



## Beyond the War on Invasive Species

A Permaculture Approach to Ecological Restoration and Resilient Ecosystems

Tao Orion

Foreword by David Holmgren

\$22.95 • Paperback

6 x 9 • 256 pages

ISBN 9781603585637

Pub Date: July 14, 2015

**For media inquiries contact  
Shay Totten**

stotten@chelseagreen.com  
802.295.6300 ext.125

**For author events contact  
Jenna Stewart**

jstewart@chelseagreen.com  
802.295.6300 ext.120



“ In the process of asking questions about how best to restore nature, Orion exposes a deep ethical corruption at the heart of both ecological science and the environmental movement. — David Holmgren, from the Foreword ”

By any means necessary. That's the mantra of today's efforts to eradicate invasive species, and too many of us are serving on the front lines of this unexpected war.

So, what are we to do?

Invasive species are everywhere—from forests and prairies to mountaintops and estuaries—and there are ongoing concerns that they represent significant threats to global biodiversity and ecological integrity. The resulting, and ongoing, “war on invasive species” has unleashed an arsenal of bulldozers, chainsaws, and herbicides with the task of immediate eradication. In Hawaii, mangrove trees are sprayed with glyphosate and left to decompose on the sandy shorelines where they grow, and in Washington, helicopters apply the herbicide imazapyr to smooth cordgrass growing in estuaries.

Author Tao Orion asks: What if we looked beyond the notion of invasives as enemies, and instead harnessed them for their beneficial uses? In *Beyond the War on Invasive Species*, Orion offers a bold alternative to chemical and intensive eradication efforts. What we need, she argues, is a holistic, permaculture-inspired approach to managing entire ecosystems. To often we overlook, Orion notes, how the colliding effects of climate change, habitat destruction, and changes in land use and management contribute to their proliferation. Orion urges us to think of what a managed invasive species could offer—such as compost, animal feed, nectar for bees, medicine, food for people, bioremediation, and more.

It's time to think of restoration as the process of moving beyond an idealized past, Orion argues, and instead use our creativity and the tools available to us to create the conditions in which *all* life can thrive.



**Tao Orion** is a permaculture designer, teacher, homesteader, and mother living in the southern Willamette Valley of Oregon. She teaches permaculture design at Oregon State University and at Aprovecho, a 40-acre nonprofit sustainable-living educational organization. Tao consults on holistic farm, forest, and restoration planning through Resilience Permaculture Design, LLC. She holds a degree in agroecology and sustainable agriculture from UC Santa Cruz, and her interest in restoration was piqued when studying botany, wildcrafting, and herbalism at the Columbines School of Botanical Studies in Eugene, Oregon. When she is not writing, she is busy keeping up with her toddler and wrangling a diverse array of plants and animals on her 6.5-acre homestead, Viriditas Farm.

<http://media.chelseagreen.com/beyond-the-war-on-invasive-species/>