



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL SELECTS THREE INDIVIDUALS FOR 2009-2010 COUNCIL SEATS

SALEM, Oregon—The Oregon Invasive Species Council selected three new individuals to the Council this week to replace three Council members whose terms have expired.

The Council selected Jennifer Goodridge, Invasive Plant Coordinator, with the Bureau of Environmental Services at the City of Portland, Glenn Dolphin, Clean Marina Coordinator with the Oregon State Marine Board, and Dan Walters, Production Specialist with DLF International, to replace three outgoing Council members.

Incoming OISC Chair Bradley Knotts of the Oregon Department of Forestry said the Council is very pleased with the background and experience of the three incoming candidates.

“The three new members bring experience and enthusiasm to the Council,” said Knotts. “Portland has recognized the damage invasive plants cause and is implementing an aggressive invasive plant management plan. Representation on the Council by the Oregon State Marine Board is critical as Oregon deals with the potential threats of quagga and zebra mussels. And given the importance of the seed industry to Oregon’s economy, the Council believes it is important to include a representative of this industry as a member.”

State statute requires the Council to appoint persons representative of the geographic, cultural, and economic diversity of this state. Terms are for two years with a two-term limit.

There are 13 seats on the Council. Five 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), and Oregon Department of Forestry. The five permanent members are responsible for appointing eight at-large members from government agencies, universities, industries, organizations or individuals

having an interest in invasive species. The permanent members seek to have representatives from different agencies, industries, and interests involved in the Council over time. Members whose terms have expired are invited to continue their association with the Council through membership in its advisory committee, inclusion in its email listserve, or simply by attending council meetings.

The at-large individuals whose terms have expired represent the Oregon Association of Nurseries, Oregon Marine Board, and Bureau of Indian Affairs–Warm Springs. Other at-large members currently represent the USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Gilliam County Weed Department, Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery, and Port of Portland.

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. Nutria, European starling, Dutch elm disease, European green crab, Himalayan blackberry, and German yellowjacket are all examples of invasive species now established in Oregon. Other species, such as zebra and quagga mussels, Chinese mitten crab, gypsy moth, 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. In the past year, the Council participated in a statewide awareness and engagement campaign to stop the spread of invasive species, hosted a statewide summit on invasive species, developed an annual business plan, and identified key legislation and funding needed to protect Oregon from ongoing invasive species threats. The next major initiative for the Council is to conduct a statewide management assessment of invasive species, which will occur in February of 2009. Upon completion of the assessment, the Council will develop a long-term invasive species strategic plan for Oregon.

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