

Washington State's Noxious Weed Program



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Washington State Department of Agriculture



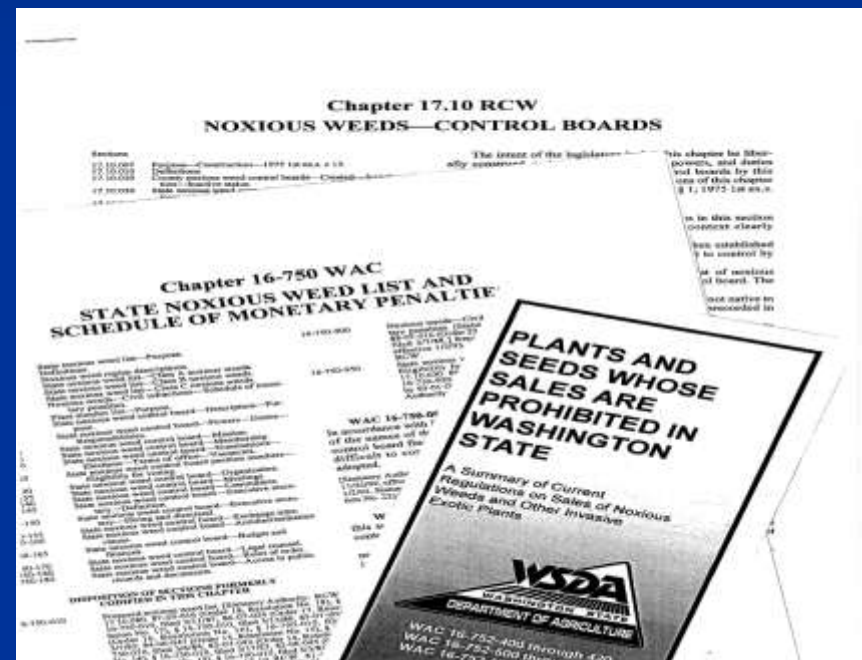
Today's Talk

- Overview of:
 - Noxious weed laws
 - Administration of laws
 - Weed lists
- Spartina project



Three Primary State Noxious Weed Laws

- RCW 17.10
 - Purpose: To limit economic loss due to the presence and spread of noxious weeds
- WAC 16.750
 - Noxious weed list, schedule of monetary penalties, and by-laws
- WAC 16.752
 - Prohibited plants, aka the quarantine list



Owner's Duty to Control Noxious Weeds

Noxious Weed: defined as “a plant that when established is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices”

Every owner shall perform or cause to be performed those acts as may be necessary to:

- (a) Eradicate all class A noxious weeds;
- (b) Control and prevent the spread of all class B noxious weeds designated for control in that region within and from the owner's property; and
- (c) Control and prevent the spread of all class B and class C noxious weeds listed on the county weed list as locally mandated control priorities within and from the owner's property.

Administration of the State Weed Laws

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graph TD; A([WA State Department of Agriculture]); B([WA State Noxious Weed Control Board]); C([County and District Noxious Weed Control Boards]);
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**WA State Department
of Agriculture**

