



OISC

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

## 2011 Report Card on Oregon’s Invasive Species Activities

This report card provides an assessment of invasive species activities in Oregon in 2011 by the Oregon Invasive Species Council. For additional information about the council, including 2011 meeting minutes, a list of the top 100 most dangerous species threatening to invade the state, the council’s business plan, a list of current council members, awards, reports, news, and events, visit the OISC website at [www.oregon.gov/OISC](http://www.oregon.gov/OISC).

<b>Executive Summary</b>
<b>OVERALL GRADE FOR 2011: B+</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>(I) Reporting Invasive Species</b></li> <li><b>(II) Outreach and Education</b></li> <li><b>(III) Statewide Action Plan</b></li> <li><b>(IV) Trust Account</b></li> <li><b>(V) Success at Preventing the Establishment of Invasive Species in Oregon</b></li> </ul>

<b>(I) Reporting Invasive Species</b>
<b>Grade: A-</b>
<p>The Oregon Invasive Species Council manages <a href="http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org">www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org</a>, a website in which people can report suspected invasive species. In 2011, there were 190 reports to the website hotline. In addition, the Oregon Department of Agriculture maintains a 1-866-INVADER phone line for the public to report suspected invasives.</p> <p>The Council contracted with the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center to manage iMapInvasives for the State of Oregon.</p> <p><b>To maintain the grade in 2012:</b> Integration of the phone line at the Oregon Department of Agriculture with the website hotline to ensure each report of an invasive species is documented, at least to the category level, will provide excellent trend information and data by which future decisions about managing reports can be made.</p>

<b>(II) Outreach and Education</b>
<b>Grade: A</b>
<p>Oregon, Idaho and Washington participated in a tri-state campaign to improve awareness of firewood as a pathway for the introduction of invasive pests and diseases. The campaign included pre- and post-awareness surveys, billboards, posters, backlit displays at all but one Oregon highway rest stop, giveaways at State Parks, and other activities. Presentations on the Pacific Northwest approach to firewood were given at both the National Invasive Species Council and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meetings. Oregon developed a smartphone application for firewood that every state in the nation can use.</p> <p>Oregon was represented at National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Washington, DC.</p> <p>An Invasive Species Awareness Day was hosted at the Capitol during the legislative session.</p> <p>The Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit hosted its first invasive species conference in Portland, Oregon and set the stage for future annual invasive species conferences.</p> <p>The Oregon State Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife implemented the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Aquatic Invasive Species permit program, which included watercraft inspection stations and decontamination washes in locations throughout Oregon. Inspection teams conducted 3,600 inspections and intercepted six boats with zebra/quagga mussels; three were from Lake Michigan, one was from Lake Mead, one was from Lake Havasu, and one was a sailboat from the East Coast.</p>

A National Sea Grant-funded project was launched to explore regulatory and outreach strategies for aquatic invasive species in Oregon.

Washington's protocols for aquatic invasive species were reviewed and revised, and Oregon Sea Grant developed outreach materials to convey important elements of those protocols.

Oregon hosted an EDRR summit.

Winchester and Coos Bay communities began to address management of invasive tunicates in their bays through outreach and education activities and other actions.

**To maintain the grade in 2012:** Develop a regional action plan through PNWER.

All natural resource agencies in Oregon will use and implement ANS protocols.

Rulemaking for the new firewood regulation and the Adopt-A-River legislation will be finalized.

### (III) Statewide Business Plan/Action Plan

**Grade: A-**

The Oregon Legislature passed the following pieces of legislation in 2011:

- House Bill 2122 prohibits importation into Oregon of firewood harvested from outside the Pacific Northwest unless the wood has been treated and is pest free.
- House Bill 3157 permits removal of invasive species under the Oregon Adopt-a-River Program.
- Senate Bill 81 requires DEQ to collect fees for trips by vessels regulated under ballast water statutes. Establishes Ballast Water Fund.
- House Bill 3358 requires State Department of Agriculture to establish a program for issuing grants to counties for noxious weed control.
- House Bill 3399 authorizes the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Marine Board and State Department of Agriculture to require person to stop and submit recreational or commercial watercraft to inspection for aquatic invasive species at roadside inspection stations.

