



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For release: November 2, 2010

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2011-2012 COUNCIL SEATS BY NOVEMBER 30

SALEM, Oregon—The Oregon Invasive Species Council is seeking nominations for four open seats for positions currently filled by members whose terms expire on December 31, 2010.

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 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 Nature Conservancy, Port of Portland, Oregon Marine Board, 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 30, 2010. 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. 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, Chinese mitten crab, gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, west Nile virus, Asian carp, crayfish 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 leadership in a tri-state research-based outreach campaign on preventing the spread of pests from non-local firewood, creation of a committee to address newly discovered invasive tunicates in Oregon coastal bays, completion of a nationally recognized statewide assessment of invasive species management, and printing of the second edition of the highly popular *GardenSmart Oregon*, a guide to invasive plants and alternatives for gardeners. The next set of initiatives for the Council is to host a statewide invasive species summit on November 18 and begin the development of a statewide 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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