

Mark Porter Appointed to Oregon Invasive Species Council

Mark Porter, Wallowa Resources noxious weed program manager and coordinator of Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership, was appointed to the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) earlier this month.

The Council, created by the Oregon legislature in 2001, works with multiple state, federal and non-governmental agencies to keep invasive species out of Oregon. And it aims to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species already found in the state. OISC coordinates public education events, works with state lawmakers to pass invasive species-related legislation, and recently conducted a statewide management assessment of invasive species to identify roles and responsibilities for invasive species management. The assessment is designed to create Oregon's first invasive species strategic plan.

"Invasive species threaten Oregon's economy and environment, and the quality of life of all Oregonians, regardless of whether you live in a rural or urban area, in the high desert or the Willamette Valley", explains OISC coordinator, Lisa DeBruyckere. "Mark's skill set helps our Council develop creative ways to pool resources to lessen the threat of invasive species."

Porter was selected because of his extensive and ongoing leadership with the Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership (WCP). WCP is a cooperative weed management program that coordinates the efforts of private land owners, Wallowa and Asotin Counties, and state and federal agencies to fight noxious weeds across fence lines and jurisdictional boundaries in the Imnaha and Grande Ronde watersheds.

Porter will work to represent Eastern Oregon perspectives on the Council while supporting other invasive species control efforts across the state. He also hopes to help solidify baseline funding for county weed programs and to bring home information on threats to Wallowa County posed by other invasive species so that we can be prepared to prevent or manage them.

"Mark's experience with biocontrol agents and restoration of sites - as well as his interest and experience with outreach and education efforts - made him a prime candidate for the Oregon Invasive Species Council. His ability to partner with others, leverage resources, and communicate the importance of critical invasive species led to a favorable recommendation for this important two-year position", added DeBruyckere. "We're very excited to have Mark aboard as an official representative of the Council."

Porter's term on the Oregon Invasive Species Council begins on January 1, 2010.