Oregon launched an effort to develop a statewide strategic plan.

**To improve the grade in 2012:** Develop a statewide invasive species strategic plan for Oregon and support invasive species legislative priorities for the 2012 legislative session.

### (IV) Trust Account

**Grade: B**

The Invasive Species Control Account currently has \$347,932.

In addition, organizations throughout Oregon contributed the following toward Council-initiated activities in 2011: raised \$326,888 in 2011 for specific projects, including:

- EDRR summit - \$10,400
- OISC Coordination - \$78,000
- OISC operations - \$10,000
- Report-A-Pig - \$40,000
- National Sea Grant Project - \$45,000

In addition, numerous entities throughout Oregon spent millions of dollars on all elements of invasive species management, control, surveillance, and outreach.

**To improve the grade in 2012:** Develop ways to secure \$5 million for the Invasive Species Control Account, follow through on existing grant applications, seek opportunities to leverage additional funds, and leverage funding to raise \$250,000 for feral swine eradication.

## (V) Success at Preventing the Establishment of Invasive Species in Oregon in 2011

### Grade: B-

The council develops and annually updates a list of the 100 most dangerous invaders threatening Oregon. This category assesses success or failure at exclusion of these species in Oregon in 2011. Two plants and one disease on the 100 Worst List became established in Oregon during 2011.

Oregon lost the battle against two key invasive species in 2010—Sudden Oak Death and two hawkweed species. Lack of secure and consistent funding was responsible for losing the battle against Sudden Oak Death. During years of stable funding, Oregon was able to contain Sudden Oak Death and prevent its spread, but years of poor funding allowed the disease to spread. The size of the current infestation makes eradication impossible so the official strategy now focuses on slowing disease spread. Land managers have moved from eradication to containment mode on meadow hawkweed in eastern Oregon and orange hawkweed in Deschutes County.

Control programs for infestations of several plants (African rue, Patterson's curse, distaff thistle, giant hogweed, and kudzu) showed continued success toward the goal of eventual eradication.

**To improve the grade in 2012:** Prevent all species on the OISC 100 Worst List from becoming established by 2012, document that target established invaders are decreasing or holding steady, and continue to identify policy gaps and steps needed to close those gaps. Ensure early detection/rapid response plans are in place. Support federal legislation aimed at invasive species, and develop and promote Oregon legislation to deal with state-specific issues during the 2012 legislative session.

## Our Top 10 List of 2011 Invasive Species Activities

The Council has chosen the following 10 accomplishments to highlight the diversity and depth of activity in Oregon's invasive species arena in 2011:

**1. *Arundo donax***—Portland General Electric planted 85 acres of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) in Morrow Co. to test it as an alternative fuel for their coal-fired power plant in Boardman. This species is considered one of the worst noxious weeds in the world in southern climates, but it has not shown invasive tendencies in Oregon in spite of being available for many years in the nursery trade. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and Morrow Co. adopted regulations restricting the location of trial plantings and requiring PGE to put up a bond to cover eradication costs in the event that this crop/weed escapes cultivation.

**2. Firewood Legislation Passes and Rules are Drafted and a new Smartphone Application is Developed**—The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2122 in 2011 to prohibit the transportation of firewood into or within Oregon and selling of firewood in Oregon unless the firewood has been harvested in Oregon, Idaho, or Washington, or firewood meets certain standards (described by the Oregon Department of Agriculture) to kill any insects and diseases. Council members then met with industry, agency, and private business representatives to draft rule language. The rules are scheduled for a hearing in March of 2012. In addition, a Firewood Buddy smartphone application was developed to help the public buy local firewood.

**3. Mandatory Boat Inspections in Oregon a Success**— Staff at boat inspection stations in Oregon conducted 3,600 inspections, stopped 6 boats with zebra/quagga mussels (decontaminated five of the boats and sent one to Washington; 3 were from Lake Michigan, one from Lake Mead, one from Lake Havasu, and a sailboat from the East Coast). A total of 27 individuals bypassed Oregon's boat inspection stations on one day. Next year, all check stations will be moved to Oregon's southern and eastern borders. ODFW needs two more teams to cover all border stations, but funding doesn't exist to add two more stations.

