



Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 416-1467

Minutes

Published Meeting
October 21st 2021, 5:30pm
Skagit County Noxious Weed Board
Online Via Microsoft Teams
Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 929-229-5406,,417616446#](#) United States, New York City

Phone Conference ID: 417 616 446#

Chair: Jason Kleinhuizen

Board members:

- Sonny Gohrman

Extension representative:

- Don McMoran (WSU)
Agriculture & Natural
Resources Extension
Faculty County
Extension Director

Coordinator:

- Joseph Shea

Technician:

Guests:

Kevin Anderson
Hannah Williams
Jonathan

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Jason Calls to order at 5:30pm
- II. ROLL CALL
Sonny Gohrman
Don McMoran
Jason Kleinhuizen
Kevin Anderson
Michael See
Hannah Williams
Jonathan
- III. AGENDA
 - a. Approval of October 21st, 2021, meeting agenda
Sonny Moves to approve the agenda
Jason Seconds
Motion Passes
- IV. MINUTES
 - a. Approval of July 15th, 2021, meeting Minutes
Tabled until January 20th
- V. GUEST COMMENTS
N/A
- VI. CONTINUED BUSINESS
 - a. Noxious Weed Coordinator Report

****See attached Report****

Hiring/ Staffing

Due to a loss of staff, we were unable to do much of our agriculture related work due and had to focus on our WSDA grant programs. We hope to fix this issue in the future by hiring the appropriate staff for the job. The timeline associated with hiring has been a recurring issue and we need to find ways to fill jobs faster due to the time sensitive nature of our work. Many applicants are looking for a higher wage for the work as well as more full-time employment. We will work with HR to see if there is a way to onboard new staff in a more efficient manner as well as see if we could make our staff positions more competitive. Hiring has been difficult not only for Skagit county but also Snohomish County. The possibility of giving employees pay raises for spray licenses, and additional job duties could be a good way to help increase their wage. We could also look at contractors as a possible solution but would need to make sure that program expectations are being set and met.

b. Treasurers Report

****See attached Report****

For 2021 we are on par with our spending and are looking at 26% remaining for the 3rd quarter. We have seen more comments regarding our 2022 budget and have been asked to keep our seasonal staffing at 3 people instead of 4 part time staff. Additionally, we did request 30,000 to replace our current boat. We should hear back from the commissioners soon regarding our 2022 budget.

c. Exploration of Noxious Weed Assessment

We have not moved forward with this item. With losing our full-time staff member we were unable to work more on this item. Additionally with the current climate and lacking staff we believe we should table this item until we have another full-time staff member trained and a full board so we can give this item the amount of time it needs to be successful.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. NEW RCW 17.10 review

Major Changes

- 3 out of 5 board members being engaged in production of agriculture
- After 60 days a Noxious Weed Control Board can appoint a board member if county commissioners fail to appoint.
- Changes in forestry exemptions
- Changes in Assessment designations
- Minor Grammatical Changes.
- New Definitions
- New Budget Appeal Process

b. 2022 Noxious Weed List

Any Noxious Weed List suggestions or comments should be supplied to our office before 1/19/2022 at 4:30pm

c. 2022 Board Meeting Dates

Sonny Moves to continue to hold our quarterly public meetings on the third Thursday of every third month at 5:30pm. (January 20th, April 21st, July 21st, October 20th)

Jason Seconds

Motion Passes

d. Hiring full time staff

We will work with HR to review the job description and wages and will get the job posted sometime in January. We hope to have them hired by the end of January.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board

Coordinators report

October 21, 2021

General

1. Skagit County Cooperative Weed Management Area (Skagit CWMA)

- MOU Signing

We have received the agreement back from US forest service and have yet to route to our final partners. I will send out an invite to our CWMA meeting for some time in December.