**WA State
Noxious Weed
Control Board**

**County and District
Noxious Weed
Control Boards**

Noxious Weed Partnerships

**WA State
Department of
Agriculture**

**WA State
Noxious Weed
Control Board**

**County and
District Weed
Control Boards**

**Higher
Education**

CWMA's

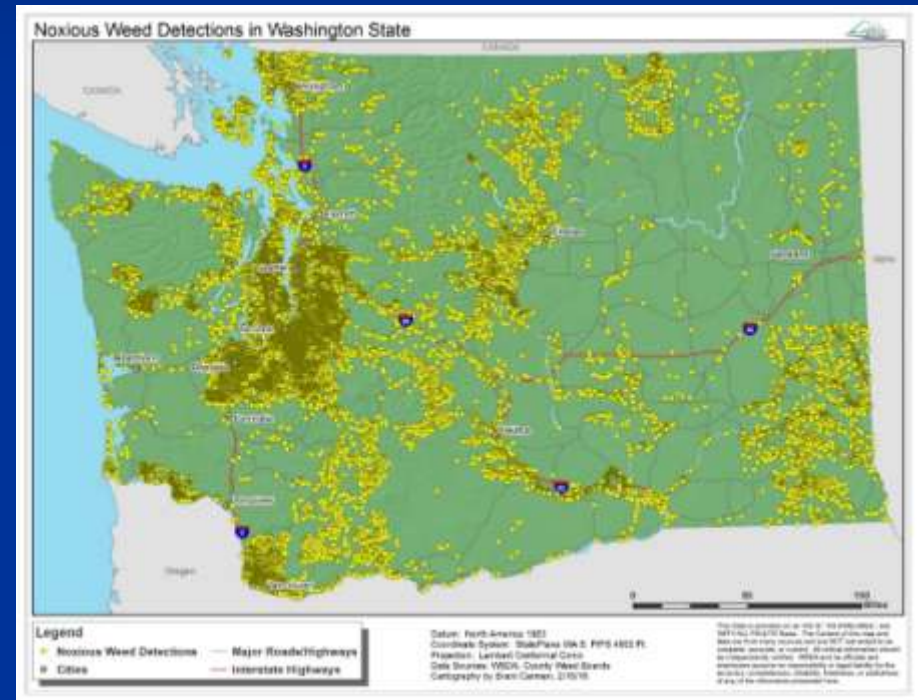
**State,
Federal and
Tribal
Partners**

**Private
Landowners**

**PNW-IPC
WISC
NGO's**

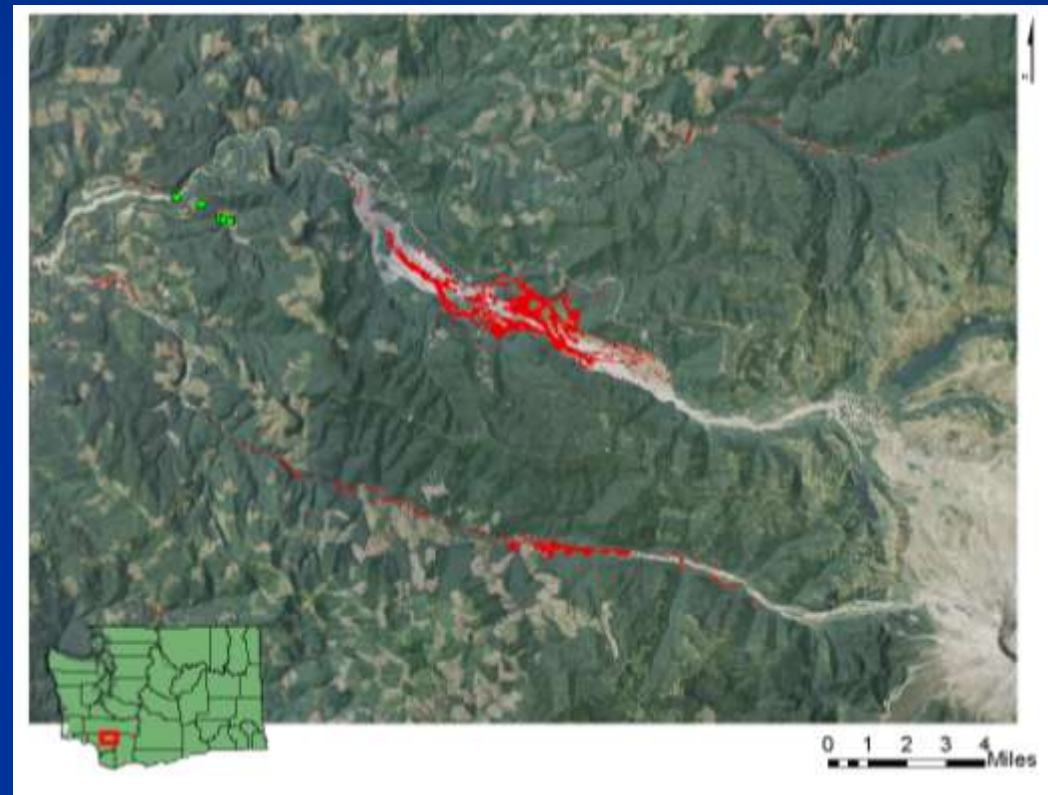
Roles of WSDA

- Performs necessary enforcement in counties lacking weed boards
- Negotiates inter-county disputes
- Provide technical and other support to programs & projects
- Administers the quarantine
 - Inspects nursery industry
 - Updates the Quarantine list
 - WWHAM
- Leads state efforts for Spartina, knotweed and purple loosestrife
- Manages noxious weed survey efforts and data

