eugene manages riparian restoration projects in the Rogue River Basin for the Freshwater Trust. He is also one of the founders and is the current Board Chair of the Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP), a non-profit organization built to help coordinate and accelerate the pace of restoration efforts across the basin. As a longtime practitioner and advocate of invasive species management, he has learned first-hand about the impacts of invasive species through his experience in helping manage everything from feral pigs and goats to insects and plants. Eugene represents an organization or association with the purpose of advocating environmental stewardship.

**Christine Moffitt, Friends of South Slough Reserve**

*2nd term on the Council*

Dr. Christine Moffitt has extensive experience in aquatic resources. After retiring from a long career as an educator and researcher at the University of Idaho and with the USGS, she moved to the Southern Oregon Coast, where she is actively engaged in Oregon Coastal issues and presently serves on several boards and councils, including the Oregon Sea Grant Advisory Council, the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, and the Friends of South Slough NEER. Friends of South Slough Reserve supports protection and stewardship of estuaries by being a trusted voice on estuary policy and enhancing the work of South Slough Reserve and has three priority focus areas: climate change, estuary habitat restoration, and invasive species. Christine is also a Fellow of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and remains very active at all levels with AFS activities.

This is her second term on the Council. During her first term on the Council (2019-2020), Christine played an active role on the Governance, Education & Outreach, and Legislative Committees. In 2021, she will serve as co-chair of the OISC Legislative Committee. Christine represents an entity with a headquarters or principal operations in Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson or Josephine Counties and with a purpose of responding to invasive species concerns.

**Josh Emerson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**

*Ex-Officio (permanent seat)*

Josh is the Ballast Water Program Coordinator and Invasive Species Coordinator at Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). In this role, Josh monitors, evaluates, and enforces Oregon’s ballast water regulations in order to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species to Oregon waters by commercial shipping. Prior to officially joining the Council, Josh served as the designated alternate member for the ODEQ seat on the OISC in 2020 and has been an active member of the working group adapting the OISC’s Worst Invaders List.

## 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>