
Hello,

I write from a small nonprofit (Watershed Resource Center - serving communities in the Portland area) to add my voice in support of funding for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The collaboration brought forth by this group amplifies organizational capacity, and they play a crucial role in protecting our natural resources. Already on a shoestring budget, it's essential to support the OISC, and I urge your funding decisions to be reflective of the widespread need for this group, and/or request your seeking a less drastic decrease in funding than currently proposed.

Invasive pest pressures are not going away. Coordination and communication are more important than ever. OISC does this work. We believe funding needs to be restored without removing any cuts to core invasive species on-the-ground programs such as those administered by ODA. The OISC remains committed to supporting Oregon's invasive species network of organizations, programs and people tackling invasive species issues.

Thank you.

--

Erik Horngren

Manager, **Watershed Resource Center**

A program of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. and the Bureau of Environmental Services

<http://wrc.swni.org>

watershed@swni.org

Office: 503-823-2862



COMMENT ON BUDGET REDUCTION FOR THE OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES
COUNCIL

Before the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Joint Ways & Means Committee
July 22, 2020

My name is Catherine de Rivera and I live in SE Portland. I am a professor of Environmental Science & Management at Portland State University and the current chair of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, but I do speak only for myself, not for PSU or the Council. I do not stand to lose or gain financially from any decisions about these budget cuts.

These cuts from our Natural Resource agencies are painful as these agencies already have very tight budgets for their important missions and these are deep cuts. I am especially worried about the proposed cuts in the ODF budget for fire protection. However, I would like to focus on the cuts ODA has proposed for the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), though these only represent a small portion of the overall proposed cuts.

Invasive species are non-native species that become problematic and cause severe harm to human, ecological, or economic health. It is well established that detecting and reporting new problematic species immediately before they establish and spread, is not only much cheaper but greatly increases the success of control efforts. Effective, efficient management to reduce the arrival, spread, and impacts of invasive species across Oregon requires collaboration and coordination among the array of vested local, state, and federal agencies as well as industries and other stakeholders. With state budgets diminished due to Covid-19, many on-the-ground programs aimed at managing invasive species are also cut. Hence, information sharing and synergistic approaches are more important than ever for fulfilling statewide objectives and matching invasive pressures. In addition, comprehensive early detection in support of Oregon's biosecurity requires an engaged public. The OISC is the one state agency tasked with leading this coordination and collaboration as well as outreach. But ODA, OISCs fiscal agent (see HB 2213, sec 4 (2009)), has proposed to decrease the General Fund appropriation to the OISC for the biennium by 93% (\$300,000 down to \$20,000) and lottery funds by 32% (\$155,907 to \$105,907).

These proposed cuts eliminate funds to: a) replenish the reserve dedicated to supporting quick release of funds to applicants for rapid response eradication efforts; b) support the Oregon Invasive Species online Hotline; c) maintain coordination efforts to advance the OISC's strategic initiatives, d) support the distribution of competitive grant funds for Invasive Species Education & Outreach.

Therefore, I am worried about how this severe cut will impact the Council's ability to fulfill the mission to lead a coordinated and comprehensive effort for Oregon's biosecurity and am worried about the longer-term impacts to Oregon's natural resources if we fail to do our job now.

Greetings,

As a 25+ year volunteer in Terwilliger Parkway, a historic linear park in SW Portland, I know the importance of invasive species removal and its coordination. I've been removing English ivy for over 25 years and I'm not done yet! That's because ivy, blackberries, and clematis to name a few invasive plants, are very tenacious and love our environmental conditions in western Oregon.

It's so important to continue to fight both invasive plants and animals in Oregon and a coordinated effort, complete with adequate funding, is essential. If we don't fund this effort, we will be left with waterways that won't be conducive to aquatic and native animals' survival. Just look at all the ivy climbing up our trees and know that if we don't remove it soon, we will lose our trees and tree canopy forever.

I've seen some amazing results from the Oregon Invasive Species Council and want to stress the importance of their work and guidance.

Please continue to fund this valued and necessary organization.

