

# Eradication Nation: Lessons learned from the CPU Watershed Restoration Program



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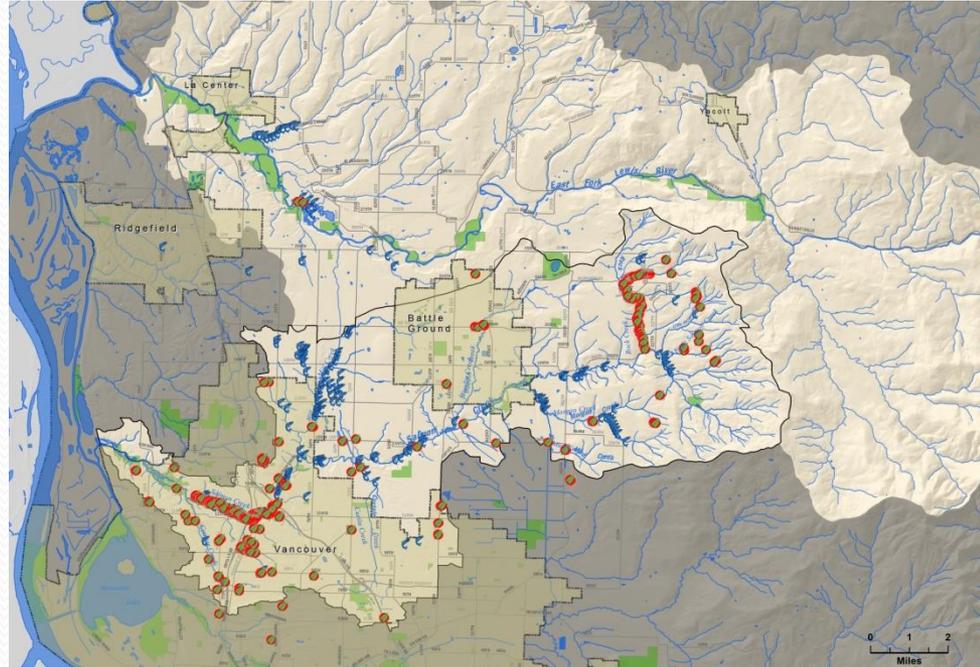
# Outline & Goals

- Overview CPU restoration and programs
- Eradication Nation history and progress
- Lessons learned, challenges, successes
- Questions



# Watershed Enhancement Program

- Started restoration in 1992
  - Salmon Creek Watershed
  - East Fork Lewis River
- Public and private land
- Voluntary
- To restore salmon habitat, water quality

