

Oregon Invasive Species Council
The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center
635 Capitol St NE • Salem, OR 97301
Hearing Room and Conf. D
June 29 and 30, 2005

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Present

Kev Alexanian
Bill Reynolds
Chris Gunterman
Risa Demasi
Martin Nugent
Sue Cudd
Randy Henry
Dan Hilburn
Sam Chan

Absent

Eric Schwamberger
Mandy Tu
Mark Sytsma

Others:

Shannon Brubaker, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Robyn Waldeck, PSU, Center for Lakes & Reservoirs
Merle Keys, Wasco County
Joan Cabreza, EPA
Doug Daoust, USFS
Brad Knotts, ODF
Tim Counihen, USGS
Arlene Whalen, ODF
Gary Smith, USFS
Cara Philps, No Ivy League
Sandy Diedrich, No Ivy League
Dave Williams, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services
Chris Robbins, The Nature Conservancy
Laura Tesler, ODFW
Dan Sherwin, Deschutes County
Tim Butler, Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture
Josh Vlach, Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions from the Oregon Invasive Species Council and public entities were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM Feb 24 & 25, 2005 MEETING

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with no changes.

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

Total expenditures to date are \$19,990.59 while the balance of the other funds account is \$15,835.95. Total remaining GF for fiscal year 2005 is \$2,761.04

MEMBER UPDATES

RANDY HENRY, OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD

The Oregon State Marine Board's "Clean Marina" program continues to develop. Though it doesn't deal exclusively with invasive species, the relationship built between the Marine Board and marina owners/operators and the boating industry should provide improved avenues for invasives education across the state.

In an effort to improve its Sustainable Boating campaign, which includes a component on aquatic nuisance species, the Marine Board issued an RFP (Request for Proposal) in May to hire a company to help implement the campaign originally designed by Anthill Marketing. Information representative Jyll Smith will be spearheading that campaign in 2006 and 2007.

The Marine Board has completed its strategic planning process which includes emphasis on clean boating, invasive species prevention and "best practices." Because there were several components of the plan that dealt with "sustainable boating," a multi-program group will be assembled to create a Marine Board Sustainable Boating team. The advantage to this group will be in tying facilities development, law enforcement, administration and education/information efforts together to provide broader and more effective implementation of these efforts, which should result in an improved agency response to invasive species issues.

The Marine Board worked to broker agreement on HB2576, the aquatic weeds and boats bill. The bill was introduced by Rep. Kropf and sought to prevent transport of aquatic weeds on boats being trailered on public roads. The amended bill failed to gather needed support from the transportation committee and never made it out of the committee.

DAN HILBURN, OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A 268-acre gypsy moth eradication program in Eagle Creek (Clackamas Co.) was completed in May. Three applications of B.t. were applied by helicopter. Two gypsy moths were found in the area in 2003 and 2004 near a nursery. Egg masses on blue spruce nursery stock imported from Ontario, Canada are believed to be the source. Ongoing treatments for a Japanese beetle infestation near the Portland airport are in the planning stage. A delimitation trapping grid for exotic wood boring beetles has been deployed in The Dalles near a railroad tie treatment plant. Traps near the plant last summer caught dozens of specimens of several different species; additional specimens have been caught this spring. Some of the species are potential pests of hardwood trees. The granulate ambrosia beetle is one of them. This species is established in the Southeast where many of the raw railroad ties originate. Union Pacific has suspended bringing in raw ties from this area and is looking at methods of pre-treating or pre-drying the ties.

A rust fungus of Himalayan blackberry, *Phragmidium violaceum*, used in Australia and Chile as a biological control agent, has been detected in the Sixes and Elk River drainages of Curry Co. This accidental introduction has the potential to significantly impact blackberry in western Oregon. Extensive host plant testing of commercially important varieties and native relatives would normally be done before biological control agents are introduced. In lieu of pre-introduction studies, an emergency field study of commercial varieties has been set up in the area where the rust is found. Rust disease spores spread rapidly on the wind and can travel hundreds of miles in a season.

Certification of shipping nurseries for *Phytophthora ramorum* (a.k.a. sudden oak death) will be complete by the end of June. As required by a new federal emergency order, both nurseries shipping host and non-hosts require inspection. The Plant Health Laboratory has processed 40,565 *P. ramorum* samples from 788 nursery growing areas so far in 2005. More than 4,170 samples from Christmas tree plantations have also been processed. Plants at five nurseries have tested positive; this is a significant reduction from last year. Eradication is underway at all five nurseries. All known woodland sites in Curry County infected with *P. ramorum* have been cut and burned. Only four infected trees have been detected this year.

