

Statewide Management Assessment of Invasive Species in Oregon



DECEMBER 2009

A REPORT FOR THE
OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL



Creative Resource Strategies, LLC

Overall Goals



- Provide a big picture framework;
- Identify legislative gaps;
- Suggest priority policy issues;
- Enhance coordination, plan strategically, understand legal framework;
- Enable financial supporters to allocate funds to highest priorities;
- Define roles and responsibilities; and
- Allow Oregon to better focus IS efforts.

Methodology



- Three Phases

- 1: Literature Review
- 2: Survey instrument
- 3: Data analysis



Results



- 297 individuals -
- 234
organizations
- Numerous
entities within
each county
- Geographic
representation
- 128 responses

Oregon Counties



Authorities, Roles, and Responsibilities



- **Federal**

- ✦ Prevention – adequate biosecurity measures to protect borders

- **State**

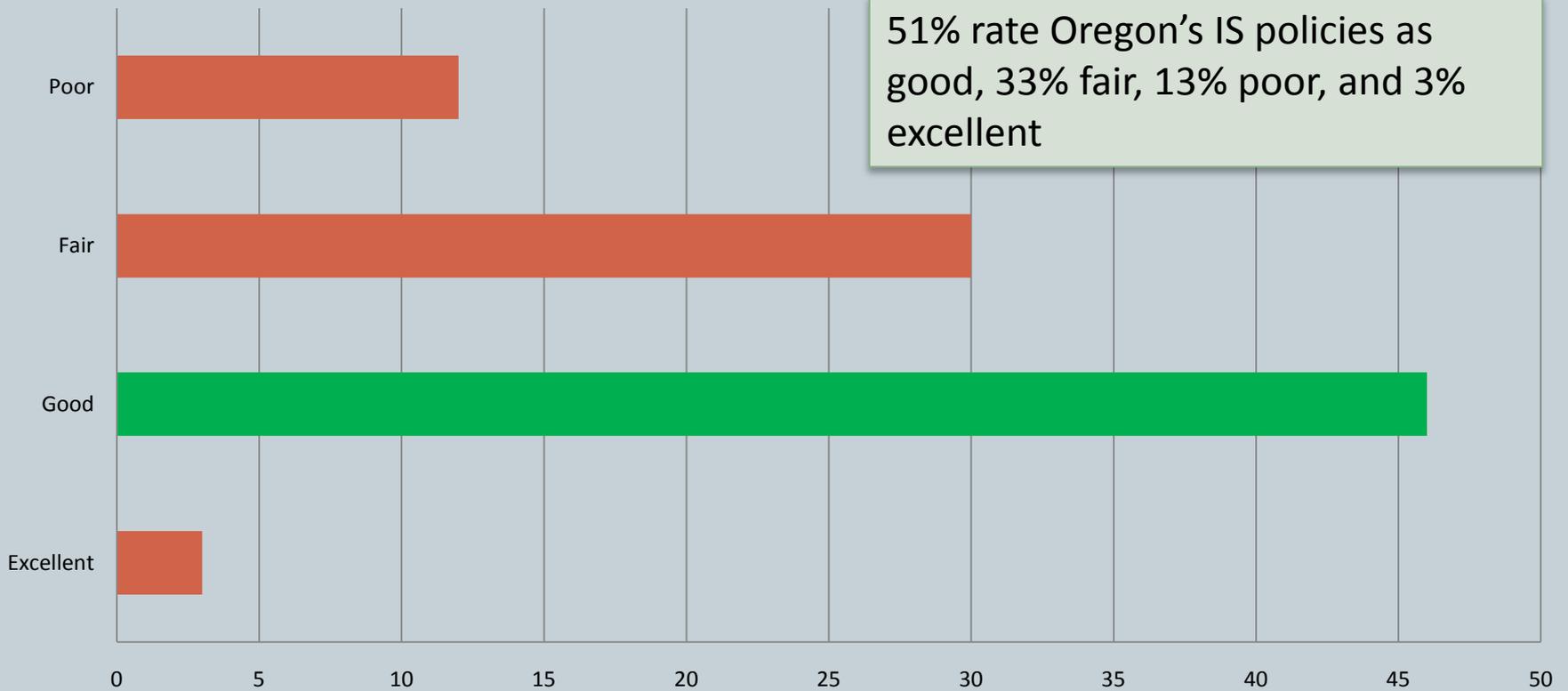
- ✦ Funding
 - Acknowledge state's role
 - Siloed approach to agency funding
 - Sustainable funding for base county IS programs
- ✦ Strategic outreach and education across agencies
- ✦ Review authority every 2 years
- ✦ Implementation plan needed for Oregon Conservation Strategy, Aquatic Nuisance Species Plan, etc.



