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Forest Assessment Report
Strandberg Preserve
Shoreline, Washington



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July 28, 2016

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Forest Stewardship Vision	2
Purpose of Plan, Land Owners Objectives and Goals	2
Property Description	2
Resource Category I. Soils.....	3
Resource Category II. Water Resources	3
Resource Category III. Forest Inventory	3
Resource Category IV. Forest Health/ Invasive Species/Wildfire.....	4
Resource Category V. Roads and Trails	7
Resource Category VI. Wildlife	7
Resource Category VII. Protection of Special Resources	8
Resource Category VIII. Aesthetics & Recreation	8
Tree Risk Assessment	8
Forest Management Considerations.....	8
Summary of Forest Management Recommendation Priorities.....	9

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

COVER TYPE MAP - ORTHOPHOTO
COVER TYPE MAP - TOPOGRAPHY
ENHANCING WILDLIFE ON PRIVATE WOODLANDS BULLETIN
TIPS FOR CREATING SNAGS
BLACKBERRY CONTROL
IVY CONTROL
HOLLY CONTROL

Introduction

This report or plan identifies current forest health conditions and invasive species concerns. The plan is written to provide the King Conservation District with baseline information for the future development of a Forest Stewardship Program on the property.

Forest Stewardship Vision

The landowner recognizes the multiple values that this urban open-space property provides. Maintaining and enhancing the property's forest and natural resources benefits surrounding properties, the local community, and the overall environment.

Purpose of Plan, Land Owners Objectives and Goals

The purpose of this report or plan is to identify current forest conditions and considerations for management over time. The landowner's primary objective is to manage the property as a forest preserve.

Landowner goals include maintaining and improving forest health, wildlife habitat, maintaining and encouraging a diversity of native trees, shrubs and plants, monitoring and treating invasive species, and protecting sensitive areas.

This forest stewardship plan provides a description of the resources found on the ownership and summarizes management considerations for the future. The plan should be periodically updated and may be amended to reflect the state of the forest resources, current knowledge and understanding of natural resources, as well as changing landowner goals.

Property Description

The property comprises one tax parcel (0226039321) totaling roughly 2 ½ acres. The main access to the property is from the east side at the intersection of 17th AVE NW and NW 191st ST. The property is also accessible from the west side by an easement off of 20th AVE NW.

The property has primarily an east aspect. Slopes are gentle to moderate on most of the property with slopes ranging between 0% and 30%. Elevation above sea level is approximately 170 feet on the east side rising to roughly 210 feet near the west perimeter.

The property is a fragmented piece of even-aged native coniferous forest. Tree species include primarily, Douglas-fir, with a moderate component of western hemlock and pacific madrone, and minor component of western red cedar.

The extent of understory development is generally low to moderately dense. Understory native shrub species on the property include primarily salal, Oregon grape and creeping r trailing blackberry.

Resource Category I. Soils

There is no recorded soil survey data for the subject area. When the majority of lands across King County were surveyed in 1973, this area was not included for whatever reasons. Based on adjacent surveys in Snohomish County, it is assumed the soils are likely the Alderwood gravelly sandy loams.

Alderwood gravelly sandy loams are moderately well drained soils on till plains, formed in glacial till. Elevation of 50' to 550'. It is moderately deep over a hardpan. A weakly cemented hardpan can be found at a depth of 20" to 40". Permeability is moderately rapid above the hardpan and very slow through it. Available water capacity is low. The effective rooting depth is 20" to 40". Soils are well suited to year round logging.

Commonly found tree species include Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, and red alder. Common forest understory plants include salal, Oregon grape, evergreen huckleberry, bracken fern, and sword fern.

Soils across the site are stable. No evidence of mass wasting was observed during the site inspection.

The Douglas-fir 50-year site index ranges from 108 to 112. This means that from the time a tree is planted, on average it will grow to a height of roughly 110 by the time it is 50 years of age. The soils are very productive for growing trees.

Resource Category II. Water Resources

No water resources were observed or identified on the subject property.

Resource Category III. Forest Inventory

The forest cover is basically comprised of one type. Ortho-photo and topographic maps are located in the supplemental materials section. It is an even-aged coniferous type. Species composition is dominantly Douglas-fir, with a moderate component of western hemlock. Minor species include Pacific madrone, big leaf maple and cascara. Dominant or over-story trees are estimated at 80 to 90 years of age. Trees are considered semi-mature to mature. A few western red cedar trees have naturally regenerated in the understory.

Trees are moderately to well-stocked at roughly 200 to 300 trees per acre. Douglas-fir diameters range between 18" DBH (diameter at breast height, 4 ½' above ground) and 28" DBH, with total heights up to 130'. Western hemlock ranges between 12" and 20" DBH with heights to 120'. There is little regeneration of tree species in the understory, minor components of shade tolerant western red cedar were observed. A dense grouping of Pacific madrone saplings exists in the middle of the preserve adjacent to the trail.

Understory native vegetation density is moderate. The lower shrub layer is dense or high, comprised of creeping or trailing blackberry, bracken fern, salal and Oregon grape or

Mahonia. The mid-shrub layer is low, comprised of scattered evergreen huckleberry and red huckleberry; and the upper shrub layer is also low, comprised of scattered elderberry and beaked hazelnut. Other native shrubs noted include Rugosa rose.

Invasive plant species populations are low to moderate overall. Infestations are more significant in small isolated areas in the north and south ends as shown on the maps. Species observed include English ivy, English holly and cherry laurel.

Subject Preserve



Resource Category IV. Forest Health/ Invasive Species/Wildfire

The overall state of forest health is fair to good. No significant disease concerns were identified on the property. The vast majority of trees appear healthy and of average vigor.

There is an opening in the west end of the preserve that resembles a root rot pocket, although confirmation could not be made. There is one Douglas-fir tree at the edge of this opening that is in obvious decline, evidenced by thinning upper foliage. This decline may be associated with drought conditions over the last several years. Another dominant Douglas-fir tree in the east end is also in decline. The cause of the decline is unknown. In both cases, there are no obvious outward indicators of root disease.

Thinning crown of Douglas-fir tree on east end



There is no evidence of significant insect pest infestations on the property. If any number of trees show sign of rapid decline (loss of needles, heavy cone crops, thin crowns, beetle boring holes, etc.) on the property a local professional forester or arborist should be contacted to assess and diagnose possible insect damage. If there are any reported insect infestations in the vicinity, the Washington Department of Natural Resources forest entomologist should be contacted for advice on the latest techniques, to protect from or treat any outbreak that might affect the property. After consultation with the WADNR entomologist, appropriate measures to protect water quality and indigenous wildlife should be implemented based upon the treatment method.

The Pacific madrone trees are being significantly impacted by the madrone canker, *Neofusicoccum arbuti*, a fungus that is causing widespread decline of Pacific madrone throughout the west coast. Cankers were observed on most of the madrone trees in the preserve, even on the young saplings. Unfortunately there are no valid means of stopping or slowing the spread of the fungus. Vigorous trees that have multiple cankers can persist for many years. Trees of low vigor normally succumb to the fungus and die out.

Invasive Plant Species

The presence of non-native invasive species on the property is low to moderate overall. The areas of most concern are shown on the maps, found in the supplemental materials section.

The small mapped area in the west end shown as 'high' invasive cover is a large opening in the forest where invasive species of Himalayan blackberry and English ivy are taking over. Holly and cherry laurel are also present in this area. The mapped area shown as 'moderate' invasive cover on the east side abutting the property line is primarily comprised of Himalayan blackberry.

Holly and cherry laurel infestations are found primarily in the northwest portion of the property. Many have been treated and killed in the past via herbicide injections.

Cherry laurel shrub killed by herbicide injection (note casing on left side of stem)



Himalayan and evergreen blackberry are European species of blackberry that are highly invasive and difficult to control. Occurrence should be monitored and treated as necessary to limit the site occupancy and spread of these species.

General recommendations for treatment and control of non-native blackberry includes mechanical treatment (mowing) prior to seed set, and or application of herbicides during periods of active growth. Herbicides containing glyphosate, triclopyr, 2,4-D, and metsulfuron are known to be effective. A preferred measure for treatment holly is removal by pulling the plant from the ground. Repeated cutting can also be effective.

English ivy is also difficult to eradicate and control. Although labor intensive, manual pulling of ivy is the most effective method. Spraying is not very effective due to the thick waxy coating on the leaves that prevents the uptake of the herbicide into the plant.

Consult the King County Noxious Weed Control Program for information regarding the control of these exotic invasive species at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds.aspx>. This web page provides a list of species along with species profiles (including identification and control methods) in PDF format. Control fact sheets are included in the supplemental materials section for the dominant species on the property.

Animal Damage

No significant signs of animal damage was observed on the property.

The property has a minor population of mountain beavers. Mountain beavers burrow and live underground. They primarily eat vegetation and do not affect trees. Problems can exist on steeper slopes where they cause soil erosion from their burrowing around trees. No significant damage was observed.

Wildfire Risk

The current wildfire risk on the property is low. Trees are moderately stocked overall with very low levels of ground or ladder fuels. Under normal weather conditions, the risk of fire spreading through the forest is very low.

The threat of forest fire in 'West-side' forests is becoming increasingly higher. Drier than normal conditions over the last several years have dramatically increased this threat. All management activities should consider this risk and precautions taken to minimize the risk of fire.

