

Oregon Invasive Species Council
Oregon Dept. of Forestry
5005 3rd St. • Tillamook, OR 97141
October 5 & 6, 2005

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Council Members

Present

Kev Alexanian
Bill Reynolds
Chris Gunterman
Martin Nugent
Sue Cudd
Mark Sysma
Dan Hilburn
Sam Chan
Mandy Tu

Absent

Eric Schwamberger
Risa Demasi
Randy Henry

Others:

Shannon Brubaker, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Robyn Waldeck, PSU, Center for Lakes & Reservoirs
Brad Knotts, ODF
Arlene Whalen, ODF
Paul Heimowitz, US F&WS
Venessa Howard, PSU
Avalyn Taylor, The Nature Conservancy
Fred Fowler, Ampac Seed
Sylvia Yamada, OSU-Zoology
Don Fell, MHEP
Kristin Feindell, Oregon State Marine Board
Dave Williams, USDA-APHIS-WS
Brett Dumbauld, USDA-ARS

INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM June 29 and 30, 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 \$21,363.35 while the balance of the other funds account is \$3,335.95. Total remaining GF for fiscal year 2005-06 is \$11,989.85.

MEMBER UPDATES

DAN HILBURN - Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture

Blackberry rust, *Phragmidium violaceum*, first confirmed in April in Curry County, has now spread to 16 counties in Western Oregon, 3 counties in northern California, and one in southern Washington. This accidental introduction has the potential to significantly impact one of our worse weeds, Himalayan blackberry. Unfortunately, it has also been found on thornless evergreen blackberry, a commercial variety grown in the north Willamette Valley. This introduction highlights both the potential of biological control agents and the hazards of introducing untested exotic species. Extensive host plant testing of commercially important varieties and native relatives would normally be done before biological control agents are introduced. Rust disease spores spread rapidly in the wind and can travel hundreds of miles in a season.

In July, eight hundred and twelve acres surrounding the railroad tie plant in The Dalles were treated to prevent establishment of wood boring beetles originating in green ties imported from the Southeast. Due to persistent winds, the treatments were done at night. Cooperation from the community was excellent. Additional treatments are planned for late September and April.

Treatments for a Japanese beetle infestation near the Portland airport cargo terminal were completed in July. Two different insecticides were used over 201 acres; one for grubs in turf, the other for adults on trees and shrubs. Four Japanese beetles have been caught in the area this summer.

As of mid-September, nine gypsy moths have been caught in the following locations: Wilsonville, Tualatin, Bend, Portland (2), Eugene (2) and Shady Cove (2). No moths have been caught in Eagle Creek or South Eugene where eradication programs were implemented in 2004 and 2005.

To date, we have three new infection centers within the *P. ramorum*-regulated area in Curry County (down from 12 the previous year). We also have sites that have tested free of *P. ramorum* for the required 2 years post-treatment. The eradication strategy has been modified to include killing tanoak stumps to prevent re-sprouting and to concentrate on destroying the branches, foliage and other "fine" material more so than the boles/logs. Based on total number of new infection centers, this strategy seems to be working. *P. ramorum* has also been detected at 17 Oregon nurseries this year.

Two undescribed species of bark beetles were found in bamboo stakes imported from China to an Oregon nursery. USDA responded by strengthening the treatment requirements for Chinese bamboo stakes.

Orange hawkweed was found being offered for sale at a Redmond-area nursery. One hundred and fifty plants were confiscated and destroyed.

ROBYN DRAHEIM (for Mark Sytsma) - Portland State University

There is a new Center for Lakes and Reservoirs (CLR) and ABRPI websites <http://www.clr.pdx.edu> and <http://www.clr.pdx.edu/abrpj>

The Aquatic Bioinvasions Research and Policy Institute, a joint collaboration between Portland State University and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center is going strong. Housed in Portland, the Institute is jointly administered by Dr. Gregory Ruiz, director of SERC's [Marine Invasions Research Lab](#), and Dr. Mark Sytsma, director of PSU's [Center for Lakes and Reservoirs](#). One of the primary goals behind the establishment of the ABRPI was to develop a strong collaborative link between the freshwater and marine expertise offered by both labs and to take advantage of facilities on the east and west coasts of the US. The Institute therefore combines the respective strengths of PSU and SERC in aquatic systems, and seeks to develop novel approaches to research, management and policy on biological invasions from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts. PSU has a new professor through the ABRPI – Dr Catherine deRivera and we have been approached by University of Melbourne (AUS) to collaborate on marine invasions. The ABRPI also has a proposal in the works to do more work on ballast water shipping related transport of invasive species.

