

## WASHINGTON INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 3, 2016

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Natural Resources Building, Room 172  
1111 Washington St SE, Olympia, Washington, 98501

### Washington Invasive Species Council Members Present:

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Bill Tweit, Chair	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ray Willard, Vice Chair	Washington Department of Transportation
Pat Stevenson	Stillaguamish Tribe
Mark Taylor	Trout Unlimited
Shaun Seaman	Chelan Public Utility District, WISC Industry Advisory Panel Representative
Lizbeth Seebacher	Department of Ecology
Anna Lyon	Okanogan County
Dr. Brad White	Washington Department of Agriculture
Vicki Yund	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Alison Halpern	Noxious Weed Control Board
John Gamon	Department of Natural Resources
Shawna Bautista	U.S. Forest Service
Clinton Campbell	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rob Fimbel	Washington State Parks and Recreation

### Guests and Presenters:

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Micki McNaughton	Department of Natural Resources, Urban Forestry Restoration Program
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe
Jen Parsons	Department of Ecology
Laurence Schafer	

### Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:

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Raquel Crosier	Coordinator
Wendy Loosle	Board Liaison

### Welcome and Call to Order

Bill Tweit, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. with welcome, announcements, facility logistics and safety information. Chair Tweit announced several staff changes: Lisa Younger resigned from the council and Raquel Crosier resigned as Executive Coordinator to join the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. RCO is conducting interviews to hire a new coordinator.

## **Hot Topic Reports**

### **Item 1: Executive Coordinator's Report / Raquel Crosier**

Raquel Crosier provided an overview of council activities since the December meeting. Outreach activities included legislative briefings, Port Blakely Tree Farm, Seattle Boat Show, and an Asian Gypsy Moth Town Hall meeting. Upcoming activities include the Portland Sports Show, a presentation to Mr. Taylor's Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a half-day meeting in Chelan of the AFS – WA/BC Chapter, and the Science Olympiad. Grant updates include the award of the Farm Bill grant and the submission of the No Child Left Inside grant.

The executive committee continues to seek additional venues to hold meetings, as well as expanding the membership of the council to include representatives from one westside county (King County), one eastside tribe (Kalispel), academia (WSU), and a new industry representative from an investor-owned utility (Avista).

### **Item 2: Legislative Updates / Round Table**

Ms. Crosier shared that the reauthorization bill passed, extending the sunset date of the Invasive Species Council. The abundant support for the council supported the legislature's decision to pass the bill.

Alison Halpern provided an update on the legislative activities of the Noxious Weed Control Board. A pilot project was approved for providing guidelines to landowners regarding noxious weeds and native species, contingent upon participation from both sides of the state.

Ms. Crosier shared information about a budget proviso sponsored by Senator Honeyford to support decontamination stations. The funding sources are contingent upon the regular boating facilities program grant cycle, in order to continue positive collaboration with the boating community; Chair Tweit will keep the council apprised of the progress of this proviso.

### **Item 3: Workshop at the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting / Bill Vogel**

Ms. Crosier shared that Mr. Vogel was unable to attend. Denise Hawkins and Carrie, USFWS, provided an update regarding participation in the Science Olympiad, scheduled for March 12 at Highline Community College.

The Wildlife Annual Society Annual Meeting may provide an opportunity for the council to participate, perhaps via a presentation or booth. Ms. Crosier will relay interest from the council to Mr. Vogel based on feedback from the members.

### **Item 4: Decontamination Protocol Workshop / Raquel Crosier, Ray Willard**

Ms. Crosier and Mr. Willard continue to work on incorporating language in the permits for Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPAs) at WDFW and protocols in place at WSDOT regarding invasive species. Allen Pleus, WDFW, shared information about the meetings to implement new performance-based specifications in a phased approach. The group continues to address concerns, questions, and challenges as they arise.

Ms. Halpern offered assistance for any terrestrial-related efforts that the workshop encounters. Ms. Bautista suggested developing criteria or protocols for oil and petroleum-based contaminants resulting from power-washing during decontamination.

