

Samish Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources



Help Stop the Spread of Knotweed in the Samish Watershed

Organizations we are working with:



www.skagitfisheries.org/restore.html#mcelroy



www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cta/



Conservation Reserve Enhancement

www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=cep



Skagit County Natural Resources Stewardship

www.skagitcounty.net/

Japanese Knotweed Project

In 2010 the Natural Resource department received a grant from the EPA to assess the increasing problem of Japanese Knotweed in the Samish Watershed. This funding assistance is designed to gain insight on the extent of the infestation through surveying and mapping knotweed patches. As well as, provide support and access to information to residents living in the watershed who are faced with knotweed invasion. Treatment of the knotweed is another component of this project and will commence July of 2011. Depending on the extent of the infestation in the Samish River Basin the Natural Resources Department will be determining a priority level of treatment per patch as we cannot guarantee treatment of every knotweed patch.

If Knotweed is present on your property and you live in the Samish Watershed we are interested in visiting to assess the knotweed patch feel free to contact the Natural Resource office at the number listed below

Current Progress

The Samish Indian Nation Natural Resource Department has spent the late summer and early fall 2010 working in the Samish watershed to map the extent of knotweed infestation. Thus far, Samish watershed has been delineated as 285 square kilometers in area. Samish DNR has surveyed 25 acres of knotweed and walked 23241 meters (about 10 miles) of stream. The 2010 knotweed surveying and treatment season is now over. We are now in contact with landowners working to get some treatment projects off the ground starting late summer of 2011 and will begin again surveying spring of 2011.



Japanese Knotweed on Prairie Creek Road in Sedro Woolley, WA on the Samish River



Surveying knotweed



Japanese Knotweed on Prairie Road Sedro Woolley, WA on the Samish River

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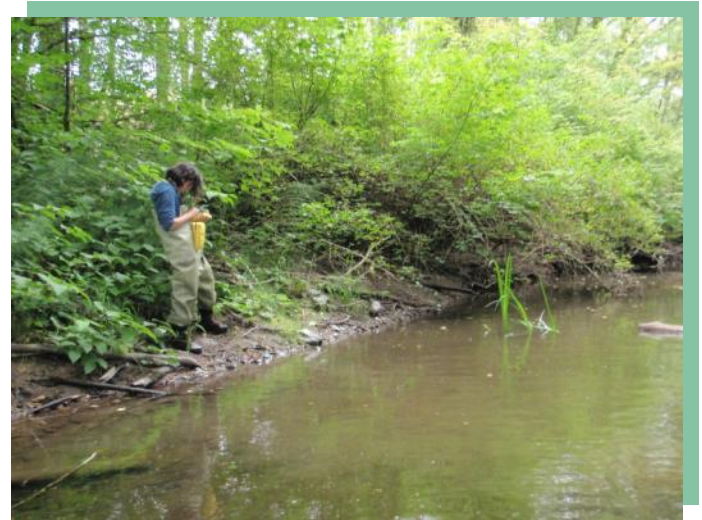
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Why Japanese Knotweed is a Problem



Samish DNR Field Tech surveying roadside knotweed



Surveying stream side knotweed at Donovan County Park

Japanese Knotweed is an extremely aggressive invasive plant from eastern Asia. Its extensive root system can extend as far as 7 feet below the ground. This allows for prolific growth and regeneration making attempts to eradicate it by hand strenuous and potentially unsuccessful. The plant can regenerate from stem and root fragments, so cutting or mowing the plant will only create a larger issue. Knotweed chokes out salmon habitat. It commonly colonizes along streams, invades lawns and gardens, decreases bank stability, and out-competes native plant species that are vital to a stable and productive ecosystem. Knotweed does not allow native plants and trees to get established. Knotweed has become such a large problem due to its prolific ability to regenerate. When the Samish River floods, knotweed that is established along the banks washes down stream only to land and regenerate somewhere else. Knotweed is also spread when it is not handled properly.

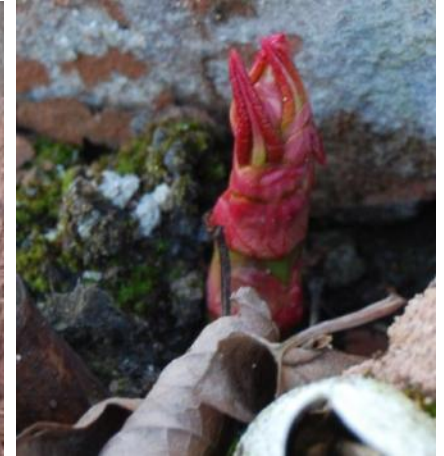
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Identification of Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*

Stems:

The stems of this plant are hollow and look similar to bamboo. There is often a reddish brown blotchy coloration. It is not uncommon for these plants to reach 12-15ft tall. Once the plants die back to the ground during the fall, the dead stems turn brown. In the spring when the shoots first emerge they are often mistaken for peony.



Leaves:

The leaves are large and can range from heart to egg shaped with a pointed tip. Characteristic to the Japanese Knotweed leaf is a tough thickness with a hairless underside.

Flowers:

Flowers are tiny greenish to creamy white and grow in clusters at the end of the stem.