- **Local government**

- All counties need funded weed district and all-taxa IS programs

Are Oregon's invasive species policies effective?



	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
■ Ratings	3	46	30	12

Challenges to policy development, implementation, and enforcement



- Policy and planning structures are complex and non-linear
- Reactive versus proactive
- Roles unclear
- Cost



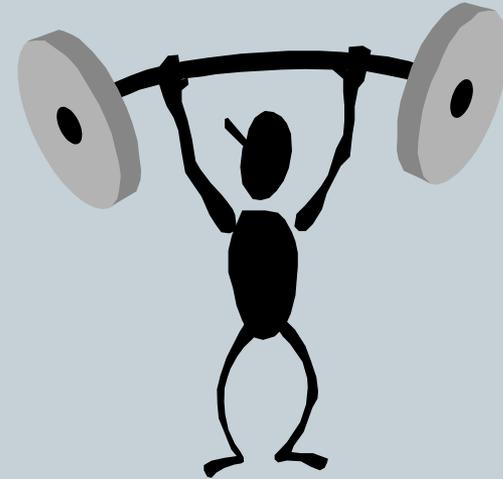
“The design of any policy initiative – whether related to income security or other area – must be costed to establish how much is required to support the proposed plan.” Torjmann (2005)

Oregon's invasive species policies and plans – are they effective?



- **SWOT Analysis**

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats



What is the cost to implement these plans?

	Cost	Fund Obtained Toward Plan Objectives
<u>National</u>		
National Partners Against Weeds Strategy	NO	?
National Invasive Species Council Management Plan	NO	?
USFS National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management 2004	NO	Some
Safeguarding America Report 2000	NO	Some
USFWS Pacific Region Fisheries Program Strategic Plan	NO	Some
<u>Regional</u>		
USFS Noxious Weed Management Plans For National Forests - Pacific Northwest Region R6	NO	Some
USFS Noxious Weed Policy & Strategic Plan (1999)	NO	?
Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants - Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (2004)	NO	?
<u>State</u>		
ODOT Integrated Pest Management Plans for 15 maintenance districts	NO	Some
Oregon Conservation Strategy	NO	NO
Oregon Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan (2001)	YES	Some
Feral Swine Action Plan for Oregon (2007)	YES	NO
Oregon Department of Agriculture Plant Health Emergency Response Plan (2006)	NO	?
Oregon Noxious Weed Strategic Plan	NO	Some
Oregon Spartina Response Plan (2003)	Yes	Some
A & T Weed Management Plans	No	Some
South Slough NERR Management Plan	No	Some
Plant Health Emergency Response Plan	No	?



Inter-agency partnerships



The most common types of partnerships:

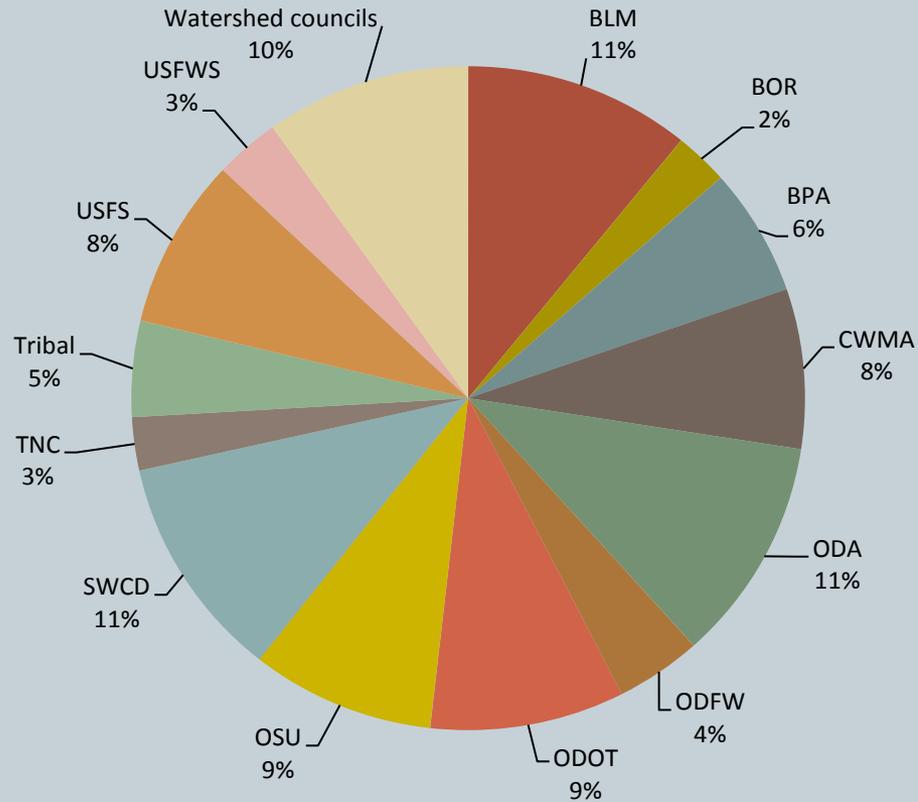
- local governments and all other entities (N=905)
- state governments and all other entities (N=499)
- nonprofit organizations and all other entities (N=303)
- federal agencies and all other entities (N=253)

