



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Report Card, 2007

This report card is intended to provide an assessment of Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) accountability in 2007. For additional information about the council, including meeting minutes for 2007, a list of the top 100 most dangerous species threatening to invade the state, the council's action plan, a list of current council members, a list of invasive species established in Oregon, awards, reports, news, and events, visit the OISC website at www.oregon.gov/OISC.

About The Council

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 one overall grade for the council, as well as a grade within each of these five areas.

This Report Card

This Report Card is a document in transition. Prior to this year, the annual report card focused on success in keeping species on the 100th worst list from being established in the state. In 2007, a committee within OISC was created to develop new grading criteria that reflected not just the state of invasives at the state scale, but also the work of the council in each of its five missions. The grade reflected in this (2007) report card reflects the additional criteria. To fully implement those committee recommendations, a statewide assessment must be conducted and a new action plan with performance-based measurable objectives must be completed. In the interim, this Report Card is meant to bridge the gap between previous years' versions that focused primarily on success at excluding invasive species in Oregon, and the 2008 version, which will include grading criteria focused on the four primary statutory responsibilities of the council, success at excluding invasive species in Oregon, and other factors that reflect the state of invasives at the state scale.

The overall grade is an average of the five categories described above.

Executive Summary

Grade

OVERALL GRADE FOR 2007: B

(I) 1-866-INVADER	B
(II) Outreach and Education	B+
(III) Statewide Action Plan	C
(IV) Trust Account	D
(V) Success at Excluding Invasive Species in Oregon in 2007	A

(I) 1-866-INVADER	(II) Outreach and Education
Grade: B	Grade: B+
OISC received an average of 31 calls per month calls to the 1-866-INVADER hotline in 2007.	An Oregon Invasive Species Awareness and Engagement Campaign was developed in 2007 with the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB), SOLV, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Oregon State University (OSU) Sea Grant Extension Service, the Statesman Journal, Portland State University (PSU), and other agencies to inform and engage the public in a statewide effort to curtail invasive species. The first products of this campaign will be seen in the spring of 2008. In addition, three listservs are maintained to enhance information sharing.
To improve the grade in 2008: Make improvements to the OISC website and outreach materials to better inform the public that the hotline's primary use is for invasive species new to the state (versus established species); follow-up on all calls including providing identification access to identification information for the 100 worst invaders; working with OPB to finalize their website that will serve an electronic 1-866 function (i.e., the public will be able to download pictures, communicate with experts, etc.).	To improve the grade in 2008: Fully implement the campaign. Short term outcomes include completing the pre- and post-surveys to assess awareness effectiveness; focus groups to understand Oregonian's awareness of invasive species and their impacts, barriers that prevent stakeholders from being engaged and actions stakeholders are likely to embrace; having a joint, concise OISC message available for the public; and developing phase 2 of the campaign to ensure sustainability.

(III) Statewide Action Plan	(IV) Trust Account
Grade: C	Grade: D
The first step in the development of a new action plan for the council is the hiring of an Invasive Species Council Coordinator. In 2007, the OISC obtained the funding to hire a 1/3 FTE coordinator on contract through a competitive process. The new coordinator was hired in December of 2007, and plans were initiated to develop a new action/strategic plan in the spring/summer of 2008. The new plan will build on the work of a 2007 OISC committee that reviewed the 2005 action plan and annual report cards, and made recommendations to improve performance-based objectives and outcomes, as well as accountability.	Efforts to secure funds and donations to the Trust Fund Account were not possible in 2007 without the presence of an OISC Coordinator, hired in December of 2007 (1/3 FTE). Efforts to secure funds for this account will increase substantially in 2008, and will be articulated in the new action plan.
To improve the grade in 2008: Conduct a statewide assessment of invasive species activities in Oregon in 2007, and develop with partner organizations and the council a new action/strategic plan with performance-based outcomes, and clearly defined expectations for legislative initiatives and funding (including an emergency fund for new invaders).	To improve the grade in 2008: Articulate and achieve fundraising goals in the 2008 action plan.

(V) Success at Excluding Invasive Species in Oregon in 2007
Grade: A
The council develops and annually updates a list of the 100 most dangerous invaders threatening Oregon. This category assesses success or failure at exclusion of these species in Oregon in 2007. None of the organisms on the 100 worst list became established in Oregon during 2007.
To improve the grade in 2008: Prevent all species on the OISC 100 Worst List from becoming established by 2009, document that target established invaders are decreasing or holding steady, and identify policy gaps and steps needed to close those gaps (via a statewide assessment). Ensure early detection/rapid response plans are in place. Support federal legislation aimed at invasive species, and develop and promote Oregon legislation to deal with state-specific issues.