

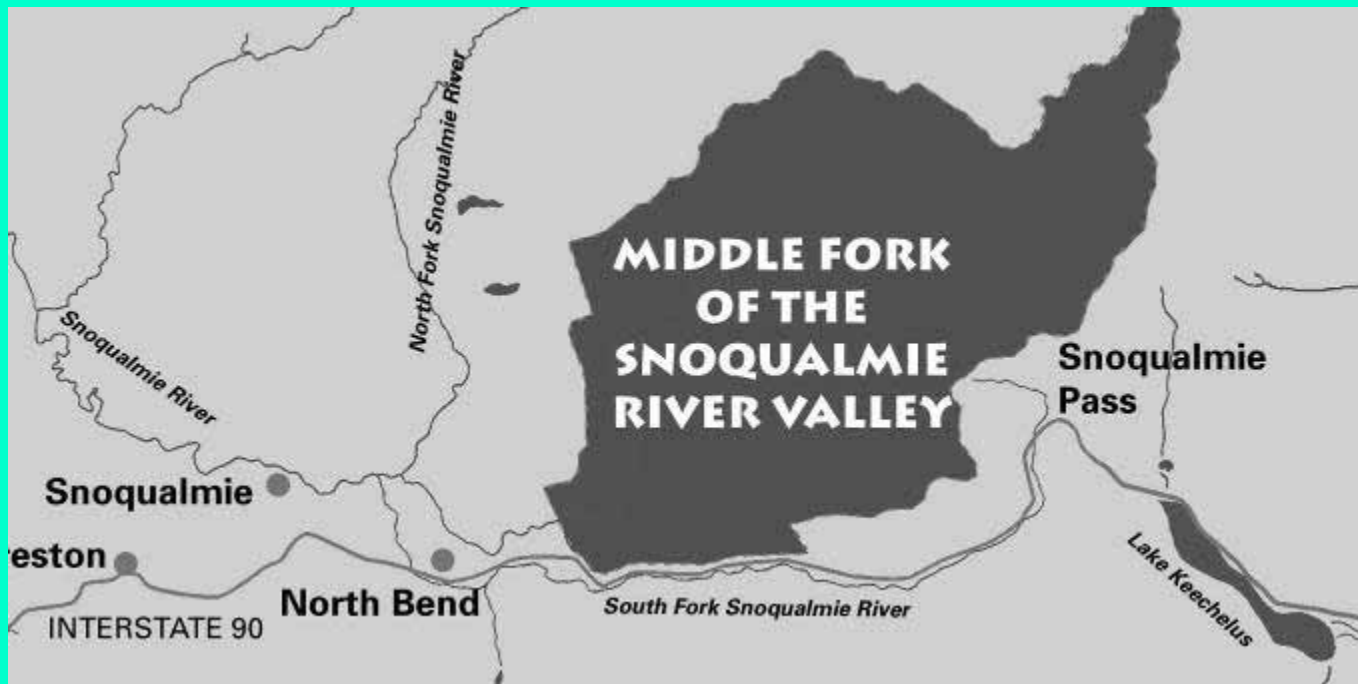
# Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley Invasive Weed Control Project

- Organizing land managers, non-profits and the community
- To control invasives in the 110,000-acre Middle Fork Snoqualmie



