Co-Chairs

Senator Lee Heider
Senator
Idaho State Legislature

Lee Heider has served as an Idaho State Senator starting in 2010 and serves as Chairman on the Health & Welfare Committee, and as a Member on the Resources and Environment Committee. Senator Heider served as a Past Member of Joint Finance Committee from 2010-2012. Senator Heider received his Bachelor's Degree from Brigham Young University and his Master’s in Public Administration from Ball State University.

Kate Wilson
Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
Alberta Environment & Parks

Kate has been working in the field of aquatic invasive species prevention and management for over a decade. Originally she started out as a journalist, but quickly found her way into the water world and from there, assisted with the development of an aquatic invasive species program for northern Idaho. This work took her to the University of Florida for her Masters of Science where she was employed at the Center for Aquatic & Invasive Plants and got a whole new education stemming from some of the worst invasives on the planet! She is excited to lead Alberta’s AIS program as the Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist in Alberta Environment and Parks’ Fish & Wildlife Policy Branch.

Speakers

Amy Amrhein
Southern OR Field Representative
Office of U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley

Born and raised in Central New York, Amy earned a BA from the University of Rochester and an MBA from Duke University. She worked in sales and marketing in private industry for 10 years. She moved to Southern Oregon in 1993 and consulted on local political, bond and levy campaigns while raising two boys. She served on the Ashland School Board for six years. Amy has been US Senator Jeff Merkley’s Southern Oregon Field Representative since 2009 and is responsible for serving seven counties in southwest Oregon, including Lake, Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos and Curry.
Martina Beck
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
Government of British Columbia

Martina Beck completed her bachelors of science in Biology at the University of Victoria in 2008, and in 2013 she completed her MSc. thesis on the invasion ecology of the freshwater smallmouth bass in British Columbia lakes. Martina has experience working in both freshwater and marine biology and in more recent years working on Aquatic Invasive Species management in British Columbia. Currently Martina works as the Invasive Mussel Program Co-ordinator with the BC Ministry of Environment and lives in Victoria, BC.

Clinton Burfitt
Insect Pest Prevention & Management Program Manager
Department of Agriculture

Clint is an expert in planning, organizing, and managing resources to safeguard agricultural and natural resources by conducting pest exclusion and plant quarantine programs. Currently, Clint leads the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM) Program. The IPPM Program’s mission is to protect Oregon’s agricultural and natural resources from the negative effects of exotic terrestrial invertebrates. Clint has approximately 16 years of experience in applying the principals of early detection and rapid response, diagnostic services, and biological control. He has successfully led mitigation projects that have resulted in reduced crop loss, decreased pesticide use, and maintained market access for Oregon's agricultural products. Professionally, he has implemented, managed, and collaborated on a variety of pollinator health initiatives and has personal experience as an urban beekeeper. With these experiences and his love of exploring the outdoors, Clint has gained a great appreciation and insight into the seemingly endless complexity of insect-plant interactions and biodiversity.

Justin Bush
Executive Coordinator
Washington Invasive Species Council

Justin Bush is employed by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office, filling the role of Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council. He has worked on invasive species issues since 2008 with federal, state, regional, and local organizations including King County, WA, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin where he managed the Texasinvasives.org statewide partnership. During these years, he has been involved in various projects to prevent, detect, and control both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species and is passionate about reducing the threat they pose to the native species and ecosystems. He is past president of the Washington State Weed Coordinators' Association, former co-chair of the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, founding member of the Texas Gulf Region Cooperative Weed Management Area, and past Secretary of the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council.
Bryce Christiaens
Weed District Manager
Missoula County Weed District

Bryce Christiaens graduated from the University of Montana in 2004 with a BA in Philosophy and has worked on invasive species issues in Montana for the past 12 years. Currently Bryce works as the Weed District Coordinator for Missoula County in Missoula, Montana and is the owner of Native Ideals Seed Farm, a native seed increase farm specializing in drought hardy forbs. Bryce also currently serves as the Chair of the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council.

