

# A New Tool in the Fight Against Invasive Species

Invasive plants and animals are stressing Oregon's native species and have the potential to cost millions of dollars in economic damage to the state's water infrastructure systems, agricul-

ture, and forestry.

Oregonians and regional partners now have a new coordinated approach to protecting Oregon from these devastating effects: The Oregon State-

wide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species 2017-2027 and the accompanying working document, The Oregon Statewide Action Plan for Invasive Species 2017-2019.

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) released the plan after a year of stakeholder engagement and a 2016 Oregon Invasive Species Summit devoted to its development.

Co-chairing the effort and penning a letter to Oregonians at the beginning of the plan, Jeffrey (Jas) Adams and Rian vanden Hooff noted "increasingly, invasive species—whether introduced by deliberate or unintended actions—present one of the most serious current threats to our economy, ecosystems, infrastructure, and natural heritage."

State wildlife officials are so concerned about invasive species they list them as a Key Conservation Issue in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.

"The second largest factor causing native species to become at-risk of extinction in the United States is invasive species," said Rick Boatner, Invasive Species Coordinator for the Oregon

Department of Fish and Wildlife and current OISC chair. "Invasives are a real threat to Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats."

Boatner pointed out a few examples of invasive species already affecting some of Oregon's native fish and wildlife. American bullfrogs and red-eared slider turtles harm Oregon's two native turtles by competing for nesting sites and food. Bullfrogs also prey on native turtles, frogs, fish and snakes. Ringed crayfish compete with native Signal crayfish for food and habitat, and New Zealand Mud Snails can impact native invertebrates and the food chain of native trout.

"All Oregonians have a role in keeping these invasives out of state, and the new plan encourages that," Boatner said.

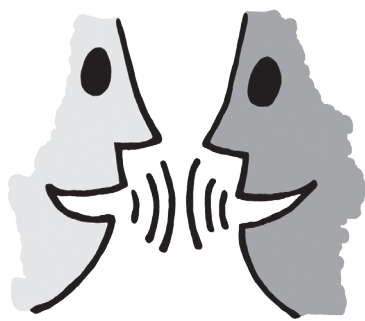
The new strategic plan sets a long-term vision for a collaborative pathways management approach for invasive species, while the two-year action plan describes detailed actions agencies and organizations can take to achieve the

*continued on page 17*

## DISH WITH YOUR COMMISH!

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COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER, POSITION 3



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## Public Certification Test and Drop Sites for the Special District Election to be held Tuesday, May 16, 2017

The last day to register to vote in this election is April 25, 2017. Ballots will be mailed beginning April 26, 2017. The Public Certification Test of the counting equipment for the Oregon Special District Election to be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. The testing will begin at 10:00 am in the County Elections Department. The public is welcome to attend.

Ballots must be received by the county clerk no later than 8:00 pm on May 16, 2017 - postmarks do not count. The U.S. Postal Service has stated that ballots could take up to 5-7 days to reach county elections offices once they are put in the mail. It is advised that if you can not put your ballot in the mail before May 11, 2017 you should plan on returning your ballot to a dropsite.

Drop sites for the election will be as follows:

### VERNONIA LIBRARY

701 Weed Avenue  
May 1-15, During Library Hours  
May 1, 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

### RAINIER CITY HALL

106 B Street West  
May 1-15, During Office Hours  
May 16, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

### CLATSKANIE LIBRARY

11 Lillich Street  
May 1-15, During Library Hours  
May 16, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

### SCAPPOOSE CITY HALL

33568 E. Columbia Avenue  
A 24-hour Drop Box is located at this address

### MIST BIRKENFELD RFPD

12525 Highway 292  
May 1-15, During Office Hours  
May 15, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

### COUNTY COURTHOUSE ELECTIONS DEPT.

230 Strand Street  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
Mon. - Thu. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
May 16, 7:00 am - 8:00 pm  
A drive-by drop box is located in the lower parking lot.

## Notice of Budget Committee Meeting

A public meeting of the 2017-2018 Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Budget Committee will be held Tuesday evening, May 2, 2017, at 7:00 pm at the Mist-Birkenfeld Main Station located at 12525 Highway 202. This is a meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may attend this meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

### BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED AT THIS MEETING WILL BE:

- Election of Officers - Presentation of Budget Message - Presentation of Budget Document - Discussion of the Budget Document - Public Testimony - Scheduling of possible future meetings  
The proposed budget document will be available for inspection on April 24, 2017 at the Mist-Birkenfeld Main Station at 12525 Hwy 202, Mist, Oregon, during the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
Dave Crawford, Budget Officer

2017  
Volunteer  
Fair

Wednesday  
April 12  
5:30 - 7:30 pm  
in the Vernonia  
Schools  
Lobby

While a large segment of the Vernonia area population would like to volunteer, they don't because they are unaware of opportunities and are not being asked.

The Volunteer Fair will bring together organizations from around the community with potential volunteers. Potential volunteers will have a chance to meet with current volunteers and hear about groups, histories, missions, and descriptions of jobs that need volunteers.

For more information contact Bill Langmaid at [bill@rangelights.com](mailto:bill@rangelights.com).