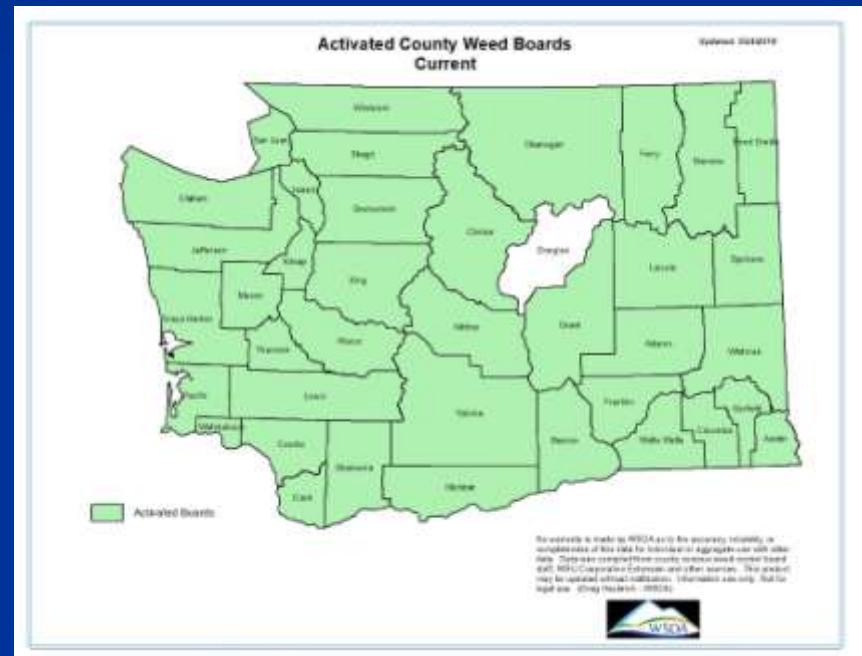
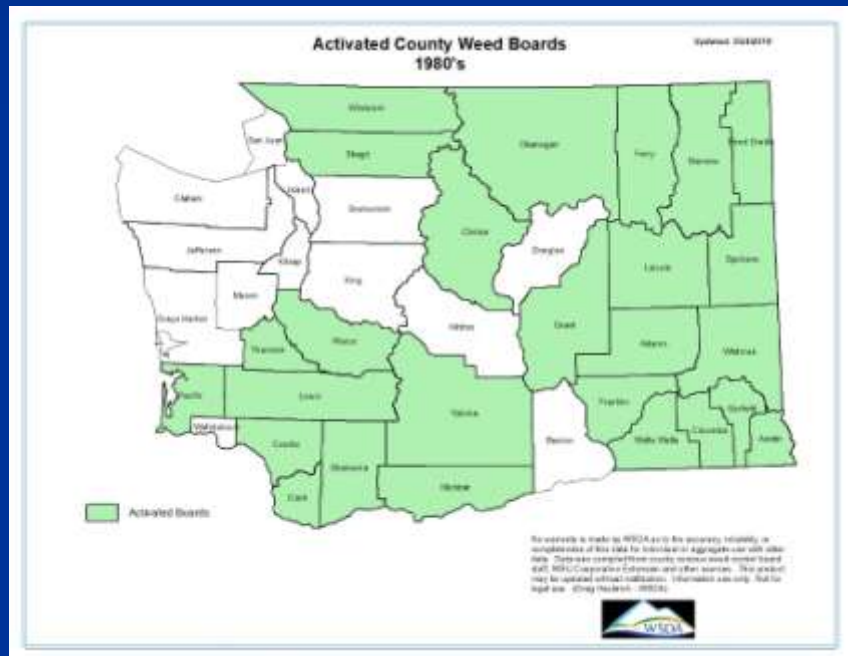