Resource Category V. Roads and Trails

There is a well-maintained trail that enters the property at the intersection of 17th AVE NW and NW 19th Street on the east side that basically runs west to a private driveway off of 29th AVE NW. The trail is in good condition. No maintenance recommendations are warranted.

Resource Category VI. Wildlife

The forest provides valuable wildlife habitat to the area. It is a refuge for mammals such as blacktail deer, bobcats, and other smaller mammals such as red squirrels, raccoons, opossums and mountain beaver.

Snags on the property are important habitat components for various bird species that feed on insects and nest in cavities. Snags should be retained unless they pose a danger to human life or a structure. Snags should be created from trees that die or are in decline and are

removed to abate a hazardous situation. See the information on habitat snagging in the supplemental materials section.

The Woodland Workbook “Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on Private Woodlands”, 2002 is included in the supplemental materials section for your use. This publication provides valuable information pertaining to site specific applications to increase wildlife use.

Resource Category VII. Protection of Special Resources

The writer of this plan is unaware of any historic or pre-historic cultural resources on the property.

High conservation value forests are forests of recognized importance due to their environmental, social, biodiversity or landscape values; or their connection with the landowner. An area of relic old growth may be considered a high conservation value forest.

Given the degree of development around this fragmented piece of native second-growth forest, many may consider this forest as ‘High Conservation Value’.

Resource Category VIII. Aesthetics & Recreation

Landowner goals are to maintain a healthy forest which is critical to aesthetics.

The subject forest is open to recreational use. Recreational opportunities are limited due to the small size of the preserve. Recreational activities mainly include birding and nature viewing.

Tree Risk Assessment

No extreme or high risk conditions were observed during the site visit that warrant abatement actions in the near future. Very few recent tree failures were observed within the preserve. A few trees lost their tops last winter, which is common, given the number of strong wind events that hit our region last winter. No recent wind-throw or blowdown was noted, which would indicate root disease is not much of a concern on the property at this time.

Over time, tree conditions change as trees mature. A tree risk assessment should be conducted on the property at least every three years to identify any high-risk conditions and help maintain risks at acceptable levels.

Forest Management Considerations

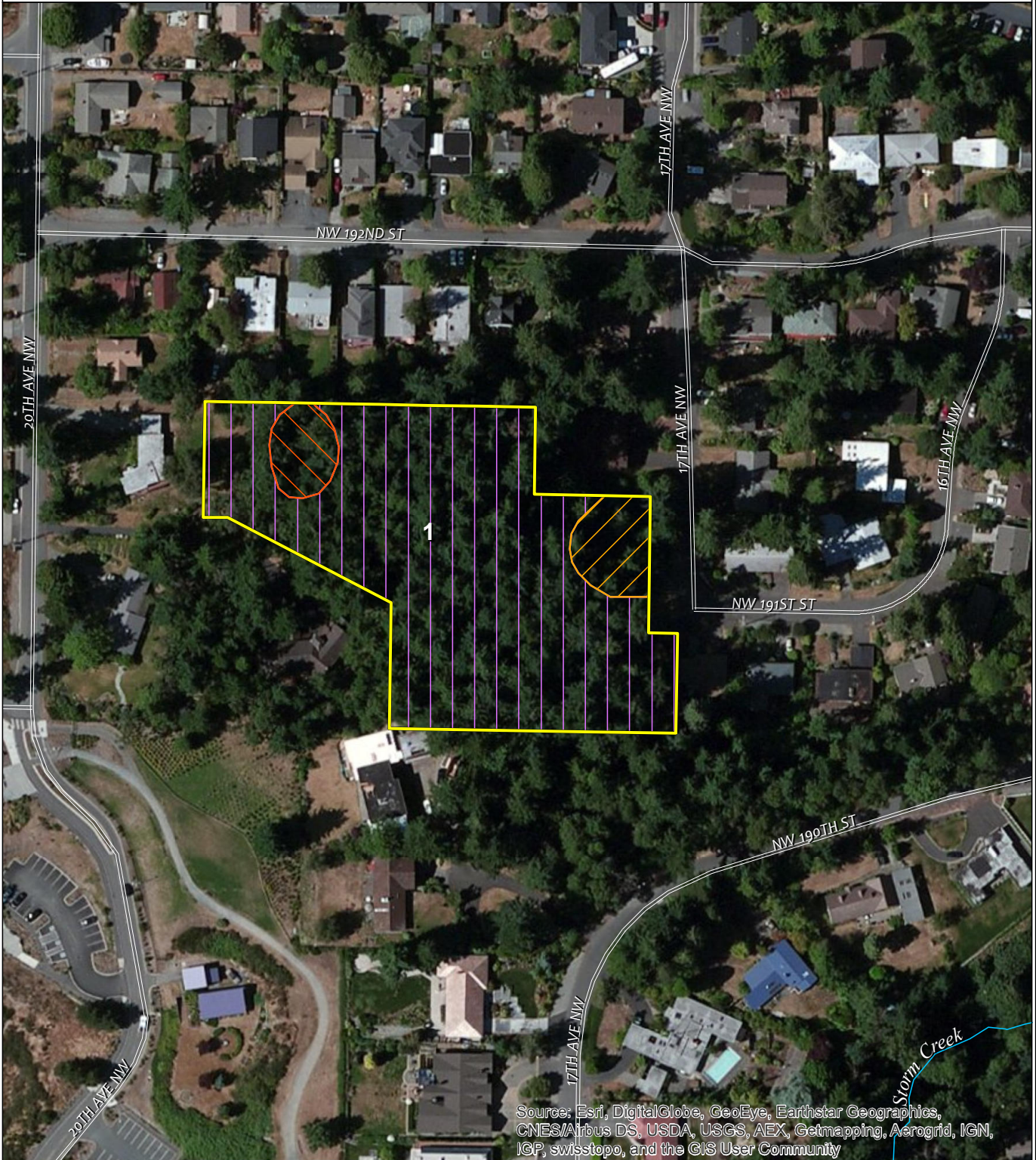
Overall forest health is fairly good. No overly concerning conditions were observed. Given the size of the subject trees and their proximity to adjacent homes, periodic tree condition/risk assessments are recommended. Consider having the preserve inspected every three years or sooner if obvious symptoms of decline become apparent.

Any future restoration work should focus on eradicating and controlling invasive species. Priority areas would be at the east and west ends where invasive species are more prolific, as shown on the maps. The opening at the west end should be planted to western red cedar, in the event this opening was created by a root disease pathogen. Cedar is resistant to most root diseases and will do well in this location.

The planted trees will need to be periodically maintained. Seedlings shall be kept in a 'free-to-grow' condition. A seedling that is taller than the adjacent vegetation is considered 'free-to-grow'. The brush may need to be periodically cut back until trees reach a height where they are no longer in danger of being over-topped by brush.

Summary of Forest Management Recommendation Priorities

- Eradicate invasive species from small opening within the forest at west end and establish western red cedar seedlings.
- Periodically maintain plantings.
- Eradicate invasive species from east end near preserve entrance. Consider establishing western red cedar seedlings in openings within the forest.
- Continue to eradicate larger holly and laurel by herbicide injection. Hand-pull small holly and laurel plants.
- Conduct tree condition/risk assessment at least every three years to identify any hazardous tree issues.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

