Upper Snoqualmie Trails Weed Watcher Program
2009 Report on Activities and Findings

In 2009, eight new volunteers joined the weed watcher group for the Upper Snoqualmie Trails program, with seven volunteers returning. In June, we gathered at the Ranger Station in North Bend for our orientation meeting and weed ID refresher, and then ventured out to the Middle Fork for some field practice. New and returning Weed Watchers then picked their trails and found time in their busy summers to spend a day or two carefully recording weed locations on their trails.

For some trails, the worst thing seen was the ubiquitous wall lettuce, but for others it was a diverse weed community with everything from evergreen blackberry to tansy ragwort to yellow hawkweed. Some volunteers took the next step and worked to remove the weeds they found. This kind of early detection and rapid response is the best way to deal with weeds, especially in remote wilderness areas like as the trails of the Upper Snoqualmie Basin.

During the summer of 2009, 15 trained weed watchers surveyed for invasive weeds on more than 40 miles of trail, off-trail and river shoreline during the summer of 2009. This volunteer effort was part of a larger survey and control effort that included weed surveys by Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, WSU Extension Youth Environmental Leadership Institute, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, and the King County Noxious Weed Program. All told, this cooperative project surveyed about 70 miles of trails, roads and river shoreline in the Middle and South Fork Snoqualmie basins.

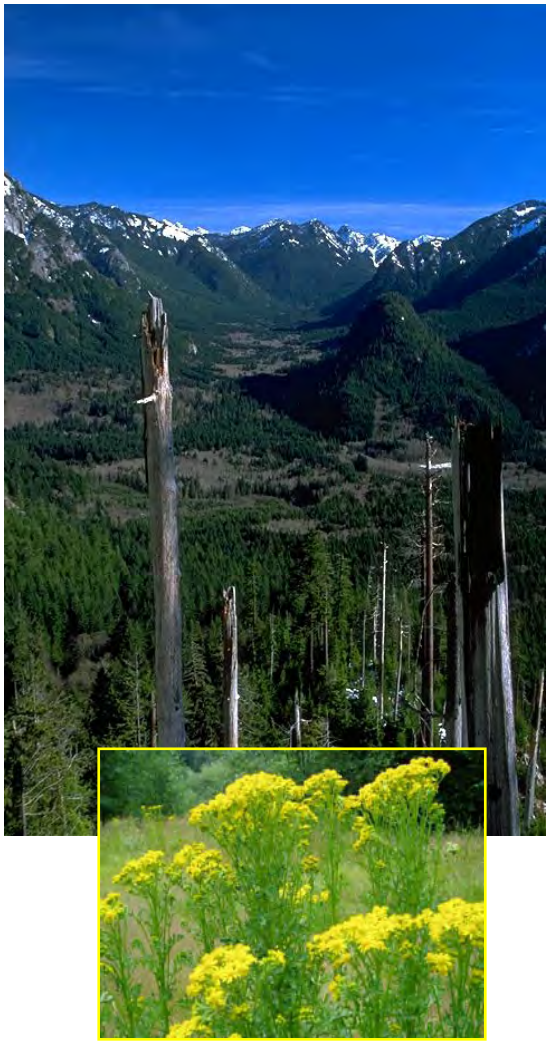
Without the help of the volunteer Weed Watchers, the surveys would have been mostly limited to trailheads, roads and other more accessible areas. Although weeds are most abundant on roads and trailheads, in order to detect and respond quickly to new infestations, it is essential to survey the more remote areas such as trails. Weed Watchers make this possible.

Volunteer Trail Surveys for 2009 – Summary Table

Trail or Area Surveyed	**Miles Surveyed**	**Surveyors**
Middle Fork Trail: Gateway Bridge to Dingford	2.0	Janka and Janet
CCC Road-Trail: Mt. Si Rd/Teneriffe Gate to Green Mtn/Last Chance Promontory turnoff	2.0	Karen W. and Lin
CCC Road-Trail: Bessemer Road Connector Trail/Blowout Creek to Green Mtn/Last Chance Promonotory turnoff	2.7	Ann and Carl
Bessemer Road Connector Trail from trailhead to CCC Road-Trail	1.1	Ann and Carl
Mailbox Peak Trail	2.3	Gary and Jean
Ira Spring Trail #1038, to intersection with Bandera trail (#1039), and then onward to intersection with Mt. Defiance Trail (#1009)	3.4	Henry, Laura, Karen C. and Cyndy
Mount Defiance Trail (#1009), from intersection with Ira Spring Trail (#1038) west toward Thompson Lake	0.5	Cyndy
Pratt Lake Trail (also called Granite Mountain Trail, #1007), from trailhead to intersection with Mt. Defiance Trail (#1009) and onward a ways to intersection with Trail #1035, 1011	4.2	Cyndy; George and Craig
WADNR land between concrete bridge and Russian Butte (6 miles river, 10 miles off trail, 6 miles closed roads)	22.0	Mark
TOTALS	**40.2**	15 volunteers