Expansion Modeling (Current vs. Future Cost)

- Toutle River Watershed
- Current knotweed locations vs. potential expansion
- Current cost of control \$3,400 compared to \$150,000 in the future



County Noxious Weed Control Boards



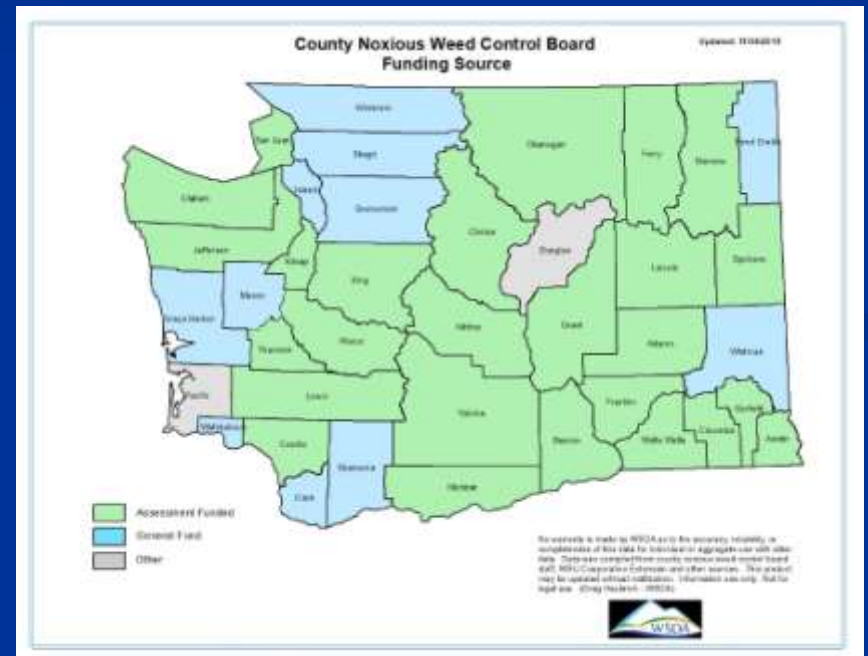
Roles of the County NWCB's

- Compliance with state weed laws
- Voluntary compliance is first priority
- County board can pursue further action
 - Draft multi-year control agreement with landowner
 - Carry out work and bill landowner
 - Civil infraction with penalties
- Set local weed control priorities by adopting annual county weed list
- Conduct ongoing weed surveys
- Provide technical information and control options



County NWCB Funding

- County general fund
- Noxious weed assessment
 - Fee per parcel
 - Fee per acre
 - Landowner
- Otherwise
- County funding levels vary widely, \$30k to \$2.3 million



Roles of the WSNWCB

- Advisory board to WSDA
- Coordinate and support county and district weed control boards
- Develop and distribute educational materials
- Provide a voice to state and federal government
- Produce the annual noxious weed list



2018 Noxious Weed Lists

- Washington Noxious Weed List
 - 153 species – “A” (36), “B” (66), “C” (51)
 - Control and eradication
- Washington Quarantine List
 - Currently 88 species
 - Prevention, exclusion and eradication
- Monitor List
 - Currently 47 species
 - Not a regulatory list

Class A Noxious Weeds

- Class A consists of those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in the state and that pose a serious threat to the state



