

Snoqualmie River Garden Loosestrife Eradication Project

Appendix B

Examples of Letters and Other Outreach Materials



Example of FIRST yearly letter to Snoqualmie River landowners with known garden loosestrife sites

May 15, 2008

Name
Address
Address

2008 marks the second year of the Snoqualmie River Garden Loosestrife Eradication Project, funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. Thanks to landowner participation, The King County Noxious Weed Control Program (KCNWCP) was able to control all of the garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) found on the banks of the Snoqualmie River in King County 2007. Since this weed can take several years to eradicate, we are once again requesting your permission to control any garden loosestrife we may find on or adjacent to your property. Although our surveys have not found plants on your property, garden loosestrife is extremely mobile and could easily establish anywhere along the river from plant fragments deposited during flooding. I've enclosed a fact sheet on the weed to remind you of the potential damage caused by garden loosestrife.

The method our program will use to control the garden loosestrife will be the application of an approved, low-toxicity aquatic herbicide. The control work will be conducted from an airboat on the Snoqualmie River. The KCNWCP and its contractors will not need to enter your property except in the vicinity of garden loosestrife patches immediately adjacent to the river.

The Washington Department of Agriculture's Organic Food Program Manager, Miles McEvoy, has stated that this project will not affect the organic status of any farm on the Snoqualmie River.

Please do one of the following by JUNE 15, 2008:

1. **Sign and return the enclosed waiver** giving us permission to control any garden loosestrife we find on or adjacent to your property. There is no cost to you for having us control this noxious weed, and your permission to control the infestations will ensure that the garden loosestrife is being treated in a safe, effective way, which will benefit habitat along the Snoqualmie River.
2. **Let me know that you do not wish us to control any garden loosestrife we find on your property.** If you do not wish to grant us permission to control the plants for you, if we find them we will ask that you control them yourself in accordance with the Washington State weed law (RCW 1710). I am available to assist you in determining the best alternative strategy for controlling the garden loosestrife on your property.

Please contact me by phone at (206) 296-0290 or email (katie.messick@metrokc.gov) with any questions or concerns you may have. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Katie Messick
King County Aquatic Weed Specialist

Example of SECOND letter to Snoqualmie River landowners with no known garden loosestrife sites who did not respond to first letter

June 25, 2007

Name
Address
Address

Dear,

About a month ago I sent you a letter regarding control of the noxious weed garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*), which might be found on or adjacent your property on the banks of the Snoqualmie river (a copy of that letter is enclosed). During our survey of the river in 2006, The King County Noxious Weed Control Program (KCNWCP) found patches of this plant scattered along the river between Fall City and Duvall. We did not survey downstream of Duvall, but we have reports of the plant growing as far as Monroe. The plants are growing on the riverbank directly next to the water. Over the next five years, the KCNWCP will be working to try to eliminate the weed before it becomes a problem in the valley. In order to succeed, we need to achieve control of all patches of garden loosestrife found.

In late July, the KCNWCP and its contractor will travel along the Snoqualmie River from the Neal Road boat launch into Snohomish County in an air boat. Our goal is to treat every patch of garden loosestrife we find with the approved aquatic herbicide triclopyr TEA (trade name Renovate3). The boat will approach each patch as closely as possible and spot spray the herbicide directly onto the weeds, minimizing any overspray or spray drift. No herbicide should reach any agricultural fields, and the herbicide is not toxic to livestock or fish. The Organic Food Program at the Washington State Department of Agriculture has stated that this project will not affect any farm's organic status.

If you will grant us permission to control garden loosestrife on your property, please sign the enclosed waiver form and return it to me at the address above. If you do not wish to grant us permission to control the plants for you, we will ask that you control any noxious weeds we find on your property yourself in accordance with the Washington State weed law (RCW 17.10). If I do not hear from you before the control work is begun, noxious weed control activities may be conducted on or near your property directly adjacent to the Snoqualmie River, consistent with the provisions of RCW 17.10.160.

Please contact me by phone at (206) 296-0290 or email (Katie.Messick@metrokc.gov) with any questions or concerns you may have. There is no cost to you for having us control this noxious weed, and your permission to control the infestations will ensure that the garden loosestrife is being treated in a safe, effective way, which will benefit habitat along the Snoqualmie River. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Katie Messick

Example of letter to Raging River landowners with a levee easement allowing vegetation control

May 15, 2009

Name

Address

Address

2009 marks the second year of our project to eradicate the noxious weed garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) from the Raging River, with funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology. We will be controlling this weed along the riverbank twice between late July and early September.

Garden loosestrife

Garden loosestrife is a class B noxious weed with control required in King County. It is extremely aggressive and invasive and has the potential to cover the entire river bank. It provides little benefit for wildlife and outcompetes even the most aggressive native plants. These impacts can reduce the availability and quality of fish habitat and adversely affect recreation on the river. If left alone, garden loosestrife could spread into adjacent wetlands, oxbows and pastures, causing significant damage.

Garden loosestrife is growing in patches around the ordinary high water mark along the rivers and on sand and gravel bars in the rivers. Garden loosestrife is extremely mobile and could easily establish anywhere along the rivers from plant fragments deposited during flooding. We will survey the rivers each year to locate new plant infestations.

Project facts

The method our program will use to control the garden loosestrife will be the application of an approved, low-toxicity aquatic herbicide. Licensed aquatic herbicide professionals will walk or boat down the river and spot spray any garden loosestrife found. Although the weed is only known to be in the lower two miles of the Raging River, we will continue to survey above that area to make sure there are no patches further up.

The Washington Department of Agriculture's Organic Food Program Manager, Miles McEvoy, has stated that this project will not affect the organic status of any farm in the Snoqualmie River Valley.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact me by phone at **(206) 296-0290** or email (katie.messick@kingcounty.gov).

