

*Announcing a Teacher-Training Event Coming Soon...*

## **Watersheds & Invasive Species Education (WISE)**

*Linking Science, Community, and Action through  
Invasive Species Education*

*Sponsored by Oregon Sea Grant Extension and  
the Coos Watershed Association*

- Learn about **Invasive Species** and invasion ecology!
- Use invasives and invasion ecology as **novel learning tools for science classrooms!**
- Acquire some **new, ready-to-use, lessons** that utilize invasive species examples to teach science benchmarks!
- Get **tools, funding (\$200), and ideas** for engaging your students in stewardship projects!
- Earn **24 Continuing Professional Development Units!**
- **Graduate credits** in Fisheries and Wildlife are available!

**Date:** June 25<sup>th</sup> – 27th, 2010.

**Location:** TBD (Coos Bay area), details will follow

**Workshop Overview:** This three-day workshop is designed to provide knowledge, tools, and resources for science teachers to incorporate the exciting and relevant topic of invasive species into their classrooms. Invasive species are organisms that were introduced outside their natural range and are having a negative impact on our environment and economy. Being underwater, they often go unnoticed; however, their impacts can be devastating and they are virtually impossible to control once introduced. At the same time, aquatic invasive species are very interesting organisms to study and provide relevant and timely case studies through which you can teach important science benchmarks.

Our goal is to promote classroom-community connections by enabling teachers to lead student stewardship projects that address the problem of invasive species. Teachers will learn why invasive species are an excellent teaching tool, and get ideas and funding to do a stewardship project. We will also provide teachers with new, ready-to-use, lesson plans and activities that will help you teach about invasive species while covering your science benchmarks. Science teachers at any grade level are welcome, but our materials are best suited for the middle school and high-school audiences. A field trip to will provide "real life" examples and synthesis to integrate topics covered at the workshop.

**Here is what some teachers have said about past WISE workshops and stewardship projects:**

*"I have been to many workshops, and this is the best one I have ever attended"*

- Julia Harvey, Biology Teacher at South Eugene High School





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*"The unit on invasive species helped connect the students to their environment and provided a tangible way for them to act as stewards of the land."*

- Brian Vollmer-Buhl, 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher in Mapleton, OR.

*"AIS helped integrate all phases of middle school science learning, provided high-interest, timely, educational materials, and provided service learning opportunities."*

- Thea Hayes, Marysville Elementary School, Portland, OR.



**Teacher compensation:** Teachers will receive a \$200 grant to carry out a stewardship project in their community; however, our support for the stewardship project goes beyond the grant and the workshop. Oregon Sea Grant staff and scientists, and the local Coos Watershed Association will be available to provide resources, ideas, and other support as you carry out your project. You will also receive 24 Continuing Professional Development Units for attending the workshop. State University Graduate credits (2 credits) in Fisheries and Wildlife will be made available at participant expense (\$125).

**Requirements:** Teachers who attend the workshop and receive a grant are required to conduct and document a stewardship project related to invasive species and or watershed health with their students. Due to limited space, we are asking teachers to submit a short application to attend and receive the funding (see below).

**What are invasive species and why are they a great learning tool?** Invasive species are organisms that have been introduced outside their natural range by humans. Most introduced species are benign or benefit to our society, but a small percentage grow out of control and can cause serious, but educationally valuable, problems. Students enjoy learning about the strange and fascinating characteristics that help explain how these organisms got here and why they affect our society. Teachers like using invasive species as a learning tool because fully understanding their impacts requires integrating knowledge from many disciplines. Ecology, Biology, Genetics, Geography, Governance, Math, Economics, and History are just a few examples. In short, invasive species provide cross-disciplinary examples from the real world and a plethora of opportunities for classroom-community connections.

**Linking Classrooms and Communities:** Have you been looking for meaningful ways to engage your students with important issues in the community? Carrying out a stewardship project with your students is a fun way to get students involved and has lasting educational value. Projects can range from improving aquatic habitat, to collecting data on invasive species, to engaging your students in an outreach campaign about invasive. OSU Sea Grant and the Coos Watershed Association will help you develop ideas and be a resource for you as you carry out the project.

**What is Oregon Sea Grant?** Oregon Sea Grant is part of the National Sea Grant Program, which was established by Congress in 1966 under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The mission of Sea Grant is to increase the understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of the nation's ocean and coastal resources.



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**OSU Sea Grant Extension** represents the Extension and Outreach arm of Oregon Sea Grant and forms part of Oregon State University Extension Service. One of its major goals is to enhance public understanding of issues surrounding aquatic invasive species and the role citizens can play in preventing their spread.

**Coos Watershed Association** is a local non-profit organization formed in 1993 and run by a Board of Directors representing a range of land management interests. The Coos watershed itself is a 600 square mile area of land draining into the Coos estuary through rivers and streams. The Association’s mission is to provide a framework to coordinate and implement proven management practices, and test promising new management practices, designed to promote environmental integrity and economic stability for communities of the Coos watershed. [www.cooswatershed.org](http://www.cooswatershed.org)

**Workshop application:** Due to limited funds, we can only invite up to 10 teachers to attend the workshop. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please provide thoughtful 1-2 sentence answers to the six questions below **by May 28th**. Answers to these questions will help us select a group of highly motivated teachers in the case that we have more applicants than we can fund.

1. Please provide your name, school, school district, and the subject and level you teach.
2. Why are you interested in the topic of aquatic invasive species?
3. What do you hope to get out of this workshop?
4. How do you plan to incorporate aquatic invasive species into your classroom?
5. Provide an example of an innovative stewardship project related to invasive species you would like to do with your students.
6. Are there any barriers that might prevent you from completing the stewardship projects? (So we can know how to best help you.)

**Contact Information**

Questions, comments, and your workshop application can be sent to:

Tania Siemens ([tania.siemens@oregonstate.edu](mailto:tania.siemens@oregonstate.edu); office: 541-844-1048; cell: 541-914-0701) or

Bessie Joyce ([bjoyce@cooswatershed.org](mailto:bjoyce@cooswatershed.org); office: 541-888-5922)

THANK YOU! We look forward to hearing from you!

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Invasive knotweed on the Coos River. Also found on the forks of the Coquille and in Bandon.

541-914-0701