MANDY TU, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (NOT PRESENT, SENT IN WRITTEN UPDATES)

Current/Ongoing Invasive Species Projects:

a. Pacific Northwest Regionwide Invasive Plant Conference – We are working with the US Forest Service, the University of Washington, and several other partners to put on a regionwide conference on invasive plants. We will have participation from OR, WA, BC and AK, and our objectives are to provide an active forum for sharing the latest information and science on invasive plants in the region. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Ann Bartuska, Deputy Chief for Research and Development in the USFS, and this conference will be held April 27-28th, 2006 in Seattle. Contact: Mandy Tu

b. Early Detection Networks – We are working on developing 2 early detection networks as pilot projects in Oregon. This being done in SW Oregon and in the Portland Metro area. What this involves is identifying those

weeds that are not yet present or only present in small infestations, training staff and volunteers to look for these new infestations, then rapidly responding to these small infestations. Contact: Mandy Tu and/or Jonathan Soll

c. Knotweed management/education/outreach – Portland-Area Preserves Team
Contact: Jonathan Soll

d. Gardener awareness and alternatives for planting - Working with OAN to implement the St. Louis Codes-of-Conduct, and working on developing some suitable alternatives for purchase and planting. Working with OAN and Portland-area CWMA Education/Outreach group, and may try to coordinate with similar efforts in WA and CA. Contact: Mandy Tu

e. TNC's WIMS (Weed Info Mgmt System) application – TNC has developed a MS Access database that can assist natural resource managers manage their weed data, including keeping track of weed locations, assessments over time, and any management treatment applied. It can be used on handheld computers with GPS units, and has GIS capabilities. We have been involved in a national-level pilot project with USFWS (funded by USFWS, NWRA (Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Assoc), USGS NISS (USGS Nat'l Inst. Inv. Spp. Science) and TNC) where we have trained 6 refuges across the country (1 refuge per region) on the use of this database application. This application is now available for everyone to use at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>, and we are now actively training TNC staff and partners in its use. Contact: Mandy Tu

f. TNC site managers continue to actively manage against terrestrial weeds on TNC properties, and work with partners to develop and implement invasive species management strategies at larger landscape scales. Most have been very active in local CWMA's, where there is one present. For instance, we have been very active in:

- Willowa County weeds/Tri-county CWMA/Tri-state CWMA in NE Oregon
- CWMA in Northwest Oregon Coast
- 4-County CWMA in Portland/Willamette Valley
- Developing CWMA in SW Oregon (near Medford)

Additionally, on TNC preserves where there are significant aquatic resources, we now are monitoring (early detection) for a few new aquatic invaders – namely zebra mussels and New Zealand mud snails – using aquatic substrates provided by PSU.

Active Research:

We have several ongoing research projects involving invasive species management. A few examples of these projects are:

- Knotweed control and management research
- Reed canarygrass control and management, needs to be submitted to journal
- Plateau (imazapic) trials on cheatgrass and medusahead
- Remote sensing of weeds in NE Oregon

TNC's main internet website on invasives <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/>
TNC's Invasive Species Initiative website <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

RISA DEMASI, GRASSLAND OREGON

During the American Seed Trade Association meeting recently in Seattle, we were updated by a representative from the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). They (NISC) have set up an Invasive Species Definitions Taskforce which has made tremendous progress in defining not only 'Invasive Species' but 'Alien', and 'Harm'.

Also discussed at the Association Meeting was the Highway Reauthorization Bill. The Seed Industry has expressed its concerns with language referring to *Invasive Species* and *Native Only* references.

Pennsylvania and Arizona have been given a mandate by their Governors to create an Invasive Species Council. The Seed Industry is requesting representation on these councils in hopes they can work together with State and Federal agencies to address this issue.

Oregon's I.S. council was applauded for combining such a broad base of representation including State agencies, Special Interest Groups and Industry, the ensuing efforts and progress, and for their recognition of Marc Cool's ongoing efforts in creating White Papers on some of the beneficial crops produced and marketed by the Seed Industry.

Overall, there is a feeling of positive momentum being built by working together in what would otherwise be considered unconventional relationships.

CHRIS GUNTERMAN, HORTICULTURE SERVICES, INC.

