

Skamania County Knotweed Control Project Agreement K3552



Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program
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Background

Lead Organization

The Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program (NWCP) is responsible for educating and assisting landowners and managers with control of noxious weeds within Skamania County.

Partner Organizations

Supporting partners include the USDA Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, US Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia River Complex, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, US Army Corps of Engineers, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Parks, Port of Skamania, City of Stevenson, City of North Bonneville, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust, Columbia Land Trust, Yakama Nation Tribal Fisheries, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Clark County Vegetation Management, Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board (NWCB) and the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Ongoing Knotweed Control Project

The knotweed control project in Skamania County launched in 2004 and the ongoing efforts have resulted in a significant reduction in the overall knotweed infestations. Since 2004, the Skamania County NWCP has engaged 302 private and agency landowners in Skamania and Klickitat counties, resulting in greater than 90% reduction of known infestations. Skamania County NWCP continues to engage the community in the identification and impacts of knotweed best management practices and efforts to sustain the reduction of knotweed in Skamania County.

Work Completed to Date

Skamania County NWCP began the knotweed project with a comprehensive survey in 2002 and 2003. Public outreach and control began in 2004 and most waivers for known sites were obtained by 2006. In 2007, Skamania County partnered with Klickitat County NWCB to conduct knotweed control on all known sites in Klickitat County. In 2021, 36 landowners were assisted on 60 sites in Skamania County and 23 acres of knotweed were treated. Additionally, 14 sites monitored clean in 2021. In 2022, 62 landowners were assisted with treatment on 94 sites on 42 acres. Twenty-three sites surveyed clean in 2022.

Implementation

Project Objectives and Goals

The objective of the knotweed project in 2021-2022 and moving forward is to sustain control, renew waivers and assist landowners enrolled in the knotweed control project, and to empower site managers to effectively maintain their knotweed sites. The goal of this project is to sustain the work already accomplished, prevent re-infestation and reinforce landowner commitment to maintenance in the future.

Project Area Description

The project area is comprised of forest lands, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area lands, agricultural resource land and mixed-use rural/residential lands owned by private citizens. The project area includes all knotweed infestations in Skamania County within **WRIA 28** - Washougal River, Canyon Creek, Woodard Creek, Hardy Creek; **WRIA 29** - Rock Creek, Kanaka Creek, Carson Creek, Wind River, Collins Creek, Little White Salmon, and the White Salmon River. The area also includes the bank of the Columbia River within Skamania County.

Infestation Description

The infestation consists primarily of the hybrid Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemicum*), with several giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinense*) sites and five Himalayan knotweed (*Persicaria wallichii*) sites. The entire extent of the known infestation encompasses approximately 182 acres, affecting 3 WRIsAs, and includes many sites that have surveyed clean for several years in both Skamania and Klickitat counties. Most sites have been reduced from large dense patches to a handful of small but persistent plants.

Integrated Pest Management Strategies

Knotweed treatments for 2021 started in July and finished on October 11. Treatments picked back up in June 2022 and ended in October. The Skamania County Knotweed Control Project utilizes a combination of foliar applications and stem injection. Foliar applications are made with a solution of 1% imazapyr and an approved adjuvant at 1% are made on sites where fewer smaller plants persist. For more recent sites or sites where bigger plants occur, a solution of 1% imazapyr combined with 2% glyphosate and 1% adjuvant is used. Injection sites use 100% glyphosate concentrate with a maximum rate of 3 ml per cane, however, this method is rarely employed.

Data Collection and Calculations

All sites are mapped using Arcmap and some were collected with iForm. Program staff continue to monitor sites where there have been past infestations and those where landowners have assumed responsibility.

Results

2021-2022 Skamania County Knotweed Control Project

- **2021 - 60 sites treated for 36 landowners on approximately 23 solid acres; 14 sites monitored clean**
- **2022 – 94 sites treated for 62 landowners on approximately 42 acres; 23 sites monitored clean**

River Miles Surveyed/Treated

Location	Stream	Area Surveyed	Miles Worked
Washougal (WRIA28)	Washougal River	From above Salmon Falls to County Line	7.79
Washougal (WRIA28)	Canyon Creek	From Washougal River to Mt. Pleasant Rd.	2.28
MidColumbia (WRIA 28)	Kanaka Creek	From source to Columbia River	1.9
MidColumbia (WRIA 28)	Rock Creek	from T3N, R7E, sec 26 to Columbia River	3.1
MidColumbia (WRIA 28)	Woodard Creek	From gas line to mouth	1.7
MidColumbia (WRIA29)	Carson Creek	From gas line to mouth	.87
Total			17.64