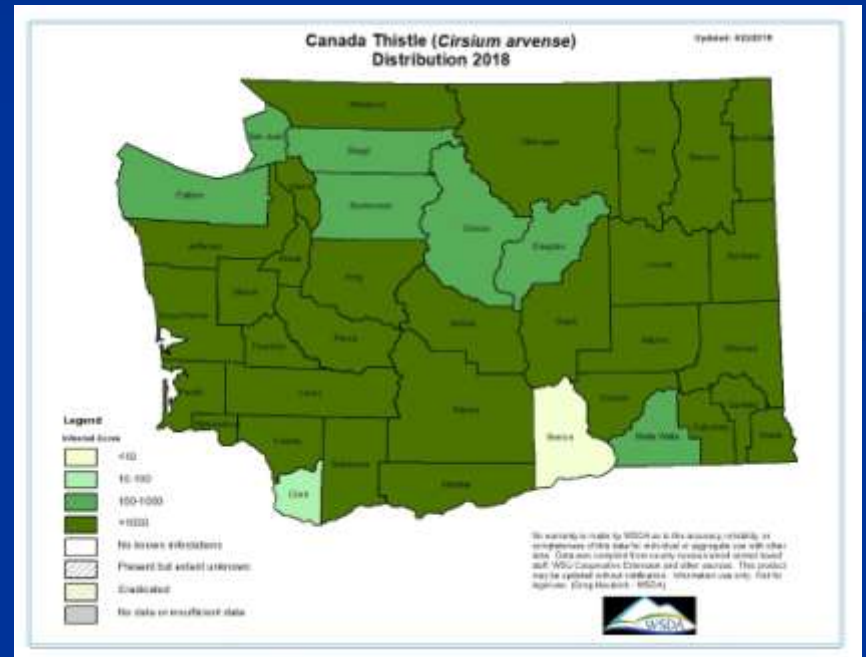
Class B and Class B Designate Noxious Weeds

- Class B consists of those noxious weeds not native to the state that are of limited distribution or are unrecorded in a region of the state and that pose a serious threat to that region.
- "Class B designate" means those Class B noxious weeds whose populations in a region or area are such that all seed production can be prevented within a calendar year.



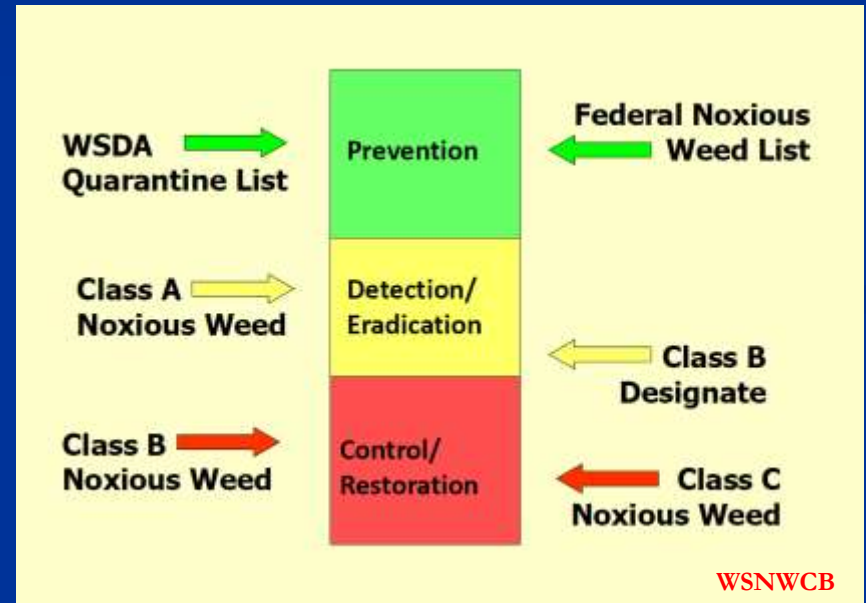
Class C Noxious Weeds

- Class C consists of any other state listed noxious weeds
- County option to select for control
- County enforcement and NPDES



Triage at the State Level

- Prevent introduction of new potential noxious weeds
- EDRR for limited distribution – eradicate when possible
- Contain larger infestations at the regional level
- Be both proactive and effective while being extra careful about fiscal burdens.