	<i>Federal</i>	<i>Tribal</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Local</i>	<i>Academic</i>	<i>Nonprofit</i>	
Federal	104	17	59	35	30	8	253
Tribal	7	0	2	0	0	0	9
State	160	53	129	107	34	16	499
Local	284	46	233	275	33	34	905
Nonprofit	86	4	92	91	13	17	303
Academic	77	3	34	49	13	8	184
	718	123	549	557	123	83	2,153

Inter-agency partnerships



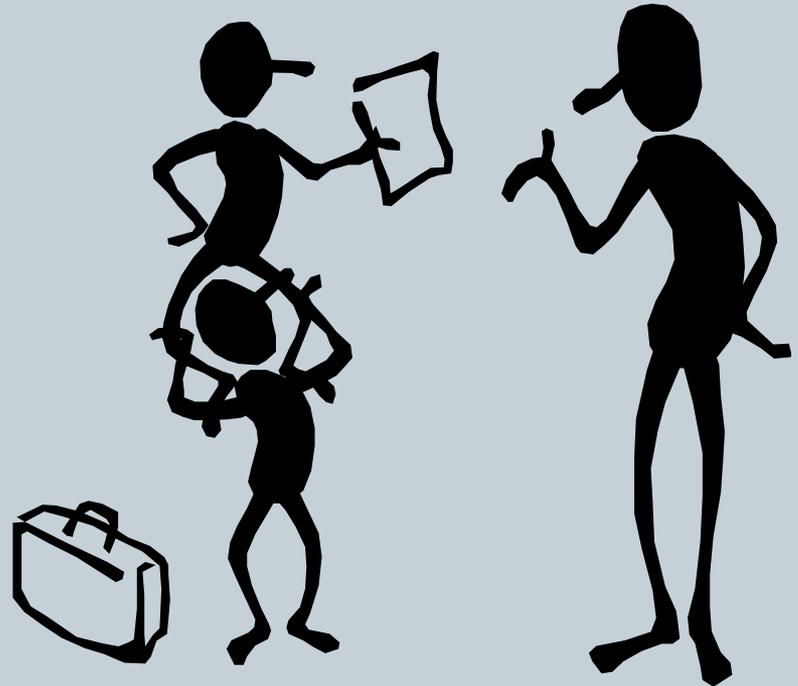
Percent composition of agreements **counties** have with entities for invasive species activities in Oregon in 2008.