2. Equipment loan

- Weed Wrench Highway 9 - Scotch Broom
- Weed Wrench Bow Hill - Scotch Broom

3. Enforcements

N/A

4. Grants

Knotweed Spent – 12,687.56
Spartina Spent – 10,742.90

5. Education and Outreach

a. Livestock advisory

On September 28 I lead a livestock advisory class for Joan from WSU, we had roughly 20 attendees. The presentation focused on native and noxious weed that are toxic and of nuisance to the agricultural community. Very well received.

b. Skagit County fair

From August 11th- 14th we had a table set up at the Skagit County Fairgrounds. There was a lot of people at the fair this year. However, there wasn't as much booth traffic as I would have hoped.

c. Skagit river woods

On September 13th I met with the Skagit River Woods board members and gave them suggestions and an overall plan for treatment and revegetation of their knotweed

population. This is an area surveyed by WSDA in the past and is a large property. The community would like to work with Washington state parks (Rasar State Park) to control the weeds near their park. I am putting together a meeting with Skagit County VSP and others to go over grant restrictions, qualifications, and overall long-term plans for the site. the hope is to help with initial treatments through the VSP program.

d. Country living expo January

The Country Living Expo is Scheduled for January 28,29, and 30th. I plan on giving a noxious weed presentation. WSU is planning on this being a virtual event for 2021.

6. Training

- **EOC Flood Awareness week October 12th - 15th**

This is an annual training and preparedness meeting for Skagit County employees in preparation for flooding season.

- **Washington State Noxious Weed Conference. Vegetation management November 2nd- November 5th**

Right now, we are looking at roughly 200 in person attendees and 150 online attendees. I will be helping with door registration as well as help moderate presentations and get everyone paperwork complete for WSDA pesticide credits.

- **Invasive species conference in Nashville TN. November 30th – December 2nd**

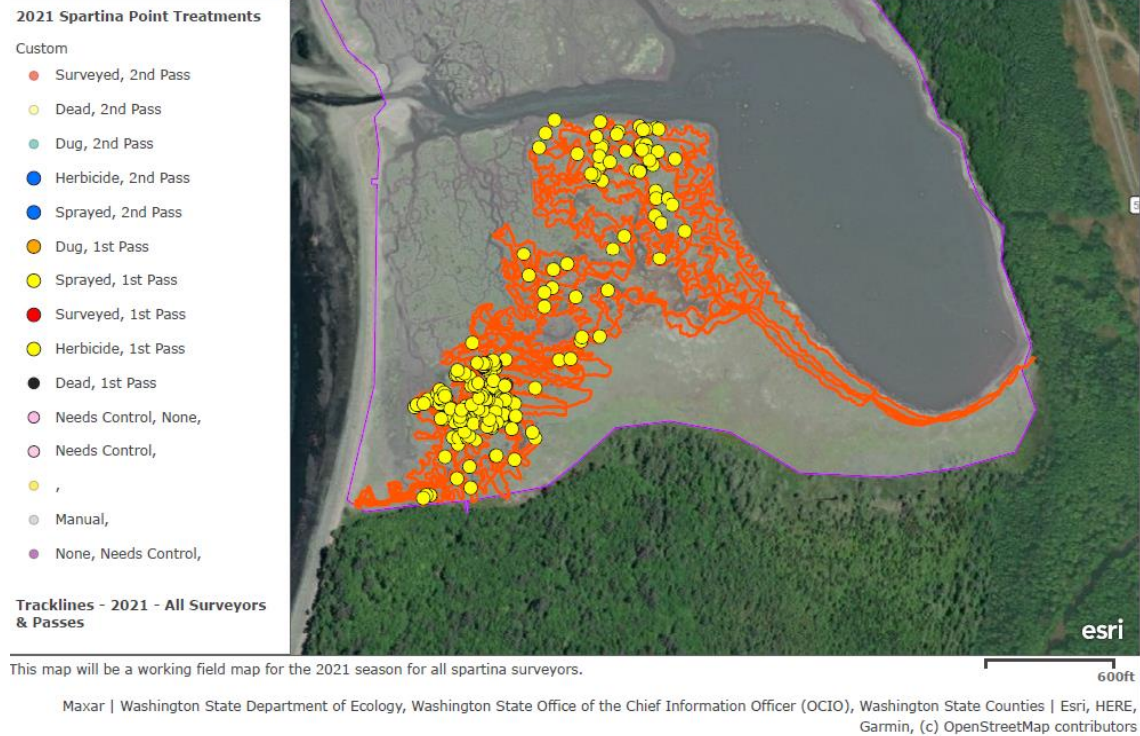
This Conference was passed to me by the Invasive species council and would be a professional experience and networking opportunity with various professionals in the noxious weed field from across the country.