Conclusions and the Future

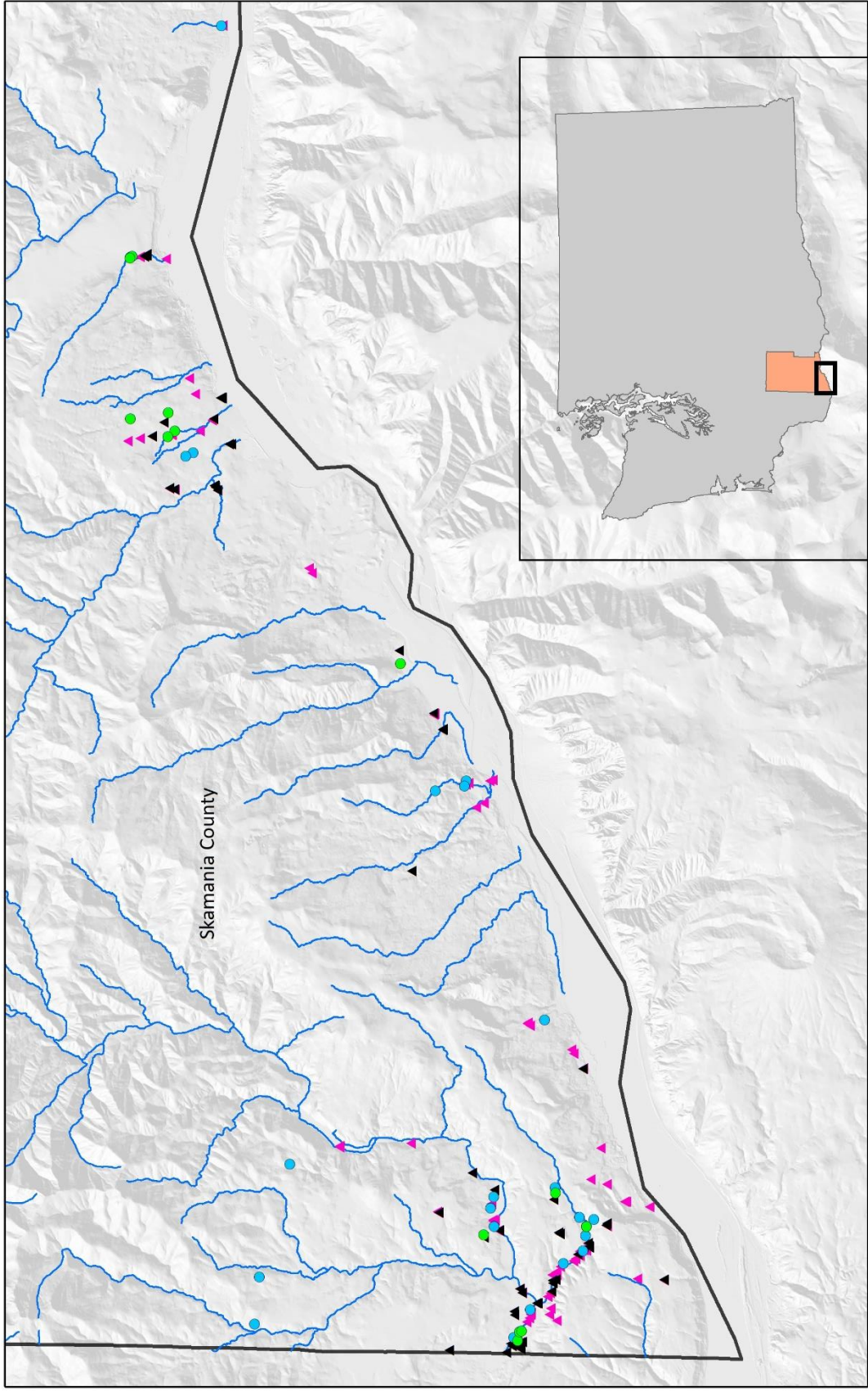
Education and Outreach

Annually, project participants are contacted to renew waivers and share information and updates about project status. Staff advise landowners on how to assume responsibility for their sites by offering best management practices, resource information and restoration plan development. These BMPs were created for both landowners and practitioners to use and can be found digitally on the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area's website or are available through the Skamania County Noxious Weed Program. Education about the knotweed program is provided to new landowners with previously infested sites to ensure ongoing stewardship. Strategies and accomplishments are shared at working groups, in the local paper, and Cooperative Weed Management Area meetings. The goal continues to be public education and the realization of long-term sustainable knotweed control.

Conclusion

The knotweed program has successfully eliminated >90% of the original knotweed infestation in Skamania County. Most sites are in maintenance phase and many have surveyed knotweed-free for many years and/or are being maintained by the landowner. Although many sites have remained clean for a period of years, a survey of all sites should be conducted to confirm infestation status.

The Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program is committed to continued community education about noxious weeds and the importance of knotweed control as it relates to habitat and conservation ideals.



Skamania County



**Skamania County
Noxious Weed Control Program
2021-2022 Knotweed Program**

- surveyed clean in 2021
- surveyed clean in 2022
- ▲ treated in 2021
- ▲ treated in 2022