1 inch = 150 feet
 0 150 Feet

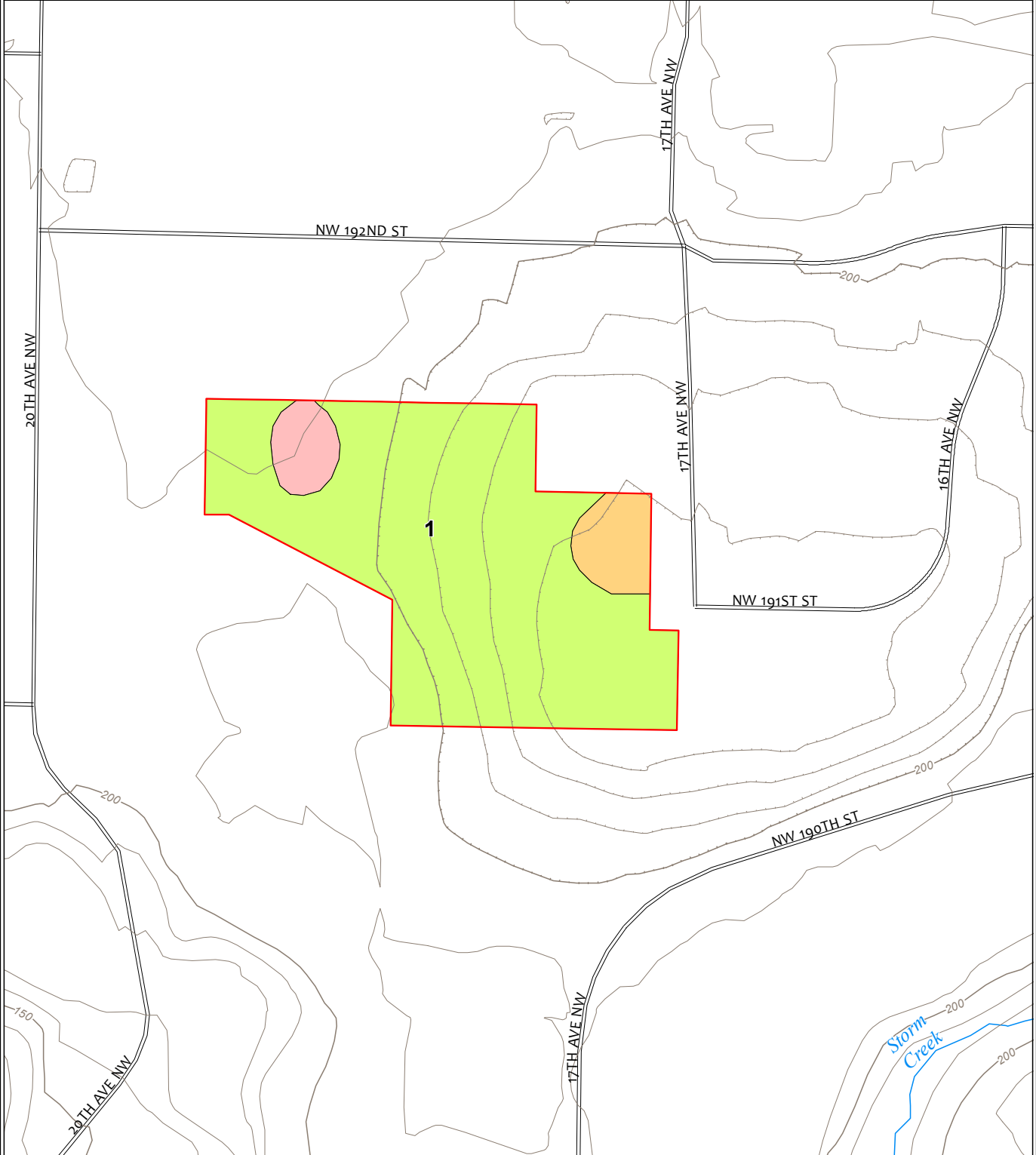
Map date: 7/27/2016



Cover Type	State Water Type
High invasive cover	F: Contains Fish Habitat
1 (2.6 ac)	
Low invasive cover	

City of Shoreline Strandberg Preserve

TOPOGRAPHY










1 inch = 150 feet

0 150 Feet

Map date: 7/27/2016



Cover Type		10' contour
	High invasive cover	
	Moderate invasive cover	
	Low invasive cover	
	1 (2.6 ac)	F: Contains Fish Habitat

Enhancing Wildlife on Private Woodlands

D.S. deCalesta

Contents

What is enhancement?	2
<i>How do we get enhancement?</i>	2
Enhancing habitat	2
<i>Habitat diversity</i>	2
<i>Habitat quantity</i>	2
<i>Habitat placement</i>	3
<i>Special requirements</i>	4
Constraints on enhancement	4
<i>Conifer damage</i>	4
<i>Conflicts with timber production</i>	5
<i>Neighbors</i>	6
Matching what you want with what you've got	6
<i>What wildlife do you want?</i>	6
<i>What habitat(s) do you have?</i>	7
<i>Make a plan</i>	7
<i>Where to go for help</i>	7
For more information	8

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Wildlife is an integral part of woodlands. Where there are forests, meadows, and streams, there is wildlife. Wildlife means many things to people, but for purposes of our discussion we'll divide it into three basic categories. The most common category is *game*—birds and mammals that one hunts for recreation, fur, and food.

Another category is *pest animals*—those that damage conifer seedlings, seeds, and in some cases larger trees.

A third category, a catch-all, is *nongame species*. This includes songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, and other animals that are neither hunted nor do they cause problems. Rather, they are observed by birdwatchers, photographers, hikers, and others enjoying outdoor recreation. Rare or endangered species such as the bald eagle and spotted owl usually are included in this category.

One of the directing forces behind managing natural resources, particularly on small areas such as woodlots, is the benefit received. What sort of benefit(s) can you expect from investing time and money in wildlife?

If you're a hunter managing for game, your benefit would be harvesting more and/or bigger (i.e., trophy) animals. Also, perhaps, if your acreage is sufficiently large (600+ acres, or approximately 1 square mile), you might profit from leasing the right to hunt on your land. If you're a birdwatcher, your objective is to spot more birds and/or more bird species.

This publication discusses managing game and nongame wildlife in order to increase people's use of them. Pest wildlife is discussed only to the extent that land management for game and nongame species does not lead to increased pest damage. Controlling pest animal damage to conifers is covered in *Understanding and Controlling Deer Damage in Young Plantations*, EC 1201, and *Controlling Pocket Gopher Damage to Conifer Seedlings*, EC 1255 (see page 8).

Whether you manage land for game, nongame, or pest species, the objective is to increase, decrease, or maintain numbers of wildlife. Increased use of wildlife usually necessitates increasing numbers or quality of wildlife available for use, which is known as *wildlife enhancement*.



What is enhancement?

Enhancing wildlife populations means causing an increase in number and/or quality of animals within those populations. The objective might be, for example, to produce more deer or quail, to have more trophy-class animals, or to increase diversity (the number of species).

How do we get enhancement?

All wildlife species are products of their environment or habitat. Each species has specific habitat requirements that are different from those of other species. The habitat provides basic life requirements including food, protection from enemies and weather, and a place to rear young.

As the *amount* of specific habitats and the *diversity* of habitats increases, diversity and numbers of wildlife species on a given piece of land also increase. So, the question “How do you enhance wildlife species?” can be rephrased as “How do you enhance habitat?”

Enhancement must provide for year-round wildlife needs. For some species, such as deer and elk in eastern Oregon, quality and quantity of some habitat elements vary seasonally. The quality and quantity of forage in summer and fall determine the amount of fat animals store in preparation for the tough winter.

If forage is not plentiful and of high quality on summer ranges, the animals might starve on winter ranges where food typically is of low quality and quantity. Also, if deer and elk are not in prime condition in fall, they might not breed, and fawn and calf crops could fail in the spring.

Enhancing habitat

Habitat diversity

Vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses) provides wildlife habitat. Different species live in different places within this structure. Various birds, such as some warblers, live only in the tops of conifer trees. Here they

find food (insects), build nests, and take shelter from weather and predators. Other species, such as pocket gophers, live underground in grassy meadows.

Some species, such as certain frogs and salamanders, have a special requirement for the riparian zone—the moist, often forested area alongside streams. Most species, however, including deer, quail, and chipping sparrows, require combinations of habitat—meadows and other forest openings to feed in and timber for breeding sites and for protection from weather and predators.

Habitat variety is natural when natural events such as fire, windthrow, and insect and disease attacks open portions of forested areas. These areas usually are revegetated in stages, beginning with grasses, progressing to shrubs, then seedling trees, saplings, mature trees, and finally old-growth trees.

With each successive stage, different combinations of wildlife species likewise appear, persist awhile, and then decline (Figure 1a). The diversity of wildlife species depends on habitat diversity associated with these stages. Providing a diversity of habitats (and thus a diversity of wildlife species) requires a diversity of areas in different stages of vegetative development.

Clearcut logging works like nature in opening forest lands and beginning the progression of vegetative stages, starting with grassy meadows. Reforestation (planting conifer seedlings) and brush control provide other vegetative stages, but the time sequence is shortened (Figure 1b). The last stage, old growth, usually is not attained.

Habitat quantity

Can I grow deer on a 10-acre plot? How many acres does a covey of quail require? What quantities of habitat support viable, reproducing populations of wildlife species? The diversity and abundance of wildlife populations that a given parcel of land supports are directly related to the amount and kinds of land available.

Table 1 (page 5) gives minimum space requirements of representative species. Deer require a minimum of 30 acres per animal of combined forest lands and openings.

Quail require a minimum of 5 to 10 acres per bird of open meadows, with brushy

areas interspersed within the meadows and adjacent forest lands. Songbirds, such as chipping sparrows, require about 5 acres per bird, again of open areas adjacent to forested acreage.

The size and timing of timber harvest can be a major tool in simultaneous management of timber and wildlife. Instead of creating large (more than 100 acres) clearcuts in single cuttings, many smaller cuts can be spread over a number of years (40 to 60 acres could be cut every 5 to 7 years). This would even out the flow of dollar returns from timber and the supply of forage and habitat diversity for wildlife. Thinning timber also provides forage and habitat diversity.

Habitat placement

Wildlife species use different habitats to meet different needs (openings for food, forested areas for cover). These different habitats must be close enough to each other that wildlife can move readily from one to the other with minimal exposure to predation and weather. Wildlife species with small home ranges (songbirds, quail, grouse, rabbits, and deer and elk in western Oregon) must have these different habitats close together (mere hundreds of feet for quail and rabbits and usually less than 0.25 mile for deer and elk).

