Efficiency of Removal Methods of Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) at Dash Point, Washington

Megan Garcia, Julie Masura

Himalayan blackberries (*Rubus armeniacus*) have become an invasive species, posing significant threats to native habitats worldwide. Their destructive tendencies, including rapid growth, reproduction, and drought tolerance create fire hazards and unsuitable habitats for wildlife. *R. armeniacus* does not allow native plants to thrive and can also destroy nesting habitats for native birds. Previous studies have determined that hand-clipping *R. armeniacus* canes alone is an ineffective method for eradicating the species. However, the impact of light absence on regrowth after cane removal remains uncertain. To explore methods for restoring native lands, we collaborated with Dash Point State Park to investigate whether shading out *R. armeniacus* would be a more effective approach for removal compared to hand pulling. Data were collected by measuring cane regrowth bi-weekly for 10 weeks. The results confirmed that the hand-pulling method was ineffective. However, the results for the combination of hand-pulling, weed barriers, and mulch to simulate light absence and shade out new growth could not be determined due to limitations such as restricted time, illnesses, and a limited number of volunteers. Future research should consider including the artificial zero light scenario as one of the methods to be compared to the hand-pulling method, aiming to determine the most effective approach for eradicating R. *armeniacus*.