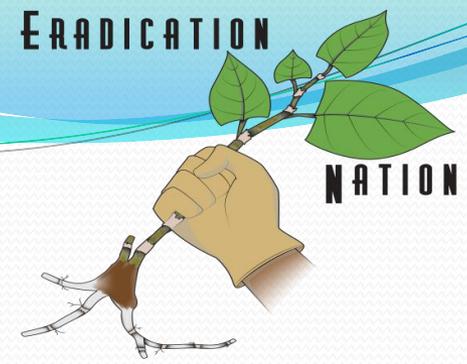


# StreamTeam



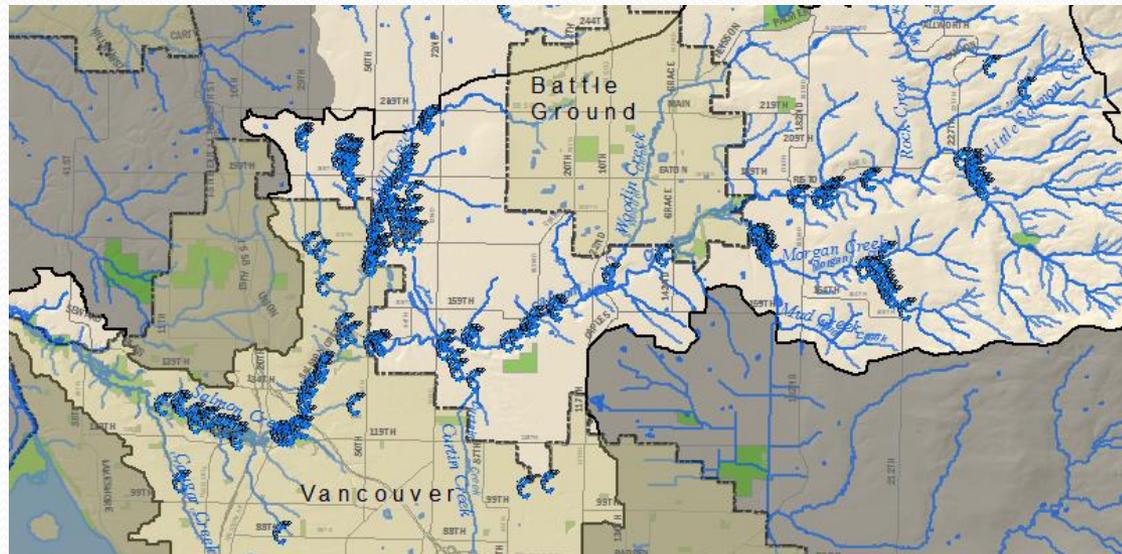
- StreamTeam began in 1990s
  - Bringing salmon back to Salmon Creek
  - 3500 volunteer hours/year
  - Help with tree planting, maintenance, native plant nursery, monitoring
- Stream Stewards program
  - Attend workshops
  - Volunteer 45 hours





# Identifying a need

- Concept - invasive plant removal on restoration projects to involve the community
  - Ivy, blackberry, garlic mustard, knotweed – small scale projects
- Knotweed spreading in Salmon Creek threatening our restoration projects



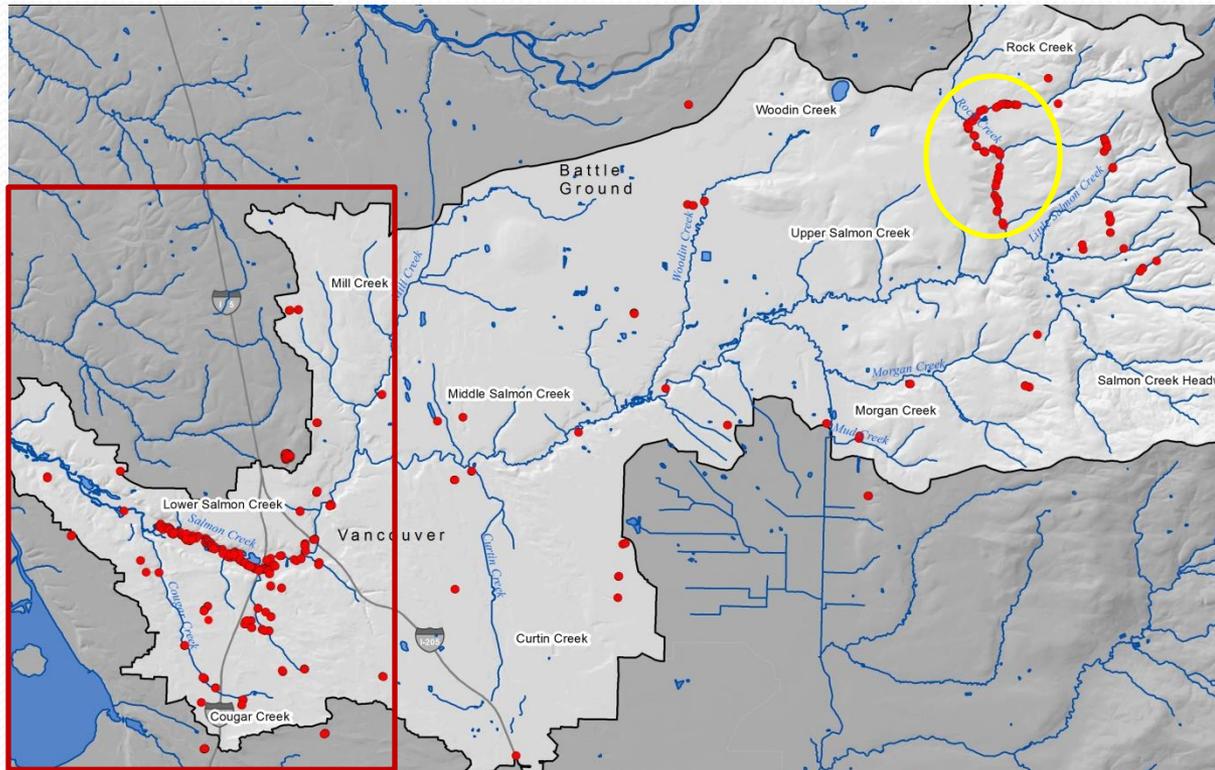
# Eradication Nation

- A community-based coalition focused on removing non-native invasive species from our watersheds
- Part of the StreamTeam, a long-standing volunteer program with Environmental Services of Clark Public Utilities
- Focused on knotweed and garlic mustard control in the Salmon Creek watershed.



