



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2010-2011 COUNCIL SEATS BY NOVEMBER 15

SALEM, Oregon—After a successful 2009 legislative session that will better protect Oregon from unwanted invasive species, the Oregon Invasive Species Council is seeking nominations for four open seats for positions currently filled by members whose terms expire on December 31, 2009.

People with expertise in the following areas are especially needed: boating, off-highway vehicles, aquaculture, forest pests, nursery, and eastern Oregon weeds. The statute requires the appointing authorities to endeavor to appoint persons representative of the geographic, cultural, and economic diversity of this state. Terms are for two years, and there is a two-term limit.

There are 15 seats on the Council. Six of them are permanently assigned to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University (Sea Grant), Portland State University (Center for Lakes and Reservoirs), Oregon Department of Forestry, and new in 2009, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The six permanent members are responsible for appointing nine at-large members from government agencies, universities, industries, organizations or individuals having an interest in invasive species.

The at-large individuals about to vacate their positions represent the US Forest Service and Gilliam County Weed Department. In addition, one at-large seat became vacant in the middle of 2009, and a new at-large seat was added to offset the addition of the Department of Environmental Quality to the Council. Both Steve Buttrick of The Nature Conservancy and Marla Harrison of the Port of Portland, whose terms conclude in 2009, opted to complete a second term on the Council. Other at-large members currently represent the Oregon Marine Board, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, and DLF, International.

Council members are not paid, but they are reimbursed for travel expenses when on Council business, including meetings. Nominees should be willing to commit to three 1.5-day meetings per year in various parts of the state, conference calls, and additional work on behalf of the Council.

Nominations should be sent to OISC Coordinator Lisa DeBruyckere, 6159 Rosemeadow Lane NE, Salem, OR, 97317 or lisad@createstrat.com. Please include the individual's name, title, phone, fax, e-mail, and mailing address as well as a brief description of their qualifications. In addition, the Council requests a statement from the person being nominated regarding why they are interested in the position. The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2009. Appointments will be announced shortly thereafter. The next meeting of the Council will occur in February of 2010 in Salem, Oregon.

Formation of the Council by the legislature was a major step in addressing invasive species problems in Oregon. Non-native weeds and undesirable exotic animals threaten vital habitats and jeopardize important commercial species. Nutria, European starlings, Dutch elm disease, European green crabs, Himalayan blackberries, and German yellowjackets are all examples of invasive species now established in Oregon. Other species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, Chinese mitten crab, gypsy moth, and kudzu, threaten to invade.

The Council began work on January 1, 2002. Its purpose is to facilitate communication, education, and cooperation on invasive species problems. In the past year, the Council continued its statewide awareness and engagement campaign to stop the spread of invasive species, participated in the process to adopt 11 new pieces of legislation and funding needed to protect Oregon from ongoing invasive species threats, and launched a statewide management assessment of invasive species. The next set of initiatives for the Council is to share the results of the statewide management assessment at a summit during the fall of 2010, launch a multi-state campaign with Idaho and Washington to buy and burn local firewood to avoid interstate transport of invasive insects, articulate needed legislation for the 2011 legislative session, and develop a long-term invasive species strategic plan for Oregon.

Any questions about the nomination process should be directed to OISC Coordinator Lisa DeBruyckere at (503) 704-2884 or lisad@createstrat.com.

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