**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Partner Workshop Notes**

**December 4, 2019**

**9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD Fire Station**

**Meeting Objectives:**

* Begin an interdisciplinary discussion on aquatic invasive species threats, both environmental and socioeconomic
* Promote collaboration and a proactive partnership among organizations in central Oregon to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species

**9:00-9:10 Opening Comments -** Kristen McBride, Natural Resources Staff Officer, Deschutes NF

* Why we convened this workshop
* Why we invited YOU

In summary: Workshop was organized by USFS program managers, ODA, ODFW, and Environmental Science Associates, and was intended to include local federal, state and NGO partners. There is an increasing recognition of the significant consequences of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Recreation, tourism, and ecological impacts are all potentially huge, and, with climate change, we are increasingly at risk in central Oregon. On the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests, there is forest leadership support to move forward with limited resources. Water management is multi-jurisdictional, and there are multiple, important partners that can work together. This workshop is intended to promote interdisciplinary/inter-organizational discussion, identify potential impacts, and promote collaboration to prevent establishment and spread of AIS. This group was carefully selected with limited time and space in mind. The goal was to keep it small, but there are key players we will want to add, and this will be part of today’s discussion.

**9:10-9:20 Introductions**

**Attendees:**

Jeff Amaral, Bend Parks & Recreation District

Rick Boatner, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sarah Canham , Bureau of Land Management

Nate Dachtler, United States Forest Service

Glenn Dolphin, Oregon State Marine Board

Jen Ferriel, United States Forest Service

Jason Gritzner, United States Forest Service

Marisa Hossick, Deschutes River Conservancy

Beth Johnson, United States Forest Service

Chris Joosen, United States Forest Service

Ed Keith, Deschutes County

Kevin Keown, United States Forest Service

Kris Knight, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Tom Laird, Jefferson County

Jarod Lemos, Bureau of Land Management

Robert Marheine, Portland Gas and Electric

Kristen McBride, United States Forest Service

Scotty McBride, United States Forest Service

Wade McGilvra, Bureau of Reclamation

Glenn Miller, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Rich Miller, Portland State University

Brooke Penaluna, USFS, Pacific Northwest Lab

Toni Pennington, Environmental Science Associates

Bill Reynolds, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Lynette Ripley, Bureau of Reclamation

Gail Snyder, Coalition for the Deschutes

Bridget Tinsley, Oregon State Parks

Lauri Turner, United States Forest Service

Jon Valley, Deschutes County

Christina Veverka, United States Forest Service

Tom Walker, Citizen

Jason Wilcox, United States Forest Service

Debbie Wood, Crooked River Weed Management Area

**9:20-10:10 Keynote speakers:**

* Rick Boatner, ODFW – Regional overview of AIS animals

Key subjects included methods of introduction such as bait, intentional introduction (bucket biologists), watercraft, trailers, and fishing gear and a focus on some of the primary species in Oregon or at risk of entering Oregon. These include Chinese Mystery Snails in Crane Prairie, Corbicula clam in Columbia River, and New Zealand mud snails in Deschutes. There are currently 3 invasive crayfish in OR.

* Glenn Miller, ODA – Regional overview of AIS plants

Key subjects included plants invading habitats we thought would never be invaded, and a focus on several highly impacting species including Ludwigia and flowering rush. Plants are indicators of a changing environment, and new species being introduced at an alarming rate. There have been some good success stories, but also a huge investment required. We need prevention, early detection, and nutrient management.

**10:10-10:30 Break**

**10:30-11:20 Breakout #1 – Introduction of AIS Engagement and Awareness**

* What are you or your organization doing regarding AIS?
* What brings you to the table today?
  + - Name, position in your organization
    - How long you've been with the organization?
    - Do you have an AIS program or focus?
    - If you have a program what is the focus?
    - Two themes or concerns that have brought you here?
    - What level of awareness do you have about the impacts of AIS in central Oregon or other parts of the West?
    - What are your interests in working with others?