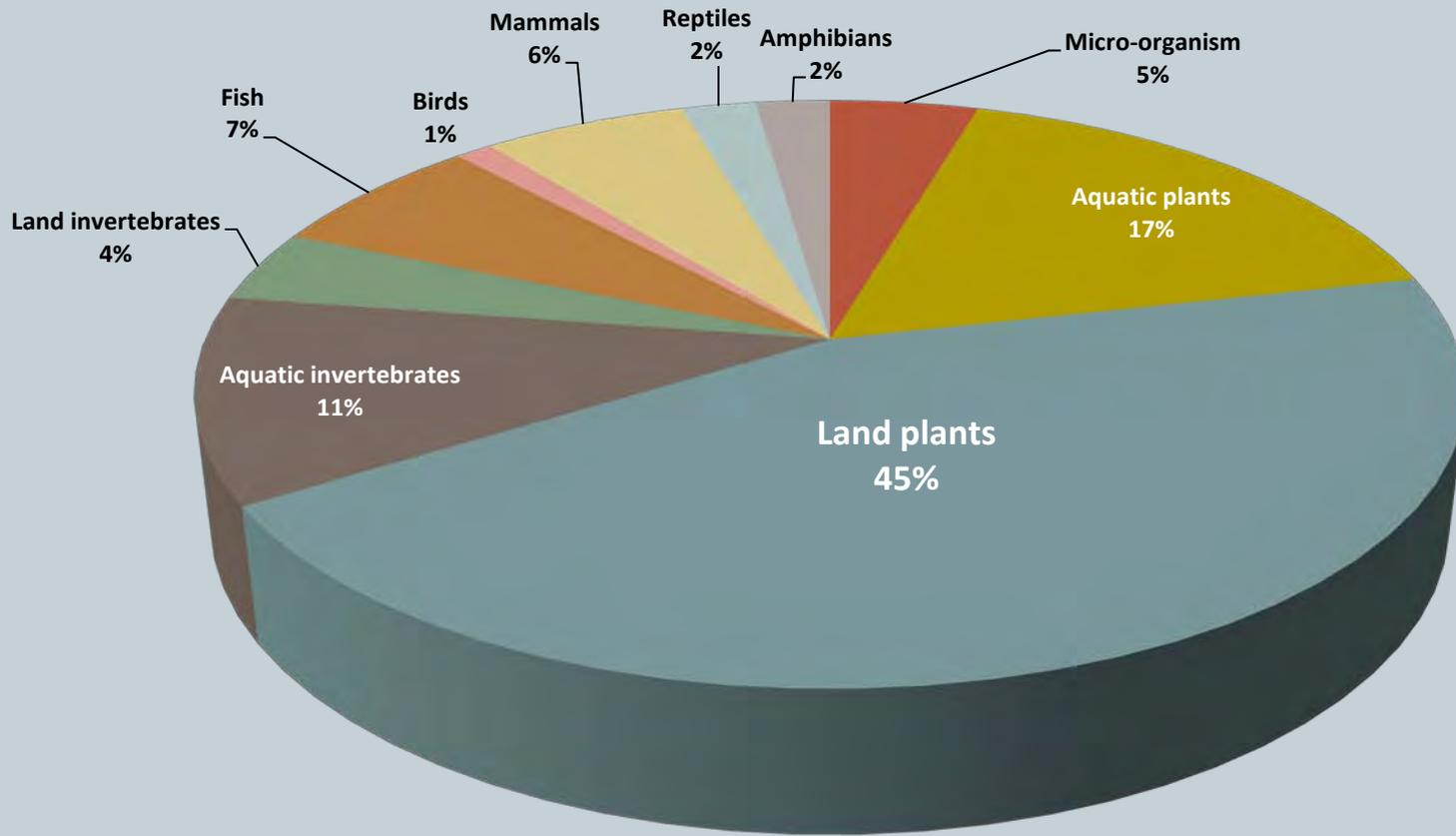
Inter-agency partnerships



- The most common types of inter-agency partnerships
 - outreach/education (324)
 - monitoring/surveillance (315)
 - management/control (306)
 - EDRR (297)
 - coordination (250)
 - prevention (241)
 - research (164)
 - effectiveness monitoring (151)
 - policy (94)
 - fundraising (86)



Invasive Species Taxa



Invasive Species Databases: A Gap Analysis



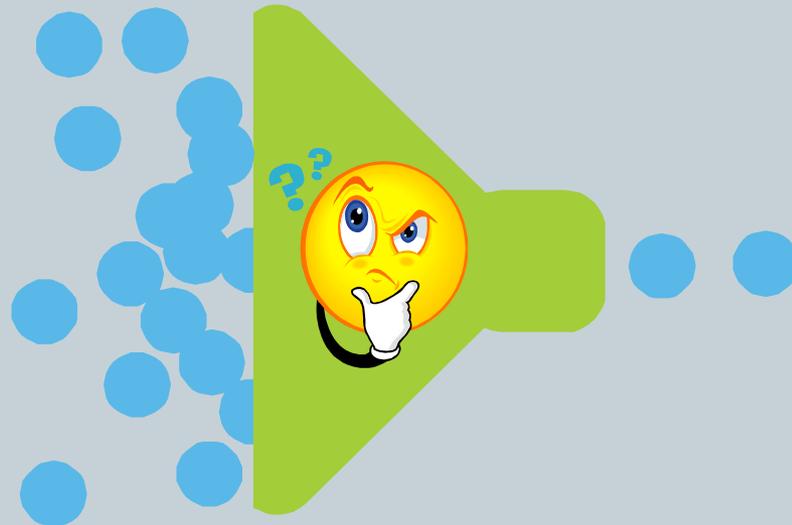
- **Questions:**
 - 1. What do users of invasive species databases need and want?
 - What kinds of questions are existing databases capable of answering?
- **Methodology:**
 - Two surveys
 - ✦ Invasive species database managers in United States (N=8); 43-question survey modeled after other regional initiatives
 - ✦ Users of invasive species database managers (N=59); 20-question survey available to anyone
- **Results: iMapInvasives launches in 2010**

Status of Funding in Oregon for Invasives



- What is the current source of funds for invasive species activities?
- How are these funds being spent, in what categories, and by whom?