The OAN Invasive Species Task Force met recently with the Nature Conservancy and will participate in a study on the effects of the St. Louis Declaration. The study is said to look at what steps have been taken by the nursery industry and what, if any, results there are related to costs. Additionally, information will be compiled on whether alternative plants are being offered, and the effects that it has on sales, and what are the customer responses. Participants will include a range of nursery categories with specialists in perennial plants, water plants, trees, shrub & vines, and also propagators and starter plant producers.

At the June OAN Executive Board a plan was presented to consider our temporary Task Force's work as completed. OAN awareness of the liabilities our industry faces now warrants additional resource commitments.

The recent spate of news articles, magazine features, and government agency responses has demonstrated to the OAN that there is leadership potential for proactive work. There are serious risks to the industry if the topic is left unattended.

The proposal includes rolling the current Task Force into the now mostly dormant Natural Resources Committee. That committee will be charged with managing the issues of invasives across the Oregon nursery industry. This will be a full-time, active, and funded Committee. Included in the plan is to fund a full time staff person to provide continuity of effort, as well as to tackle those touchy subjects that individual nursery personell may not be able to provide leadership on, due to their position in the industry.

In summary; the OAN is expanding the effort to bring all of it's members and customers into awareness, with commitment to protect the Oregon environment from invasives at every level; not just plants and weeds.

ROBYN DRAHEIM, PSU – FOR MARK SYTSMA

Robyn gave brief updates regarding the work PSU staff are doing on the Aquatic bioinvasion research and policy, Zebra mussel monitoring substrates. The work being done with the American Society for testing materials, the Spartina drift card survey, she shared with the council the new mitten crab and Aquatic invaders signs that are being posted at the boat ramps in Oregon.

KEV ALEVANIAN, CROOK COUNTY WEED DEPT.

Kev reports that he has been giving lectures on invasives at college workshops. He indicated that the late spring precipitation has caused a real explosion in his area of noxious weeds. The African rue infestation is showing good signs of control, there are only about 50 plants left in the current area and no new sites have been reported.

SAMUEL CHAN, OSU SEAGRANT

Sam shared that the law enforcement search and rescue units have shown an increased interest in invasive species, they are having more and more difficulties with their search and rescue efforts due to the impact of invasive species. Sam recommended that the Council help to review the NOAA curriculum for aquatic and invasive species for middle and high school levels. Sam shared with the council the steps that were taken when it was found that a classroom would be releasing invasive species into the wild.

BILL REYNOLDS, CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS

Bill shared that yellow flag iris is one of the top concerns of the tribe, he shared pictures of the Deschutes River area and the yellow flag iris's ability to displace the desired plants including cattails which is one of the tribes most desired plants.

MARTIN NUGENT, OREGON DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Martin made a suggestion to the council to determine what the role of the state fair could be to get the invasive species word out.

SUE CUDD, WHISKEY CREEK SHELLFISH HATCHERY

Sue updated the council on the native oyster restoration project, Tillamook Bay is not known to have native oyster populations, Netarts Bay has one known population.

ACTION PLAN – 2005

Dan presented the Council with the most recent version of the 2005 Action Plan, suggesting that the Council approve it as it is and then cover the following topics during the Oct. meeting:

1. Who is the plan for?
2. Who will be using this plan?
3. Should there be a quick view sheet and what should it contain?

The council votes unanimously to approve the Action Plan as it is and to readdress the above topics at the October meeting.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION UPDATE AND FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Robyn Draheim, PSU shared the results of the Omnibus survey that Ant Hill Marketing suggested at the Feb. meeting. Results from the survey showed that the general audience is somewhat aware of invasive species and that they feel that invasive species are a great concern for Oregon.

Sam Chan suggested that the Council consider a more extensive survey through possible funding with Oregon SeaGrant. It was decided that a subcommittee research and decide what questions should be asked and exactly how much funding is necessary to perform survey and who should do the survey.

The Council also decided that it is time to begin to determine the cost associated with hiring an invasive species outreach and education coordinator. It was decided that a small subcommittee would research the information and report back at the October meeting.