# Defining the problem

- Decided to focus on knotweed throughout watershed instead of only on restoration projects
  - Long term solution: find the source
- Knotweed infestations known in lower watershed only



Focus of  
initial grant  
in 2011

Probable  
source  
found in  
2012-2013

# Initial Planning

- Important to plan what success meant early on
- Long term growth
- Quantifiable goals
- Partnerships yet to be developed



# Program Established

- 2011 – Community Salmon Fund through NFWF
  - Focus area – floodplain and upland sites
  - Surveys, treatment, outreach
- 2011 volunteer treatment events
- 2012 first full season – interns, volunteers
- Developed documentation for program protocols



# Eradication Nation Goals

- Survey all streams in Salmon Creek Watershed
- Treat all infestations found and monitor/re-treat annually
- Educate landowners throughout the watershed
- Establish a group of volunteers to support the program



# Outreach & Education

- Over 30 presentations
  - Garden clubs, high school classes, neighborhood associations
- Attended 47 community events
- Contacted over 18,000 people in person or by mail
- Over 338 outreach volunteer hours
  - Big help in tabling at events



# Outreach Strategies

- Kick off season with Home and Garden Fair
- Created customized brochures
- Tailor the message to the audience
- Inspire neighbors to recruit neighbors



**Rock Creek is Knocking Out Knotweed**

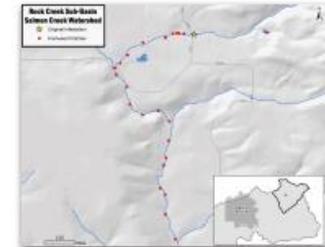
STREAM TEAM  
CLARK PUBLIC UTILITIES

ERADICATION NATION

In 2011 with the help of the local community, Eradication Nation began efforts to fight the spread of knotweed in the Salmon Creek Watershed. Rock Creek is one example of the progress that's possible when a community supports controlling efforts of knotweed.



In the 1950s, a local woman received a pretty plant from her east coast family and planted it in her yard in the headwaters of Rock Creek.



This plant was knotweed, and in the following years, it invaded the entire length of Rock Creek, sprouting over 10,000 stems.

“ *The creek had knotweed for as long as most people could remember.* ”

