



The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

tel 503 802-8100

fax 503 802-8199

nature.org/oregon

October 31, 2006

Stephen Hobbs
Chair, Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Mr. Stephen Hobbs,

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon is pleased to learn of the Oregon Department of Forestry's efforts to address invasive plants on forest lands. We wish to express our complete support of ODF's desire to develop an Early Detection and Rapid Response strategy and are happy to serve as a resource, partner, and collaborator in your efforts

The Nature Conservancy has long recognized the threat invasive species pose to the environment, economy, livelihood, and human-health of the Pacific Northwest. We are focusing resources on this issue by actively participating on the Oregon Invasive Species Council, working closely with Oregon Department of Agriculture to develop and implement the Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan, developing and supporting Cooperative Weed Management Areas across the state, and developing an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) network.

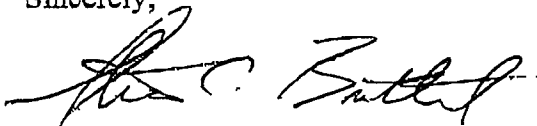
It is broadly accepted that one of the most successful and cost effective strategies for invasive species management is EDRR. The overall goal of an Early Detection and Rapid Response program is to minimize the establishment and spread of new species by locating and eradicating new infestations before they have time to become established. The Nature Conservancy is currently working to develop an EDRR program in Oregon that will provide a long-term, coordinated framework for public and private partners at the local-scale to effectively address new populations of invasive and potentially invasive plants. Once successful, we hope to expand the program to the state level with cooperation from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Key to the success of a state-wide EDRR program is collaboration among all land management organizations and agencies. We hope ODF will be a key partner in this development process.

We anticipate that the most cost-efficient approach to enhancing EDRR capacity in an agency will be to integrate EDRR protocols into existing programs and work plans, rather than initiating entirely new programs. We also believe that a successful state-scale EDRR program will depend on a network of local (agency and site-level) Early Detection and Rapid Response programs sharing knowledge and information.

As you consider options for addressing invasive plants on lands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry, we encourage you to incorporate Early Detection and Rapid Response strategies into your on-going programs and participate in a state-wide EDRR network. Indeed, ODF participation in a state-wide EDRR network will be invaluable as you are poised to detect many new invaders. The Nature Conservancy is happy to serve as a collaborator and resource as you work to abate the threat of invasive plants in forest systems.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Buttrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "B".

Steven Buttrick, Ph.D.
Director of Science and Planning
The Nature Conservancy in Oregon