



Middle Fork Snoqualmie Invasive Weed Control Project: Years 3 & 4 2007-2008 Project Summary

INTRODUCTION

In 2007 and 2008, the Mountains to Sound Greenway (Greenway) and its partners made significant progress controlling aggressive, invasive weeds in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. This project has been successful as a result of the active participation and support from key agency partners including King County, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR), and the US Forest Service (USFS). Working collaboratively with the Greenway, these partners have contributed staff time and financial support to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled in this pristine valley.

Over the last two years, the partners built on earlier success continuing survey and control efforts in the middle and upper Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley and along the lower river corridor and the surrounding natural lands. This report highlights achievements from 2007 and 2008.

SURVEYING AND MONITORING

The volunteer surveys of roads and trails were greatly expanded in 2007 and 2008. In early June of both years, King County and USFS staff trained a team of volunteers (many from the Washington Native Plant Society) to identify and survey weeds in the Middle Fork. These volunteers focused their efforts in the backcountry and surveyed more than eight miles of trails and roads in 2007 and nearly 26 miles in 2008. Findings indicate that weed populations, while present, remain small and dispersed in the upper reaches of the valley.

King County and Greenway staff also monitored most of the sites controlled in 2005 and 2006. Site assessments were completed to determine effectiveness of the control effort, and conservation corps crews and volunteers were directed to project areas that needed additional control.

Weed surveys in the Middle Fork provided an opportunity to train a new group of volunteers and AmeriCorps interns on the threat invasive weeds pose to these natural lands and best management practices for removing them.



A volunteer removes English ivy vines that completely girdle this tree.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **243 volunteers contributed 1,480 hours of service.**
- **Volunteers and conservation corps crews controlled scattered weeds over 143 acres in 2007 and 117 acres in 2008.**
- **Conservation Corps crews completed 1,960 hours of service.**
- **Volunteers surveyed 8 miles of trails in 2007 and more than 25 miles in 2008.**



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WEED CONTROL

Volunteers continued to play an important role in the control of weeds. Over the two years, more than 240 volunteers contributed nearly 1,500 hours of service surveying and manually ripping out invasive blackberry and ivy.

WADNR Washington Conservation Corps and Greenway crews spent more than 43 crew days manually removing invasive blackberry and holly in addition to state listed noxious weeds including tansy ragwort, sulfur cinquefoil, yellow archangel, English ivy and many others. Where appropriate and necessary, the crews chemically treated Bohemian knotweed and orange hawkweed.

NEXT STEPS

A long-term control effort is critical to effectively thwart the spread of noxious weeds into the adjacent Alpine Lakes Wilderness and to maintain healthy wildlife habitat throughout the valley. In 2009, the Greenway will continue to control known weed populations and survey the area for new infestations. Additionally, the Greenway will work with our agency partners and the Cascade Land Conservancy to secure funding and expand this effort onto private lands in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and onto public lands in the South Fork Snoqualmie.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

The continued survey and control of weeds in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley has taken place with generous contributions from a number of public agencies and private donors. They include:



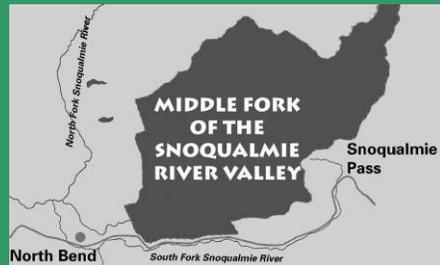
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



King County



A volunteer removes blackberry from a tree it has climbed.



Middle Fork Snoqualmie project area.



Youth volunteers removing ivy from a tree at Valley Camp.