~ Mike, landowner

# Raising Awareness

- Encourage reporting
  - Postcard
  - Online map
  - Posters



## Knock-out Knotweed!

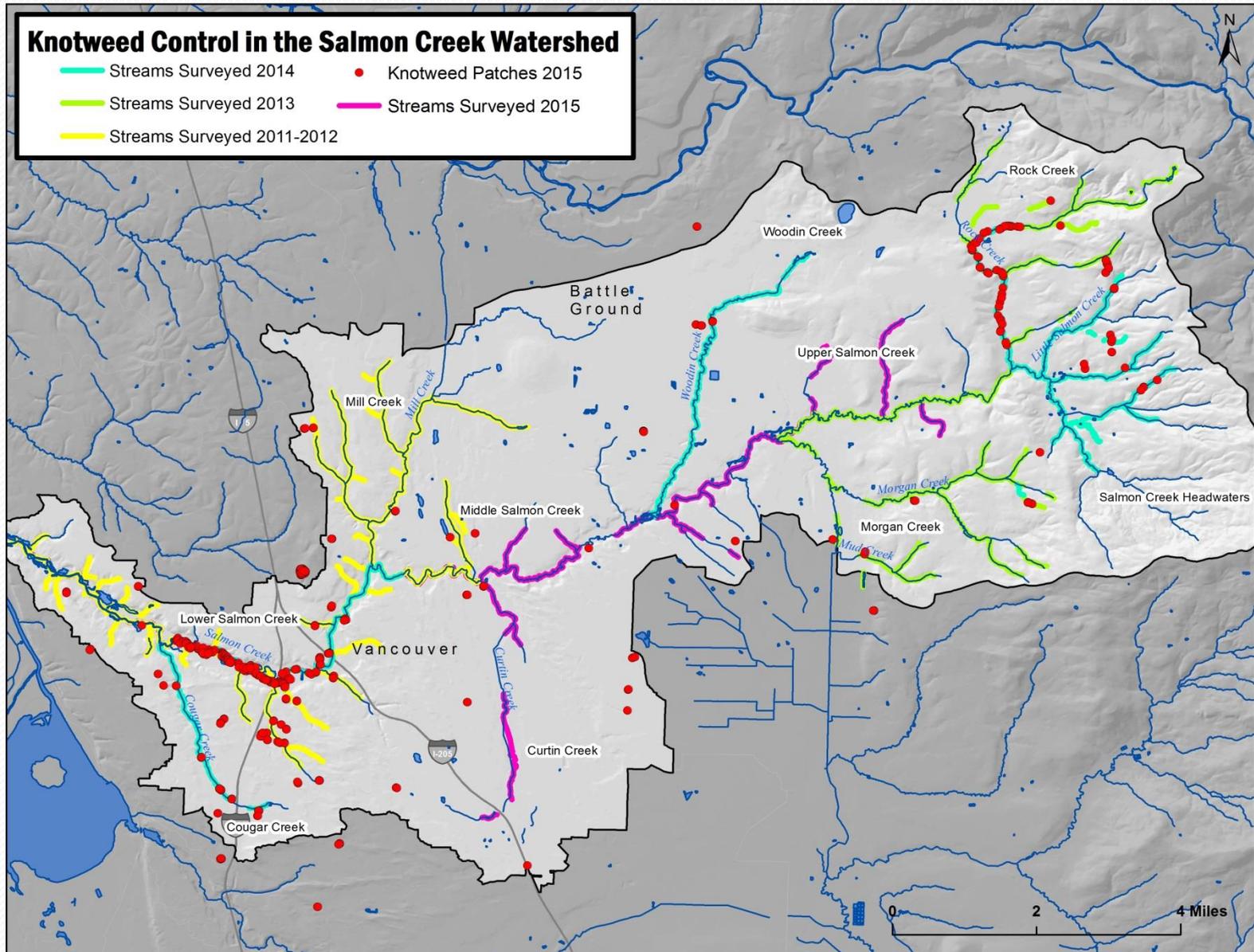
Japanese Knotweed grows fast. It is a non-native bamboo-like plant that chokes out native plants and ruins habitat for fish and wildlife.

Have you seen this weed?

# Surveys

- Adopted King County GPS mapping method in 2013
- Public and private land, floodplain focus
- Target survey areas for outreach mailings
- 118 stream miles and over 1500 acres surveyed
- Over 684 survey volunteer hours
- Site visits to verify reports





- Discovered significant source in upper watershed in 2013
- Completed inventory of Salmon Creek tributaries in 2015

# Treatment

- 68,000 stems and 725 acres treated
- Assisted 7 landowners in 2011, assisted 160 landowners in 2015
- Over 1100 volunteer treatment hours
  - Injection guns were a favorite
- Customized treatment permission form for private landowners



**Notify me the day before treatment**

- By phone
- By email
- Schedule a meeting; I want to be present during treatment
- No notification necessary

**Any important information regarding property access**

- Outdoor pets and/or livestock present
  - Locked gates
  - Parking access
  - Fences
  - Ponds
  - Other:
-

# Volunteer Applicators

- Similar to Stream Stewards, give back 40 hours to program
- Train for pesticide applicator exam and all fees paid
- Developed curriculum
- Difficult to get commitment to hours, timing of exam
- Licensed 9 volunteers



# Working with Volunteers

- Vision – to sustain program
  - Survey & monitoring
- Aids large scale projects
- Increases outreach opportunities
- Flexibility aids in recruiting
- Retention challenging



# Restoration & Knotweed

- Build relationships through knotweed control
- Open possibilities for restoration
- Many knotweed sites are scattered and small, upland
- Large riparian sites evaluated for restoration potential
- Leckberg project 2012-present