Tim Counihan
Research Fishery Biologist
United States Geological Service

Tim is a Research Fishery Biologist with the USGS Western Fisheries Research Center. Over the course of his career Tim’s work has primarily focused on conducting applied research with direct management implications. His current research focus is on the design, conduct and analyses of long-term monitoring programs and the development of early detection monitoring programs for invasive species. As part of his research, Tim is working with scientists from around the U.S. and with scientists from multiple western states, universities, and Canadian provinces to develop a framework for the development of a regional early detection monitoring program for quagga and zebra mussels. In addition to the topics listed above, Tim has also conducted research that examined the effects of hydropower operations on contaminants, food webs, juvenile pacific salmon and steelhead, white sturgeon, and invasive fish species.

Becky Cudmore
Manager, Aquatic Invasive Species
Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Becky Cudmore is the Acting National Manager for Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Aquatic Invasive Species Program. She is also the regional manager Aquatic Invasive Species for the Department’s Central and Arctic Region which includes the Great Lakes, Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and the Arctic. Becky has a post-graduate degree in Zoology from the University of Toronto and a joint undergraduate degree in Biology and Environmental Science from Trent University, Peterborough ON. Becky has worked on aquatic invasive species in the international Great Lakes for almost 20 years and was the recipient of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee award for her contributions and efforts to protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species.
Rep. Mike Cuffe
Representative
Montana State Legislature

Mike Cuffe is a native of Lincoln County, Montana. He graduated from Lincoln County High School and earned his degree in Journalism from the University of Montana at Missoula. Mike started his career as a journalist working in the newspaper business in Libby, Montana. These skills eventually enabled him to participate in politics on a national level as a staffer for a Montana Congressman in Washington DC. Upon his return to Montana, Mike was recruited by the timber industry and achieved top management positions throughout his extensive career in the development of the wood products business in Lincoln County. Mike returned to his communications background and successfully ran Big Sky Publishing in Eureka, Montana.

Peter Daugherty
State Forester
Oregon Department of Forestry

Peter Daugherty, selected by the Board of Forestry as Oregon’s 13th State Forester, leads the Department of Forestry in its mission to serve Oregonians by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon’s forests. He also helps the Board carry out its mission to lead Oregon in implementing policies and programs that promote sustainable management of Oregon’s public and private forests. State Forester Daugherty joined the Department in 2007. He served most recently as the Private Forests Division Chief, where he worked on best forest management practices for water quality, and on forest health, family forestlands, and urban forestry. Over the course of his career, he has worked as a private forest economist and a professor of forest management and ecological economics. He also enjoyed time as a U.S. Forest Service research forester. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters and the International Society of Ecological Economics.

Tim Dykstra
Environmental Stewardship Program Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers

Tim Dykstra currently works for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division in Portland, OR where he serves as the senior Environmental Stewardship Program Manager. In 2016, Mr. Dykstra relocated to Washington DC for the year to oversee the US Senate’s Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee. Prior to working for the Corps, Tim served as the Fish and Wildlife Director for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe located in southern Idaho and northern Nevada. He has a B.S. in biology from Hope College, a master’s degree in Environmental Science from University of Montana and additional coursework from the University of Michigan Biological Station and Portland State University.
Dr. Brian Heise

Associate Professor
Thompson Rivers University

Dr. Brian Heise is an aquatic ecologist in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at Thompson Rivers University, in Kamloops BC. Brian’s research looks at the effects of various land use practices, including invasive species, on the ecology of invertebrates and fish in freshwater systems. He and his students are currently studying invasive northern pike, yellow perch and goldfish. Brian is also the Chair of the Invasive Species Council of BC.