Sincerely,
Robin Vesey
Friends of Terwilliger
<http://terwilligerfriends.org>





**NORTH
CLACKAMAS
WATERSHEDS
COUNCIL**

2416 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222 - 503-550-9282 - northclackamaswatersheds.org

July 21, 2020

To the Natural Resources Subcommittee,

I write from a small Watershed Council- to add my voice in support of funding for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The collaboration brought forth by this group amplifies organizational capacity and they play a crucial role in protecting our natural resources. The OISC already operates on a shoestring budget. It is it's essential to support the OISC and I urge you to resist the urge to make budget decisions that are penny-wise but pound foolish. The need for this group is widespread and affects urban, rural, and suburban lands in every corner of Oregon. We request that you maintain their funding at current levels.

Invasive pest pressures are not going away. Coordination and communication are more important than ever. OISC does this work. We believe funding needs to be restored without removing any cuts to core invasive species on-the-ground programs such as those administered by ODA. The OISC remains committed to supporting Oregon's invasive species network of organizations, programs and people tackling invasive species issues.

While Oregon's budget situation is certain challenging, the early detection/rapid response function of the OISC is vital to managing infestations before they become widespread and wreak even greater economic and natural resources damage that will inevitably cost the state and its residents vastly more in the long run. There may be places to cut. This is not one of them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Schulman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Schulman
Executive Director

Hello,

I write from a small nonprofit -as the only staff member of a Watershed Council- to add my voice in support of funding for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The collaboration brought forth by this group amplifies organizational capacity and they play a crucial role in protecting our natural resources. Already on a shoestring budget, it's essential to support the OISC and I urge your funding decisions to be reflective of the widespread need for this group, and/or request your seeking a less drastic decrease in funding than currently proposed.

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Thank you.

Alexis, Tryon Creek Watershed Council Coordinator

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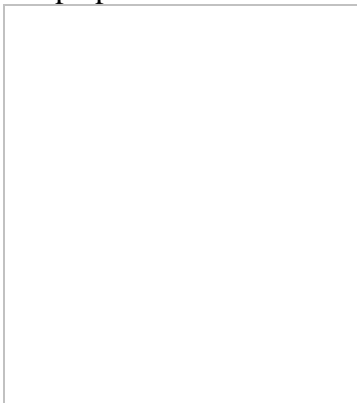
Alexis Barton

she/her

Program Coordinator - Tryon Creek Watershed Council

tryoncreek.org

Keep up with us on Facebook & Instagram! @TryonCreekWC





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Portland, Oregon 97207-0751

503-725-9955 tel
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July 22, 2020

Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee
900 Court St NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee,

The Institute for Natural Resources (INR) is a cooperative enterprise of Oregon's public universities tasked with linking the science and expertise of universities with natural resource decision making. We work across Oregon and several Western states to provide quality data, analyses, and reviews to inform policy and management decisions for biodiversity and conservation, landscape management, and water resources. In all these aspects, the impacts of invasive species are a significant consideration. In 2010, INR took on management of the iMapInvasives program to provide a standardized, statewide dataset for invasive species to aid in early detection and management efforts, planning, and research. Without our partnership with the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), INR would not be able to provide this service.

The OISC is essential for protecting Oregon from invasive species threats and ensuring that we have the knowledge and ability to plan for and respond to new or expanding invasive species populations. Invasive species cost Oregonians millions of dollars a year in lost land productivity, and toxic invasive species threaten wildlife, livestock, and human health. Preventing the establishment of species that have proven to be highly destructive such as zebra and quagga mussels is the most cost-effective way to respond to invasive species. The OISC is Oregon's best tool to defend against new invasive species impacts.

The OISC is a highly effective and collaborative program that provides Oregonians with immense benefit for a small amount of funding. The Council has been highly successful in bringing together state, local, private, and federal entities to address shared threats. The proposed budget would cut 93% of the Council's budget, effectively defunding the council for the next three years. The loss of this funding would severely hinder the Council's efforts and would leave Oregon unprepared to learn of and respond to incoming invasive species threats.

