

2014 Report Card on Oregon's Invasive Species Activities

Presented to Oregon by the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC)



The OISC was created by the Oregon legislature in 2001. Its mission is to conduct a coordinated and comprehensive effort to keep invasive species out of Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already established in Oregon. Invasive species are those plants, animals, and microbes not native to a region which, when introduced either accidentally or intentionally, out-compete native species for available resources, reproduce prolifically, dominate regions and ecosystems, and cause harm to humans, the ecology and the economy. The council carries forth its mission through four primary functions: (a) create, maintain, and publicize a system (1-866-INVADER) for invasive species sightings; (b) enhance awareness of invasive species through outreach and education efforts; (c) develop and maintain a statewide plan to deal with invasive species; and (d) administer a trust account to fund outreach and education, and eradication and control projects. The council also develops a list of 100 most dangerous invaders threatening Oregon.

This report card provides an assessment by the Oregon Invasive Species Council of invasive species activities in Oregon in 2014. For additional information about the council, including 2014 meeting minutes, a list of the top 100 most dangerous species threatening to invade the state, the council's business plan, a list of current council members, awards, reports, news, and events, visit the OISC website at <http://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org>.

Overall Grade: C+

Excluding invasives:	B
Reporting invasives:	C-
Outreach/Education:	B
Statewide planning:	C+

Comments

Goals & Areas to Improve

Success at Excluding
Invasive Species in Oregon

B

- After Council dialogue, five taxa were removed from the list and two more were removed from groups due to establishment in the state or after new information was incorporated. In addition six groups required distribution updates and five high-priority taxa were added to the list.

- Increase awareness and use of the various council products
Greater integration of the current council products (various hotlines etc) as well as collaboration with regional efforts.

Reporting Invasive Species
(website and phone line)

C-

- The 1-866-INVADER hotline and the site <http://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/> continue to function though there is concern that it is not being utilized to its full potential.
- Currently the data collected by the hotline and subsequent website is not being used internally and not being reported to other agencies, though current funding levels are inadequate to handle any reporting
- National hotline may be shut down in the near future and therefore all traffic will need to be redirected to the Oregon Hotline.

- Increase the funding for the hotline and other invasive species reporting tools to cover the added costs of consolidation and reporting
- Increase the public outreach and information regarding the hotline.

Outreach and Education

B

- Clean, Drain and Dry campaign has been successful.
- Feral Swine hotline is still active.
- Oregon Forest Pest Detector program began this past year.
- Conducted outreach using the debris that washed up from shore from the Japanese tsunami.

One goal for next year would be to attempt to reach more stakeholder groups. Our emphasis in the past few years has been on detection, and that will always continue, but we need to reach out to more groups that are involved or may be affected by invasive species. For example:

- Private companies and landowners. As we learn more about the means by which invasive species travel in to the state our partnerships with private companies and landowners will be essential to our success.
- Oregon legislature and Governor's office, make sure they have the most up to date information on our efforts and needs for invasive species prevention.
- Students, we finishing up a student poster competition and we hope to turn the winning posters into outreach tools.

Statewide Action Plan/ Planning and coordination

C+

Our planning and coordinating efforts suffered a rough period of time without a coordinator. However, in spite of that shortcoming there were numerous examples of inter-agency cooperation, such as the APHIS Feral Swine Task Force and the [Oregon Forest Pest Detector Program](#), which is the foundation of the work the council supports.

Though we did slightly better this year there is still a lot of room for growth and we are looking forward to the coming year. The following goals will help us achieve that growth.

- Begin work with the new coordinator. We have gone through a rigorous RFP process to find a new coordinator and have contracted with the Samara Group to handle our coordination. This is the first time that the council has had a group instead of just one coordinator and we are excited about the added skills and flexibility Samara provides us.
- Stronger participation from our advisory committee and outside stakeholders. We need to actively engage all invasive species stakeholders both in the state and the surrounding region.
- Review the 5 year plan and develop an annual strategy for accomplishing those long term goals.
- Work with regional councils to make sure that we are working together whenever possible.