Joseph Maroney

Director of Fishery and Water Resources
Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Joe Maroney has been with the Kalispel Tribe of Indians since January, 1995 and is currently the Director of Fishery and Water Resources which comprises 22 full time employees. He has spent his entire career working on FERC hydropower relicensing and implementation across Washington, Idaho and Montana involving Box Canyon Dam, Clark Fork Hydroelectric Projects and Boundary Dam. He was a two-time Chairman of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority representing Resident Fish Managers (RFM). He has worked on bull trout recovery, mainstem fish passage and non-native fish suppression/eradication projects dealing with northern pike and brook trout. He currently teaches a class on “Control and Management of Non-Native Invasive Fish” through the Northwest Environmental Training Center. He is currently a member of the Washington State Invasive Species Council.

Dr. Jim Marra

Pest Program Manager
Washington Department of Agriculture

Dr. Jim Marra is currently the Pest Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). He received his Ph.D. in Forest Ecology from the College of Forest Resources, at the University of Washington in Seattle. He received a B.S in Biology and Fine Arts from the University of Oregon and a M.S degree in ecology also from the University of Oregon. Prior to arriving at the WSDA, he taught entomology and forest ecology at the University of Washington and at the Evergreen State College as a research scientist and lecturer. He also conducted research in forest entomology and soil biology at the University of Washington.
Sarah Navarro
Forest Pathologist
Oregon Department of Forestry

Sarah is the statewide Forest Pathologist for the Oregon Department of Forestry. She provides technical assistance to private and state owned lands on disease management issues, including being the lead for ODF’s Sudden Oak Death Program. She joined the department in 2016 and came from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), where she served as a Plant Health Specialist in ODA's sudden oak death detection program for plant and landscape nurseries. Sarah has a Master of Science in Botany and Plant Pathology from Oregon State University and a Bachelor's in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology / Fungal Biology and Ecology from the University of California at Davis. Sarah has extensive field experience in working in the woods - as a technician with the USDA Forest Service in southeast Alaska and central cascades Washington.

Stephen Phillips
AIS Program Manager
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Stephen Phillips is a senior program manager at the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (located in Portland Oregon) where he has worked for over 25 years. For the last 18 years, his main responsibility has been management of PSMFC’s Aquatic Nuisance Species Program. Mr. Phillips received his Bachelor's in Biology from Baldwin Wallace College (Berea, Ohio) and a Master's of Fisheries Science from Oregon State University.

Jamie Reaser
Executive Director
National Invasive Species Council

Jamie K. Reaser serves as the Executive Director of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). In addition to guiding all aspects of NISC Secretariat operations, Jamie is currently providing the leadership necessary to develop the Arctic Council's Arctic Invasive Alien Species (ARIAS) Strategy and Action Plan; coordinate an update to the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii; produce a documentary on invasive species entitled, Protecting What Matters; and establish an annual Innovation Summit to advance U.S. technical capacities to address the most pressing invasive species issues. Jamie is a globally-recognized expert on invasive species, as well as a wide range of other environmental and sustainable development issues. She has worked in more than fifty countries as an ecologist, environmental negotiator, professional communications and leadership development trainer, and programmatic analyst. Among other positions, she previously served as the Executive Director of the Global Invasive Species Program (GISP) and NISC's Assistant Director for International Policy, Science, and Cooperation.
Sen. Arnie Roblan
Senator
Oregon State Legislature

Senator Arnie Roblan represents the scenic and rugged central Oregon coast comprising the 5th Senate District. Previously Senator Roblan served 4 terms as Representative for House District 9, two terms as Co-Speaker. Senator Roblan’s commitment to his community long precedes his election to public office. He is a founding board member of Friends of New and Sustainable Industry (FONSI) and has served on the boards of several local organizations, including the Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board, and the Coos educators Federal Credit Union, Belloni Ranch, YMCA Youth in Government and the Oregon Coastal Environments Network (OCEAN). Senator Arnie Roblan also served on the boards of numerous organizations including the Southwestern Oregon Transportation and Economic Development Workgroup, the Oregon Education Accountability Roundtable, the Governance Group of the Capitol Restoration Project, the Coastal Caucus and the Chalkboard Project.