We recommend the Council's budget be reinstated, so this essential work can continue.

Sincerely,

Eleanor P. Gaines, PhD
Director
Institute for Natural Resources – Portland

cc: Jas Adams

Monday, July 20, 2020

Dear Oregon Legislators,

As globalization increases, the world becomes more accessible and invasive species are now posing a threat to key sectors of Oregon's economy that depend on natural resources and native ecosystems.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council was established by the Oregon Legislature in 2001 to address this threat to Oregon's working landscapes and economic vitality. The Council is a communication and planning network for Oregon state agencies designed to prevent invasive species entry, detect invasive species before they become established in Oregon and to control and eliminate invasive species whenever they appear. It is a strong network of local, state, federal, tribal and private entities.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee is meeting this Wednesday at 9:05 am to consider the Oregon Department of Agriculture's proposed budget reduction for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The proposed budget reduction effectively de-funds the Council for the next 3 years.

The budget of the Council is minuscule compared to any of the state agencies represented on the Council, yet it has accomplished a great deal through collaboration and coordination. It is a cost-effective strategy to protect natural resources in Oregon from invaders that have the potential to imperil public health and transform ecosystems. A gap in funding and efforts to prevent entry and control invasive populations already present will have serious consequences for Oregon. Once established many of these invasive species cannot be eradicated and the invasion of these species becomes irreversible.

Please consider the minimal funding needed to keep the Oregon Invasive Species Council functioning. For more information on what the Council has accomplished, please go to <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/>

Thank you for all of your hard work and making the difficult decisions you must make. You are very much appreciated.

Elaine Rybak

7144 NW Thompson Road, Portland, OR 97229

Monday, July 20, 2020

Dear Legislators,

We are in trying times. This you already know. I respect the fact that difficult decisions are needed to be made regarding budgetary issues across the board. With this in mind though, I do not understand how the Oregon Department of Agriculture can be allowed to effectively dismantle the Oregon Invasive Species Council by forcing it to absorb a 93% budget reduction while other Departments are asked to make budget cuts amounting to 17% for the rest of the biennium. This hardly sounds fair or wise given the function the Council serves in protecting the State from Invasive species. These invasive species are no different then the COVID-19 virus that plagues us all right now in that if allowed to multiply unchecked can devastate the natural resources and livability within our state boundaries and abroad. The budget that the Council operates on is a mere drop in the bucket of the money needed to be saved this biennium but the benefits and protections it provides the state's natural resources far out ways its cost. The old saying of "pay me now, or pay me latter" could never be truer then it is when contemplating the costs of the budget cuts that are being asked of the Oregon Invasive Species Council. Therefore I ask that you seriously reconsider the cuts recommended by the Oregon Department of Agriculture Director and restore the Councils budget with just the 17% cut that everyone else is asked to absorb.

Respectfully,

Dave Pranger
Morrow County
Weed Coordinator/Inspector and OISC Council Member
PO Box 428
Lexington, OR 97839
541-989-9502 (office)
541-240-1743 (cell)



WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

The Honorable Jeff Reardon, Presiding Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Public Testimony for Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing—Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) Funding

July 21, 2020

Dear Co-Chair Reardon and Members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee:

We urgently request funds be restored to the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), while maintaining crucial funding to core state-led invasive species programs such as those administered by ODA (including Insect Pest, Prevention & Management, Pathogens, and Noxious Weed programs). From Japanese beetles devouring crops, to Sudden Oak Death and gypsy moths killing trees, to zebra / quagga mussels clogging irrigation pipes and water utility infrastructure, Oregon is in the crosshairs of numerous drastically devastating invasive species. Many of these are poised to spread quickly across our state and once they are established their impacts to our economy, environment, and quality of life will be felt deeply in our communities.

Today we have an opportunity to sustain our prevention programs led by state agencies (including ODA, ODF, DEQ, State Parks and others) and uphold our statewide planning efforts spearheaded by the Oregon Invasive Species Council. Just one year in lapsed funding is all it takes for a new invader to gain a foothold in Oregon, leading to costly agricultural quarantines and burdensome control efforts. Such impacts are capable of ruinous outcomes to our farm, nursery and forestry-based economy, and the very livelihoods that depend on them.