7. Community interaction

a. Emails	
i. Received	6037
ii. Sent	283
b. Phone	
i. total	142
ii. incoming	82
iii. outgoing	32 +
iv. missed calls	28
v. Voicemails	26
c. Landowner Consultations (in person)	35

8. Cooperative projects/ Treatments

2021 Spartina Treatments Field Map, ALL



Lake Hancock

On October 19th we worked with Seth and Pat from Island County under our WSDA grant to assist with Lake Hancock near coopville. We have been assisting with this property for 6 years and it has been great to see its improvement over the years. This is a Naval property historically used for training of explosive ordinances. Over 8 hours we found 187 plants and surveyed a total of 39 acres of tidally influenced estuary. Island County was very appreciative of the additional assistance this late in the season and with such short notice.

2021 Spartina Treatments Field Map, ALL



This map will be a working field map for the 2021 season for all spartina surveyors.

Maxar | Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Washington State Counties | Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors

Snohomish County Co-operative

On August 16th and 17th we were able to work with WSDA and Snohomish county to do some cooperative work near the Camano island bridge. This area we have been helping with for many years since the seed set directly affects all of our Skagit Bay treatment sites. We worked with WSDA on marsh masters. Over the two days they were able to find 92 plants in total. Unfortunately we were unable to assist Snohomish county after these two days because we had a shortage of staff and had to consolidate our work and had to step back from future cooperative events in order to finish all of our project sites within Skagit County.



WDFW Cooperative Emricks

This year we were able to assist WDFW at their site called Emrick's. This was during the period where we were dealing with 90f days and was very hard due to the substrate and the density of plants. From August 9th -11th we worked 10 hours days with 3 WDFW staff and got transported VIA airboat to and from the sites. Overall, we found an astounding 1051 plants over 96.5 acres of tidal marshlands. WDFW sites continue to hold a lot of seed set and continued efforts and cooperatives in these areas is crucial for Skagit Bay spartina success.