Problems may arise in eastern Oregon with animals such as deer and elk. They

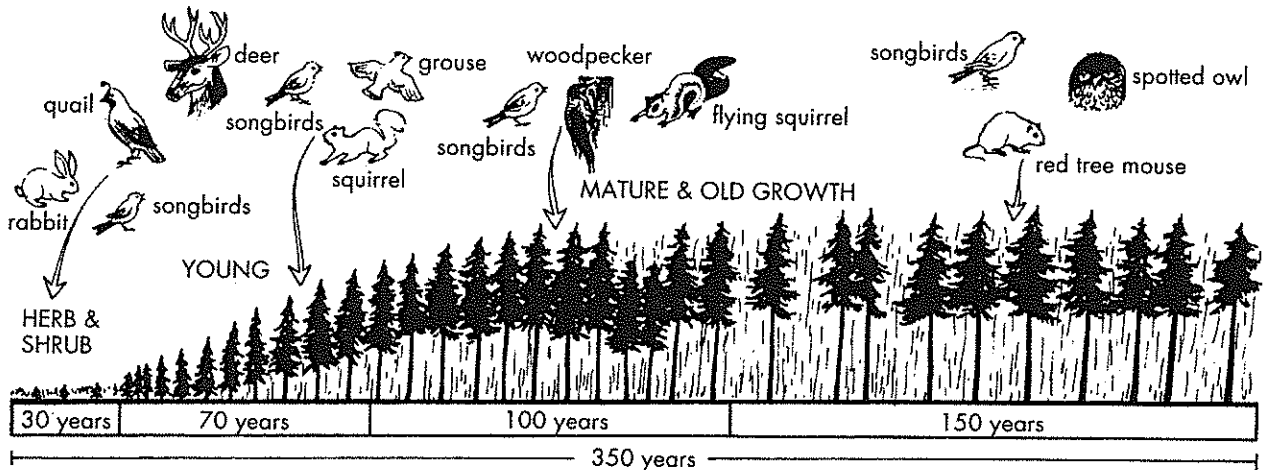


Figure 1a.—Wildlife species that live in a natural, unmanaged forest.

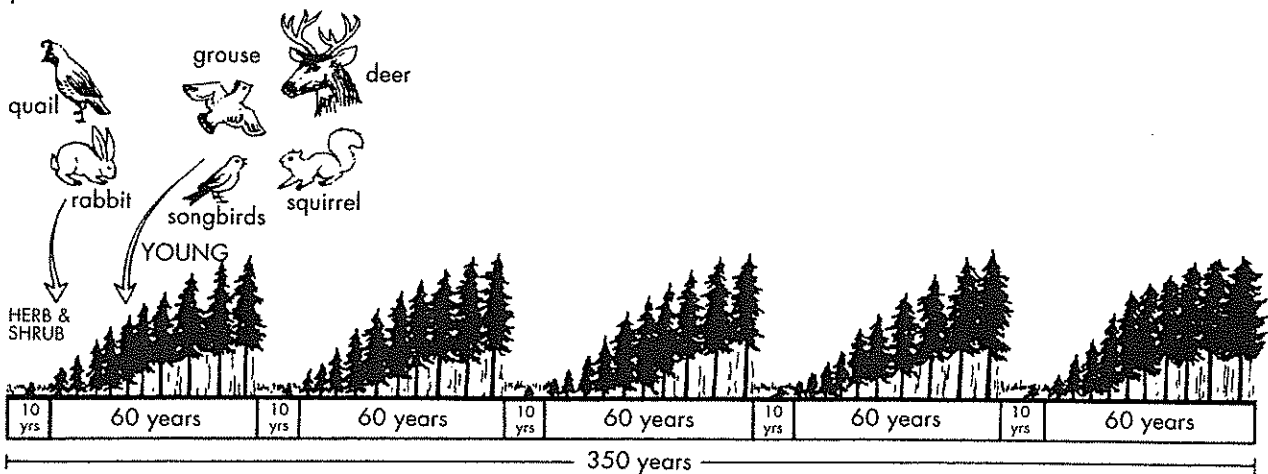


Figure 1b.—Wildlife species that live in a managed forest.

have seasonal habitats that are miles apart—summer range at higher elevations in mountain meadows, winter range down on sagebrush flats. Preserving migration corridors used for traveling to and from such seasonal ranges is another habitat requirement. If these migrating animals have to cross many logging roads, they are exposed to hunters and vehicles.

Deer and elk might be hunted when they are on summer range, on winter range, or traveling on migration corridors. If your property includes only one of these seasonally used habitats, your management of these animals could be influenced by management on land over which you have no control.

Enhancement doesn't stop at merely providing amounts, diversity, and habitat placement. Wildlife have additional habitat needs, primarily food and breeding places, that you can manage and thus indirectly influence wildlife numbers and well-being.

Special requirements

Managing forest lands for timber production generally provides a variety of habitats. However, practices such as brush control and snag removal alter or remove special habitats of some wildlife species. In some cases, one management practice can provide multiple habitat requirements, such as food and cover, for several species.

Leaving a few standing snags and allowing logs to remain on the ground provide nesting sites (cavities in snags) and a food source (insects that burrow into decaying wood) for birds. Slash often is removed from clearcut sites, usually by burning. Small amounts of this slash instead could be piled for quail and rabbits to use as protective cover, breeding sites, and food sources (berries and leaves).

Other management practices might provide for only a single need of wildlife. The rapid establishment of conifer seedlings on forested openings (clearcuts, small meadows, etc.) within 3 to 10 years greatly shortens the time that these areas would otherwise provide forage for deer (7 to 25 years). One way to provide additional forage for deer in the shortened time span is to plant forage on parts of clearcuts. Deer

especially like grass and legume seedlings. Quail, grouse, and rabbits also will take advantage of this additional food source.

You can't always maintain snags and other dead standing trees as nesting sites for cavity-nesting birds and mammals such as flying squirrels. However, you can build nest boxes for bluebirds, other songbirds, squirrels, and wood ducks and place the boxes in appropriate locations as an alternative to natural nest sites.

The key to providing special requirements is to identify those animals you wish to enhance, determine whether they have special requirements that current management does not provide and, if so, implement those activities that will benefit the desired populations.

Constraints on enhancement

One manages forest lands for a variety of reasons—for timber production and recreation as well as for wildlife. The manner of management on neighboring private or public lands can influence wildlife on your land. You must account for these factors in your management plan to avoid conflicts and to increase wildlife abundance.

Conifer damage

Game such as deer and elk can damage conifer seedlings. Managing habitat to enhance populations of these animals should not increase amounts of damage. However, habitat enhancement could increase populations of some animals to a level where they deplete normal food sources and begin to damage conifers.

Planting forage crops for deer might increase populations of pest species such as mice; they girdle conifer seedlings and can cause significant economic loss. Building brush piles provides food and cover for quail and rabbits; however, if you have too many brush piles close to conifer seedlings and not much forage available in winter, you could find the rabbits cause significant damage to the seedlings.

Table 1.—Habitat requirements of representative wildlife species.

Wildlife group	Representative species	Required habitats and acreages	Special habitat requirements
Meadow wildlife	California quail, brush rabbit, meadowlark	Open areas with grasses and forbs; some shrubs (15 acres)	Brush piles essential (one per 2 acres)
Meadow/forest	Deer, elk	Openings (50 acres); closed canopy (15+ years old); conifers (150 acres)	Migration corridors between seasonal ranges
	Chipmunk	Opening (15 acres); second-growth timber (15 acres)	
	Junco, bluebird	Opening (5 acres); second-growth timber (5 acres)	Snags with nest cavities
Young forest	Red squirrel	Mixture of 15- to 75-year-old conifer trees; understory of grasses, forbs (100 acres)	Cone-bearing trees for food
	Ruffed grouse	50-50 mixture of conifers and alder (15 acres)	Moist streamside
	MacGillivray's warbler	Mixture of 15- to 75-year-old conifers (15 acres)	
Mature forest wildlife	Flying squirrel	Conifers 75+ years old (100 acres); understory with forbs, small shrubs	Nest cavities in older trees (100+ years old)
	Spotted owl	Conifers 100+ years old (400 acres)	
	Pileated woodpecker	Conifers 100+ years old (100 acres)	Conifer snags; minimum 20 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) for nest trees
Riparian wildlife	Salamanders, frogs, snakes	Moist, streamside vegetation with closed canopy (0.25 to 2 acres); flowing streams	
Large predators	Bobcat, bear, coyote, goshawk	Mixtures of closed canopy with openings (300 to 1,500 acres)	Large (more than 15 inches dbh) trees for nesting or denning

Conflicts with timber production

Often the primary product on forest lands is timber. In some cases, increasing habitat for wildlife will reduce the yield of timber products. Keeping meadows open to produce deer forage precludes producing timber for market. Maintaining stands of old-growth forest for species such as spotted owls and pileated woodpeckers

prevents the short-term rotation (50 to 80 years) required to maximize timber production on forest lands.

Maximizing diversity of wildlife species requires maximizing diversity and location of habitat sites. Altering vegetation to maximize diversity will lower production of timber on forest lands.

Neighbors

Forest management on neighboring land (private and public) could influence the wildlife on your land. If your habitat is an island of deer management surrounded by land with few deer—such as a large clearcut—few deer and elk will move in, and the population that's already on your land will have to sustain itself.

On the other hand, if the neighboring land is managed for deer and elk as well as for other forest resources, you might be providing an attractive area that will draw additional animals from neighboring lands. The influx could overwhelm your ability to

keep the population low enough to prevent damage to your seedlings.

Matching what you want with what you've got

In any enhancement program, you must match desired wildlife with available habitat(s). The first step is to determine what sort of wildlife you desire.

What wildlife do you want?

Usually, if wildlife is to be managed, it most likely will be for you and your friends, with recreation and food as the chief values. Perhaps you wish to emphasize game. In most cases, leasing or selling hunting rights requires large acreages (600+ acres) to provide sufficient numbers of deer, rabbit, quail, and grouse. There is competition from federal lands (U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management), where anyone can hunt without charge and probably can find more variety and larger numbers of game animals than on a small, private ownership.