Source of funds

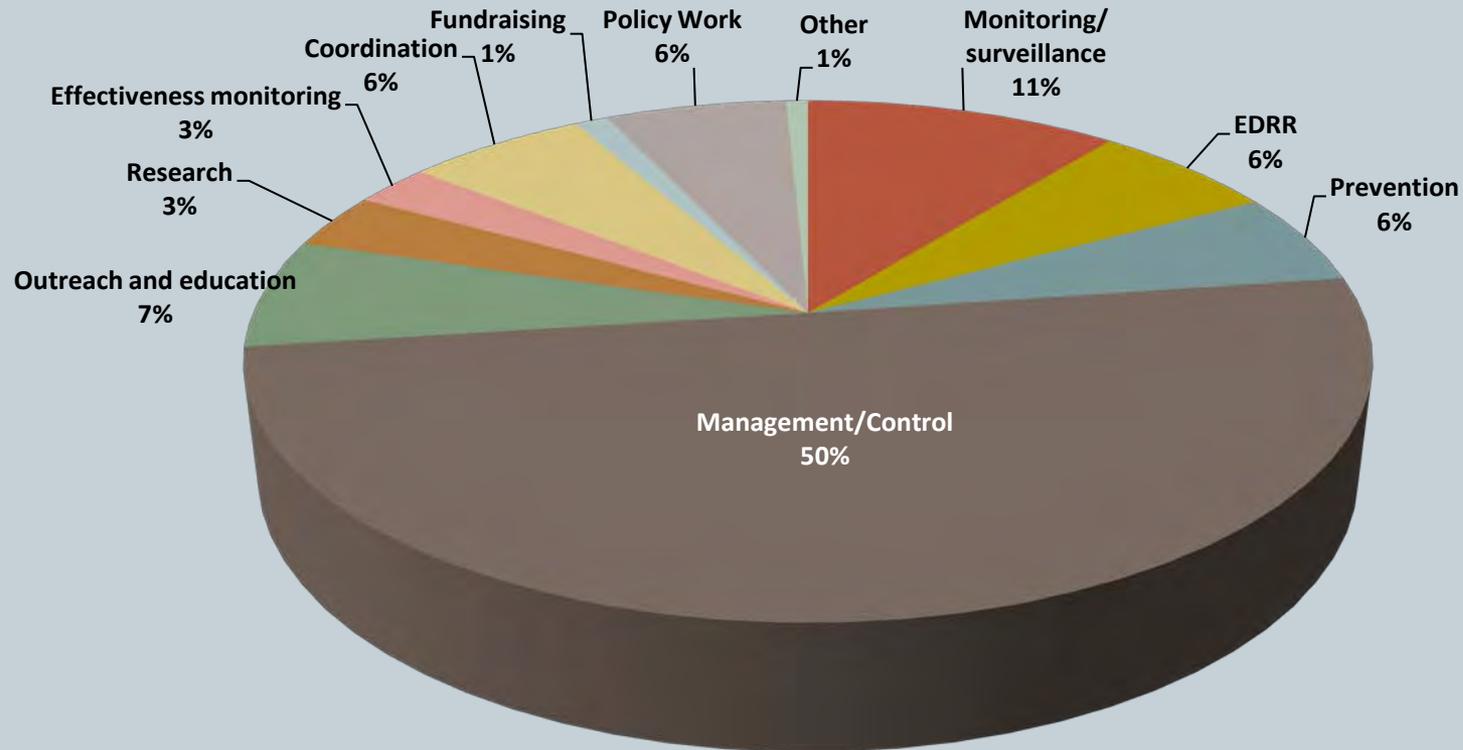


Expenditure of funds

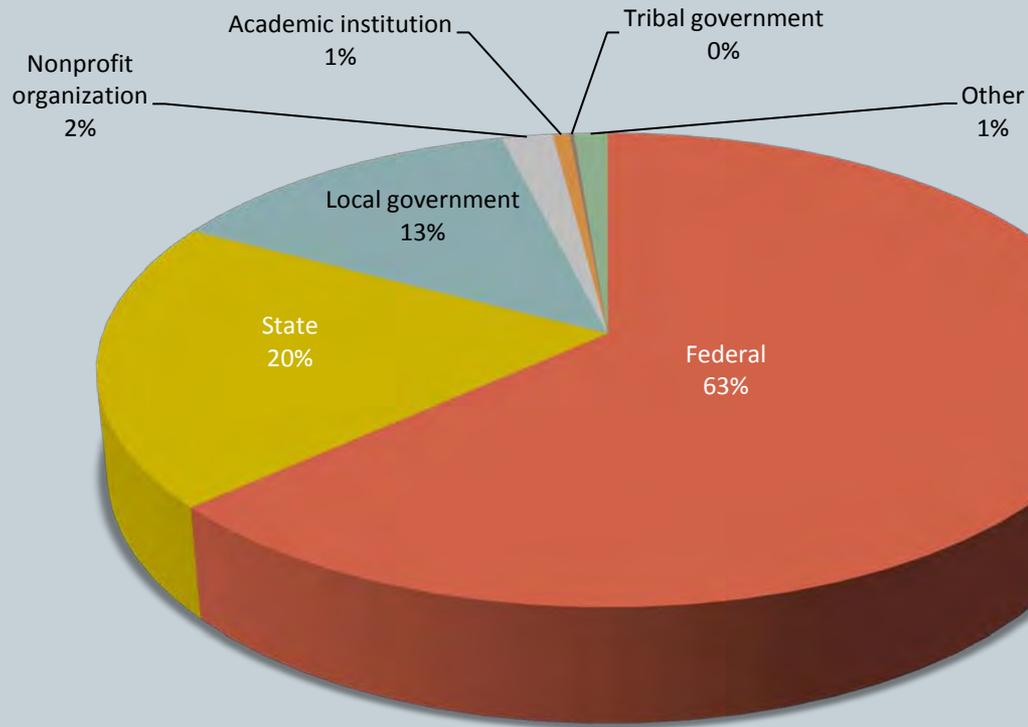