Weeds Found by Trail

Trail	Weed
Bessemer Road-Trail	Himalayan blackberry
CCC Road-Trail	bull thistle
	common hawthorn
	creeping buttercup
	English holly
	English ivy
	European mountain-ash
	evergreen blackberry
	foxglove
	herb Robert
	Himalayan blackberry
	oxeye daisy
	reed canary grass
	Scotch broom
	St. Johnswort
	tansy ragwort
	yellow hawkweed
Ira Spring Trail #1038	evergreen blackberry
	foxglove
	herb Robert
	St. Johnswort
	tansy ragwort
Middle Fork Trail	bull thistle
	reed canary grass
	St. Johnswort
Oxbow Lake	yellow archangel
Pratt Lake Trail #1007	Canada thistle
	common tansy
	creeping buttercup
	evergreen blackberry
	herb Robert
	nipplewort
	oxeye daisy
	St. Johnswort



The Upper Snoqualmie Trails Weed Watcher Program is a cooperative effort of the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, the King County Noxious Weed Control Program, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, and many dedicated volunteers.

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King County Noxious Weed Control Program
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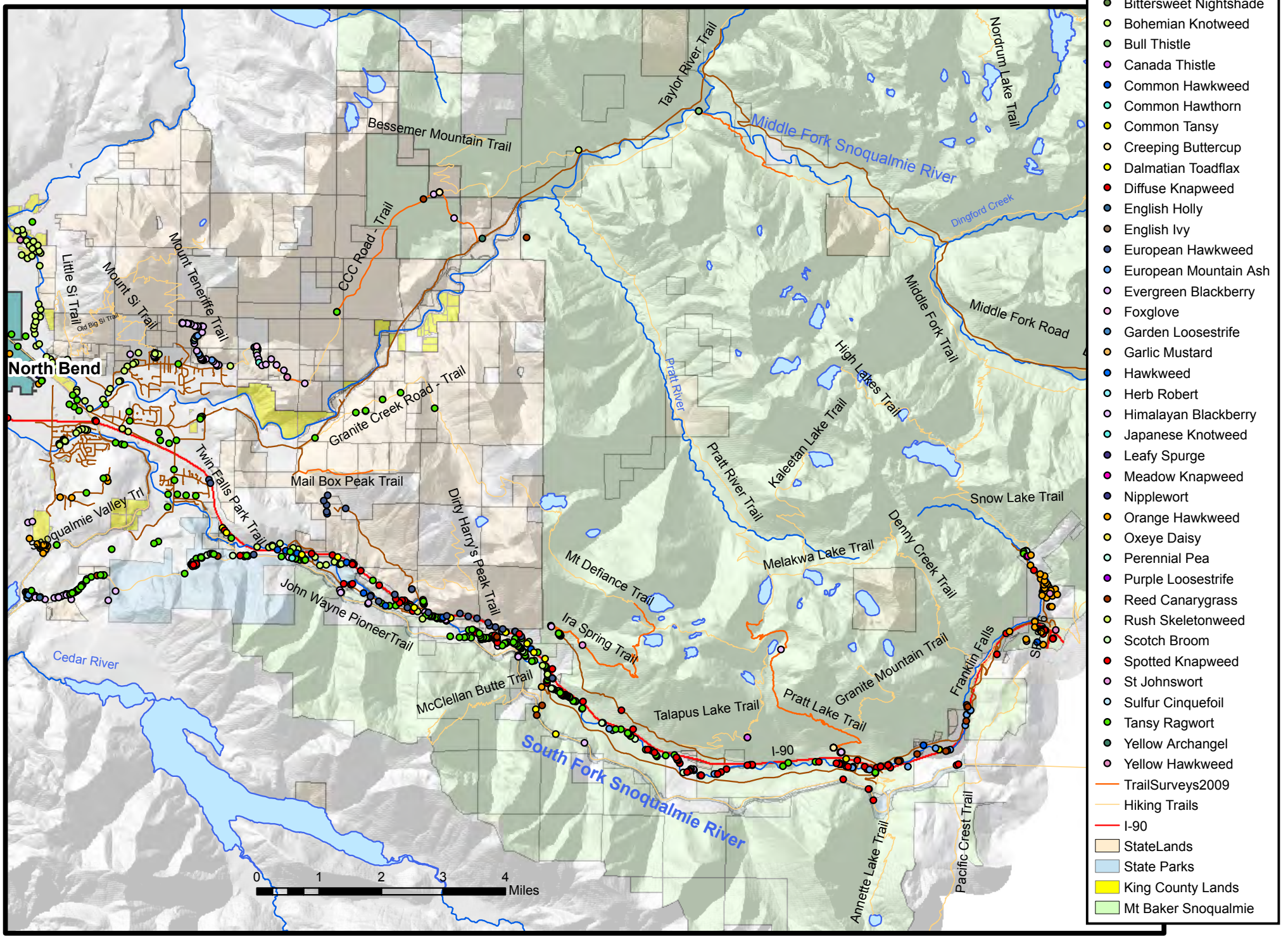
www.kingcounty.gov/weeds

Invasive Plant and Noxious Weed Surveys 2009
South and Middle Forks Snoqualmie River