Spartina (Cordgrass)

- Perennial salt-water grass
- Four species, alterniflora, anglica, densiflora, patens
- Converts mudflats and estuaries into monotypic Spartina meadows
- Severe impacts to migratory shorebird and waterfowl habitat, shellfish industry



Crushing



Covering



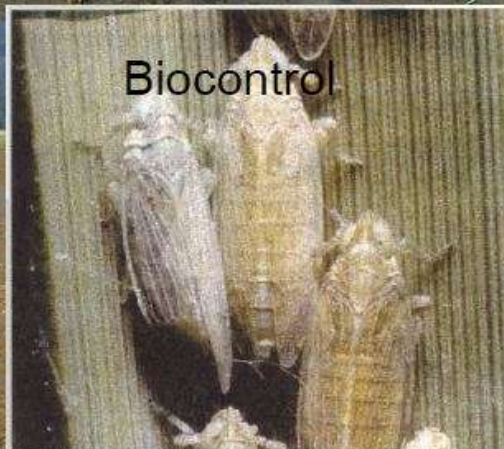
Pulling



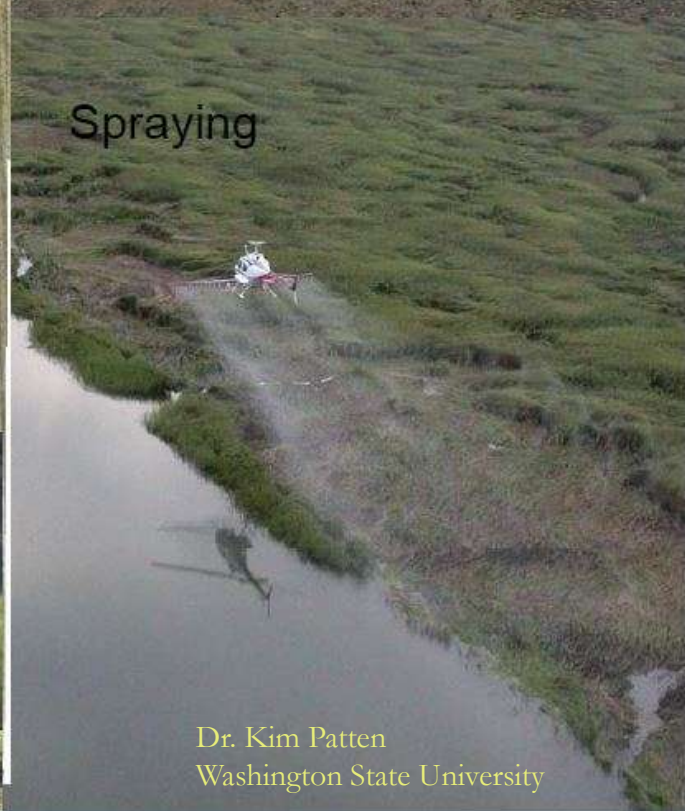
Tilling



Biocontrol



Spraying



Disking

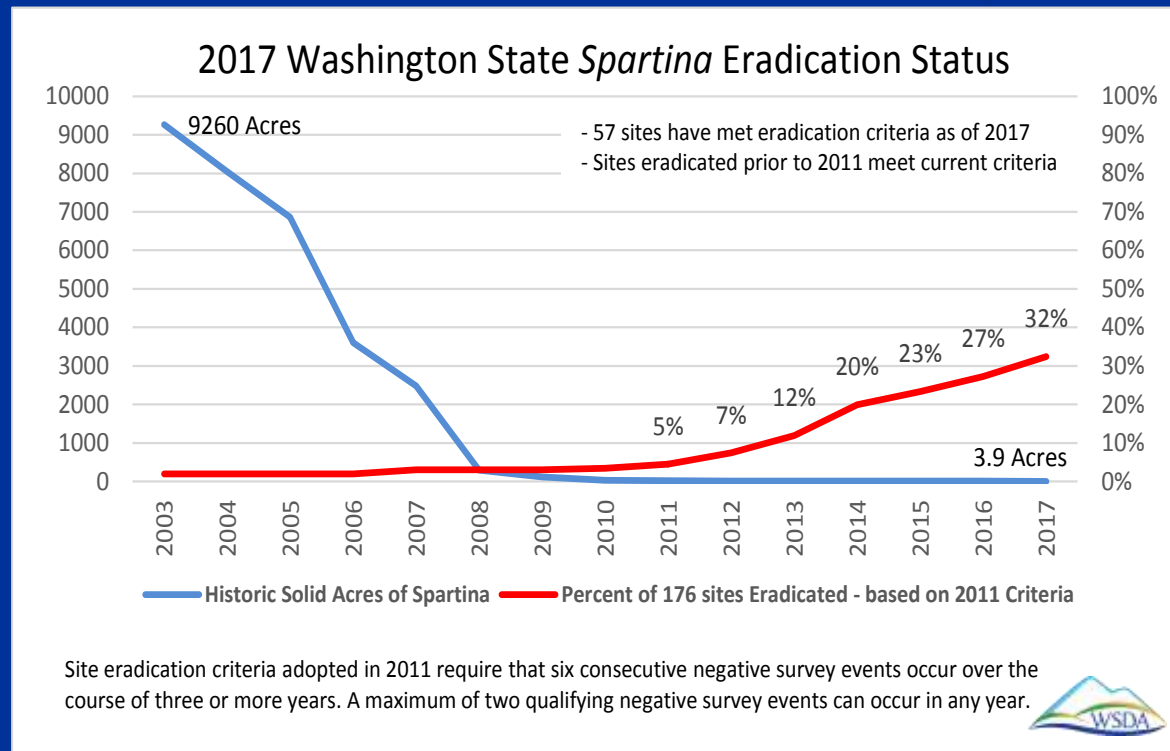


Mowing



