



OISC

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

## 2008 OISC Report Card

This report card is intended to provide an assessment of Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) accountability in 2008. For additional information about the council, including meeting minutes for 2008, a list of the top 100 most dangerous species threatening to invade the state, the council's business plan, results of a statewide invasive species summit, a list of current council members, a list of invasive species established in Oregon, awards, reports, news, and events, visit the OISC website at [www.oregon.gov/OISC](http://www.oregon.gov/OISC).

### 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 humans, the ecology and the economy.

The council carries forth its mission through four primary functions: (a) create, maintain, and publicize a system (1-866-INVADER) for invasive species sightings; (b) enhance awareness of invasive species through outreach and education efforts; (c) develop and maintain a statewide plan to deal with invasive species; and (d) administer a trust account to fund outreach and education, and eradication and control projects. The council also develops a list of 100 most dangerous invaders threatening Oregon.

This report card provides one overall grade for the council, as well as a grade within each of these five areas.

### Executive Summary

#### OVERALL GRADE FOR 2007: B+

(I) Reporting Invasive Species (website and phone line)	B+
(II) Outreach and Education	A-
(III) Statewide Action Plan	A-
(IV) Trust Account	B
(V) Success at Excluding Invasive Species in Oregon	B

#### (I) Reporting Invasive Species

Grade: B+

Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) developed an online version of the hotline as part of the statewide awareness and engagement campaign. After developing the website and managing it for several months, OPB turned over management of the site to the OISC. In 2008, there were 252 reports:

- Micro-Organisms (5)
- Aquatic Plants (11)
- Land Plants (148)
- Aquatic Invertebrates (5)
- Aquatic Vertebrates (9)
- Insects (34)
- Fish (2)
- Birds (3)
- Mammals (32)
- Land Mollusks (1)
- Reptiles (2)

#### (II) Outreach and Education

Grade: A-

An Oregon Invasive Species Awareness and Engagement Campaign was developed in 2007 with the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), SOLV, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Oregon State University (OSU) Sea Grant Extension Service, the Statesman Journal, Portland State University (PSU), and other agencies to inform and engage the public in a statewide effort to curtail invasive species. The campaign launched on April 22, 2008, and included weed pulls with Oregonians, a 1-hour OPB documentary titled, "Silent Invasion," *GardenSmart Oregon*, numerous OPB Oregon Field Guide segments focused on invasive species, community meetings throughout Oregon, a statewide invasive species summit, development of an early detection-rapid response program for Oregon, research focus groups and surveys to assess public awareness, attitudes, barriers to participation in invasive species

	activities, and the Council's first business plan, and fundraising to acquire the resources to conduct a statewide management assessment of invasive species (2009).
<b>To improve the grade in 2009:</b> The new website hotline records and documents each report of an invasive species in Oregon. Integration of the phone line 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.	<b>To improve the grade in 2009:</b> Conduct the statewide management assessment of invasive species, develop a long-term strategic plan for the Council, host Invasive Species Awareness Day at the Capitol on January 13, 2009, and implement the outreach-associated strategies of the OISC business plan.

(III) Statewide Business Plan	(IV) Trust Account
<b>Grade: A-</b>	<b>Grade: B</b>
The Council developed its first-ever business plan in 2008, and took steps towards conducting a statewide management assessment of invasive species.	The Council raised \$106,471 in 2008 to host the statewide invasive species summit, implement the statewide management assessment of invasive species, and provide matching funding to support the OISC Coordinator position.
<b>To improve the grade in 2009:</b> Conduct a statewide management assessment of invasive species, and develop with partner organizations and the Council a new action/strategic plan with performance-based outcomes, and clearly defined expectations for legislative initiatives and funding (including an emergency fund for new invaders).	<b>To improve the grade in 2009:</b> Implement fundraising goals in the 2008 business plan, revisit and update business plan goals, and set targets for 2009.

(V) Success at Excluding Invasive Species in Oregon in 2008
<b>Grade: B</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 2008. One of the organisms on the 100 Worst List became established in Oregon during 2008 — Portugese broom.
<b>To improve the grade in 2008:</b> Prevent all species on the OISC 100 Worst List from becoming established by 2010, document that target established invaders are decreasing or holding steady, and identify policy gaps and steps needed to close those gaps (via a statewide management assessment). 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 2009 legislative session.

## Our Top 10 List of 2008 OISC Activities

A total of 13 organizations are members of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, plus there are 31 individuals that comprise our Advisory Committee. The Council has chosen the following ten accomplishments to highlight the diversity and depth of activity in Oregon's invasive species arena in 2008:

- 1** **Silent Invasion Documentary** — Launched on Earth Day, April 22, 2008, and shown three times during the year, this award-winning OPB television special did more to raise public awareness among Oregonians to the threats of invasive species than any other event in Oregon's history.
- 2** **GardenSmart Oregon Published** — Nobody wants to plant invasive species in their yard, but few of us know which plants to avoid and what non-invasive alternatives are available. This little booklet makes it easy — it is available free at area nurseries.

- 3** **Statesman Journal Invasive Species Series** — A ten-month series on invasive species featured front-page coverage on invasive species threatening Oregon and the people that are fighting back. This series began in the fall of 2007 and won the OISC Outstanding Defender Award in February 2008.
- 4** **Largest Japanese Beetle Eradication Effort Ever** — In 2008, five Japanese beetle infestations were treated in Multnomah Co. by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Only four times since 1989 have Japanese beetle infestations been detected anywhere in Oregon — thankfully, all of them have been successfully eradicated.
- 5** **Gypsy Moth in Shady Cove** — A helicopter was used to apply an organic, biological pesticide to 336 acres after gypsy moths were introduced via egg masses attached to a travel trailer. A new infestation was discovered in South Eugene and will be treated this spring.
- 6** **African Rue Discovered in Harney County** — Just when success was in sight for eradication of the only known specimen of this weed in Oregon (Crook Co.), a new much larger infestation (2,700 acres) was discovered in Harney County. Because of a long-lived seed bank, eradication of this infestation will take a decade or more of sustained effort by multiple agencies and landowners.
- 7** **Saltmarsh Cordgrass Discovered on Coast** — An 800 ft<sup>2</sup> patch of invasive cordgrass was spotted from the air in Young's Bay (Astoria) by a Portland State University surveyor in September. ODA and PSU staff clipped the seed heads and treated the patch with an herbicide. The whole process from start to finish took just a couple of weeks — an excellent example of early detection and rapid response.
- 8** **SOD Fight in Curry Co. Interrupted** — The fight against sudden oak death just north of Brookings suffered two setbacks this year. A national panel of scientists reviewed Oregon's eradication plan and concluded that eradication of this disease from a forest was probably not possible. Budget reductions then brought the cutting and burning of infected host material to a halt. The Oregon Department of Forestry has led a valiant effort to contain this disease, but the future of this program is unclear.
- 9** **Garlic Mustard Treated in Portland** — About 140 acres of garlic mustard were treated within City of Portland limits last spring. This work was funded by the State Weed Board, Portland Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Environmental Services Watershed Groups, and Clean Water Services. Partners in the implementation of the control efforts included Clean Water Services, Three Rivers Land Conservancy, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, and the City of Portland (Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Maintenance, and Bureau of Environmental Services).
- 10** **Statewide Invasive Species Summit** — The Oregon Invasive Species Council hosted the first comprehensive invasive species summit in Oregon on July 22, 2008. A total of 175 active participants learned about ongoing programs, future challenges, and brainstormed ideas for how to better address invasive species.