Mr. Seaman asked about industry panel support on the workshop; Mr. Pleus responded that local representation suffices for the initial stages, but additional support will likely be requested in later implementation phases. The workshop will continue on the second phase of implementation and provide

an update at the next meeting. Additional interested parties are welcome to contact Mr. Willard with feedback.

#### **Item 5: Economic Analysis of the Impact of Invasive Species in Washington / Alison Halpern**

Ms. Halpern provided an update on the economic analysis RFP, sent out in November. The goal of the analysis is to provide a meta-analysis of existing economic information and apply it to Washington State, with the final product being a resource that can be shared publicly and used as an education and outreach tool. The focus will be on 10 noxious weed species and 6 invasive animal/insect species. A vendor was selected and the contract should be executed within the next few weeks, in time to produce a report that can be shared in early summer.

The council discussed potential overlap and contrasts between other states' reports within the region. The report will take care to account for state-specific modeling, and base estimates and explanations on the unique features that may impact numbers for Washington State. Resources that may support the contractor's work on the report can be sent to Ms. Crosier and Ms. Halpern.

#### **Discussions and Decisions**

#### **Item 6: Overview of DNR's Urban Forestry Restoration Program / Micki McNaughton**

Ms. McNaughton shared information about the Urban Forestry Restoration Program, a partnership between Departments of Natural Resources and Ecology. She described the program's structure, purpose, goals, and work in progress. Healthy trees provide benefits necessary to urban areas (stormwater attenuation, pollution filtration, etc.) and the potential negative impacts of invasive species are of great concern. The program supports crews that remove invasive species from urban areas, focused on high-impact projects, and volunteer crews who restore the cleared area with native plants.

#### **Item 7: Northern Pike Management / Joe Maroney**

Mr. Maroney provided an update on management of northern pike in the Pend Oreille River (northeastern Washington) and the implications of the species on downstream environments. Mr. Maroney provided background on the establishment of pike in the Pend Oreille area and associated threats; northern pike is classified as a non-native, prohibitive species in Washington. The Kalispel Tribe and WDFW established goals and management strategies for addressing the species' establishment, including ongoing mechanical suppression. Their efforts also include public education and outreach efforts, particularly noting that pike are toxic and unsafe for human consumption. The Kalispel Tribe continues to seek support from regional partners to control and minimize pike populations.

Chair Tweit suggested that northern pike be included as part of the Don't Let it Loose regional campaign. The council discussed potential catch-and-kill protocols that may be shared or implemented as management efforts continue.

**Break: 10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.**

#### **Item 8: Flowering Rush / Jenifer Parsons**

Ms. Parsons described the Department of Ecology's plant monitoring efforts, specifically addressing flowering rush. She provided background on the species, including germination and dissemination of the seeds and rhizomes; the distribution of the species across the Pacific Northwest region and within Washington State; and negative impacts of flowering rush on native plants, wetlands, fisheries abundance, and recreational opportunities. Research demonstrates a link between flowering rush habitat and that of northern pike spawning habitat, supporting one another to exponentially impact environments in harmful ways. Controlling flowering rush is challenging due to its regenerative ability and permitting requirements; management often relies on manual efforts that must be repeated for several growing seasons, e.g.,

hand-pulling, herbicides, etc. Current research is assessing the potential of biocontrol, particularly insects; results are promising, but not yet conclusive. Continued efforts include sourcing additional funding, adding language regarding flowering species to rules for other invasives' management programs, and regional coordination.

The council discussed potential rapid response options, Chair Tweit suggested adding language to inspection programs, as the vectors seem to be limited to natural water flow and water fowl, and nurseries that originally sold the species have now desisted. Allen Pleus suggested transitioning the Spartina and knotweed programs, which are currently winding down, to focus on flowering rush.

Chair Tweit proposed forming an interagency workgroup to discuss options for distributing management efforts based on expertise, resources, location, and funding. The Departments of Ecology, Agriculture, and Natural Resources agreed to form a working group that will develop a concept for transitioning to an emergent vegetation program or simply adding flowering rush as a focal species, ideally using a holistic approach over a species-specific method.