2021 Spartina Treatments Field Map, ALL



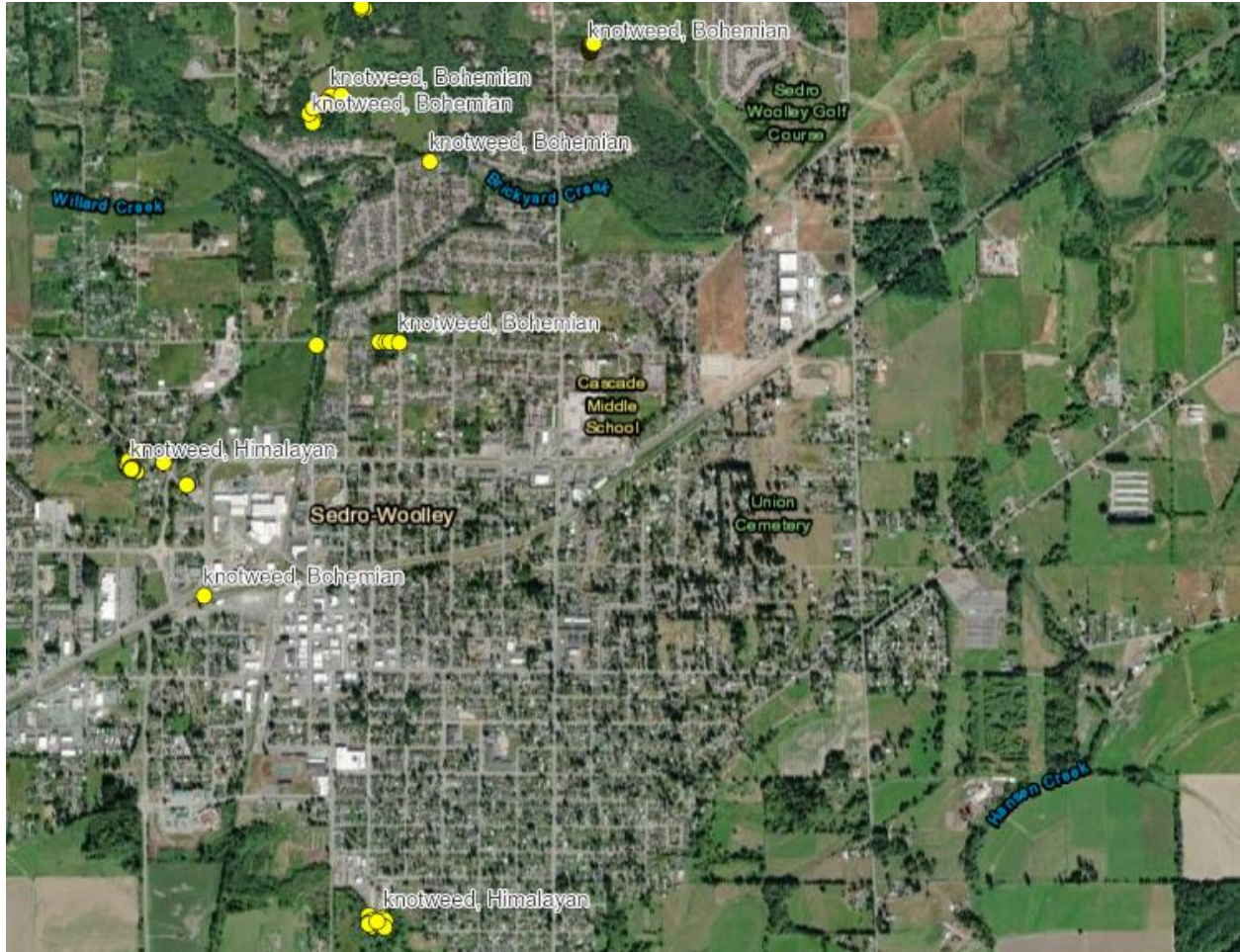
Talking Fields Cooperative WDFW

On July 22nd we coordinated with WDFW staff to survey and treat the talking fields. This is an extremely hard place to walk and has very tall vegetation and hummock's. In total we surveyed 46.9 acres and found a total of 8 plants. We did however return in September and did second passes as well as WDFW returned to survey they wildlife sanctuary north of our initial survey and treatment area. This area of fir island is showing great progress and we are finding very little densities of Spartina between the south and north forks of the Skagit River.



Planting and bank strengthening on Auriemma Property - Samish River

After our second years of treatment, I was able to put a meeting together with the VSP coordinator and the landowner to discuss our long term plans for the site. The landowner was interested in bank strengthening as well as revegetation on our treatment areas. We saw a excellent kill on our last year's treatment and now much of the site is ready to be prepped for planting. On August 18th we meet with the landowner and started developing a contract and a long-term plan for the site.



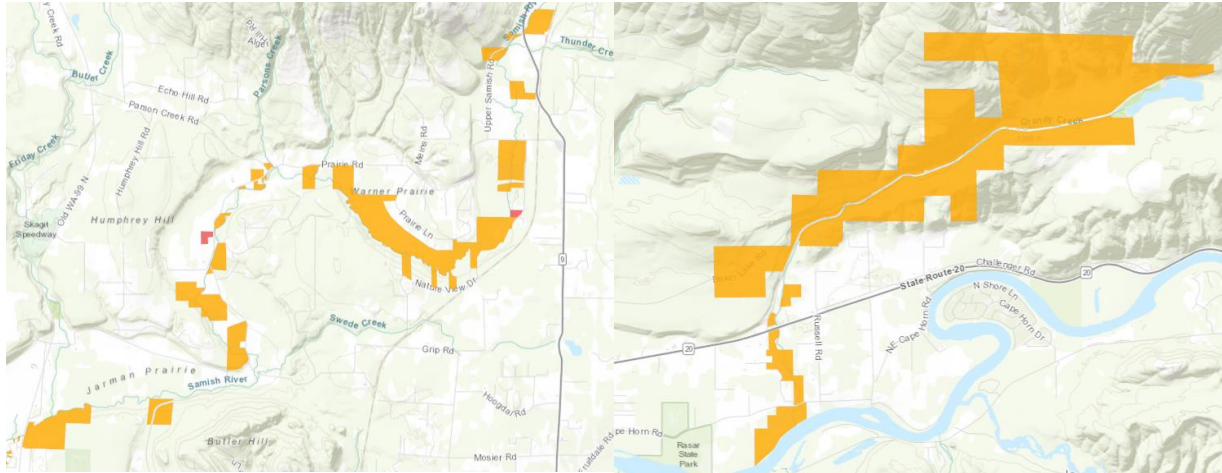
Sedro Woolley Inter-local Knotweed

As previously discussed, we have completed our knotweed treatments for Sedro Woolley. As shown above there are a handful of small knotweed sites within Sedro Woolley city limits that were treated under the existing Skagit County Public Works interlocal agreement. we had a slight delay in our billing but were able to send our bill the first week in October.



