

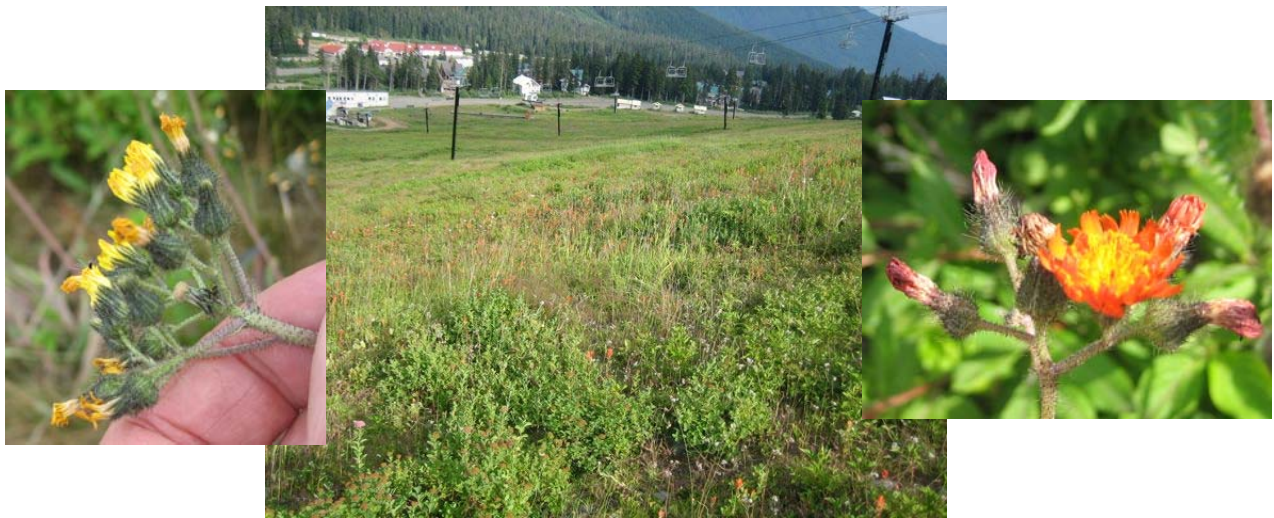
Upper Snoqualmie Trails Weed Watcher Program 2010 Report on Activities and Findings

Five new volunteers joined the weed watcher group for the Upper Snoqualmie Trails program this year giving us a group of about 20 active volunteers. At our annual orientation and training day in June, we started once again with a weed ID refresher class at the Ranger Station in North Bend, went over the new simpler forms, and then ventured out to the Middle Fork for some field practice. It was a lovely day for a hike and everyone enjoyed the delightful (if soggy) Oxbow Trail off of the Middle Fork Road, in spite of a few blackberry plants and a depressing amount of herb Robert. The 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.

Overall, in the summer and fall of 2010, 20 Weed Watchers volunteered 355 hours surveying 29 trails and a few off-trail areas for invasive weeds. Several of the volunteers also controlled weeds that they found, where feasible using non-chemical control methods. Overall, the Weed Watcher volunteers surveyed 107 miles in the project area, including 66.7 miles on Forest Service land. Weed control was done by volunteers over 15.3 miles on Forest Service trails and roads. Assuming a 20 foot wide swath, this calculates to 37.1 acres of area controlled.

As always, most of the upper trails looked really great, with most of the invasive weeds on the roadsides, trailheads and lower trails. Although there are some hot spots like the hawkweeds at Snoqualmie Pass and knotweed on the South Fork Snoqualmie, very few new infestations were found away from the roads and lower trails.

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.



George Macomber mapped orange and yellow hawkweed on the Pacific Crest Trail where it passes by the Snoqualmie Pass ski hill.