CLR is working with DEQ to reconstitute the ballast water task force and expect to produce a report to the legislature in Oct 2006.

Last year we worked closely with the Columbia River Basin/100th Meridian group to develop new boat wash signage for the Columbia River. This summer CLR distributed additional Stop Harmful Species signs to boat ramps throughout the state (more than 500 signs have been distributed and should be showing up at boat ramps all over the state. CLR also distributed and posted more than 100 Mitten Crab signs in Oregon and Washington guided by results of mitten crab colonization research (moving emphasis away from the Columbia River and on higher risk estuaries).

Zebra Mussel Volunteer Monitoring Program Update: There were no established populations of zebra mussels found by volunteers monitoring western water bodies for the period between July 2004 and June 2005. The Program has been expanded for the period between July 1, 2004 and August 30, 2005 to one hundred six active volunteers monitoring two hundred thirty-three substrates in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oregon, Utah and Washington. In this period, one hundred four new monitoring substrates were sent to fifty-seven new volunteers. Volunteers reported speaking to over eight hundred people about zebra mussels between July 2004 and June 2005.

CLR has just begun expanding the program to sample for zebra mussel veligers and will be sampling in CA, OR, WA in the upcoming year. USACE and PSU are supplementing adult zebra mussel substrate-monitoring along the

Columbia and Snake Rivers with monthly veliger (larval life stage of zebra mussels) sampling via plankton tows. The USACE and PSU Zebra Mussel Veliger Sampling Program also provides presence/ absence data regarding other aquatic nuisance species in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Aquatic macrophytes and the associated epifauna that collect on the picketed leads (metal grates) in the adult fish ladder facilities at USACE hydroelectric projects are identified.

Mitten Crab Colonization Research: Research into the mitten crabs life history, habitat requirements and environmental tolerances suggests that estuaries with limited salinity intrusion and short flushing times reduce the risk of population establishment. Large, stable estuaries, such as the Puget Sound, may support large populations. Large estuaries provide adequate temperature and salinity regimes for optimal larval survival and flushing times of sufficient duration for development within the estuary. One estuary, Coos Bay, has a flushing time similar to estuaries with mitten crabs but below the threshold required for larval development within the Bay. Small or river dominated estuaries, such as the Columbia River, have salinities below the threshold for larval development or have flushing times less than the duration of larval development. The northern extent of a potential mitten crab population is likely to be limited by low water temperatures.

Spartina Drift Card survey continues: Beginning in September of 2004, monthly releases of two-hundred bright-yellow drift cards have been completed from the mouths of three estuaries. These estuaries are already known to have significant populations of one or more *Spartina* species and are therefore potential sources of seeds or plant fragments: Willapa Bay (WA), Humboldt Bay (CA) and San Francisco Bay (CA). The releases are being done within two hours of high-tide. The biodegradable wooden drift cards (see photo) float on the water surface and be carried by the ocean currents, behaving much as seeds or plant fragments would. Releases are being done each month in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Arcata Office, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

MANDY TU - The Nature Conservancy

Current/Ongoing Invasive Species Projects:

a. Pacific Northwest Regionwide Invasive Plant Conference – We are working with the USDA-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 Programs – We are working on developing materials for an early detection training program for TNC projects/volunteers in Oregon. We will start with TNC Preserves in the Portland Metro and the Coast. 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. The last patches of *Spartina patens* on Cox Island have now been covered with landscape fabric! Staff and volunteers are continuing with detailed monitoring and searching for any new *Spartina patens* patches. Contact: Debbie Pickering

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

e. 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

f. 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 NIISS (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>. We are now actively training TNC staff and partners in its use. Contact: Mandy Tu

g. 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>

RANDY HENRY - Oregon Marine Board

Randy handed out all the "STOP Harmful Species" and Mitten Crab ID signs at the Marine Board Post Season Law Enforcement meeting this week, along with a listing of where the signs were to be posted and a request that the Marine Board be notified when they're all up.