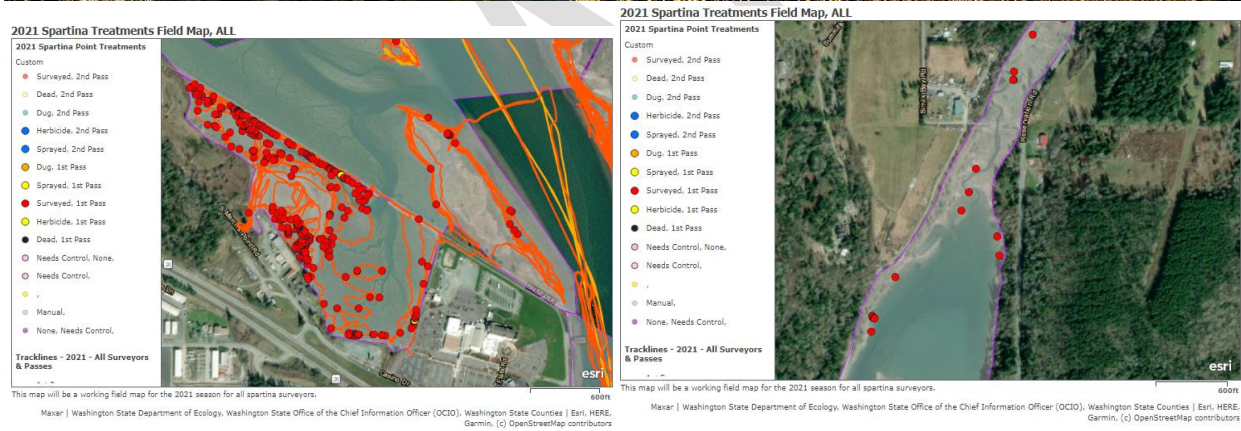
Mixmaster's Sandbar Control Work.

From August 16th – 18th we worked with the WCC to continue our work on Mixmaster sand bar. The knotweed sites that we have treated have great control and we are now doing more precise applications on the returning knotweed stands. There was a lot of wind and rain that was off and on all week, so we were a little less effective with our time this year. We were however able to do old man's beard, English ivy as well as scotch broom treatments. It looks like many of the large patches are ready for revegetation so we will work with Emily from Skagit County to get plants on those large dead areas.



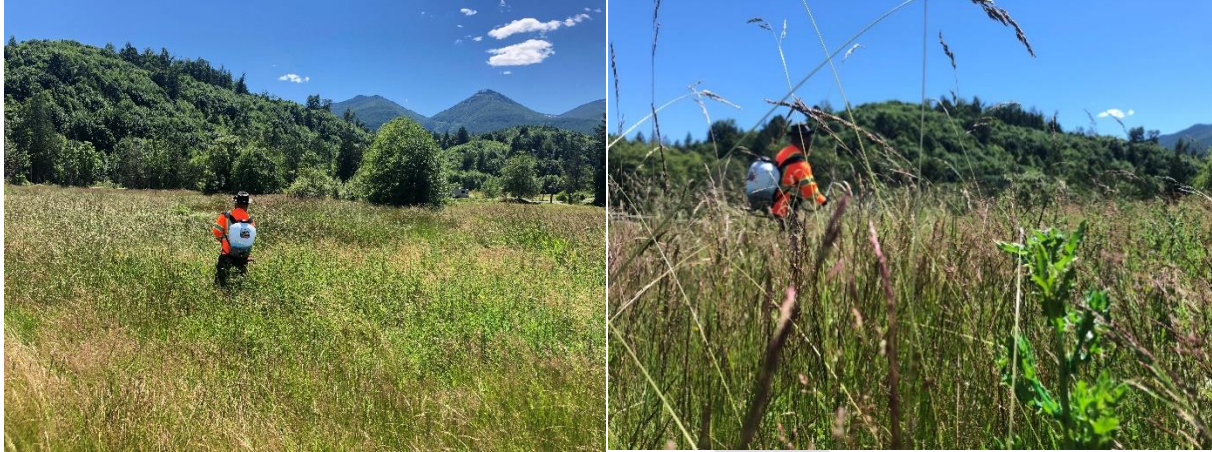
New landowner agreements on Samish River

