

May 13, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Bierly, Deputy Director

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item M: Oregon Invasive Species Council Presentation
June 2-3, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report summarizes the OWEB involvement in invasive species issues as background and context for a presentation by the Oregon Invasive Species Council. This is an information item, no Board action is requested.

II. Background

Funding to control exotic invasive and native invasive species has received significant funding from Measure 66 funds both through legislative appropriation and through our regular grant program. The issue of OWEB's role in invasive species management has been discussed since the establishment of the agency in 1999. The Board held a joint meeting with the Board of Agriculture in September of 2000 where they discussed invasive species control. In March of 2001 the Board discussed Noxious Weed Control issues with the Department of Agriculture.

III. Legislative Appropriation

The Oregon Legislature has appropriated Measure 66 funds to the Department of Agriculture for noxious weed and insect pest control since 2001. A total of \$9.7 million from Measure 66 funds has been invested in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Control Program over this time period. ODA staff work closely with the Oregon State Weed Board to prioritize weed control projects and award noxious weed control grants that protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and watersheds overall.

Since July 1, 2003, \$4.8 million from Measure 66 funds has been invested in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Insect Pest Control and Prevention Program. These funds are used for invertebrate plant pest eradication and control projects that protect and enhance watersheds, fish and wildlife habitat and/or water quality in Oregon from gypsy moth, Japanese beetle, Asian longhorned beetle, and many other harmful and invasive pests.

IV. OWEB Grant Funding for Invasive Control

OWEB grants funds for projects that involve weed control during each grant cycle. The majority of OWEB grants involving weed control are for stream, riparian, and upland restoration projects where the noxious weed treatments were one component of a larger project. Most weed treatment included replanting or reseeding of native vegetation after weed removal.

Twenty-one percent of the weed control restoration projects were strictly weed control or eradication projects, without other restoration activities or revegetation. Most of these projects were funded through the Small Grant Program.

OWEB-funded weed treatments also tended to be larger scale watershed restoration efforts, including the treatment of multiple systems (not just weeds) over a landscape, often with whole watershed benefits. The total OWEB investment in weed control since July 1, 1999, is approximately \$22.7 million. Beyond exotic species, OWEB has invested an additional \$2.8 million in juniper removal projects.

OWEB has also invested in invasive awareness and project development, including \$178,000 for education projects and \$77,000 for technical assistance projects.

V. Oregon Invasive Species Council

The Oregon Invasive Species Council was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2001 (ORS 561.685). The council is charged to: 1) create and publicize a system for reporting sightings of invasive species; 2) undertake educational activities to raise awareness of invasive species issues; 3) develop a statewide action plan (completed in 2005); and 4) administer a trust fund account to fund eradication. The Council is composed of five ex-officio members representing the Oregon Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon and Portland State Universities. These five members appoint eight members from the community who are knowledgeable and involved in invasive species issues.

In 2008 the Oregon Invasive Species Council held a “summit” on invasive species. The summit was organized to identify needs and recommend approaches to address exotic invasive species in Oregon. The report to the Governor and the Legislature identified many issues that they suggest be addressed. The Executive Summary is attached to this staff report. (Attachment A) Copies of the full report will be available at the Board meeting. Council members will present their recommendations to the Board.

Attachment

- A. Executive Summary, 2008 Oregon Invasive Species Council Statewide Summit