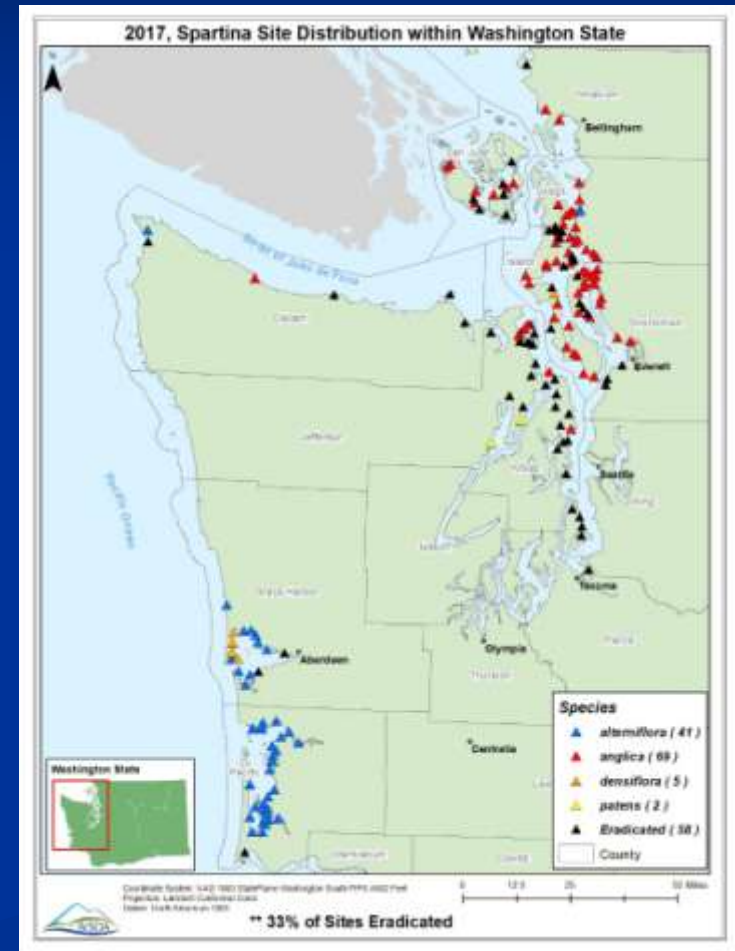
Spartina Control

- 1995 – 9,000+ acres
- 2004 – 8,200 acres
- 2004 - Imazapyr
- 2008 – 1,000 acres
- 2010 – 16.84 acres
- 2017 – 3.9 acres



Future Program

- Continue to survey known past locations
- Survey other areas every 3 to 5 years
- 3,000 shoreline miles
- Finding that last plant...
- Expensive, \$40 million expended by WSDA, USFWS and other partners



Questions?



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