# Geography

- 30 miles east of Seattle
- Five minutes from I-90
- 98 % publicly owned



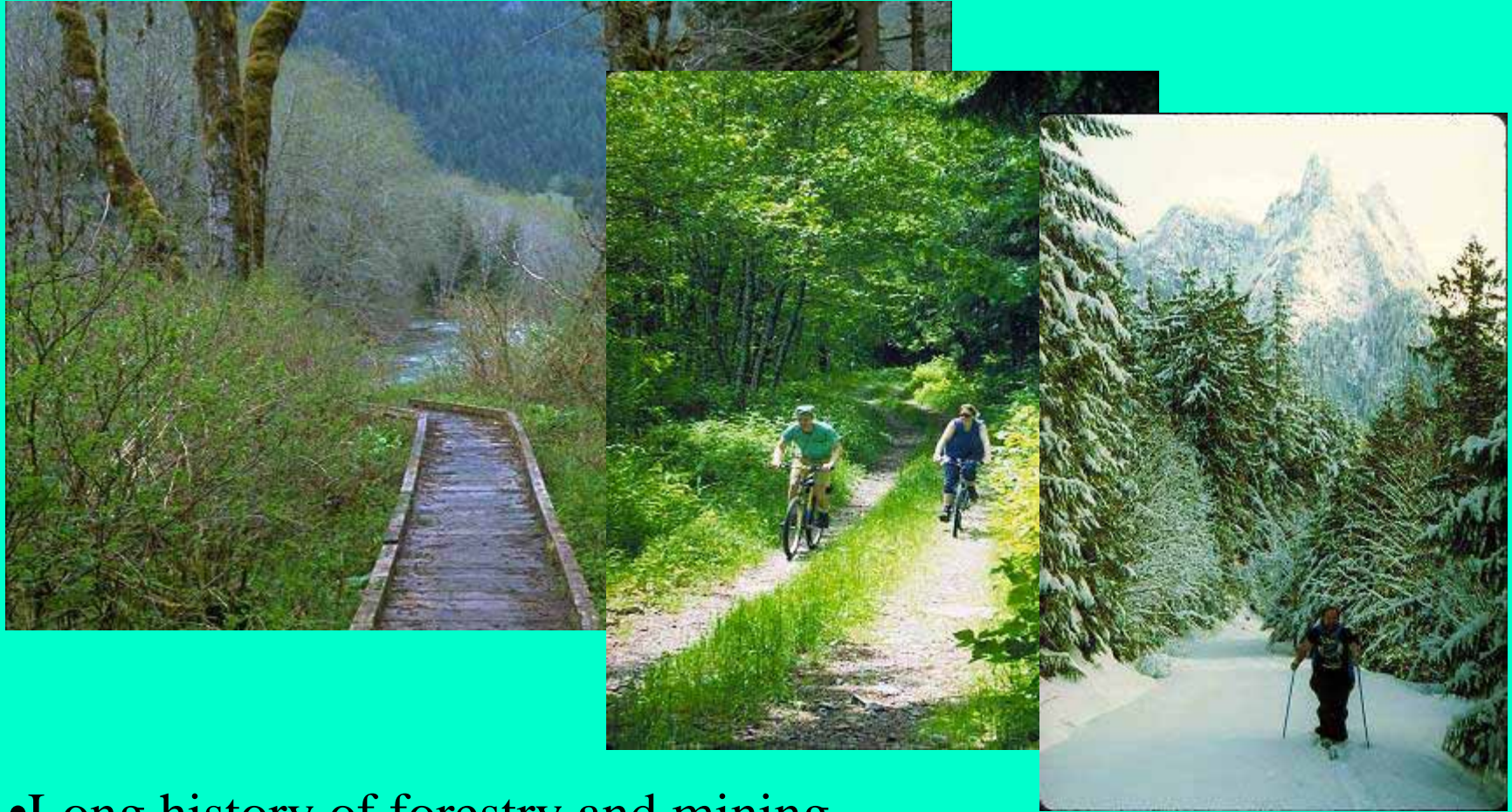
## King County's Wild Backyard

- 35 miles of free-flowing river, from 800' elevation to alpine
- Strong coastal cutthroat populations
- Fine old-growth forests





## Public Use



- Long history of forestry and mining
- Current use primarily recreation, protection of habitat values

## Invasive Weeds in the Middle Fork

- Relatively free of invasives compared to rest of King County
- Opportunity to control weeds before they take off
- However ... public funding limited for forest land stewardship



# Solution: Build Cooperative Weed Management Area

- Agencies: staff time, some funds
- Non-profits: majority staff, fund raising, overall coordination
- Together build support from local businesses, volunteers, etc.



# A Brief Middle Fork History

- 1970s: popular destination
- 1980s and 1990s: King County's most lawless area: wild shooting, meth labs, river corridor trashed





## 15 Years of progress

- Land managers and community groups pulled together
- Successes include:
  - Thousands of acres of privately-owned forest acquired
  - Watershed-wide planning process
  - New campground
  - Removal of hundreds of tons of garbage
  - Restoration of river corridor
  - Construction of miles of new trail



## **History of Cooperation Helps Invasive Effort**

- Progress funded in flusher times, but good relationships support tight coordination. The plan:
  - Raise funds together
  - Survey/map target weeds in all disturbed areas in watershed, regardless of jurisdiction
  - Based on surveys, eradicate weeds with volunteers and crews
  - Build corps of dedicated volunteers and support network for long-term followup

## Surveys, Year One +

- 60 miles of existing and decommissioned forest roads
- 30 river miles
- By vehicle, foot, raft and kayak

- Staff ran surveys:  
volunteers will  
survey trail system



## Work Parties, Year One

- 15 volunteer work parties, including weekend event; focus on plant id, valley stewardship goals, fun
- 8 crew days, scrubbed 12 miles of remote upper valley