The required habitats for game animals are meadows and young forests (Table 1). This requires that you retain open grassy meadows with little emphasis on older and mature forests, which do not provide for optimum numbers of the primary game species. Note also that you will need fairly large acreages, especially for deer—an expected annual harvest of two to five deer from your land will require at least 100 acres.

If you want other uses of wildlife, such as birdwatching, you should increase habitat diversity. This means providing the full range of habitats, beginning with open meadows,

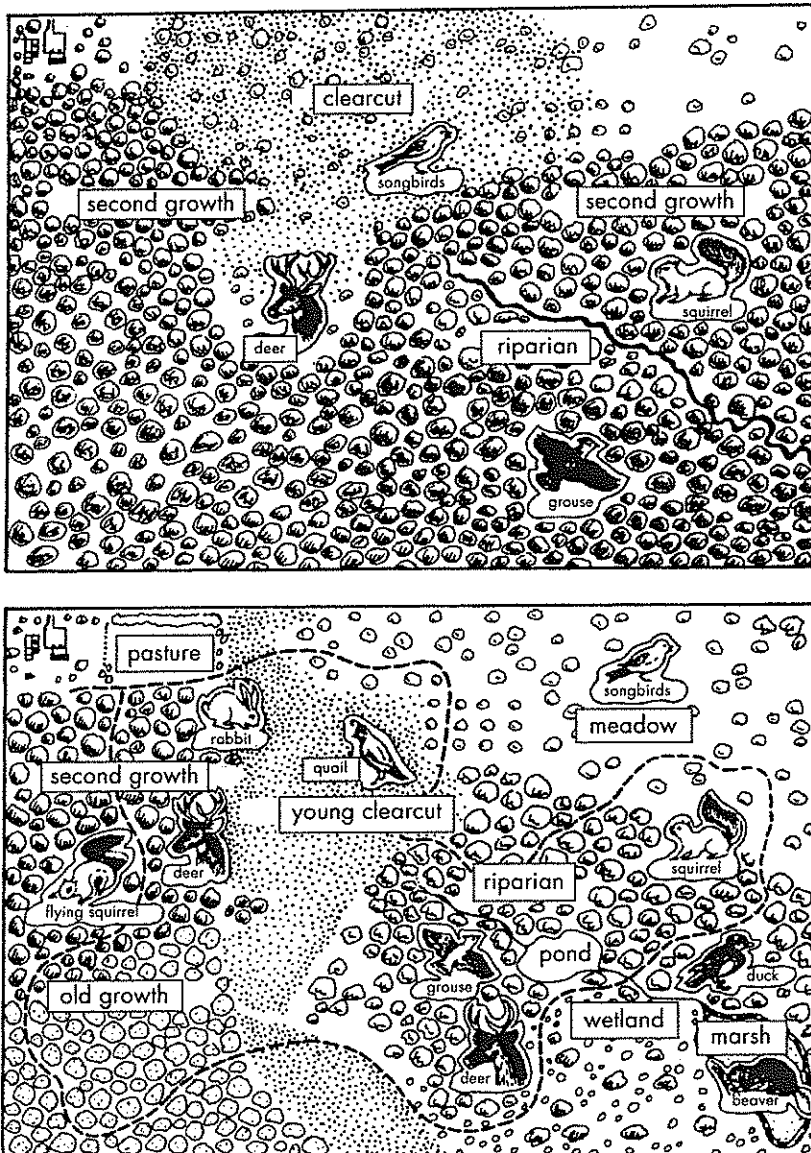


Figure 2.—(top) Wildlife-habitat associations on an undeveloped woodlot and (bottom) on a developed woodlot.

progressing through regeneration, and ending with mature forests.

As for a private game reserve, selling the privilege to observe wildlife on your land will not bring in much money—public lands are available for this.

The best approach is to design habitat improvements around silvicultural practices. The variety of species and numbers of individual species may be less than ideal, but small unused areas, riparian zones, steep slopes, and other areas where timber production cannot be maximized will provide many of the requirements you need for a diversified habitat.

What habitat(s) do you have?

When you decide what kinds of wildlife you want, identify the habitats required and check them against what is available.

Assess the diversity of habitats and acreage of each as well as the habitats of neighboring parcels of land. If the species you want match the type and amount of habitat available, the situation is ideal. If the matchup is not good, you must decide whether to manipulate the habitat to increase species diversity or to increase the number of animals—or perhaps both.

To do this properly, an inventory of your property is essential. Make a sketch of your land with the various habitats roughed out, including acreages. Then list the wildlife species that each type of habitat favors.

Draw habitats that would result from vegetation enhancement and list the wildlife that these modified habitats would favor (Figure 2).

Make a plan

If you intend to enhance vegetation to provide a greater variety of habitats for wildlife, you must make a plan for the desired changes. The plan should include the location and acreage of habitat you desire to manipulate, the expected cost of the enhancement, and provisions for special habitat requirements not provided by typical vegetation manipulation. Table 2 gives an example of such a plan.

Where to go for help

A number of public agencies and private groups in Oregon can provide assistance. The Oregon State University Extension Service has publications that describe how to provide special habitat needs such as nest boxes. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has information on preferred habitats of wildlife, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides help with habitat manipulation. The Audubon Society is an excellent source of information on providing for special needs of songbirds; most large towns have an Audubon Society chapter.

Table 2.—Sample habitat enhancement plan.

Wildlife species	Habitat enhancement and acreages	Provision for special requirements
Deer, elk	Provide openings in forest (20 to 50 acres each); harvest standing timber; suppress tree and shrub regeneration.	Seed 5- to 10-acre patches in meadows with grass–legume mix.
Rabbits, quail	Provide permanent openings (15 acres) and one to two brush piles per acre.	
Songbirds	Maintain a good mixture of meadows, second growth, and old growth (5 to 10 acres for each habitat).	Establish nest boxes; establish a system of trails through all habitats for bird watching.

For more information

OSU Extension publications are available from:

Publication Orders
Extension & Station Communications
Oregon State University
422 Kerr Administration
Corvallis, OR 97331-2119
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You can view our Publications & Videos catalog and many of our publications on the Web at <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu>

Bennett, M. *Ecosystem Management: Opportunities and Implications for Woodland Owners*, EC 1469 (Corvallis: Oregon State University, 1996). \$1.25

DeYoe, D., D. deCalesta, and W. Schaap. *Understanding and Controlling Deer Damage in Young Plantations*, EC 1201 (Corvallis: Oregon State University, reprinted 1999). \$2.00

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Edge, W.D. *Managing Wildlife Habitats in Forested Ecosystems*, EC 1470 (Corvallis: Oregon State University, reprinted 1998). \$2.00

Other publications

The "Peterson Field Guide" series for birds, mammals, animal tracks, trees and shrubs, reptiles and amphibians, insects, and bird nests (Boston: Houghton Mifflin).

deCalesta, D. and M.S. Deusen. *Woodland Fish and Wildlife*. 1988. This series includes a number of separate publications. Order from Washington State University, 1-800-723-1763 or via the Web at <http://pubs.wsu.edu>, then "forestry," then "wildlife and fish."

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The Woodland Workbook is a collection of publications prepared by the Oregon State University Extension Service for owners and managers of private, nonindustrial woodlands. Information has long-range and day-to-day value for anyone interested in wise management, conservation, and use of woodland properties. The Workbook is organized in sections in a 3-ring binder with tabbed dividers for each section. To order, and to get a current list of titles and prices, inquire at the OSU Extension Service office that serves your county.

This publication was produced and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties.

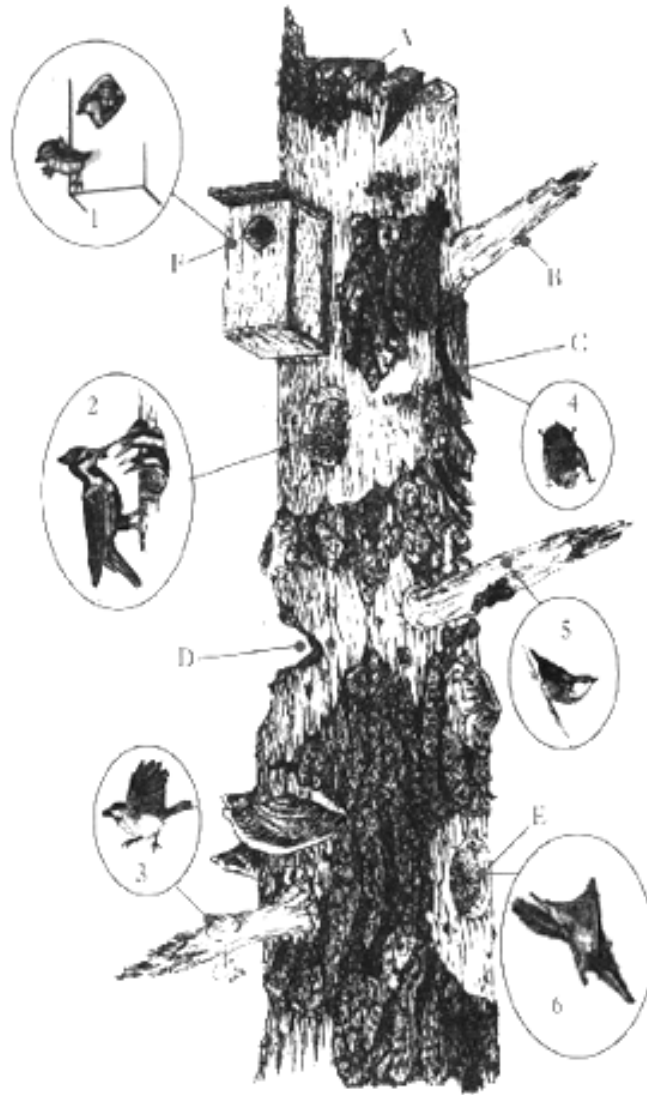
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Published 1983. Reprinted June 2002.

