

Invasive Species Removal Plan for the Kitsap Rhododendron Preserve

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Introduction

In 2010, the Mountaineers Foundation received a 100 acre conservation easement from its neighbor the Ueland Tree Farm. The gifted land is adjacent to their Kitsap Rhododendron Preserve, which is comprised of 460 acres. The Conservation Areas were logged in the past, which allowed for invasive species to colonize the road beds and in the wood line. It is believed that a well-researched and developed plan to remove and control the invasive species issue would result in a native Pacific Northwest environment with a higher level of diversity.

Tasks

- Review prior invasive species surveys
- Perform field observations of invasive and native species plants
- Research on the different methods of field restoration
- Develop a comprehensive, realistic plan considering
 - o intensity of colonization
 - o proximity to Preserve
 - o Labor and other costs

Invasive Species in the Conservation Areas

Common name	Latin name
Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Himalayan Blackberries	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>
Holly trees- English Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Laurel trees	Laurel family- Lauraceae
Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Fox glove	<i>Digitalis</i>



Scotch broom



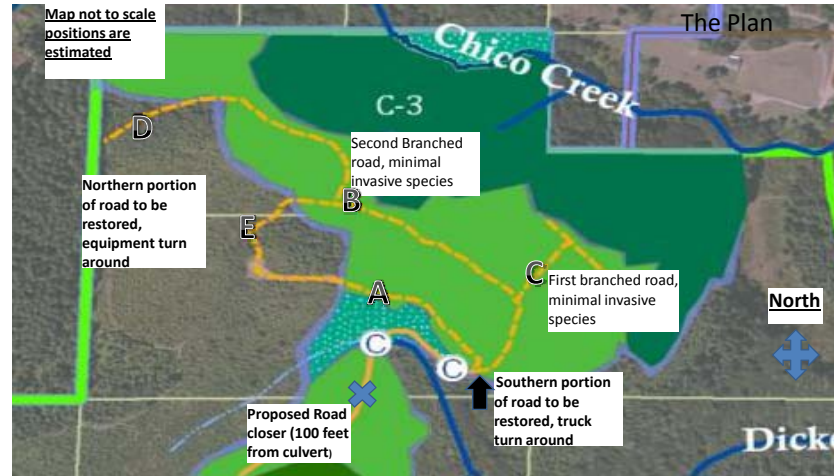
Holly trees



English ivy



Himalayan Blackberry



Conservation Area 3 where the most intensive work will be done



Map of the 3 conservation areas and the Rhododendron Preserve

Planned actions for conservation areas 1 and 2

Conservation areas 1 and 2 do not have the roads that 3 has and has fewer invasive species issues. These two areas will be monitored by invasive species cruises. Any issues will be addressed with plant removal or girdling and the area replanted with native species.

Major trees and understory native plants found in the conservation areas

The majority of the trees that are found in the conservation areas are found throughout Washington state such as Cedars, Douglas Fir, Hemlock and Red Alder. The understory plants represent a good diversity for an area that has not been replanted including many plants that can be used as food sources for the wildlife. These plants include the Evergreen Huckleberry, Salmon Berry, Trailing Blackberry along with tall and short Oregon grape.

Planned Action

A- This road bed will be cleared using bulldozers and backhoes. Wood chips laid over for a year, then planted with native plant species.

B and C- These road beds will be cleared using work crews and hand tools, then planted with supplemental native plant species.

D and E- These areas will be restored working with the Ueland Tree Farm for restoration and controlling invasive species.

X- Proposed road closure to decrease the amount of disturbed land and the edge effect.

Next Steps

- Finalize approach with the Mountaineers Foundation
- Implement the plan in 2012

Planting and Future Maintenance

- Native Plants will be used in the restored areas and to supplement already established plant growth.
- Invasive species cruises will be conducted yearly to monitor the properties

Resources

- www.mountaineersfoundation.org
- Society for Ecological Restoration
- Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
- Cascade Land Conservancy
- Boersma, P.D., Reichard, S.H., Van Buren, A.N, editors 2006. Invasive Species in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle: University of Washington Press
- Roberts, M., L. Shanafelt, K. Morris, and J.E. Gawel. 2010. Conservation Area Stewardship Plan. University of Washington, Tacoma, Environmental Sciences Program. Prepared for the Mountaineers Foundation, Kitsap Rhododendron Preserve.
- Naiman, R.J., Bilby, B.E. 2002. River Ecology and Management-Lessons from the Pacific Coastal Ecoregion. New York: Springer Verlag.