Rep. David Brock Smith
Representative
Oregon State Legislature

Representative David Brock Smith is a third generation resident of House District 1. After attending SOCC and SOU, Rep. Smith worked in the culinary industry, in some of the best restaurants in the Rogue Valley, before moving back to Port Orford and taking over his family’s 45-year Restaurant and Lounge. Rep. Smith has an extensive Public Service background, and proudly served the citizens of Port Orford for many years as their City Council President, and Chamber of Commerce President/Director. He is also the former Chair and Vice Chair of the Curry County Board of Commissioners, where he served on many Boards and Committees. Representative Smith also served various roles with the Association of Oregon Counties, on their Board of Directors and Legislative Committee, as well as the District 4 Chair, representing Curry, Coos, Douglas, Josephine and Jackson Counties. He still serves on the Port Orford-Langlois School Board and has for many years.

Jeff Stone
Executive Director
Oregon Association of Nurseries

Jeff Stone is the Executive Director/CEO of the Oregon Association of Nurseries. Prior to his role as Executive Director, he served as the association’s Director of Government Relations where he was responsible for the association’s state and federal affairs program. Stone has been at the OAN since December 2005. Stone’s public sector experience includes serving eight years as the Chief of Staff to the Metro Council and prior to that worked for eight years for United States Senator Bob Packwood (R-Oregon). Stone serves as a President of the Board of Directors of the Nursery and Landscape Association Executives (NLAE). He also serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Society of Association Management (OSAM) and was nominated and confirmed to the Board of Directors of the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) and serves as its Vice Chair.
Mark Sytsma
Professor and Director of Center for Lakes and Reservoirs
Portland State University

Mark Sytsma earned his MS from the University of Washington and his PhD from the University of California-Davis. He is a Professor of Environmental Sciences, Associate Vice-president for Research at PSU, the director of the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs, and co-director of the Aquatic Bioinvasion Research and Policy Institute. At the Center for Lakes and Reservoirs Oregon's first comprehensive program for managing "aquatic invasive species" is underway. His primary research interest is in limnology and the biology and management of aquatic invasive species. Long-term, ongoing projects include the limnology of Waldo Lake, an ultraoligotrophic lake in the Cascade Mountains; aquatic plant surveys in Pacific Northwest lakes; invasive species in the Columbia River; dreissenid mussel monitoring in western states; spartina management in Oregon estuaries; and invasive species policy. He co-authored the Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and is responsible for implementation of the Plan in collaboration with other state agencies. He is a founding member of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, the Columbia River Basin Team of the 100th Meridian Initiative, and the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

Jon Trapp
Assistant Chief
Red Lodge Fire Rescue

After serving in the Air Force for seven years as a fighter intelligence officer, Jon went back to school to obtain a master’s degree in Conservation Biology. He was then hired by the US Fish and Wildlife service in Wyoming as a wolf biologist. Jon was later one of the first wolf biologists hired in Montana under their new state wolf management plan. In 2007, Jon was hired by Red Lodge Fire Rescue and sent through training to become a nationally certified firefighter/paramedic. He is also a wildland firefighter, fighting fire for 10 seasons from Georgia to Alaska. He is certified as a Division Supervisor, a Type 4 Incident Commander and is training to become a fire behavior analyst. He works closely with Montana’s Department of Natural Resources and Conservation fire division and is a member of the region’s Type 3 Incident Command Team. Jon is currently an Assistant Chief at Red Lodge Fire Rescue and heads the technical rescue unit and the county’s Search and Rescue team.

Thomas Woolf
AIS Bureau Chief
Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

Thomas Woolf received a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Adams State College, Colorado and a Master’s of Science degree in Environmental Science from Minnesota State University focusing on invasive species impacts in aquatic ecosystems. Thomas worked for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture from 2007 to 2017 as the Aquatic Invasive Species Program Manager for the state of Idaho and supported the development and operation of Idaho’s invasive species survey and prevention programs. He currently is the Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau Chief for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.