How Oregon spent funds in 2008



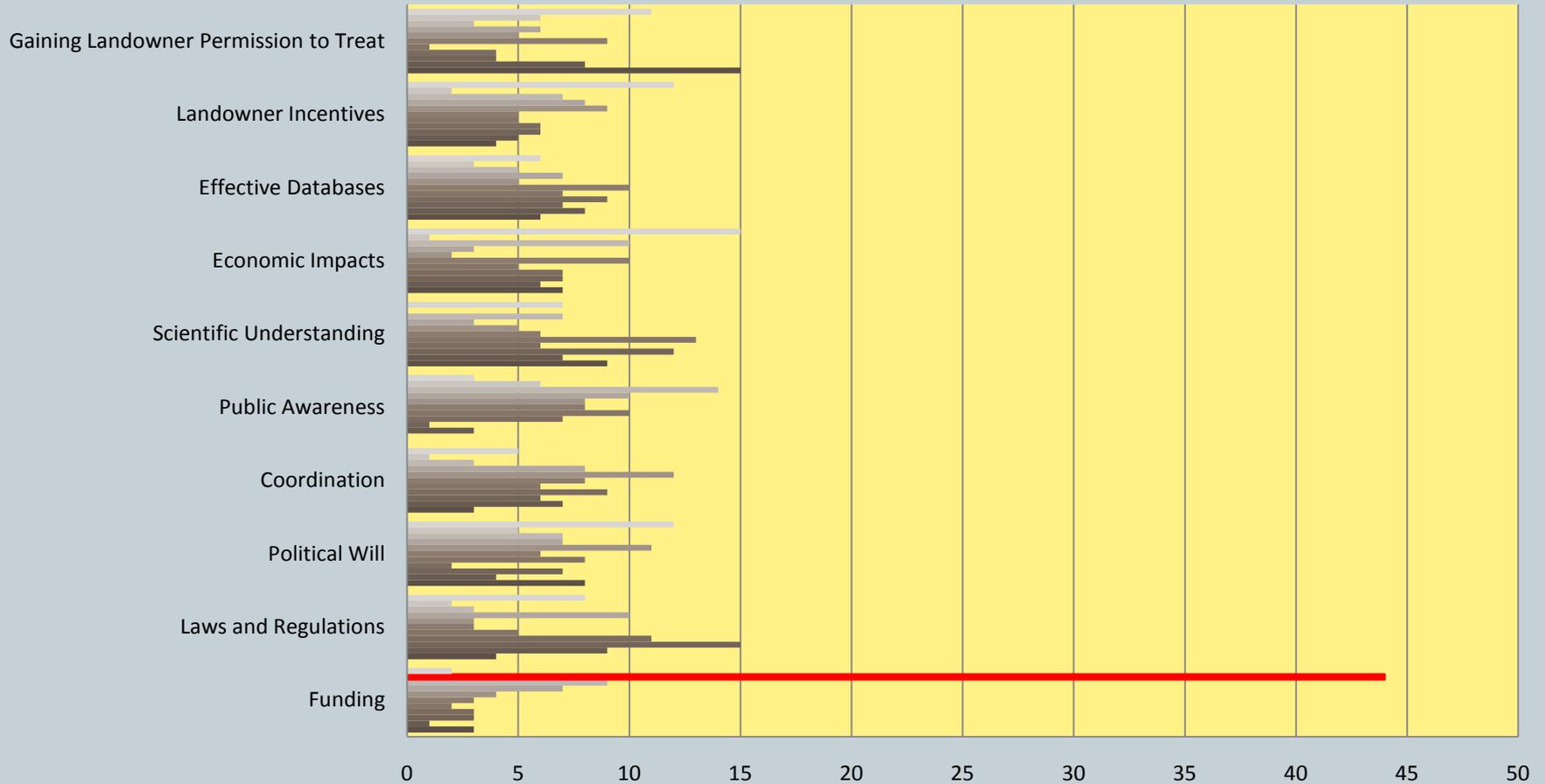
Oregon expended an estimated **\$28.1 million** on invasive species in 2008