Report Out:

* There appears to be both public and internal lack of awareness, as well as a lack of funding/time. We need to leverage partnerships.
* Glenn Miller shared that ODA is manager of OWEB money and there are grant opportunities. These are usually intended for some treatment, but also available for outreach, detection, survey. Several in the group have applied or are applying.
* One group noted that no one in their group had weed control as their primary duty. There are a few in the larger group, but most of this have this as only a portion, which is a large constraint.
* Another group seconded the focus on increased awareness, internally and externally, and the need to do more than have been doing. Outreach component esp.
* Outreach is very important, particularly outreach to recreationalists. In 2012 a group was formed and did some, but need to be consistent. Economic damage potential is high.
* Many people in the group have familiarity with terrestrial IS, but getting ourselves up to speed on AIS is an issue.
* Additional funding opportunity: Oregon Invasive Species council got $100K for education and outreach grant. Currently open for applications, closes late January.

**11:20-12:40 Break for Lunch**

**12:40-1:00 Inspirational Partnership Stories -** Toni Pennington, Aquatic Biologist, Environmental Science Associates

Key subjects included where to go to find information on aquatic invasive species in central Oregon, key players, and how to build AIS awareness.

**1:05-2:05 Breakout #2** – Problem Solving Partnership

For your scenario consider how would you build capacity to respond effectively. You will be asked to apply the following: Prevention, Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR), Control & Management, Education & Outreach, and Coordination & Leadership.

**2:05-2:20 Break**

**2:20-3:10 Report Out – Share your group strategy and approach**

Group A. Topic was how to deal with seeing a koi pond with 3 state listed species (invasive plants with covered with snails) at a friend’s house. She said she got them from local nursery and her pond drains through irrigation and connects into Crooked River.

Group would:

1. Inform owner in polite manner and try to make her an advocate.
2. Contact local weed district and rely on their contacts. ODA would take lead, confirm ID. Weed district would advise on actions to take
3. Inform local stake holders—HOA, irrigation, nursery—can nursery contact customers. Watershed council
4. Actions—rely on ODA as lead. Is it appropriate to work with irrigation to prevent release.
5. Monitoring program for that pond, rive. ODA as lead agency.

Group B. Suttle Lake Eurasian watermilfoil and smallmouth bass example.

1. Coordination—figure out players who could contribute. ODF, ODA, UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, USFWS, other. Consultation and guidance from USFWS
2. Treatments—work with others to determine treatment options. Prevention of spread is also top priority. Need to find others with experience to rely on for guidance. One option presented was a boom to prevent spread of AIS and/or herbicide during treatments. There are multiple constraints that need to be assessed. Would also need to work with USFWS and determine action vs. no action alternatives and consequences.
3. Biggest focus would be education and outreach. New signs, working with lodge for fundraising. Incentivization of buying permit and helping to prevent spread. For example, if buy the permit can get a stamp so that you don’t need to pay the following year—a reward for doing what they are supposed to.
4. Also need eDNA confirmation of species, implementation of EDRR for downstream movement as well as in-house education and information exchange.

Group C. Oregon Spotted Frog along Deschutes, Reed canary grass (RCG) is detrimental and has small pockets. Herbicide possible but outreach necessary. Creates monoculture and chokes out habitat.

Group would:

1. Determine extent of RCG and where frogs are and what options are for treatments
2. Gather stakeholders—private, USFWS, UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, etc. and craft consolidated message. Identify lead agency (spokesperson), get private property owners permission. Do education. Outreach to media.
3. Develop action plan: NEPA.
4. Coordination action plan with public participation and input, figure out costs, and who would implement. Large focus on stakeholder involvement and buy-in.
5. Need to create a long-term management plan and determine the need for restoration.
6. Prevention would focus on Outreach and Education to attempt to keep it from spreading.
7. Overall objective of having ownership by all stakeholders and spread costs and responsibilities.