This year we had excellent landowner outreach on the Samish river and had many new landowners joining our program. There are many landowners that are not shown on the maps above. There are only a few landowners left to get agreements with and we will have complete control from highway 9 to highway 99. Currently we have 63 landowner agreements on the Samish river plus 10 or so that haven't been updated in our database. On grandy creek we have 15 landowners' agreements which cover the whole river. We also got new agreements with Lake Tye and others nearby landowners who had knotweed near the river as well as in in the headwaters.



Spartina in Swinomish Channel and Swinomish Tribal Community

From 2020 to 2021 we have had non-ideal communication and coordination with the Swinomish Tribal Community. Due to a loss of staff and a loss of institutional knowledge we haven't been able to do chemical treatments on tribal lands for 2 years. This year we went out and surveyed and clipped seed heads in tribally managed lands and were disturbed at the abundance of mature seed producing plants. In the casino lagoon we found over 300 plants which is more plants than we find in the entirety of Skagit county. Additionally we found more mature plants on eagles nest, as well as Turners Cove. I tried multiple times to call and email but was unable to connect. In October I was informed that the previous staff that did the program was fired or quit and there is a new point of contact at the tribe. With that information we will work with the new manager to get the proper EPA permit to do treatments next season.



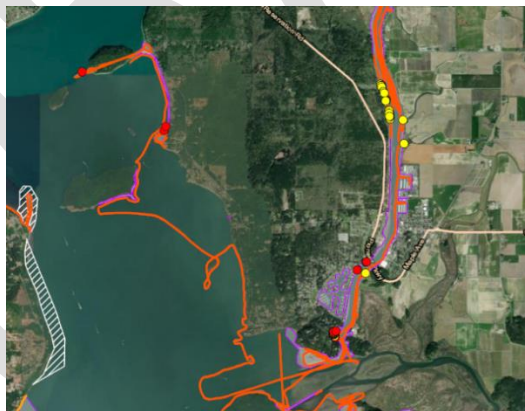
NRD restoration sites assistance

Emily Derenne from Skagit County has asked us to help with various treatments on her planting sites over the 2021 season. The images above are from a site on the South Skagit Highway on a cattle farm that was improving habitat in their grazing fields as well as their drainage ditch near the livestock. We did 4 different sites for Emily and all our time was covered by her program. We hope to continue this cooperative work due to its efficiency in getting landowner agreements, new restoration projects as well as gets more visibility to our program to the greater Skagit County community. This greatly helps their program as we have licenses and proper permits. This relationship is great because I am able to recommend their program to property owners who I have done previous treatments for.



Giant Hogweeds Site Sedro Woolley

After checking on our treatment of Gallic Mustard and Giant hogweed on the ROW as well as on Skagit County Property we found an additional population of giant hogweed. This was the largest population I have found to date and is in an area where people are camping in the woods. It seems that the people who are trespassing on the properties and illegally camping are spreading the plants. a major concern is that the plants seem to have been surrounding a camp and that poses a liability issue with human safety as the people on the property may not know its toxic effects. I talked with the individuals camping there and explained the plant and its toxicity. Additionally, the site seems to have very severe ground toxification and lots of trash. There may need to be soil samples and a general site cleanup in the future. This site is very hard to deal with just due to the overall safety issues with needles, trash, oils, homeless and plant material.



WSDA Craft and Ika Island work

On September 24th WSDA supplied a airboat and operator to help us treat the surrounding islands of the north fork and greater Swinomish tribal areas. We surveyed 4 treatment sites and found spartina at all the sites. We were only able to treat one site however due to jurisdiction issues and permitting. Ika island has shown improvement but is still present. Eagle's nest is an area that will need extra efforts as it sends seed down the entirety of the Swinomish channel. This took us roughly 6 hours.

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