

In 2001, the Oregon Legislature established the Oregon Invasive Species Council to conduct a comprehensive and coordinated effort to prevent, detect, control, and eliminate invasive species harming the region's economy, health, and natural resources (ORS 570.755). The Council's primary role, as designated, is to convene and coordinate Oregon's invasive species leadership to conduct a coordinated and comprehensive effort to prevent the entry of invasive species. This focus on statewide strategic planning distinguishes the Council's role from the roles of other state agencies. As established in statute, Council responsibilities include management and oversight of:

- OISC Invasive Species Control Account
- Statewide Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan
- Education and Outreach Grants
- Education of the Public and Policy Makers
- Statewide Invasive Species Reporting Hotline

As proposed in HB2977, additional funding for council operations would allow the Council to increase contracted coordinator hours, expand the number and scope of outreach projects planned for the coming years including potentially offering competitive Education and Outreach Grants on a recurring basis. The 2025 Invasive Species Education and Outreach Grant, funded in 2024 through SB5701, represented the first-ever state-funded grant program overseen by the OISC. The Council received over \$700,000 in requested funds from 34 qualified applications representing all regions of the state and was able to award \$170,000 to support 10 projects that increase awareness of the impacts, spread, prevention, detection, and management of invasive species issues in Oregon.

Funding for the Council's Invasive Species Control Account will allow the Council to continue to allocate meaningful resources to emergency control projects. With the estimated cost of invasive species impacts in Oregon ranging from \$0.5B - \$3B annually, the Invasive Species Control Account allows the Council to facilitate eradication or control of new or expanding infestations by providing grants on an as-needed basis and saves Oregon money by providing funds when they are most likely to contribute to success.

History of the Account:

In 2010, a one-time deposit of \$350,000 established the Invasive Species Control Account (HB2020) and enabled OISC to distribute these funds to support the eradication or control of new or expanding infestations of invasive species that threaten the health and integrity of Oregon's native flora and fauna. Between 2010 and 2024 the OISC distributed funds to multiple emergency projects to bolster eradication and control efforts across the state including Sudden Oak Death in SW Oregon, Japanese Beetle efforts in the Portland metropolitan area, invasive tunicates on the Oregon Coast and apple maggot in the Boardman area. Until 2024, the account had never been replenished and was drawn down to \$54,297.

Recent Account Activity:

In 2024, influenced in part by the multi-million-dollar invasive quagga mussel eradication project being undertaken by Idaho in the Snake River, and recognizing the need for additional emergency control

account funds, the Oregon Legislature passed SB5701 adding \$750,000 to the Invasive Species Control Account.

This one-time allocation of funds, *the first replenishment of the account since its creation in 2010*, increased the account to \$807,000. This allowed the Council to grant \$510,000 in emergency funds to sustain Oregon Department of Agriculture's Japanese Beetle Program operations in Multnomah and Washington Counties through June 30, 2025, which in turn has helped prevent restrictions on Oregon's \$1billion+ nursery exports. In 2025, the Council allocated \$70,000 to support the Invasive Species Reporting Hotline which receives and manages hundreds of invasive species reports each year and is crucial to statewide early detection efforts. The remaining balance of the Oregon Invasive Species Control Account is ~\$235,000.

Future of the Account:

With a robust Invasive Species Control Account, the Council will be able to respond promptly to facilitate eradication and control of new or expanding infestations. This agility will save money by providing targeted funds during the most crucial, early stages of an invasion.

Working together to address invasive species we will:

- Protect Oregon's natural resources and economy
- Keep Oregon's people and places healthy
- Save Oregon hundreds of million dollars in economic and environmental harm through prevention and emergency response

Thank you again for your time.