Convincing them was fun. In Randy's presentation, he decided not to spend much time on the details of invasives because they had heard it all before. So, he took a more policy approach looking at the potential issues that would arrive with something like a zebra mussel infestation. Despite his moving graphics and inspirational speech, he saw a lot of crossed arms and glazed eyes. They will post the signs, but this group is tough to inspire.

Based on that experience, Randy believes he will focus future contacts with officers on the nuts and bolts of prevention, not on education about the species. They've heard it, they know it and they don't really want to hear it again. Just tell them what to do and they'll do it - that's probably the best approach for this group.

MARTIN NUGENT - Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Recent weeks have been spent almost exclusively with the completion of the "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Oregon". I have discussed the Conservation Strategy numerous times with the Council over its two year gestation. Since the last Council meeting we have responded to Stakeholder and public comments on a draft that was made available in May. The revised Strategy which is illustrated in color and runs to 440 pages was presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission on September 9, 2005. The Commission formally endorsed the Strategy and gave permission to submit the document to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their formal review and approval, required under the States Wildlife Grants Program statute. Oregon awaits federal approval which we anticipate over the next few weeks.

The revised "Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for Oregon" has been posted on the ODFW website at www.dfw.state.or.us. Copies of the final document will be made available to the Council and other interested parties following federal approval.

CHRIS GUNTERMAN - Horticultural Services, Inc

The OAN has limited activities to report as the summer is a period of relative inactivity for Association Chapters and Committees.

The OAN Natural Resources Committee has been reorganized to include the issues of Invasive Species. Their next meeting will be October 11th; at which time the O.I.S.C. draft Action Plan will be discussed.

Support for O.I.S.C. activities is being generated first through the education of the OAN membership. Topics include the extent and effects of invaders upon our resources and markets as well as the nursery industry's

responsibilities to adopt and support the Voluntary Codes. It has been decided to use the OAN "Member Alert" mailing system to accomplish this.

Additionally, new software has been purchased and is being developed to make the "Alerts" via e-mail. There will be the added capability to send photographs intended to both warn of, and survey for, new invasives. This will provide the OAN the opportunity to rapidly appraise and survey their membership via e-mail. Relevant O.I.S.C. topics are welcome to be included in this distribution system.

Local OAN Chapters begin meeting again in the fall, and will be provided with notes and speakers to address the members. This will also be a time to receive their ideas, questions, and concerns.

The Yard, Garden, and Patio Show is scheduled for next February. Participation in some extent by the O.I.S.C. is encouraged.

BILL REYNOLDS – Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

They have been working on trials for aquatic herbicides to control yellow flag iris, recently listed as a noxious weed by the Oregon State Weed Board. The Tribe is now licensed between Tribe and PGE money is set aside to do survey work which found Japanese knotweed and reed canary grass it is believed that these species stem from old homesteads in the area.

KEV ALEXANIAN – Crook County Weed Control

Kev briefed the council on some of the main issues that landowners are facing in their attempt to be awarded funds to fight against the spread of feral swine. He pointed out the importance behind a Feral Swine Action Plan and talked briefly about how to better approach the granting process through OWEB in the future.

Kev requested that members of the Council send him a list of what they believe to be the top 10 already existing threats to wildland in Oregon.

African rue looks good but a new site was found this season.

ACTION PLAN – 2005

There were three questions the Council was asked regarding the current format and content of the Action Plan they are as follows:

1. Who is the plan for?
2. Who will be using the plan?
3. Should promotional material be derived from this plan?

Dan Hilburn suggested that there should be a smaller brief publication for the general public, perhaps splitting the document into portions. It was also suggested that we repackage it for the webpage. Mandy Tu said that there should be more value behind the plan for on the ground activities.

Following are ideas that the council should continue to address before the next Action Plan is approved:

1. Separate the document to be better used on-line.
2. Council should also review our current report card and perhaps change the formatting and direction of the report card.
3. The Council should declare 2 to 3 targeted items that we will try to meet each year.
4. Set objectives to meet within the next two years.
5. Failures should be highlighted and how do we or did we fix the problem.