Group D. Baitfish in Wickiup Reservoir. See a different angler dumping baitfish… This has happened in other lakes.

1. Respond in a friendly manner with education but take license plate # and/or picture (it is illegal). Call 1-800-INVADER.
2. Get info, what species?
3. Do a little awareness education (“Hey, did you know?...)
4. Long term monitoring needed. Some lakes have been treated with Rotonone, but not option at Wickiup due to Oregon Spotted Frog (OSF). Trapping has been successful—sort chubs out and keep natives in.
5. Reaching out to angler groups, outfitter shops, green business certification, school outreach
   1. Outreach/Prevention
      1. Targeted messages, slogans
      2. Signs at launch points,
      3. Tourism industry, Visit Bend
      4. Could we certify outfitter/guides, so they can claim that they are accredited. They would become more knowledgeable and they could use in advertising.
      5. What kind of recreationist are you? Make part of how people identify selves—catch a big fish and protect its habitat.

Group E. Local group doing invasive species feast.

To organize it, group determined that:

1. Beer is key.
2. Education is a primary goal at the event. Fundraising and raising awareness (mutual goals).
3. Need a steering committee
   1. What are the priorities
   2. Lead collection
   3. How to cook? Connect to community, COCC
4. Look for spin-off opportunities, food truck
5. Network—private owners with invasive species
6. A stand-alone festival might be too much, but can it be tied in with another event. Maybe a food truck at another event.
7. Games for kids, activities
8. It is a fundraiser—so $ per plate, auction, sponsors, raffle
9. Citizen scientists doing collection, and reporting locations
10. Quality up front, keep it simple, sustainable, use kids
11. Menu items include invasives beer, frog legs, escargot, dandelion, mallow, catfish, wild boar, blackberry cider

**3:10-4:00 Wrap Up and Next Steps**

Facilitated by Kristen McBride. We need to identify potential next steps for future engagement. Next steps could include: identifying intersection and synergy of existing efforts and resources, identify additional key partners in Central Oregon, values mapping, draft an Aquatic Invasive Species Strategy for Central Oregon modeled on OISC Strategic Plan for Invasive Species and other plans.

Group Comments:

* Secure management buy-in. Tell them why this is important and that time is needed to attend meetings on AIS. We need visible leadership involvement.
* Need to increase Aquatic Invasives education in classrooms with partners
* OISC open grant <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/grants> Convene a small group to put proposal together to assist in forming a cohesive group.
* The effort needs a leader or leaders. FS is the convener, but is looking to other organizations to form a shared leadership. Much of land is not FS, so may not be appropriate for FS to be only lead.
* Learning about existing efforts to leverage funding, personnel
* To keep momentum going, we need leadership, a name, logo, etc. to feel like a cohesive group.
* Have a central Oregon group participate in Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC)
* Need local regional group
* Need strong leader that pushes and has authority from group to keep moving forward
* Hire outside facilitator/ coordinator to organize group
* Can learn from Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network (WAIN) who has paid facilitator with OWEB grant and Meyer Memorial Trust funding. <http://www.cascadepacific.org/smartlist_111/wain>
* Keep educating the group, bring specialists in to present on topics (i.e. boat inspection training
* Deschutes River Conservancy can be involved with education. They have the contacts and connections but don’t have the AIS materials to provide.
* Identify priorities for overall group so participating groups can determine where to engage
* Get buy-in from local businesses. Deliver messages, aid in conservation. Have local non-profits talk to them instead of government.
* Engage community leader help in branding to help influence local businesses and local leaders
* Need to identify additional key partners
* Identify geographic area we’re covering—what do we consider “central Oregon”?
* Identify who else should be at the table
* Getting more recreational folks involved in order to be able to spread AIS message. Include Visitor bureaus and key O&Gs
* Could be a group of small teams working on different aspects of AIS that report back to board
* We need elected officials participation
* Need more interaction/ education for upper management/ leadership