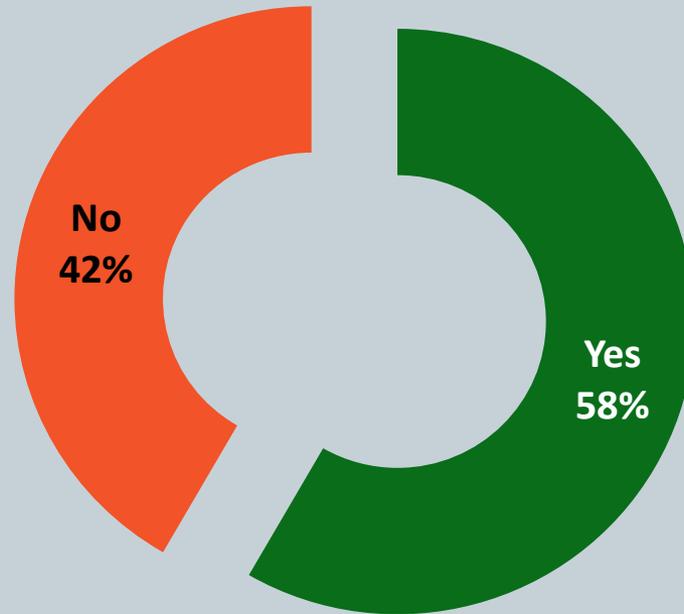
Source of funds for IS in Oregon in 2008