Volunteer Trail Surveys for 2010 – Summary Table

| Trail or Area Surveyed | Miles Surveyed | Surveyors |
|---|----------------|--|
| MIDDLE FORK TRAILS | | |
| Middle Fork Road from Taylor River to Dingford Creek trailhead (5.8 miles) | 5.8 | Karen Wallace and Elizabeth Rothman; Janka and Michael Hobbs; Mark Boyar |
| Middle Fork road to trail: Dingford to Goldmyer (5.0 miles) | 5.0 | Mark Boyar |
| Middle Fork road to trail: Goldmyer to old DM trailhead (3.0 miles) | 3.0 | Mark Boyar |
| Mid Fork Trail: Gateway Bridge to Dingford (6.0 miles) | 6.0 | Janka and Michael Hobbs |
| Taylor River Main trail: beginning to Wilderness (6.1 miles) | 5.0 | Becky, Mary Ann (1st 5 miles); George (1st 4 miles) |
| Marten Lk spur from Taylor River Trail (1.3 miles) | 1.3 | Becky Chaney and Mary Anne Dane |
| Pratt River Trail (8.0 miles starting from MF Rd, 13 miles starting from I-90) | 1.0 | Mark Boyar and Kevin Geraghty |
| Russian Butte (off trail) | 7.0 | Mark Boyar and Kevin Geraghty |
| Oxbow Trail (2.0 miles) | 2.0 | Sasha and 2010 weed watcher group |
| Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (from Concrete Bridge to Oxbow Lake) (4.0 miles) | 4.0 | Mark and Anna Boyar |
| Middle Fork Road | 8.0 | Mark and Anna Boyar |
| Bessemer Mountain area | 5.0 | Mark Boyar |
| Granite Creek Road (to Lake) | 6.0 | Mark Boyar and Kevin Geraghty |
| Moon Valley Rd (West Side Mt Si) | 10.0 | Mark Boyar and Kevin Geraghty |
| | | |
| SOUTH FORK TRAILS (I-90 Snoq Pass to Exit 38) | | |
| Pacific Crest Trail South - from Snoqualmie Pass | 6.3 | George Macomber |
| Pacific Crest Trail North - from Snoqualmie Pass | 7.5 | George and Craig Macomber |
| Alpentol parking lot | | KCNWCP Staff |
| Snow Lake Trail (#1013) to Snow Lake (3.2 miles) | 3.2 | Sharon Baker, Cathy Davis, Margery Thoresen |
| Denny Creek Trail (#1014) (2.9 miles total: 1.3 miles to slippery rocks/slabs, 1.6 miles from slabs to trail end) | 2.9 | Miller Myers; Sally and Ted Abella |
| Franklin Falls Trail (1.0 mile) | 1.0 | Sally and Ted Abella |

| Trail or Area Surveyed | Miles Surveyed | Surveyors |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|
| Pratt Lake/Granite Mtn Trail (#1007), trailhead to intersection with Granite Mtn Trail (#1016) (0.6 mile) | 0.6 | Sharon Baker |
| Pratt Lake/Granite Mtn Trail (#1007), from intersection with Granite Mtn Trail (#1016) to intersection with Ollalie/Talapus Trail (#1039) (1.9 miles) | 1.9 | Sharon Baker |
| Pratt Lake/Granite Mtn Trail (#1007), from intersection with Ollalie/Talapus Trail (#1039) to intersection with Mt. Defiance Trail (#1009) (1.2 miles) | 1.2 | Sharon Baker |
| Pratt Lake/Granite Mtn Trail (#1007), from intersection with Mt. Defiance Trail (#1009) to Pratt Lake/intersection with Trails 1035 and 1011 (1.8 miles) | 1.0 | Sharon Baker |
| Ira Spring Trail #1038, to intersection with Bandera trail (#1039) (2.4 miles) | 2.4 | Sasha Shaw |
| Ira Spring Trail #1038, from intersection with Bandera trail (#1039) to intersection with Mount Defiance trail (#1009) (1.0 mile) | 1.0 | Sasha Shaw |
| McClellan Butte Trail (0.5 miles from TH to JWT, 0.4 miles on JWT, then 3.6 miles to trail end) (4.5 miles) | 3.6 | Miller Myers |
| Twin Falls Trail/Ollalie State Park (2.4 miles) | 2.4 | Karen Wallace |
| Mt. Washington Trail (2 miles to Owl Hike Spot) (6.0 miles) | 2.0 | Miller Myers |
| Rattlesnake Mountain West Slope (Exit 27) (10.9 miles) | 10.9 | George and Craig Macomber |
| TOTAL | 117.0 | |

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.

Sasha Shaw
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www.kingcounty.gov/weeds