



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR FOUR 2013-2014 COUNCIL SEATS BY DECEMBER 15

SALEM, Oregon— The Oregon Invasive Species Council is seeking nominations for four open seats currently filled by members whose terms expire on December 31, 2012.

People with expertise in the following areas are especially encouraged to seek nomination: 1) environmental law, 2) marine and estuary ecology and systems, including shellfish aquaculture, 3) transportation/trade, 4) horticulture/weed research, 5) small woodlands, 6) parks and recreation, 7) science education/K-12, 8) ports and shipping, 9) pet industry, 10) regional coordination, and 11) agriculture industry. State statute requires appointing authorities 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 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 Oregon State Marine Board, Western Invasives Network, Bureau of Land Management, and Turf Merchants, Incorporated.

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 December 15, 2012. Appointments will be announced shortly thereafter.

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. English ivy, 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, gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, west Nile virus, Asian carp, 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. Examples of Council activities in the past year include participation in the development of an action plan for the West to prevent the transport of quagga and zebra mussels via boats, hosting a statewide invasive species summit to identify needed prevention efforts, surveying invasive tunicates in Oregon bays, and working with the Pacific Northwest Region to identify regional actions to advance invasive species prevention and management efforts.

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

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