# Garlic mustard & Other Weeds

- Control on current and past CPU restoration projects – public and private
- Volunteers assist with foliar spray in spring and fall
- Volunteer events for manual removal
- With funding and partners, could expand



# Future efforts

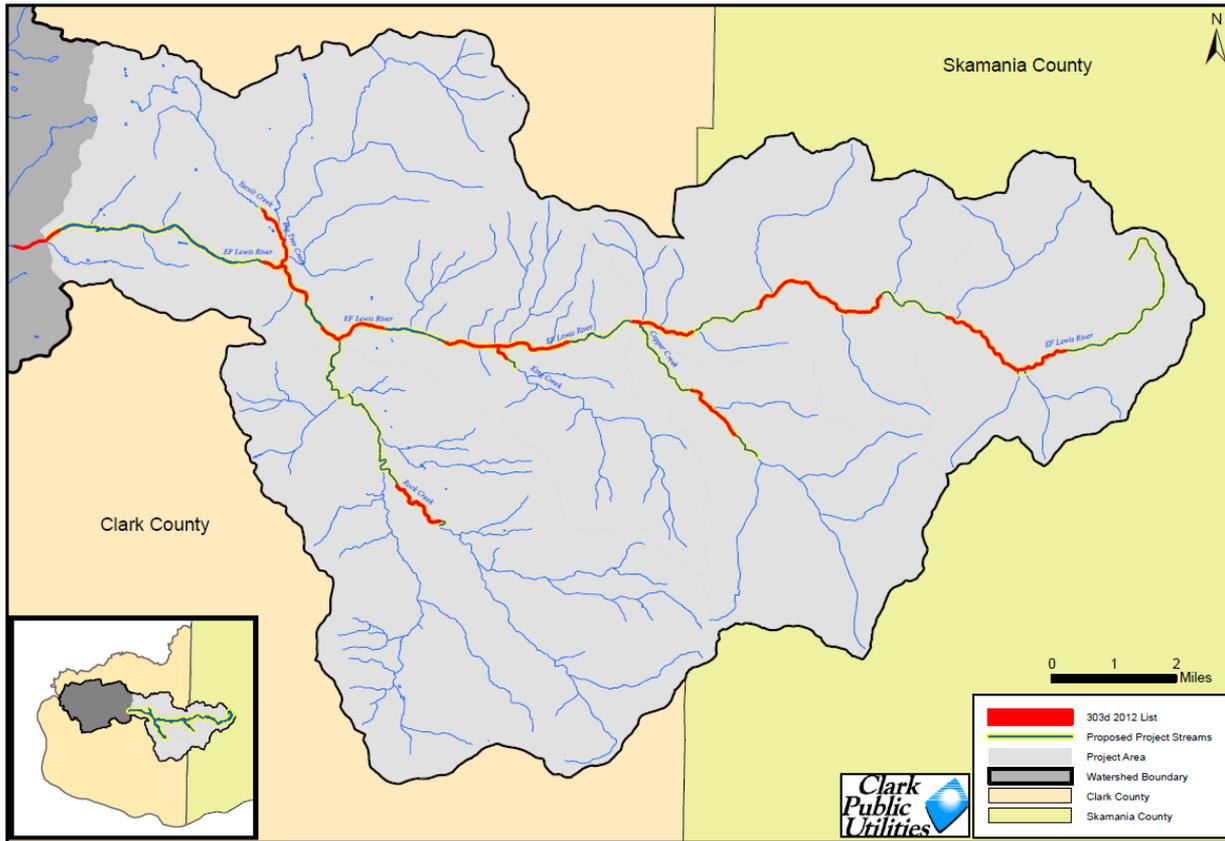
- Continue to build partnerships
- Continue treatment and monitoring in Salmon Creek
- Incorporate restoration into knotweed-free areas
- Put together knotweed working group for Clark County
- Long term – expand to other weeds, include more EDRR, create weed watcher program



# Future efforts

- Recently awarded Centennial Clean Water Grant for knotweed control in the East Fork Lewis River (2016-2019)

East Fork Lewis River Knotweed Control Project  
Grant Application WQC-2017-ClaPUD-00122



# Thank you!



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