VENESSA HOWARD, PSU – Latest Spartina Update for Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture

Venessa gave a brief background of *Spartina* species in Oregon. She outlined that there had been a recurrence of *Spartina alterniflora* in the Siuslaw River area and a new site found in Coos Bay. Venessa explained the past years survey technique by boat and ground in the lower coastal areas and that in 2006 the upper coastal areas will be surveyed by ground and boat as well. In 2007, there will be aerial surveys of the entire coastal area. In 2005 there were drift card releases and Venessa shared with the Council where the cards .

SYLVIA YAMADA, OSU – Young European Green Crab *Carcinus maenas*

Sylvia shared with the council the history of green crab migration in the United States. Showing that the first green crab arrived on the East Coast in 1817. The first sighting on the West coast was in the San Francisco Bay area and in Oregon the first sighting was in Coos Bay, OR in 1997. The study sites are in Tillamook Bay, Netarts Bay, Yaquina Bay and Coos Bay. Sylvia reviewed with the Council the identification of green crab and the migrational habits of the green crabs.

BRETT DUMBAULD – Griffen's Isopod (parasite found on mud shrimp)

Brett gave a presentation that explained the role of burrowing shrimp to the coastal ecosystems. Photos were shown with detailed images of the isopod and how it attaches itself to its host species. He explained that for years scientists in Washington had been researching the possibility of bio-control agents for burrowing shrimp. Since the isopod has become so prevalent along the Washington and Oregon coast, the populations of shrimp have decreased substantially since the 90's.

KRISTEN FEINDEL – Oregon State Marine Board Clean Marina Program

Kristen explained the newly introduced Clean Marina Program, it is a volunteer program through the Oregon State Marine Board. It will help to encourage Best Management Practices, protect local water quality and recognize a clean marina. It will have an education and outreach component. Certification for Clean Marinas will begin after a workshop in November. Clean Marinas will be given special recognition including flags with the Oregon Clean Marina logo on it. They will receive technical assistance, publicity and free items.

TOUR

The Council took a tour of Tillamook area Japanese knotweed sites, and restoration projects. Then went to Netarts Bay to watch green crab traps being brought in and then toured The Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery.

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EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CAMPAIGN DISCUSSION:

- **Survey through OSU Seagrant** – Sam talked with the Council about the steps necessary to obtain funding through the OSU Seagrant program. The Council decided to assign a task group to determine a broader aspect of awareness. Survey objectives: to develop a measure of the knowledge of Oregonians toward Invasive Species.
- **Coordinator position for OISC** - The Council discussed the need to have a statewide coordinator position which would help the Council to determine its priorities for statewide awareness of Invasive Species. Dan Hilburn said that he would pull together a draft position description, which would include the 4 ex-officio members as fund contributors, it would also be defined as a half time GF position and that the person who holds the position would not only be responsible for seeking funds for the second half of the position but would also be responsible for seeking funds for the trust fund.
- **Webpage discussion** - Shannon Brubaker, shared the latest news on the webpage front, she asked that the Council have more ownership in the content of the page, starting out with sending a report of statewide activities and images to support them.
- **Weed awareness week committee and proclamation** – Shannon Brubaker and Robyn Draheim, gave a brief update of the status of the committee and decided to have a meeting in February to kick off plans for the next weed awareness week.

DAVE WILLIAMS, USDA – Feral Swine Update

Dave gave a brief update to the Council regarding the landowners directly impacted by the feral swine in central Oregon area and their attempt to receive grant money from OWEB. He encouraged the Council to create a feral swine action plan to help further the efforts of the landowners.

REPORT CARD AND BYLAW REVIEW

The Council directed Dan Hilburn to compile the 2005 report card and have a draft to Council members by the end of December..

Bylaws were reviewed and it was decided that the Council would move on them at the Spring meeting each year.

NEW MEMBERS/CHAIRMAN REASSIGNMENT

Martin asked the Council to be thinking about nominations for the soon to be vacated seats of Risa Demasi, Kev Alexanian and Sue Cudd. There was brief discussion about who and what sectors of government and industry should be represented. Dan Hilburn offered to send out a request for nominees to the general public and email the Council with nominees by the end of the year.

Martin offered to chair the Council for one more year and it was decided that we go back to the normal rotation of the Council where each ex-officio serves as the Chair for a year at a time and then rotate. Sam Chan will chair the Council for 2006.

AWARDS BANQUET AND NEXT MEETING

There was a brief discussion regarding awardees for the 2005 year. It was decided to have a joint Council and State Weed Board meeting again in February.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.