



OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

2009 Report Card on Oregon's Invasive Species Activities

This report card provides an assessment of invasive species activities in Oregon in 2009 by the Oregon Invasive Species Council. For additional information about the council, including 2009 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 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 people, the environment, and the economy.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (a) creates, maintains, and publicizes a system [1-866-INVADER] for invasive species sightings; (b) enhances awareness of invasive species through outreach and education; (c) develops and maintains a statewide invasive species plan; and (d) administers funds to support outreach and education, and eradication and control projects. The council also develops a list of the 100 most dangerous invaders threatening Oregon.

This report card provides one overall grade for the State of Oregon, as well as a grade within each of the five areas for which the Council has legislative mandates.

Executive Summary

OVERALL GRADE FOR 2009: A-

(I) Reporting Invasive Species	A-
(II) Outreach and Education	B+
(III) Statewide Action Plan	A
(IV) Trust Account	B
(V) Success at Excluding Invasive Species in Oregon	A

(I) Reporting Invasive Species

Grade: A-

The Oregon Invasive Species Council manages www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org, a website in which people can report suspected invasive species. In 2009, The Nature Conservancy supported efforts to expand the scope of the hotline to include regional early detection and rapid response networks and experts. These actions greatly increased the response time to reported infestations, and provide an excellent method to track sightings and responses over time.

In 2009, there were 188 reports to the hotline. One possible reason for the decline from 252 the year before is that the public is becoming aware of the most commonly established invasive species, such as starlings and nutria, and is no longer reporting these species.

(II) Outreach and Education

Grade: B+

The Oregon Invasive Species Council began attending the Governor's Natural Resource Cabinet meetings in 2009 to enhance communication and outreach with agency representatives. In addition, the Council hosted an Invasive Species Awareness Day at the Capitol with numerous partner organizations.

In partnership with local governments, engagement and outreach sessions were held to address concerns over spraying to eradicate an infestation of gypsy moths from Eugene.

The Council began conference calls with Washington and Idaho, and then California, in 2009, to discuss issues of regional importance and create regional efficiencies in how states respond to invasive species.

<p>The Oregon Invasive Species Council conducted nationwide and statewide invasive species database surveys in 2009, and has taken steps to move Oregon toward the use of a few databases to track invasive species. This effort will continue into 2010.</p>	<p>A calendar of the 100 worst invasive species was launched to increase awareness, highlight risks, and provide activities for teachers to teach about invasive species in schools.</p> <p>The Council led the development of a proposal among Oregon, Washington, and Idaho for USDA-APHIS funds to conduct a regional outreach campaign on firewood as a vector for invasive species.</p> <p>The Council conducted a statewide management assessment of invasive species. The assessment approach is being adopted by the National Invasive Species Council's Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.</p>
<p>To improve the grade in 2010: Integration of the phone line at the Oregon Department of Agriculture with the website hotline to ensure each report of an invasive species is documented, at least to the category level, will provide excellent trend information and data by which future decisions about managing reports can be made.</p> <p>The Council should move forward to develop tools that allow people to query across databases, and to move Oregon toward the use of a few databases to track invasive species.</p>	<p>To improve the grade in 2010: Obtain funding from USDA-APHIS to conduct the regional firewood outreach campaign, attend the Governor's Natural Resource Cabinet meetings, update and reprint <i>GardenSmart Oregon</i>, and create opportunities to inform the public about early detection and rapid response.</p> <p>Lead a statewide summit on invasive species and co-host, with Washington, Idaho, and California, a regional summit on invasive species.</p> <p>Begin measuring the effectiveness of the statewide invasive species awareness campaign that was initiated in 2008.</p>

(III) Statewide Business Plan/Action Plan	(IV) Trust Account
Grade: A	Grade: B
<p>The Council implemented the majority of action items in the business plan and conducted a statewide assessment of invasive species, the first of its kind in the country. The results of the statewide assessment will inform the development of an invasive species strategic plan for Oregon. The City of Portland also conducted an invasive animal assessment, which will be used to inform the development of an invasive animal management strategy for the City.</p> <p>The Oregon Legislature passed 11 of 12 bills introduced to help protect Oregon from invasive species.</p>	<p>The Council, through legislation, created an Invasive Species Control Account that contains, as of December 31 of 2009, \$350,000 for Oregon to respond to a new infestation of invasive species.</p> <p>The Council applied for \$1,221,244 in grant support in 2009 for Council coordination, <i>GardenSmart Oregon</i> reprinting, early detection and rapid response (EDRR), an exhibit on invasive species at Portland International Airport, and numerous grants through USDA-APHIS, one of which is for a regional outreach campaign on firewood with Washington and Idaho. The Council awaits word on the USDA-APHIS grants and was asked to submit a full proposal for the EDRR grant. The Council received \$30,000 in coordinator support in 2009 to match state contributions.</p>
<p>To maintain the grade in 2010: Develop a statewide invasive species strategic plan for Oregon and develop legislative priorities for the 2011 legislative session.</p>	<p>To improve the grade in 2010: Develop ways to secure \$5 million for the Invasive Species Control Account, follow through on existing grant applications, and seek opportunities to leverage additional funds.</p>

(V) Success at Excluding Invasive Species in Oregon in 2009

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 2009. None of the organisms on the 100 Worst List became established in Oregon during 2009.

