



Yes to SB 899 – Funding for Oregon Invasive Species Council

Natural resource organizations understand the critical importance of coordination on invasive species management. We are fully aligned with the Oregon Invasive Species Council's mission to protect Oregon's natural resources and economy by leading a coordinated effort to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to eradicate, contain, or manage existing invasive species in Oregon.

The impacts of invasive species on agriculture and forestry and the production of food and fiber are significant. However, the impacts of invasives go far beyond the natural resource sector. Invasives can have devastating impacts to both natural and urban spaces, systems such as water resources infrastructure or hydropower facilities, and public health. Unchecked, invasive species individually and collectively have the potential to displace native flora and fauna and transform ecosystems, resulting in widespread and expensive damage.

Current invasive species in Oregon include a long list of insects, pathogens, weeds, and aquatic organisms. Some of the top invasives currently being monitored or managed for in Oregon include Spotted Lanternfly, Japanese Beetle, Zebra Mussels, Asian Giant Hornet, Emerald Ash Borer, and Sudden Oak Death. Dozens of noxious weeds remain as top priorities for statewide management plans. The top 25 noxious weeds species alone have caused over \$84 million in annual income losses in recent years.

The work of tracking, prevention, containment, management, and eradication of invasive species requires close collaborations across a variety of state agencies and programs, and with private industry. A robust and modern communication network is critical to this work. The Oregon Invasive Species Council has been functioning on a shoe string budget for far too long, particularly given the importance of the work of the Council. This funding will provide support for Council operations including further development of existing outreach and education tools and processes, ensuring close and frequent communication and collaboration across state agencies and organizations. We urge your support for this bill.

Vote Yes on SB 899

For more information:

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