TIPS FOR CREATING SNAGS

Snags may be created from living trees if there is a shortage of safe natural snags. Created snags can be expected to last for a long period of time. Poor quality or deformed trees, such as those with broken tops or large branches, make excellent snags.

- ☞ **Snags can be dangerous.** Locate them well away from trails, roads, buildings, and other structures.
- ☞ **Select conifers for snag creation** as they normally last longer than deciduous trees. Snag trees should be at least 14" in diameter.
- ☞ **Top or girdle trees at or above the first whorl of branches**, but at least 14 feet high (ideally, much higher). Smaller trees may be useful for some cavity nesters, as are stumps which are at least 3 feet high.
- ☞ **A jagged top (A) will decay faster** and supply more habitat than a smooth-topped tree.
- ☞ **Large branches (B)**, extending at least 2 feet out from the trunk, can be cut to create foraging habitat on live trees not intended to be used as snags.
- ☞ **Roosting slits (C) and cavity starts (D)** may be added to created snags at the time of topping or girdling. However, do not put these features, or bird boxes, on existing snags.
- ☞ **Roosting slits may be used by most bats (4) and some birds**, such as brown creepers. The slits should be at least 8" deep and 2" wide, and angled sharply upward into the cambium layer.
- ☞ **Cavity starts allow decay** causing fungus to enter the tree wound. These cavities may be used by flying squirrels, swallows, kestrels and smaller owls. They should be at least 6" deep and 4" high. In time, as rot progresses, these cavities may be used by a large variety of cavity nesters, such as pileated woodpeckers (2), nuthatches (5), chickadees (3) and flying squirrels (6). Over 66 varieties of birds and animals in the pacific northwest use snag tree cavities (E) for nesting or foraging.
- ☞ **Bird boxes (F)** of varying sizes will host many species, such as wood ducks (1) and swallows. They can be erected in most forest stands depending on target species and stand characteristics. Bird boxes, however, do not replace the need for snags.



Dead or dying trees, called snags, provide habitat for many forest species. This illustration shows how some practices can be used on live trees to create snags. Not all practices or wildlife shown here should be on the same tree. They are shown together for demonstration purposes only.



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division
Noxious Weed Control Program
206-296-0290 TTY Relay: 711

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES Evergreen blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor* *syn. Rubus armeniacus*)

Legal Status in King County: Not listed, no legal requirement for controlling obnoxious weeds. The County Weed Board recognizes these plants are invasive and is collecting information and providing education on control. The Board encourages and recommends control and containment of existing populations and discourages new plantings.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Impacts and History

- Highly invasive and can be found throughout King County.
- Can be very difficult to control.
- Out competes native understory vegetation and prevents the establishment of desirable native shade intolerant trees such as Pacific Madrone, Douglas Fir and Western White Pine.
- Can limit movement of large animals when forming large impenetrable thickets.

Description

- **Himalayan blackberry** is a robust, sprawling perennial with stems having large stiff thorns.
 - Main canes up to 10 feet long with trailing canes reaching up to 40 feet.
 - Trailing canes typically take root at the tips.
 - Leaves are large, round to oblong and toothed typically come in sets of three (trailing canes) or five (main stems).
 - Individual canes can reach a density of 520 canes per square meter.
 - Flowers are white to pink about one inch in diameter and borne in clusters of about 5 to 20.
 - Develops edible black fruit that clings to the center core when picked.
-
- **Evergreen blackberry** is a robust trailing evergreen shrub that grows into impenetrable thickets.
 - Ribbed reddish stems up to 10 feet in length with large curved thorns.
 - Young canes arch as they grow longer that eventually reach the ground rooting at the nodes.
 - Palmately compound leaves with 3 to 5 deeply lacerated leaflets.
 - Flowers are white to pink about one inch in diameter borne in clusters.
 - Develops edible black fruit that clings to the center core when picked.



Himalayan blackberry



© 2005 Virginia Tech
Evergreen blackberry

Habitat

- Blackberry can be found in a myriad of habitats such as vacant lands, pastures, forest plantations, roadsides, creek gullies, river flats, riparian areas, fence lines, and right-of-way corridors.
- Does not grow well in wetland areas, will grow if cane tip roots.

Reproduction and Spread

- Reproduces vegetatively by root and stem fragments, and by seed.
- Plants begin flowering in spring with fruit ripening in midsummer to early august.
- Daughter plants can form where canes touch the ground.
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years.

Local Distribution

Found throughout King County.

CONTROL INFORMATION

Integrated Pest Management

- The preferred approach for weed control is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM involves selecting from a range of possible control methods to match the management requirements of each specific site. The goal is to maximize effective control and to minimize negative environmental, economic and social impacts.
- Use a multifaceted and adaptive approach. Select control methods which reflect the available time, funding, and labor of the participants, the land use goals, and the values of the community and landowners. Management will require dedication over a number of years, and should allow for flexibility in method as appropriate.

Planning Considerations

- Plan your control effort including: 1) surveying of the area thoroughly for blackberry, 2) setting priorities for control, 3) selecting the best control method(s) for the site conditions and regulatory compliance issues and 4) monitoring the success of control and implementing follow up control as necessary.
- In unincorporated King County outside of wetlands, aquatic areas, wildlife network areas and their buffers, a Clearing and Grading permit is not required to clear areas of blackberry if: 1) the annual area to be cleared is less than 7000 square feet or 2) if the clearing is conducted in accordance with an approved Forest Management Plan, Farm Management Plan or Rural Stewardship Plan. Within wetlands, aquatic areas, wildlife network areas and their buffers, Clearing and Grading permits are not required if the area to be cleared is less than 7000 square feet and clearing is conducted in accordance with one of the stewardship plans mentioned above or is removed by hand labor. Clearing in excess of these limits will

require a permit, however there will be no cost for this permit provided control practices defined in this BMP and the King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines are followed.

- Control practices in critical areas should be selected to minimize soil disturbance. Any disturbed areas need to be stabilized to control erosion and sediment deposition. Refer to the King County Surface Design Manual for further information about sediment and erosion control practices. Minimizing disturbance also avoids creating more opportunities for germination of blackberry and other weeds.
- Generally work first in least infested areas, moving towards more heavily infested areas.
- Ensure habitat protection by targeting only blackberry and preserving all native and beneficial vegetation.

Early Detection and Prevention

- Blackberry is easily identifiable throughout the year.
- Manually control new infestations as early as possible .
- Monitor the control site and remove any plants returning from root fragments

Manual

- Hand pull the stem close to the ground and uproot the root ball. This method is most effective with first year plants.
- Manual control works best after rain or in loose soils where the canes are suppressed because the blackberries are growing in a forest understory.
- Digging up root crowns and major side roots is slow but will control blackberry and is effective on small infestations.
- Using a claw mattock or pulaski/mattock is also effective.
- Recheck work area because large root fragments left can re-sprout.
- If removing dense patches, area should be replanted with native plants and mulched, or reseeded with a suitable grass.
- Hand pulling and the use of hand mechanical tools of up to seven thousand square feet annually is allowable without a permit in unincorporated King County, including all critical areas and buffers.

Mechanical

- Mowing, including the use of riding mowers and tractor mounted mowers, can be very effective in controlling blackberries but also may harm desirable plants present.
- Mowing should not be used where soils are highly susceptible to compaction or erosion, or where soils are very wet.
- Several cuttings a year over several years are necessary to exhaust the roots of their reserve food supply.
- If only one cutting is done per year, cut when the plants begin to flower. If no follow-up is done, the blackberry may re-sprout from the root crown at a greater density, and could overgrow any vegetation planted.

- Cultivation in agricultural areas utilizing cultivation machinery can be effective in controlling blackberry either alone or in conjunction with mowing but is not selective and may require specific sediment and erosion control measures (see Control of Large Infestations/Monocultures).

Biological

Biological control is the deliberate introduction of insects, mammals or other organisms which adversely affect the target weed species. Biological control is generally most effective when used in conjunction with other control techniques. Biological control methods that may assist in blackberry control include the use of goats and chickens as follows:

- Goats and pigs may be effective on clearing or controlling blackberry re-growth from a year to four years old. On mature stands, goats tend to only strip leaves off of the canes. Animals may prefer alternative forage available, so reduce opportunities for selective browsing. Grazing must be continuous or else regrowth will occur. Care needs to be taken to fence off or protect any native or other valuable vegetation. The King Conservation District can provide further information of the use and management of goats for weed control.
- Chickens can potentially decrease the seed bank in blackberry cleared areas by grazing on the seeds.