Obstacles to Effective Implementation of Invasive Species Programs



EDRR Networks



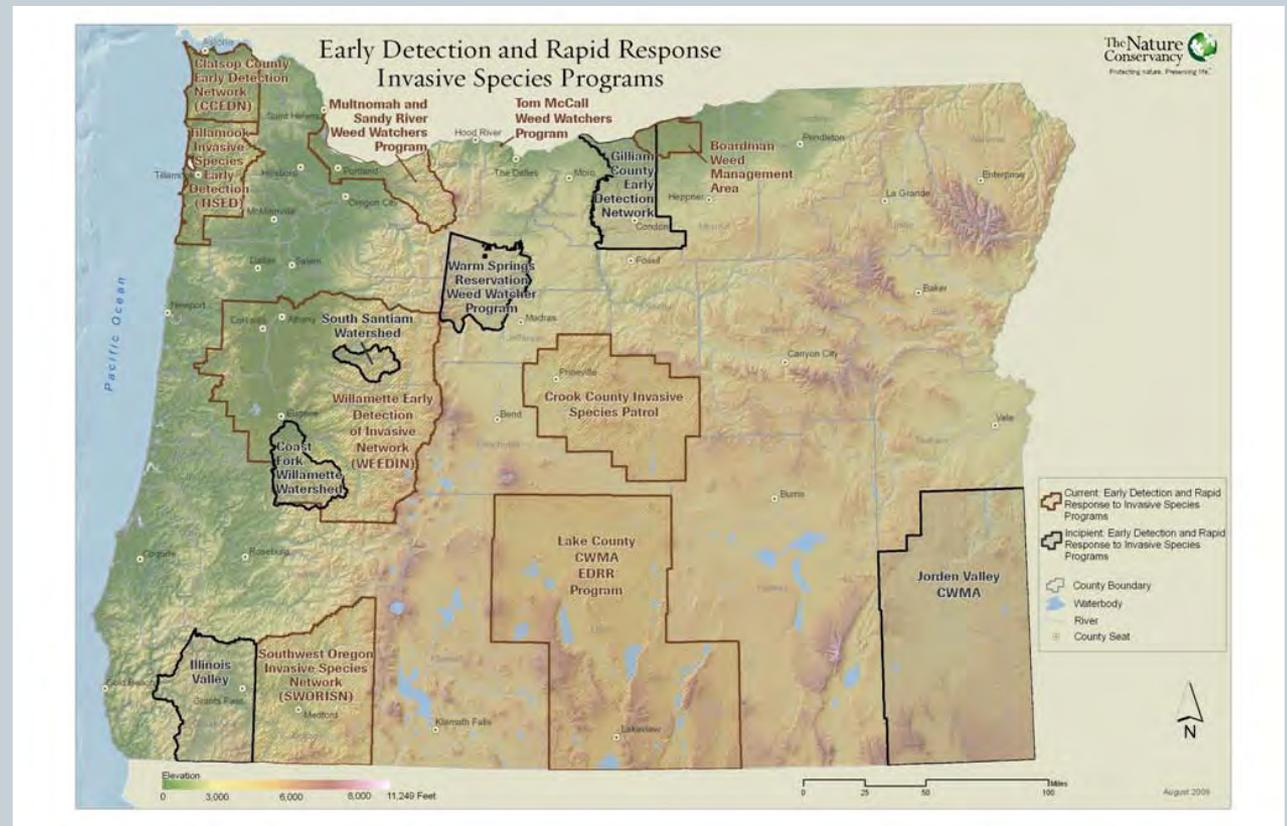
Survey respondents who indicated they participate in an Early Detection Rapid Response Network (N=87).

EDRR Networks



Elements of an EDRR network

- 1) Multiple partners
- 2) Agreement on a list of priority species
- 3) Agreement to respond to priority species
- 4) Public educational component
- 5) Priority areas or boundaries identified
- 6) Monitoring by either staff or volunteers
- 7) Mapping and tracking species and reports



Oregon needs Best Management Practices for EDRR networks

Recommendations



- (1) Develop one comprehensive invasive species list/plan that spans all taxa and identifies the highest priorities for funding and management activities and identifies costs AND 27. This plan could also serve as the implementation plan for the invasive species key priority conservation area of the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- (2) Each county needs an established funded weed district and program.
- (3) Oregon needs a \$5 million emergency fund, and sustainable funding for invasive species. Oregon needs to take a critical next step to statutorily protect the \$5 million emergency fund.
- (4) Move the state toward the development and use of a few shared databases to track and manage invasive species.

Recommendations



- 5) Fund programs that provide for experienced/trained individuals to survey for invasive species. Develop a comprehensive statewide EDRR network that includes BMPs.
- (6) Develop measurable invasive species performance measures.
- (7) Direct more resources into effectiveness monitoring. Replace current voluntary grant-based funding process with direct funding aimed at high priority projects and programs AND require effectiveness monitoring as a critical adaptive management function to ensure appropriate design and selection of projects.
- (8) Better coordinate amongst all natural resource agencies (locally, statewide, regionally, and where appropriate, nationally) programs and messages that address invasive species instead of developing stand-alone campaigns and agency-focused outreach AND look beyond Oregon's borders and partnering with neighboring states (e.g., firewood outreach campaign).

Recommendations



- (9) Explore opportunities to redirect a portion of existing funds to fund high priority invasive species programs in the state—not through expensive and time-consuming grant programs, but through direct funding to initiatives designated as the highest priorities.
- (10) Identify existing plan expenditures AND ensure alignment and linkages across plans.
- (11) Develop an all-taxa invasive species strategic plan for the Pacific Northwest to identify high priority regional issues. Encourage the use of the West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health as a vehicle for facilitating regional consistency, coordinating actions, and promoting federal support for invasive species management goals and programs.
- (12) Oregon needs to better balance its three-legged stool for invasive species funding to ensure contributions of government, industry, and private funding contribute to a shared responsibility and commitment.

Oregon is at a Crossroads



The Most Important Step

Our Formula for Success



One statewide invasive species plan that incorporates the highest priorities identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan, and other plans to ensure the highest priorities are funded to demonstrate Oregon's commitment and accountability to this important economic, environmental and social issue.

- Measurable, costed, accountability