The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is a public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. Our District relies on the OISC to access, leverage and pool limited resources. We also depend heavily on ODA's IPPM and Noxious Weed programs to detect priority invasive species before they are too difficult and costly to control.

It is imperative that we learn from our current preparedness challenges and maintain adequate funds to our state invasive species programs responsible for safeguarding Oregon's essential agricultural, nursery and forestry resources. We urge you to continue to prioritize funding of

core ODA invasive species management programs (i.e., IPPM, Pathogens, and Noxious Weed Programs), as well as restore funding to the Oregon Invasive Species Council so we can coordinate quickly across local, state and federal scales and respond quickly to outbreaks.

Sincerely,



Terri Preeg Riggsby,
Chair and Zone 5 Director
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors

**WRITTEN COMMENT ON BUDGET REDUCTIONS
AFFECTING THE OREGON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

Public Hearing 7/22/20, Nat. Resources Subcomm. Of Joint Ways & Means Comm.

My name is James ("Jas.") Jeffrey Adams, residing in SE Portland. I am the current public member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, appointed by the Council, but I do not purport to represent the Council, only myself as a citizen. I was the previous Attorney-in-Charge of Natural Resources at the Oregon Department of Justice until June 2014; I taught at Willamette Univ. College of Law through 2015.

1. As a matter of public policy, the Council's efficacy far outweighs the modest fund savings achievable by essentially defunding the council

The most pertinent Co-Chair principle in this context is to assess the efficacy of agency programs vs potential budget savings. The proposed budget reduction for the Council takes \$280 K of \$300 K in General Fund monies (84%). \$200 K was intended for the Council's control account to fund emergency control work for new invasions, and \$100 K for the Council's grant program. In addition, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) plans to shift to itself \$50 K in lottery dollars critically needed for the Council's sole staff person to work as contracted from now until June 30, 2021.

The Council is the only state agency that is a "leader for the conducting of a coordinated and comprehensive effort" (ORS 570.750(3)) in combatting invasive species in coordination with the Council's "strong network of local, state, federal, tribal and private entities that actively and cooperatively combat the threat posed by harmful invasive species." ORS 570.750(4). When the Council's statewide strategic plan for invasive species is fully implemented over the next year, it will give Oregon the ability to assess the effectiveness of *all* actions effectuated throughout Oregon to fill gaps, eliminate expensive redundancy, and to measure for the first time our overall progress.

I have long considered the Council to be the most cost-effective state agency in state government. The Council's sporadic, minimalist funding is typically patched together from fiscal scraps left after big agencies have competed for dollars. The value added by the Council's achievements, including realization of a reporting network, innovative educational outreach, extensive coordination and clearinghouse functions, and its statewide strategic planning, is far greater than the modest savings than can be generated by essentially defunding and crippling the Council.

2. Alternative budget reduction scenarios for the Council:

- a. **Status Quo Ante:** The Legislature could restore the Council's budget as it was before ODA froze the Council's funds. That is what the Council deserves

given its efficacy, coordination skills and planning role in protecting Oregon's economy from catastrophic harm caused by destructive invasive species.

b. Middle Ground: The Legislature takes half of the Council's General Fund monies, leaving \$150 K in the Council's control account to fund emergency control measures during new invasions; and expressly directs ODA, with over two hundred employees, to immediately restore \$50 K in lottery funds to the Council so that the Council's sole staff person (Coordinator) can function per the existing contract for the rest of the biennium.

C. Modified current proposal: The Legislature takes \$280 K in General Fund monies and directs ODA to immediately restore \$50 K in lottery funds so that the Coordinator can function per the existing contract for the rest of the biennium. To deny the Council that lottery funding effectively defunds the Council's operations over the remainder of the biennium and likely beyond.

3. ODA's assumed authority to control the Council's budget is inconsistent with the limited role of a fiscal agent specified for ODA vis-à-vis the Council's budget.