#### **Item 9: Regional Don't Let It Loose Campaign / Raquel Crosier**

Ms. Crosier provided an update on the progress of the Don't Let It Loose campaign subcommittee, comprised of Lizbeth Seebacher, Allen Pleus, and John Gamon. The subcommittee discussed coordinating with other states, developing a logo, and a phased implementation approach. The subcommittee proposal has two phases. Outreach to pet stores and schools will be the focus of phase 1; phase 2 involves addressing illegal pets that can be turned over without penalty to encourage proper disposal.

#### **Item 10: Review Feral Swine Response Plan / Raquel Crosier, Laurence Schafer**

Ms. Crosier and Mr. Schafer provided information on current feral swine reports and management efforts in Washington State. Next, they presented the proposed Washington State Interagency Feral Swine Response Plan, drafted in November 2015. An addition to the plan includes a consent form that would permit response teams to enter lands under various ownership to address swine reports.

Mr. Schafer explained that having upfront permission and coordinated efforts with respective land management agencies or private owners is critical to rapid response efforts. He stated that State Parks, DNR, Bureau of Reclamation, USFS, and some others are the most important partners necessary in this work. The council will send support letters with council members, who were asked to take the information and channel back to their respective agencies to put the permissions in place as needed.

Ms. Crosier recommended that the council formally adopt the plan. The council discussed potential additions and edits to the plan. The board adopted the plan by consensus.

#### **Item 11: Review Prioritization Process / Raquel Crosier**

Ms. Crosier updated the council on the efforts to update the top 50 invasive species list by the prioritization workgroup. She summarized the proposed timeline for this process, including focused work groups and potential approval and adoption dates. The goal would be to adopt the new list at the December 15, 2016 meeting. Additionally, it was suggested that the list should be updated at regular intervals, e.g., every five years, similar to the strategic plan.

The council discussed the history, process, and purpose for identifying 50 species for the priority list, as well as additional potential prioritized actions associated with each species. Ms. Crosier suggested that council members form team leads to take on focused workgroups (insect, plant, animal, etc.). Chair Tweit asked that members come to the June meeting with suggestions and there will be time dedicated on the meeting agenda to clarify roles and next steps.

**Item 12: AIS Funding Advisory Committee / Bill Tweit, Raquel Crosier**

Chair Tweit, Ms. Crosier, and Elizabeth McManus provided an update on the progress of the AIS Funding Advisory committee since September. The committee produced a final report and recommendations, published in February 2016. It is intended the report will be submitted to the Legislature in June, and will be used to develop legislation for next session. The committee members have agreed to stay engaged as a coalition, provide funding advocacy, and support the work in coming years. The council expressed consensus in support of the report and recommendations. The committee will finalize signatures and a cover sheet from the council.

Mr. Willard moved to approve the report and recommendations and prepare for submission to the Legislature in June; Mr. Taylor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Item 13: Council Business / Raquel Crosier**

The council discussed potential new council seats. Mr. Willard moved to send invitations to expand the membership of the council to include representatives from one westside county (King County), one eastside tribe (Kalispel), academia (WSU); Ms. Yund seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The potential for a new industry representative from an investor-owned utility, Avista, will be pursued by Mr. Seaman. The council will address new representatives to the industry panel as needed.

The council discussed additional venues to hold meetings, in part due to the expanding membership and the need for more technologically resourced meeting spaces. Meeting dates include June 16 (LOTT Center), September 22 (Vancouver), and December 15 (Olympia DES or WSDOT conference room).

No additions or corrections were requested for the previous meetings minutes from the December 2015 meeting. Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Stevenson seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was provided at this time.

**Adjourn**

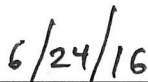
The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

**Next meeting**

June 16, 2016  
LOTT WET Center  
Olympia, WA

Minutes approved by:

  
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Bill Tweit, Chair

  
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Date