To maintain the grade in 2010: Prevent all species on the OISC 100 Worst List from becoming established by 2011, document that target established invaders are decreasing or holding steady, and continue to identify policy gaps and steps needed to close those gaps. 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 during the 2011 legislative session.

Our Top 10 List of 2009 Invasive Species Activities

Numerous activities focusing on surveillance, control, and management of invasive species occurred throughout 2009 at a variety of levels, from watershed-based citizen group activities to the development of draft legislation to further protect Oregon from the detrimental effects of invasive species.

A total of 13 organizations are members of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, plus there are 31 individuals that comprise our Advisory Committee. The Council has chosen the following ten accomplishments to highlight the diversity and depth of activity in Oregon's invasive species arena in 2009:

- 1. Legislative Successes** — Numerous conservation and other organizations teamed with the Oregon Invasive Species Council to obtain bi-partisan support in 2009 to pass 11 important invasive species-related pieces of legislation that will better protect Oregon from new infestations and the spread of existing invasive species.
- 2. Gypsy Moth in Eugene** — The Oregon Department of Agriculture completed a three-stage aerial attack on a gypsy moth infestation in southeast Eugene, spraying a biological insecticide over a 626-acre area in April and May, despite vocal opposition from individuals and a "Stop the Gypsy Moth Spray" group.
- 3. Iberian Thistle in Wheeler County** — Gilliam County Weed Supervisor/Oregon Invasive Species Council member Don Farrar was driving by a field within 100 feet of the John Day River and spotted a plant that seemed out of place. Closer examination revealed one acre of Iberian thistle in a 9-acre field. That same day, Don was able to secure \$3,000 in federal funding from the Bureau of Land Management, and the next morning, the site was sprayed with herbicide. This serves as an excellent example of early detection and rapid response.
- 4. Federal Stimulus Funding from the US Forest Service to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)** — Federal stimulus dollars made their way to Oregon in 2009, courtesy of the US Forest Service. A total of \$269,000 was transferred to ODA for weed control, and \$2,692,000 was transferred to ODF for Sudden Oak Death.
- 5. The Dirty Boat Incident** — In August, an off-duty State Police Trooper noticed a 30-ft cabin cruiser encrusted with unknown species at a truck stop in Medford. He reported the vessel to a supervisor and the boat was stopped in Grants Pass and inspected by an ODFW biologist who ruled out freshwater species. Glenn Dolphin of the Oregon State Marine Board was able to arrange an inspection of the vessel at its final destination in Portland and it was determined that a thorough cleaning of the boat, which had just recently been pulled out of San Francisco Bay, would still be required to prevent introduction of nonnative marine species into any saltwater system.
- 6. Spotted-Wing Drosophila—An Unwelcome Newcomer** — This Asian native was discovered in 2008 in California. Surveys conducted in Oregon in 2009 found spotted wing drosophila from Portland south into Douglas County.

This fly is of concern because unlike most members of its family, which only attack overripe or decaying fruit, it attacks ripe, healthy fruit.

7. **Eradication Successes: Granulate Ambrosia Beetle in The Dalles and Asian Gypsy Moth in St. Helens** — After 2 to 3 years of negative trapping data, the granulate ambrosia beetle infestation in The Dalles, and the Asian gypsy moth infestation in St. Helens were declared eradicated.
8. **OISC Launches Invasive Species Calendar** — The Oregon Invasive Species Council launched a new calendar in 2009 to raise awareness about invasive species threatening to enter Oregon. The calendar features a species of the month, and includes a risk assessment and teacher activities. It can be accessed online at <http://www.oregon.gov/OISC/>.
9. **Feral swine corral traps in Central Oregon successful** — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife acquired corral traps to control/eradicate feral swine in Central Oregon. The 2009 trapping season was successful, as numerous swine were caught and removed from private land.
10. **Firewood Outreach Campaign** — The Oregon Invasive Species Council led the development of a grant for a regional firewood outreach campaign with Idaho and Washington by applying for and receiving a USDA-APHIS grant of \$481,000.