PRESENTATIONS (DURING LUNCH HOUR)

Tim Butler, ODA – Blackberry rust update

A new fungus has been found in Oregon, *Phragmidium violaceum*, a rust fungus that has been used as a bio-control agent for Himalayan blackberry in Australia. The fungus was first found in Coos County and has since been found in numerous counties. The Dept. of Ag has set-up a “trap garden” near the original site in Coos county, the trap garden is various species of caneberries that can be found in Oregon. The intent is to determine which species are susceptible to the rust. So far the ODA has confirmed that the rust fungus does affect the Evergreen blackberry, a large crop in Oregon. The ODA will continue to survey to determine how many counties have the rust and will continue to work with the industry to determine best management practices for the rust.

Gary Smith, USFS - Forest Service EIS

Gary shared with the Council an overview of the Forest Service Environmental Impact Statement. He shared some of the objectives, the national strategy for invasive species, the status of the Regional EIS, what the proposed action would do to Forest plants, alternatives considered, decision factors and many other topics concerning the EIS.

WEED AWARENESS WEEK – THE DID DO’S AND TO DO’S

Shannon Brubaker shared with the Council what the Weed Control Program at ODA did for the first annual weed awareness week. The program sent out educational materials such as weed identification books, T-shirts and biocontrol books to local government entities. There was a small tour of purple loosestrife at Horseshoe Lake in Marion County that the Dept. of Ag, the Invasive Species Council, Marion County staff and members of the general public attended. Numerous other activities occurred across the state.

The Council decided that for the next year that a committee involving members of the OISC, the ODA and local government entities should work together to combine the efforts across the state. Robyn Draheim and Shannon Brubaker will work together to form the committee and begin plans for the 2006 Weed Awareness Week.

OVERVIEW OF THE OISC WEBPAGE

Shannon Brubaker presented the preliminary new webpage to the Council. She explained the process to getting the webpage started and the steps and stages to keep it updated. Shannon showed the council the direction that will be taken with the page, the council liked the ideas and asked for an update at the October meeting.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AND THE EPA – JOAN CABREZA

Joan Cabreza talked about pollutants verses pollution, explaining that San Francisco is the main source of of invasives brought overseas through ballast water transport. Joan explained that ballast water is the principle pathway for invasive aquatic species, 21 BG are discharged to US waters annually. Of 169 ships studied there were and average of 12, 637 organisms present, and an estimated 3-10,000 species transported worldwide on any given day. Joan talked about the taxonomy work the EPA does to determine the species found in studies, ballast water

enforcement and the importance of early detection/monitoring. For more information on the EPA's involvement with invasive species visit <http://www.epa.gov/wow/watershed/wacademy/acad2000/invasive.html>

FERAL SWINE – DAVE WILLIAMS, USDA

Dave talked with the Council about the need for an eradication program for the Feral Swine population in the state, explaining that at the level they are at eradication is still possible. Dave explained some of the history of the attempt to control the species in the past. He talked about landowners in the area and their attempts at acquiring funding for eradication projects on their own property. Dave encouraged the Council to write letters both from the Council and from individual members in support of funding for eradication of feral swine through OWEB.

GRASS CARP – LAURA TESLER, ODFW

Laura gave a background, presentation on grass carp explaining some of the characteristics of the species. She explained the importance behind having a permitting process in our state and gave the details behind the process.

COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE STRATEGY – MARTIN NUGENT, ODFW

Martin gave an overview of the wildlife strategy, the overview included background information on the state wildlife grant program, a summary of the required elements of the strategy, and how the strategy will work. He explained that the strategy will address key statewide conservation issues including; invasive species, land use changes, changes in disturbance regimes, water quality and quantity, climate changes, animal movement and institutional barriers. Martin explained that the deadline for public comment is July 6th with a hope to have a final product this Fall.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5 and 6 in Tillamook, OR.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2005

Exotic Wood Boring Insects – Josh Vlach, ODA

Josh shared a presentation that outlined the project that ODA, has been involved in near the Amerities Plant in The Dalles area. Josh explained the different species of wood boring insects that have been trapped in the area and the economic and environmental impact potential of each. Josh along with members of the Amerities company and the Union Pacific Railroad gave a guided to tour of the tie plant in The Dalles.

Wasco County Weed Control Projects – Merle Keys, Wasco County

Merle shared a presentation with the Council that outlined many of the past projects and current projects in Wasco County. Merle explained the different levels of impact that noxious weeds have had in Wasco County and the treatments he is using to control them. Merle took the Council on a guided tour of a Dalmatian toadflax site in Wasco County where a release of the bio-control agent, *Macinus janthinus* is proving to control the noxious weed.