



Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Office of the Director

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Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss an overview of our Fish and Wildlife divisions during Day 2 of our budget hearing. Our response to the question regarding what it would cost to increase the presence of our existing aquatic invasive species inspection stations to year round coverage is below.

Current staffing in 2018, to operate six Aquatic Invasive Species inspection stations was approximately \$710,000, and included four permanent and fifteen seasonal staff. Two stations were open the entire year, one was open for seven months, and three were open for five months. Most of the stations were open from 8 am to 7 pm, seven days a week, except for the Burns station (one staff person), which was open from 9 am to 6 pm, five days a week. We also have six full-time positions to administer the program, including a Supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician, and four Fish and Wildlife Technician positions. Additionally, seventeen seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician positions support this program. Please see the attached chart for more details on current staffing costs.

Continuing to operate six of the existing stations on a seven day/24-hour schedule would cost approximately \$3.8 million. The Burns station inspected only fifty-two boats and none of them were from states with quagga and/or zebra mussels, therefore it is not included in estimate. This estimate includes forty-eight permanent and eighteen seasonal staff. It does not include consideration for additional law enforcement, supervisory costs for increased staffing, and equipment such as new lighting and reader boards for night-time operations. Please see the attached chart for more details.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's questions. Please contact me if I may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis E Melcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and 'M'.

Curtis E. Melcher
Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Current Inspection Station operations (2018 budget, six stations)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Cost
Highway 101, Port of Entry south of Brookings	closed	closed	closed	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	closed	closed	closed	closed	\$82,500
Interstate 5, Port of Entry north of Ashland	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	\$198,000
Highway 97, Midland Rest Area near Klamath Falls	closed	closed	closed	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	closed	closed	closed	closed	\$82,500
Highway 395, Oregon/California border near Lakeview	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed*	closed*	closed*	closed*	closed	closed	closed	closed	\$0
*Highway 78, near Burns (covering Oregon/Nevada border)				5 days/ week	5 days/ week	5 days/ week	5 days/ week	5 days/ week	closed				\$27,500
Interstate 84, Ontario Rest Area, Oregon/Idaho border	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	\$187,000
Interstate 82, Port of Entry at Umatilla/WA border	closed	closed	closed	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	7 days/ week	closed	closed	\$132,000
**Total # of staff per month	4	4	5	19	19	19	19	19	7	6	4	4	\$709,500

per year
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*The Lakeview station didn't operate in 2018 due to lack of candidates accepting position, planned for operation in 2019 (one person April-August); Burns station inspected only 52 boats and none were from states with quagga and/or zebra mussels. Not planning to staff in 2019

**Currently half of the budget for all field operations comes from the USACOE and is a year-to-year federal allocation which relies on 50/50 match.

Requested scenario for staffing cost to run six stations 7 days per week, 24 hours each day, year round, at least two staff on most shifts

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Cost
Highway 101, Port of Entry south of Brookings	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	\$594,000
Interstate 5, Port of Entry north of Ashland	8	8	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	8	8	8	\$660,000
Highway 97, Midland Rest Area near Klamath Falls	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	\$594,000
Highway 395, Oregon/California border near Lakeview	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	8	8	\$594,000
Interstate 84, Ontario Rest Area, Oregon/Idaho border	8	8	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	8	8	8	\$660,000
Interstate 82, Port of Entry at Umatilla/WA border	8	8	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	8	8	8	\$660,000
Total # of staff per month	48	48	48	66	66	66	66	66	66	48	48	48	\$3,762,000

per year
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*Annual cost estimate does not include requirements to assure law enforcement coverage by OSP or County law enforcement at some level throughout daylight hours. Current station operations average \$1,500 per month (4-8 hours per week). There are significant staff safety concerns working at night without immediate law enforcement presence.

