

Washington Invasive Species Council

Recreation and Conservation Office

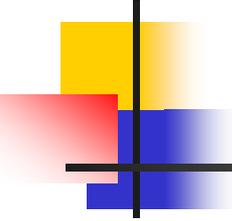


Purple Loosestrife

Who am I?

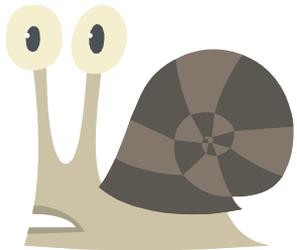


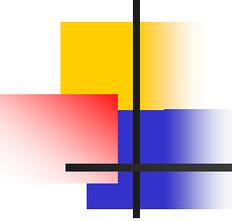
- Ecology's alternate on the Invasive Species Council (Melodie Selby Ecology's representative).
- 20 years experience working on aquatic invasive species issues.
- Manage an Aquatic Weeds Program for Ecology
- Member of the State Noxious Weed Control Board
- On Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee



What are Invasive Species?

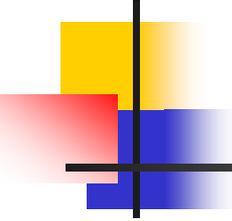
- Non-native organisms that cause economic or environmental harm.
- Capable of spreading to new areas of the state.
- Domestic livestock, intentionally planted agronomic crops, or nonharmful exotic organisms are NOT invasive species.





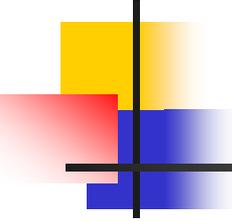
Why are Invasive Species a Problem?

- Invasive species may:
 - Reproduce rapidly outside of their native range.
 - Cause loss and displacement of native species.
 - Destroy habitats.
 - Alter soil and water dynamics of natural communities.
- There is evidence that that invasive species are the second leading cause of species extinction after habitat elimination.



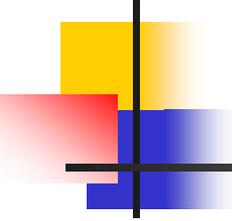
History of Invasive Species Laws

- Yesterday's agricultural pests are today's invasive species.
- Even before statehood, Washington had strong laws to protect agriculture from weeds and other pests. Many of these pests are now known as invasive species.
- As a result Washington has effective laws for invasive weeds and animal agricultural pests.



Agriculture Protection

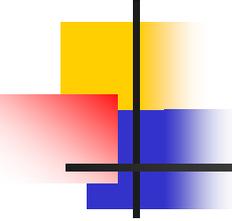
- State Noxious Weed Control Board
 - Each county (one exception) has a weed board to enforce weed laws.
 - Last 20 years focus changed from only protecting agriculture to also protecting natural areas and water bodies.
- Department of Agriculture
 - Plant quarantines and plant inspection services.
 - Ability to act fast when a threat to agriculture (citrus long-horned beetle).
 - Also includes protection of natural areas.



Invasive Animals

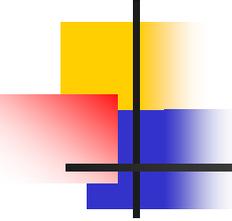


- Fish and Wildlife regulates prohibited animals.
- Invasive animal laws, funding, and infrastructure lagging behind plant laws.
- Now being remedied:
 - Aquatic Nuisance Species Committee
 - Ballast Water Committee/laws
 - Enforcement/education officers
 - Invasive tunicate (sea squirt) effort



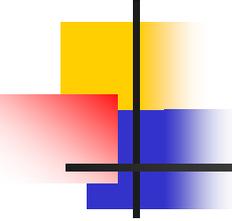
Invasive Species Council Formation

- Created by the 2006 Legislature – spearheaded by an environmental group coalition with agency support.
- National ISC
- Idaho and Oregon also have councils.
- Housed and staffed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (formerly known as Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation).
- Sunsets December 31, 2011.



Council Composition

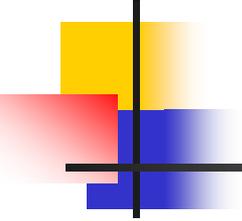
- Six state agencies
 - Agriculture
 - Fish and Wildlife – Chair Bridget Moran
 - Ecology
 - Natural Resources
 - Transportation
 - State Noxious Weed Control Board – Vice Chair
- Two Counties (east/west)
 - Appointed by the Council
- Four Federal Agencies
 - Invited by the Council
 - Ex officio, non-voting
- Other members deemed appropriate
 - Added by the Council



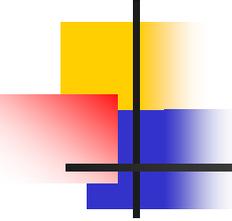
Scope of the Council

- Meets about five times per year.
- Provides **policy level** direction, planning and coordination for:
 - Combating harmful invasive species.
 - Preventing the introduction of others.
- Provides a mechanism for
 - Cooperation
 - Communication
 - Collaboration
 - Development of a strategic plan

Council's Nine Goals

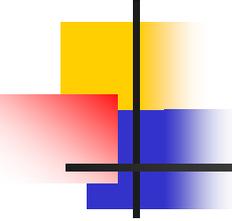


1. Minimize the effects of harmful invasive species.
2. Forum for identifying and understanding invasive species issues.
3. Forum to facilitate communication, cooperation, and coordination of local, tribal, state, federal, private, and non-governmental entities on prevention, control, and management.



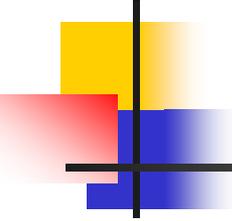
Goals (cont.)

4. Avenue for public outreach and raising public awareness.
5. Develop and implement a statewide strategic plan.
6. Review current funding mechanisms and levels for state agencies to manage noxious weeds on lands under their authority.



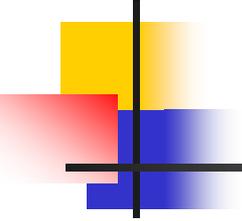
Goals (cont.)

7. Make recommendations for legislation.
8. Establish criteria for the prioritization of invasive species response actions and projects.
9. Select at least one project per year from the strategic plan for coordinated action by council member entities.



What Does Council Do?

- First task is to develop a statewide plan for invasive species.
 - A draft strategic plan is just out for public comment – Comments due April 3.
 - This plan finalized by July 2008.
 - The plan is updated every three years.
- Next tasks
 - Start implementing plan
 - Clearing house website
 - Propose legislation



Website & Contact Information

- Website:
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