In 2009, the Legislature specifically defined ODA's role in relation to the Council's budget as that of a fiscal agent acting on behalf of the Council, under HB 2213, sec 4 (2009), codified in ORS 570.780(3). "Fiscal agent" is an ordinary dictionary term defined as a bank or other financial entity handling funds for another. ODA has steadfastly declined to even acknowledge that provision in relation to ODA's assumption that it has authority to control Council funds and shift them from the Council to ODA for ODA's separate programs. ODA has not offered to support its assumption with legal advice from the only official source, Oregon DOJ.

Because ODA appears determined to continue to flout that provision of law by treating Council funds as its own, any budget reduction scenario affecting the Council must include enactment of a statutory provision that unequivocally bars ODA from shifting to itself funds legislatively intended for the Council. That is clearly what it will take to ensure that ODA operates within its role as the Council's fiscal agent with respect to the Council's budget.

4. Closing thought: The Coronavirus is itself an invasive species. We are in the budget shortfall we are facing because national leaders defunded the pandemic task force and have consistently failed to take appropriate measures for early detection/rapid response, prevention, and control.

Don't make the same mistake by allowing the Council's operations to be effectively defunded during the balance of the current biennium.

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Hello,

I'm writing to express my support for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. Coordination on early detection and rapid response to invasive pests is key to our region's ecosystems and economy. Some pests have the potential to drastically alter natural ecosystems and some threaten timber and food crops. We need to be proactive, not reactive. Defund something else, like maybe law enforcement...

Best,
Sarah

Subject: Oregon Invasive Species Council
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:11:54 AM

Hello, My name is Tonia Williamson, 14803 SE Ondo Rivera Road, Damascus Oregon

I am writing to make comment on the important budget decisions before the Oregon legislature. I understand that these are hard times, and I'm sorry for all of the tough decisions that need to be made. However, I want to urge you to think about the cost benefit of specific programs and the implications of defunding and/or partially defunding. The Oregon Invasive Specie Council has at its core mission to protect and manage the invasion of harmful species that impact our local economies and ecosystems. I urge you to not only maintain the general funding that is allocated to this program but I also urge the NR Subcommittee to restore or direct ODA to restore to the council \$50 K in lottery funds to allow the Council's sole staff person (Council Coordinator) to fulfill the existing contract for services through the rest of the current biennium (to June 30, 2021). Without the restoration by ODA to the Council of that \$50 K in lottery funding, the Council's work will be effectively crippled. I have worked an lived in Washington, and I will succinctly say that their investments in strategically watching and partnering local areas to manage invasive species is one model that I would like Oregon to consider implementing in the future. For now, please protect the funding of the Oregon Invasive Specie Council which has positive implications on so many businesses, farmers and and land mangers around Oregon.

Sincerely, Tonia Williamson

Subject: Fund OISC Adequately
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:50:45 AM

To Members of The Natural Resources Subcommittee of Joint Ways & Means Committee-

I strongly support continued adequate funding for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. OISC is essential in providing coordinated strategies and coordinated efforts among agencies to address the threats of invasive species to our native habitat. Invasive species are like the COVID virus, ease up on efforts to control them and they will quietly spread to quickly become out of control and costly.

I write as a landowner and often the coordinator of Skyline Grange and Skyline Ridge Neighbors' efforts to control local infestations of invasive species. Even as a citizen, not an agency, I depend on information from OISC, and am very aware that the agencies I work with, rely upon OISC as a source of valid information.

The proposed OISC cuts would eliminate funds for crucial rapid response eradication efforts and hobble coordinated efforts of agencies working together. Despite severe State financial restrictions, funding for OISC remains essential. As Benjamin Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Certainly, the early preventive efforts and smart strategies of OISC are much more cost effective than the financial cost of damages caused by uncontrolled invasive species.

Please adequately fund Oregon Invasive Species Council.