Sincerely,

Katie Messick
King County Aquatic Weed Specialist

Example of letter to all Snoqualmie River landowners informing them of spraying schedule

**Snoqualmie River
Garden Loosestrife Eradication Project
UPDATE**

July 21, 2010

Dear Snoqualmie River landowner,

The King County Noxious Weed Control Program (KCNWCP) and its hired contractor, Aquatechnex Inc., will be spraying the noxious weed garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) along the banks of the Snoqualmie River starting the week of **July 26, 2010**. A KCNWCP staff person will join Aquatechnex employees in an airboat and will travel up and down the river, beginning at the Neal Road boat launch in Fall City and continuing north. We expect that the work will take four to five days to complete, and we have built extra days into the schedule to ensure that weather conditions are optimal for spraying with minimum off-target impact. It will not be possible to give the precise time and date when the crew will be along your property, but if you wish you may contact me during the project to get a progress report.

Aquatechnex will use the approved aquatic herbicide triclopyr TEA to control any garden loosestrife found on the riverbank except where landowners have expressly requested that we not spray the weeds on their property. The plants will be sprayed from the boat on the river. The boat will approach each patch as closely as possible and spot spray the herbicide directly onto the weeds, minimizing any overspray or spray drift. No herbicide should reach any agricultural fields, and the herbicide is not toxic to livestock or fish. The Organic Food Program at the Washington State Department of Agriculture has stated that this project will not affect any farm's organic status.

Thank you for your continued cooperation, and please let me know if you have any further questions or would like an update.

Sincerely,

Katie Messick
Aquatic Weed Specialist
(206) 263-6461
katie.messick@kingcounty.gov

Example of letter to all landowners reporting progress of project

December 14, 2009

Name
Address
Address

Thank you for your cooperation during the third season of the Snoqualmie River Garden Loosestrife Eradication Project. Although we continue to find new areas infested by this weed in the Snoqualmie Valley, our experience this season indicates that our control work is having a positive impact, and we remain hopeful that in the long run we can prevent garden loosestrife from becoming a problem.

This year we surveyed the same area as in 2008, and again found a greater number of patches but overall a smaller area of garden loosestrife, with 74 percent of the patches smaller than 25 square feet. The location of garden loosestrife patches fluctuates from year to year, with only 22 patches found in 2009 that had been found in three or more consecutive years. 18 patches found this year were not found in 2008 but were known from prior surveys. 55 sites this year were completely new, and 57 sites from previous years were not found in 2009.

King County staff surveyed the Raging River on foot and controlled all garden loosestrife found using a backpack sprayer. We surveyed two river miles starting at the mouth and found only 9 patches, down from 15 last year. All were in the lowest river mile, and all were smaller than in previous years.

	2007	2008	2009
Snoqualmie River			
Total river miles surveyed	27	30	30
Total river sites found	116	132	204
Average patch size	129 ft ²	78 ft ²	59 ft²
Smallest patch size	5 ft ²	5 ft ²	One plant
Largest patch size	3000 ft ²	8000 ft ²	2500 ft²
Total area found on river	.57 acre	.55 acre	.30 acre
Total off-channel sites known	1	3	5
Total area found off-channel			1.63 acres
Raging River			
Total river miles surveyed	2	2	2
Total sites found	17	15	9
Average patch size	33 ft ²	24 ft ²	
Smallest patch size	One plant	One plant	One plant
Largest patch size	600 ft ²	900 ft ²	500 ft²
Total area found	.03 acre	.04 acre	.03 acre
Total area in the Snoqualmie Valley			1.96 acres

All of the garden loosestrife found was controlled using the aquatic herbicide triclopyr TEA as outlined in my letter to you in May of this year, with the exception of one 25 square foot patch which the landowner chose to control manually. **If we found garden loosestrife on or adjacent to your property in the 2009 season, a map of the site is enclosed with this letter.**

Unfortunately, as we continued to survey in the valley we located additional areas of garden loosestrife away from the main river channel. We will be working with landowners in the new areas to gain control

of these infestations. We are also continuing to work with the landowners on Rutherford Slough, where the long established infestation is slowly shrinking.

Thank you once again for your help in making this second season a success. Since this project is scheduled to continue through 2011, I will be in contact with you late next spring to once again request your permission to control any garden loosestrife we may find along the river in 2010. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the project or garden loosestrife, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Katie Messick
Aquatic Weed Specialist
King County Noxious Weed Control Program
katie.messick@kingcounty.gov

Example of map sent with report letters to all landowners with garden loosestrife sites



**Snoqualmie River garden loosestrife 2009
Parcel # 2925079021, 2825079019**

The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice.
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December 8, 2009

000000000000024 Miles

Legend

- garden loosestrife
- 2009
- 2007/2008
- parcel boundaries



Example of waiver signed by most landowners each year

I _____ agree to allow the King County Noxious Weed Control Program or its hired contractors to spot spray an approved aquatic herbicide on any garden loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) or purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) that may be found on the bank of the Raging River, Snoqualmie River or Rutherford Slough on my property at:

Address/Location:

_____.

Telephone number: _____.

any time between July 15 and October 1, 2009. The work shall be carried out safely, efficiently, and as completely as possible.

This work will be done in conjunction with the early infestation grant from the Washington Department of Ecology. I am aware that the direct weed-control assistance from the Program is only being provided for the duration of the grant. Thereafter, the responsibility for garden loosestrife control reverts to the landowner.

I do hereby, for myself, and my heirs, executors and administrators, waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims against King County, its officers, and/or assigns for any and all damages claimed to have been caused by any activity consistent with the above purpose, except that resulting in whole or in part from the negligence of King County, its successors or assigns.

Owner or Tenant signature / Date