Chemical

- Herbicides should only be applied at the rates and for the site conditions and/or land usage specified on the label. **Follow all label directions.**
- Herbicide specified in these guidelines may be used in accordance with Federal and State Law in critical areas and their buffers with certain restrictions. Refer to the **King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines** for a summary of current Federal, State and local restrictions and regulatory compliance issues.
- For control of large infestations, herbicide use may be effective, either alone or in combination with mowing. Infested areas should not be mowed until after the herbicide has had a chance to work and weeds are brown and dead.
- For several years following treatment, monitor areas for new plants germinating from the seed bank, or any missed plants.

Specific Herbicide Information

Herbicides are generally described here by the active ingredient. Many commercial formulations are available containing a specific active ingredient. References to product names are as an example only, and other equally, or more effective commercial products may be available.

Glyphosate: can effectively control blackberry. Treatment with glyphosate needs to be combined with effective re-vegetation of the site to prevent re-invasion by undesirable vegetation and to control erosion. Glyphosate is most effective on blackberry in September to October when canes are actively growing and after berries have formed. Fall treatments should be conducted before the first frost.

Selective Broadleaf Herbicides (such as triclopyr, 2,4-D and metsulfuron): most effective when blackberry is growing in a grassy area. Read the label of the product you are using to determine the optimal time to spray. Re-treatment the following year may be necessary to control any returning plants. Continue to monitor for new plants for several years after the initial treatment and following any disturbance to the soil such as tilling or construction. **NOTE: Certain additional restrictions apply for products containing 2,4-D and Triclopyr BEE (e. g. Garlon 4, Crossbow). Refer to the King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines for more details.**

Selective herbicides that are effective on blackberry include metsulfuron (e.g. Escort, Cimarron, Ally), triclopyr ester (e.g. Garlon 4) or triclopyr amine (e.g. Garlon 3A) and a combination treatment of triclopyr and 2,4-D (e.g. Crossbow).

Metsulfuron should be applied to fully leafed-out blackberry before fall leaf coloration. Good coverage is essential to achieve control.

Triclopyr (amine and ester) and triclopyr + 2,4-D should be applied when actively growing. Foliage must be thoroughly wetted with herbicide.

2,4-D can harm certain grasses, alfalfa, clover and other legumes. The addition of a suitable surfactant may improve the control results.

The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product. Chemical control options may differ for private, commercial and government agency users. For questions about herbicide use, contact the King County Noxious Weed Control Program at 206-296-0290.

SUMMARY OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Small Infestations in Native and/or Desirable Vegetation

- Properly identify targeted blackberries
- Mark all desirable vegetation around control area, ensuring that no native plants are removed.
- Small infestations of less than 200 square feet can be effectively and relatively easily hand-pulled or dug up. Isolated plants should be removed in order to prevent them from infesting a larger area.

- Cut above ground portion of blackberry with loppers or pruners. Dig up or pull the remaining root ball.
- Pull or dig up the plants when the soil is wet.
- Replace any divots created when removing the plants to lessen the amount of disturbed soil.
- Apply appropriate herbicide with wick wiper or by spot spray to the cut stumps to minimize off target injury.
- Monitor site throughout growing season and remove any new plants.
- If using an herbicide in a grassy area, use a selective herbicide to avoid injury to the grass.

Large Infestations/Monocultures

- Properly identify invasive blackberries.
- Mark all native vegetation in and around the control area, ensuring that no native plants are removed.
- Mow down the blackberry with weed-eaters, brush mowers or machetes.
- Following mowing, either dig up the root-ball if labor is available or treat re-sprouting blackberry regrowth with an appropriate herbicide (See the Chemical section of this BMP).
- Mechanical cultivation is also an option for controlling invasive blackberries in agricultural areas. After initially mowing down the above ground vegetation, deep cultivation of the land can control root balls if done multiple times. Yearly spot control of returning seedlings or re-growth will likely be necessary.
- For large areas, it may be more cost-effective to apply herbicide to the mature blackberry plants and then mow the dead canes.
- When large dense areas of blackberry are removed, the bare areas created need to be stabilized and re-vegetated with native or non-invasive vegetation to prevent erosion and re-invasion of blackberries and other weeds (refer to the King County Surface Water Design Manual or equivalent for incorporated areas). Ensure that a high standard of blackberry control has been achieved prior to revegetating the site.
- If a non-selective herbicide is used in grassy areas, the area needs to be re-seeded to prevent reinvasion by weeds.
- Infested areas will require follow-up management lasting for several years to control plants re-growing from the seed bank and rhizomes.

Riparian and Aquatic Area Control Issues

- Focus on manual removal for small infestations if possible. Follow procedures listed above.
- For larger areas where herbicide use is warranted, apply with a wick wiper or spot spray using low pressure and large droplet size.
- Blackberry shrubs can be found growing along wetland margins but are typically daughter plants off of a main cane. Control can be achieved by cutting the canes down to the ground. The roots can not withstand the anaerobic soil conditions without the supporting canes.
- Pay particular attention to regulatory compliance issues for aquatic areas described in the King County Noxious Weed Regulatory Guidelines.

Road Rights-of-Way Control Issues

- Manually remove infestations if possible.
- If plants are in grassy areas, use a selective broadleaf herbicide; if controlled with a non-selective herbicide, re-seed after control is completed.
- An effective mowing program can control blackberries along a Right of Way. Any blackberries remaining outside the mowed area will quickly re-invade the cleared areas.
- Spot spray blackberries with glyphosate in areas with no desirable vegetation.

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English ivy - *Hedera helix*

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Irish ivy (*H. hibernica* or *H. helix hibernica*) are very similar plants in the Ginseng family (*Araliaceae*), and both are referred to as English ivy in this bulletin.

THE IMPACTS

When English ivy escapes from landscaped plantings it often establishes and spreads in shaded forested lands or natural areas. There it can impact all three zones of a deciduous or conifer plant community – the forest floor, the shrub layer and the canopy.



English ivy climbing a mature tree

- English ivy reaches the tree canopy and shades out deciduous foliage during summer months, suppressing the host tree.
- Dense ivy cover deprives the bark of normal contact with air and microorganisms.
- English ivy adds substantial weight to a tree. The estimated weight of ivy removed from a tree in Olympic National Park was 2100 lbs.
- Mature trees covered with ivy are top-heavy and more likely to blow down.
- Thick ivy mats can accelerate rot and deteriorate structures.



Thick ivy mats smother understory plants and tree seedlings

- English ivy changes the natural succession patterns of forests.
- Ivy limits understory regeneration by blocking sunlight and shading out plants.
- The fast-growing ivy competes for water and nutrients.
- The shallow mat-like root system make it a poor choice for erosion control, and contributes to erosion in some cases.
- Provides hiding areas for rats and other vermin.

IVY CULTIVARS

More than 400 different English ivy cultivars vary in leaf shape, size, color and growth form. While many cultivars are sold as ornamental plants, recent research indicates that several cultivars are invasive and should be avoided as landscape plants in the Pacific Northwest.

Four cultivars of English ivy were added to the 2002 Washington State Noxious Weed List as Class C weeds.

They are: *Hedera helix* 'Baltica';
H. helix 'Pittsburgh';
H. helix 'Star' and
H. hibernica 'Hibernica'

WHAT IS A WEEDY CULTIVAR?

- English ivy is invasive when growing in areas where it was not planted.
- It is invasive when thick mats or vines inadvertently cover plants, trees or structures.
- It is invasive when producing flowers and seeds and rapidly spreading on its own.



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
 Water and Land Resources Division
Noxious Weed Control Program

WHAT IS ENGLISH IVY?

This woody, evergreen perennial grows as a vine (climbing or creeping) or as a shrub. English ivy can photosynthesize year-round, and is capable of growth for 9 to 10 months of the year. Older vines can grow over 90 feet long with stems reaching one foot in diameter. English ivy is long-lived with reports of one plant over 400 years old.

Adventitious roots are formed at the leaf nodes of immature plants, and they help ivy climb by adhering or anchoring to surfaces – they do not penetrate the surface. Ivy tolerates a wide range of light conditions but growth is stimulated by light.

The entire plant contains slightly toxic compounds. Berries and leaves are toxic to people or livestock if eaten in a large quantity. The sap can cause dermatitis and blistering.

Hedera is native to Europe and Asia, and was widely introduced into temperate parts of the world. It has a long history as a garden plant. Introductions to the Pacific Northwest date back to at least the 1890's.

There are two distinct forms and growth stages of English ivy – the juvenile and the mature form.



Leaves of juvenile plants

Juvenile form

- Leaves are deeply 3 to 5 lobed, light green and alternately arranged.
- Young shoots and leaves are hairy.
- Stems produce adventitious roots at the nodes.
- Immature plants do not produce flowers.
- This juvenile stage lasts for about 10 years.



Leaves of a mature plant

Mature form

- Leaves are unlobed, or slightly lobed, dark green and leathery and spirally arranged.
- English ivy matures to produce flowers when it begins to grow vertically.
- Mature plants do not produce adventitious roots.

REPRODUCTION AND DISPERSAL

During the juvenile stage ivy only spreads vegetatively. Any stem fragments in contact with the soil can regenerate growth. Mature plants continue with a slower vegetative spread, but they also produce flowers and spread by seed. Clusters of small greenish-white flowers are usually produced in the fall.



The dark colored drupes (berry-like fruits) mature in the spring.