Sincerely,
Sen Speroff
15001 NW Skyline Blvd.
Portland, OR 97231

CC: OR Senator Betsy Johnson
OR Rep. Brad Witt

Subject: OISC Support / Written Testimony
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:00:32 AM

To Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee:

My name is Tyler Pedersen and I am the Invasive Species Program Coordinator at the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District in Hillsboro. Additionally, I'm the Chairman of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area's Mapping and Data Committee. I am writing in support of continued funding for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. The Council does invaluable work to educate and inform the general public and various partnering agencies, coordinates invasive species planning and response activities across Oregon with local, tribal, state private, and federal organizations and maintains an invasive species hotline. All of these responsibilities will not be met if the OISC budget is cut for the next year. If this current COVID-19 crisis has taught us anything, it's the fact that we need to increase our emergency readiness for new invaders, be they plant, animal or pathogen. I understand that there are a number of tough decisions to make and budget cuts across the board for other state programs. However, the Council already operates on a shoestring budget and the cuts to the program seem disproportionate relative to the amount of funding they receive. The role that the Council plays both locally and regionally coordinating invasives planning and response efforts is critical to maintaining our forward momentum in the fight against new and existing invasive species. I ask that you please take this into consideration when you make your decision. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Tyler Pedersen

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

tyler.pedersen@tualatinswcd.org • tualatinswcd.org

OFFICE [503-334-2288](tel:503-334-2288) ext. 111 CELL [971-371-0277](tel:971-371-0277)

7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy #400, Hillsboro OR 97124



Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

July 23, 2020

Re: Public Testimony for Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing—Oregon Invasive Species Council Funding

Dear Members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee:

The Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a regional network of local organizations, agencies, and nonprofits dedicated to combating invasive weeds in the Columbia River Gorge. The Columbia Gorge CWMA relies heavily on the guidance of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) to be the leader in coordination and collaboration surrounding invasive species. We also depend greatly on Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Insect Pest Prevention & Management and Noxious Weed programs to detect priority invasive species, raise awareness, and eradicate these pests before they become widespread issues. These state-level services are vital not only to our regional CWMA network, but to the entirety of Oregon.

We urgently request funds be restored to OISC while maintaining crucial funding to core state-led invasive species programs such as those administered by ODA. From Japanese beetles devouring crops, to sudden oak death destroying forests, to zebra mussels clogging water utility infrastructure, Oregon is in the crosshairs of many devastating invasive species. Most of these are poised to spread quickly across our state and once established, their impacts to our economy, environment, and quality of life will be felt deep in our communities.

Today we have an opportunity to sustain our prevention programs led by state agencies and uphold our regional planning efforts spearheaded by OISC. Just one year in lapsed funding allows new invaders to gain a foothold in Oregon, leading to costly agricultural quarantines and burdensome control efforts. Such impacts are capable of catastrophic outcomes to our farms, nurseries and forestry-based economy, and the livelihoods that depend on them.

It is imperative that we learn from our current challenges and maintain adequate funds to Oregon's invasive species programs responsible for safeguarding our natural resources. We urge you to prioritize funding of Oregon Department of Agriculture's invasive species management programs, as well as restore funding to the Oregon Invasive Species Council. Please continue to support these critical investments in Oregon's future.

Sincerely,

Courtney Gattuso
Coordinator
Columbia Gorge CWMA

Lucas Nipp
Co-Chair
Columbia Gorge CWMA



4-COUNTY Cooperative Weed Management Area

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

July 23, 2020

Re: Public Testimony for Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearing—Oregon Invasive Species Council Funding

Dear Members of the Natural Resources Subcommittee:

The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a regional network of local organizations, agencies, and nonprofits dedicated to combating invasive weeds in the Portland metropolitan area. The 4-County CWMA relies heavily on the guidance of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) to be the leader in coordination and collaboration surrounding invasive species. We also depend greatly on Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Insect Pest Prevention & Management and Noxious Weed programs to detect priority invasive species, raise awareness, and eradicate these pests before they become widespread issues. These state-level services are vital not only to our regional CWMA network, but to the entirety of Oregon.

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Sincerely,

Courtney Gattuso
Coordinator
4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area