# Stewardship Community, Progress

Participants from REI, Patagonia, Bank of America, Seattle Raft and Sea Kayak

- And Mountains to Sound Greenway, Cascade Land Conservancy, Sierra Club, The Mountaineers, American Whitewater, Washington Native Plant Society, Middle Fork Outdoor Recreation Coalition (MidFORC), Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club, and others
- With support from agencies and:



Center for Invasive Plant  
Management  
[www.weedcenter.org](http://www.weedcenter.org)



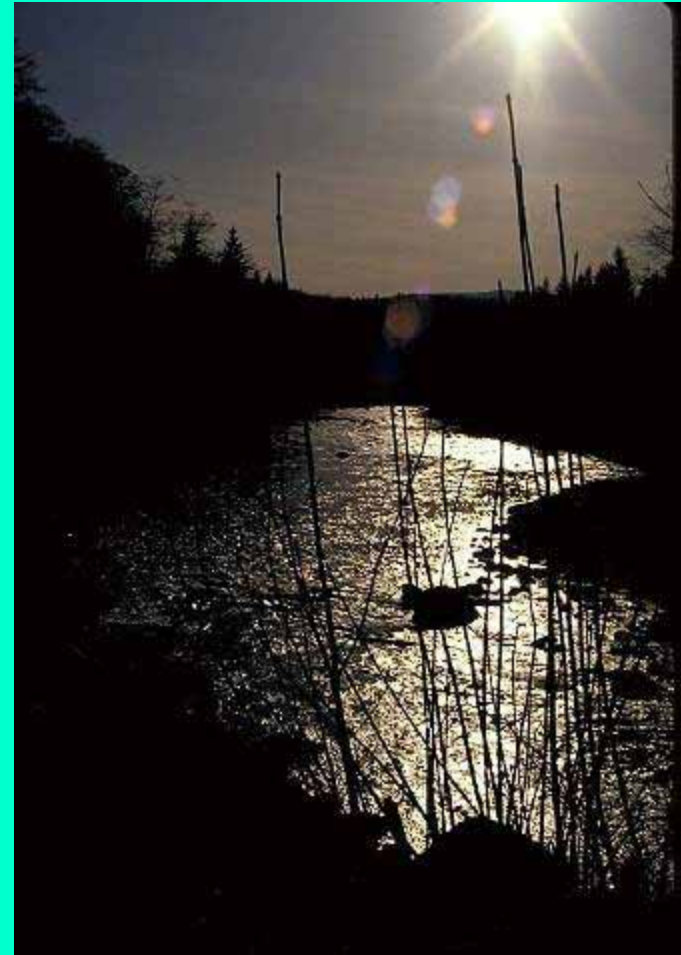
NEW BELGIUM

PRACTICE  
PARTNER®



## Plans for Year Two

- Finish surveys
- 24+ work parties
- Build the community: more business support, continue outreach to neighbors, community groups
- Stitch together funding for year three
- Build a model approach we can apply elsewhere in region



# Summer 2005 Survey Results

Name	Common Name	Classification	Acres Infested
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Robert's Geranium	Class B	48.06
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	Class C	28.45
<i>Rubus laciniatus</i>	Evergreen Blackberry	Obnoxious Weed	20.18
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Common St. Johnswort	Class C	18.57
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary Grass	Class C	15.53
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	Class B	14.94
<i>Rubus discolor</i>	Himalayan Blackberry	Obnoxious Weed	6.97
<i>Cystisus scoparius</i>	Scot's Broom	Class B	2.52
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush	Class C	1.13
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle	Class C	1.01
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Tansy Ragwort	Class B	0.92
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce	Not Classified	0.67

## Summer 2005 Survey Results, cont.

Name	Common Name	Classification	Acres Infested
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common Tansy	Class C	0.4
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	Not Classified	0.4
<i>Melilotus alba</i>	White Sweet-Clover	Not Classified	0.4
<i>Polygonum bohemicum</i>	Bohemium Knotweed	Class B	0.3
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdfoot Trefoil	Not Classified	0.2
<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	Common Yellow Oxalis	Not Classified	0.2
<i>Daucus corota</i>	Queen Anne's Lace	Class B	0.1
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet Nightshade	Obnoxious Weed	0.1
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	Not Classified	0.1
<i>Bidens frondosa</i>	Devil's Beggartick	Not Classified	0.1
<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>	Rhubarb	Not Classified	0.1
<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>	Woodland Ragwort	Not Classified	0.1
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European Mountain Ash	Not Classified	0.1
<i>Symphytum peregrinum</i>	Comfrey	Not Classified	0.1
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Common Periwinkle	Not Classified	0.1