The fruits are high in fat, and they are available in early spring when food is still scarce. Many birds, including blackbirds, European starlings and American robins, disperse the seeds.

CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

English ivy is a Class C Noxious Weed of Concern in King County - control is strongly encouraged although not currently required. The County Weed Board recommends control and containment of existing populations and discourages new plantings of invasive cultivars. For control requirements in other areas, please contact the county noxious weed control program.



Stop buying and stop planting invasive cultivars.

PREVENTION

When planting an area, consider alternative ground covers. The list includes, but is not limited to, the following native plants: wild strawberries, false lily-of-the-valley, bunchberry, fringe cup, wood sorrell, kinnikinnick, low Oregon grape, and sedges. Please contact local nurseries or native plant societies for more suggestions.

PRIORITIZE YOUR CONTROL PLAN

Consider the amount of ivy to be removed and the site you are working on. Also consider the on-site vegetation you want to keep, the time frame for removal and the labor force. Be persistent with your control plan and with follow-up.

- First remove the vertical growing plants to stop flower production and further spread by seed.
- When working in steep areas, the site needs to be considered for slope and any surface erosion.

MANUAL CONTROL

Even though it is labor intensive, the most effective control method is manual removal. Depending on the site, several other manual control options are also effective.

NOTE: Remove all cut stems from soil contact.

Wear gloves and protective clothing. The sap can cause a reaction in some people.

- Remove flowers or seed heads you can reach.
- Hand pull or dig out accessible plants.
- Mowing is effective in areas that are mowed regularly. Clippings need to be removed.
- Mulching – apply an 8” thick mulch layer. The plants can be cut or removed and then mulched, or a mulch layer can be directly applied on top of plants. This is not an option in steep areas.



Cut the vines or pry them off of trees with the aid of a tool at a comfortable height. This will kill the upper vines, but the lower, rooted plant needs to be removed.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

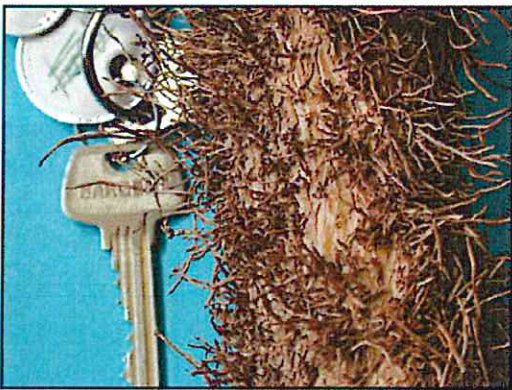
Controlling established English ivy with herbicides is not very successful because of the waxy leaves. There is also a risk to non-target plants from run-off of the waxy leaves. English ivy is considered tolerant of many commonly used herbicides. Some success has been achieved by carefully selecting herbicides and focusing applications on young, actively growing plants. If herbicides are used, make sure that their use is allowed at your site. Certain herbicides can not be used in aquatic areas or their buffers. When using an herbicide follow all label directions. Contact your local noxious weed control program for control guidelines in your area.

DISPOSAL - FOR SMALL AMOUNTS

Remove and dispose as yard waste. Backyard composting is only recommended when the rootlets and the cut stems are dead. Otherwise the ivy stems will root in the other material as it decomposes.

English ivy clippings will break down to 1/5 of its size when left to dry out and die.

- Expose the stems and rootlets to the air for 6 – 7 days until they desiccate.
- Pile the clippings under a covered area, then cover the clippings with a tarp.
- Pack the ivy in black plastic bags and leave in a sunny spot, rotating to heat all the plants.

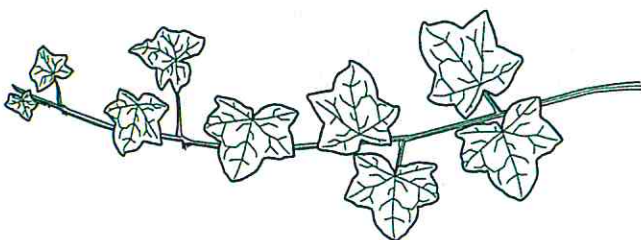


English ivy rootlets from a 4" diameter stem

DISPOSAL - FOR LARGER AMOUNTS

For large projects where the removed ivy can remain on site and out of sight, the cut stems can be balled or stacked on top of itself and left on site. Lift the ivy piles to keep the cut stems and rootlets from soil contact, or regularly turn the clippings to keep exposing the rootlets to the air.

- Pile the ivy and let it dry out or decompose. Cover the piles to speed the process.
- Wrap the pulled vines into medium sized bundles, leave them on site to dry up and die.



For more information please contact:

King County Noxious Weed Control Program

Department of Natural Resources
Water and Land Resources Division
201 S. Jackson St., Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 296-0290
email: noxious.weeds@metrokc.gov
<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/weeds>

Or contact your local county noxious weed program.

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King County Noxious Weed Control Program:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/weeds>

WA State Noxious Weed Program (with links to counties):

<http://www.wa.gov/agr/weedboard>

No Ivy League: <http://www.noivyleague.com/>

Ivy OUT: <http://ivyout.org>

Acknowledgments - For technical references and background information provided by the Native Plant Society, EarthCorps, Mark Mead, Ann Lovejoy, Laurel Shiner, Bill Wamsley and Jane Wentworth

This bulletin was produced by Bridget Simon, King County Noxious Weed Control Program. Photos were provided by staff.

Published February 2004

Information presented here is available in alternate formats upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call: 206-296-0290. TTY: 1-800-833-6388

English Holly

Ilex aquifolium

Aquifoliaceae or Holly Family

Weed of Concern: Control Recommended

Identification Tips

- Large, dense, slow-growing evergreen tree or shrub
- Can reach 15 to 50 feet tall and up to 15 wide
- Can grow as either a single tree or a multi-stemmed thicket
- Leaves are thick, glossy, dark green and wavy, 1-3 inches long
- Leaves usually have sharp spines along the edges although may be smooth on older branches
- Flowers are small, whitish, sweetly scented
- Produces red, yellow or orange berries in the winter

Biology

- English holly has both male and female plants that are bee pollinated
- Reproduces mainly by seeds that are contained within the berries; birds eat the berries and disperse the seeds to new areas
- Can also spread vegetatively through suckering and layering

Impacts

- Berries are toxic to humans
- Invades native forest habitats where dense thickets suppress germination and growth of native trees and shrubs
- A glutton for water, holly can prevent surrounding plants from obtaining sufficient moisture

Distribution

- Found throughout King County from urban landscapes to undisturbed natural areas and native forests
- Grows in shade or sun in well drained soil
- Is grown commercially for decorations and floral arrangements



It may make a festive holiday decoration, but English holly is not welcomed in natural areas where it crowds out native plants.



English holly can grow up to 50 feet tall and be extremely difficult to remove once established.

Questions?

King County Noxious Weed Control
Program Line: **206-477-WEED**
www.kingcounty.gov/weeds

What You Can Do

While there is no legal requirement for eradicating or controlling English holly in King County, the King County Noxious Weed Control Board recognizes this plant as a weed of concern and recommends prevention of spread into natural areas and urban forests.

Control Methods

In areas where English holly is established and widespread, removal is generally only recommended as part of a larger effort to restore natural landscapes. For uninfested areas, remove encroaching plants as soon as possible to avoid future problems.

Manual: Small plants can be dug or pulled up when soil is moist. Be aware that mature trees have deep and extensive roots; digging large holly trees or thickets is labor-intensive and results in considerable soil disturbance if all the roots are removed. Weed wrenches can be used on larger shrubs to pry up the entire plant. If you would like to borrow a weed wrench, please contact our office at 206-296-0290.

Mechanical: Cutting holly trees at the base usually results in re-sprouting, but with monitoring and follow up the holly can be suppressed.

Chemical: When dealing with large trees or thick stems, chop or cut the holly as close to the ground as possible and apply a herbicide with the active ingredient glyphosate (such as Roundup) directly into the cut portion. Frilling (making deep cuts at 45 degree angles into the tree's bark using an axe or sharp chisel) and pouring glyphosate into the cuts immediately afterward is also effective. **Always follow label rates and instructions.** Monitor for seedlings and root re-sprouting. Foliar herbicide treatment (spraying herbicides directly on the leaves) is not recommended due to holly's thick, waxy leaves which prevent the chemicals from being absorbed. For more information, please contact the King County Noxious Weed Control Program.

Alternatives to English Holly

English holly's dense evergreen foliage make it a traditional hedgerow shrub in the Pacific Northwest. And its contrasting bright red berries make it a favorite holiday decoration at Christmas

time. But there are alternatives that still provide the benefits of traditional English holly without the drawbacks. For screening and hedging in a sunny site, consider tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*). This native plant grows up to 10 feet tall and produces bright yellow flowers in



Tall Oregon grape is a great alternative.

the spring and blue-black berries in the summer.

Another alternative is false holly (*Osmanthus heterophyllus*). This plant looks like holly with variegated evergreen leaves, but it does not produce berries. It grows 15 feet or more, making it ideal for screening. For more alternatives, see the *Garden Wise* booklet produced by the Washington State Noxious Weed Board. Copies may be obtained by calling the King County Noxious Weed Control Program at 206-296-0290 or by going to our website at www.kingcounty.gov/weeds.

Photo courtesy of the Native Plant Landscaping Guide website www.kingcounty.gov/GoNative