

Attendees: Cierra Dawson, Michael Ahr, Mat Mills, Kat Bethea, Christine Buhl, Heidi Christensen, Lorelle Sherman, Annie O’Shea, Jay Sharpe, Shea Steingass, Peter Kenagy, Meredith Tennant, Stephanie Rice, Otilia Schreuder



1. Updates on Benton SWCD staff transitions/CWMA coordinator hand-off

Michael Ahr is the new Executive Director of Benton SWCD. As he steps into that role, the duties of coordinating the Benton CWMA and other invasive species work are being passed off to Cierra Dawson, the Conservation Outreach Assistant. Cierra encouraged feedback about future CWMA meeting logistics. Email her with any suggestions at cierra@bentonswcd.org.

2. Takeaways from the Interagency Noxious Weed Symposium

Cierra offered a recap on some of the new emergent invasive species that were recently detected in Western Oregon such as Palmer’s Amaranth and Common bugloss. She suggested that a more in-depth, planned discussion should happen after the next INW Symposium in 2026. Stephanie offered praise for the variety of speakers/topics that were presented at INW 2024.

3. Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer updates from Matt Mills/Kat Bethea/Christine Buhl from ODF

Mediterranean Oak Borer Presentation by Christine Buhl

This presentation + the scannable QR code for MOB information will be attached in the email with the notes after the meeting.

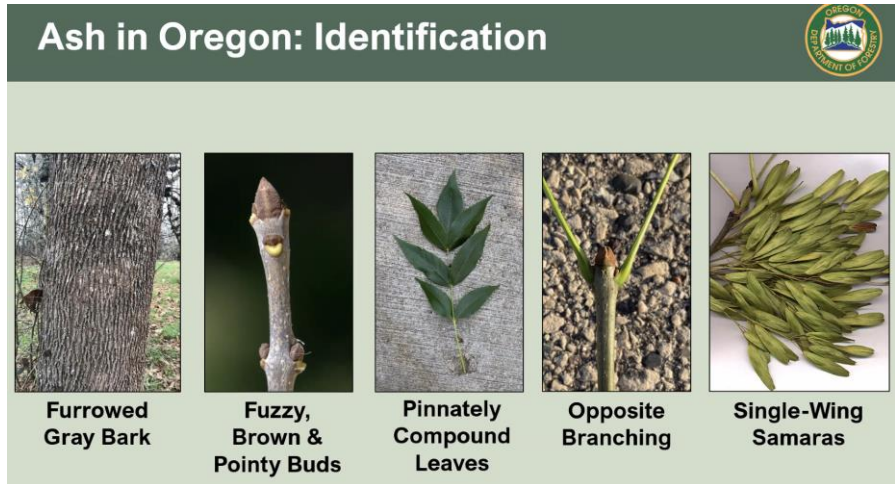
- MOB is a recently detected insect in our landscape. It is estimated that there are ~2-3 generations present in Oregon. It is originally native to Europe, N. Africa, and the Middle East.
- MOB was first detected in North America in 2017 in California. A single individual beetle was detected in a trap in Oregon in 2018, but the first real infestation in Oregon was discovered in 2022.
- As of 2024, MOB is present in Multnomah, Washington, and *Marion counties
 - **Marion County surveying only found wood galleries but no adult beetles so far.*
- MOB primarily targets Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) in Oregon. There is one recorded incident of MOB presence in a red oak tree.
- MOB is an Ambrosia beetle like weevils and bark beetles. It bores into wood like EAB, but unlike EAB, it doesn’t feed on the wood; it feeds on an ambrosia fungus that it inoculates *into* the wood.
- This species is problematic because that fungus it vectors causes a type of fatal oak wilt, which functionally starves the tree for water
- MOB is an extremely cold tolerant insect (for example, active adults have been observed during the month of January)

- A major pathway for movement for this species is largely via wine barrel wood. ODF is trying to establish connections with wine industry leaders about being alert for MOB transportation.
- The Do not move firewood campaign is in effect for this species as well. ***“Buy it where you burn it.”***
- MOB signs/symptoms include:
 - Frass (wood-boring dust) at the base of the tree (collect samples & send to ODF)
 - Large-scale canopy dieback
 - Black-stained branches in galleries in sapwood
- Research is ongoing about whether there is a correlation between pre-existing root disease in oak trees and increased likelihood of MOB invasion.