**4. Japanese Beetle**—Thirty-four Japanese beetles were caught in Oregon in 2011. One infestation is in a Cave Junction neighborhood where a move-in from Iowa brought infested planters. There were also multiple catches near the cargo terminal at PDX and a truck terminal in Troutdale. Japanese beetles are known to hitchhike on planes and trucks. Eradication programs are being planned for all three sites.

**5. Yellow floating heart**—A new large infestation was found on the Umpqua National Forest. Upon inspection, it is believed that this infestation has been present for quite a long time—perhaps as many as 10 years. Additional discussions are needed to address appropriate management of this infestation.

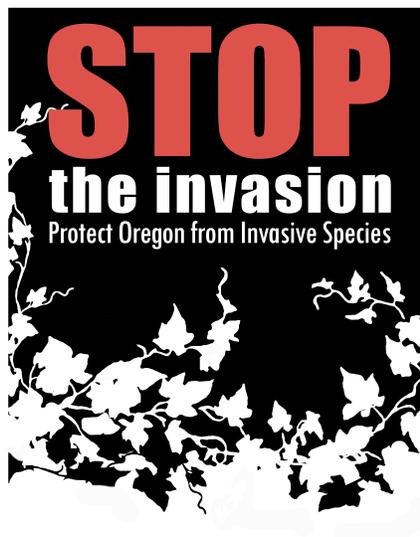
**6. Ballast Water Management**—The 2011 Legislature implemented recommendations from the state task force on shipping transport of aquatic invasive species to protect and enhance prevention efforts targeting commercial ships entering Oregon waters. Task force members, including multiple industry representatives, suggested establishing a per arrival fee for vessels already regulated by state ballast water management laws in order to reduce reliance on General Funds, while also producing additional funds needed to support increased vessel inspection and compliance verification activities. The new fee, effective January 2012, will result in a cost share partnership between General Fund and industry fees to support ballast water management program efforts at the Department of Environmental Quality.

**7. Invasive Control Programs**—Control programs for infestations of African rue, Patterson's curse, distaff thistle, giant hogweed, and kudzu showed continued success toward the goal of eventual eradication. Spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug, two new invaders, did not cause significant crop damage, though BMSB has become a common home invader in the northern Willamette Valley. ODA and OSU are cooperating on biological control research with the hope that parasites may someday help suppress BMSB populations.

**8. Feral swine**— Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District staff worked with ODFW and private landowners to obtain access to private lands to assist landowners with feral swine eradication operations. Over 100 feral swine were removed out of central Oregon in 2011.

**9. Yellowtuft Alyssum** (*Alyssum murale* and *A. corsicum*)—Control and survey activities for these two invasive plants increased in 2011 with the formation of a multi-organization working group to address the invasion. Eradication is the goal of the working group. However, increased surveys detected 63 new sites, including the first one outside of the Illinois Valley. Equipment, stored or used on infested land, has been moved or operated in other areas. Infested crop land and contaminated hay continues to be a concern for potential spread to uninfested locations, including northern California.

**10. Gypsy Moth**—Not a single gypsy moth was trapped in Oregon this year, the first time that has happened since 1978. A total of 10,600 gypsy moth traps were deployed statewide, and all were negative for gypsy moths. A low point in the cyclical population of gypsy moth in the East and fewer people moving from infested states to Oregon during the recession are likely contributing factors to this good news.



#### About The Council

The OISC was created by the Oregon legislature in 2001. Its mission is to conduct a coordinated and comprehensive effort to keep invasive species out of Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in Oregon. Invasive species are those plants, animals, and microbes not native to a region which, when introduced either accidentally or intentionally, out-compete native species for available resources, reproduce prolifically, dominate regions and ecosystems, and cause harm to people, the environment, and the economy.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (a) creates, maintains, and publicizes an online hotline at [www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org](http://www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org) to report suspected invasive species sightings; (b) enhances awareness of invasive species through outreach and education; (c) develops and maintains a statewide invasive species plan; and (d) administers funds to support outreach and education, and eradication and control projects. The council also develops a list of the 100 most dangerous invaders threatening Oregon.

This report card provides one overall grade for the State of Oregon, as well as a grade within each of the five areas for which the Council has legislative mandates.