Emerald Ash Borer presentation (Matt Mills/Kat Bethea)

At our last meeting, Wyatt Williams from ODF presented on the signs/symptoms of EAB presence in ash trees. Matt and Kat are building from Wyatt’s presentation to discuss how to create an action plan for when EAB is present in Benton County. [Click here to view this presentation online.](#)

- EAB lays eggs outside the ash tree, larvae bore into the phloem and cambium layers of the tree and create serpentine galleries. Eventually, this girdles the tree and prevents nutrient transport.
- EAB was originally detected in North America in Michigan in 2002. Now, it is present in 37 states and 6 provinces. The first detection of EAB in Oregon was in Forest Grove in 2022.
- Counties currently under quarantine are **Washington, Clackamas, Marion, and now Yamhill.**
- All ash species are susceptible to EAB invasion with high mortality rates.
- Response trial to try to yield an invasion-resistant version of Oregon ash will begin this coming summer
- **SLAM** = **“SLowing Ash Mortality”**; involves creating a ring of “trap” trees
 - Removing outer bark of trees on the outer perimeter of the quarantine zone to see if EAB had spread. The water-stressed trees send out volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that attract EAB.
- Ash tree identification recap:
 - Brown, fuzzy buds in the winter
 - “Winged”/“helicopter” seeds that often persist in winter (samaras)
 - Opposite branching
 - Diamond lattice/furrowed gray bark
 - Pinnately compound leaves - think like a feather



Creating a response plan for EAB: Utilize the **READY, SET, GO** fire preparedness framework

- **Ready:** learn signs + symptoms, inventory your ash trees
- **Set:** advise local partners, begin proactive management
- **Go:** training + education, treatment, tree removals/replanting, etc.
 - Emamectin benzoate is the most effective treatment. It is a preventative trunk injection that should be administered by a licensed pesticide applicator.

A common question people ask ODF staff is what trees species will replace ash with once EAB is widespread. The answer is...a mix. Here are some suggestions:

Natural Areas: Species List

- Tree species associated with ash, clay soils** (Pollinator friendly species):
 - Garry oak
 - Western crabapple
 - Chokecherry
 - Piper willow
 - White alder
 - Ponderosa pines
- Tree species associated with ash, clay intolerant**:
 - Black cottonwood
 - Quaking aspen
 - Douglas-fir
 - Scouler willow
 - Bitter cherry
 - Cascara buckthorn
- Species for assisted migration trials**:
 - Incense cedar
 - California Black oak
 - Coastal redwood
 - Dawn redwood
 - Oregon myrtle

Adapted from Kral and Shaw, 2023
Hull, 2024

- All resources for EAB can be found at OregonEAB.com
- Sign up for alerts from the [Oregon Tree Health Threats Bulletin](#)
- Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) demonstration coming up on April 9th, 2025 in Hillsboro. [Register for this event here.](#)
- Demonstration on how to do trunk injections for EAB prevention coming up on May 14th, 2025, in Salem. [Register for this event here.](#)
- Report suspicious sightings of EAB or MOB at oregoninvasiveshotline.org or call 1-866-INVADER (1-866-468-2337).
- The EAB look-a-like online visual guide [can be found here.](#)

4. 2025 Let's Pull Together updates

Save the date for **Saturday, May 17th!** Site confirmations and logistics information forthcoming.

5. Partner updates

- a. **Peter Kenagy:** He is the Legislative Committee Chair of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC); Working on distributing a primer on invasive species to the council; Brought awareness to upcoming [HB 2981](#) that addresses invasive mussel species (Quagga, Zebra, and now Golden mussels); Looking for information on how to deal with lots of ash waste wood after EAB is present in Benton County.
- b. **Michael/Cierra:** BSWCD is expanding our invasive species awareness efforts. We just began our Weed of the Month spotlight on both our monthly newsletter and our blog; Spring Weed Watchers training forthcoming; Newly developed "Common Noxious Weeds of Benton County" brochure/trifold available to distribute (email Cierra).

6. MOU signature reminders

- a. Cierra has received 4 signatures so far. If you haven't already, please review the MOU document, sign and return to cierra@bentonswcd.org.

The next general meeting is Monday, November 3rd, 2025 at 10 am on Zoom.