Eagle Creek Fire 2017

“The best thing that could have happened to the gorge”
Ecological benefits of fire in 2018
assuming no salvage logging

- PNW lacks high quality early successional ecosystems.
- Greater diversity in plant life
- Dead wood (beetle larvae, insects, cavity nesting birds)
- “Because of the rich array of food sources, early successional habitats (pre forest) harbor numerous and complex food webs”. ~Dr. Jerry Franklin (U.W.)
“To establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia Gorge”
Scenic Area Management Plan Refers to Invasive species.

- Sensitive plant species
- Trail planning and recreation
- Rehabilitation of degraded areas
Burn Area Emergency Response Team

... “recommended that appropriate measures to reduce impacts from invasive species”

... “monitoring for any new infestations and implementing EDRR”
EMSWCD Weed Control in the Columbia Gorge 2007-2017

• 2007 Knotweed
• 2008 Garlic Mustard
• 2009 EDRR
• 2010 Clematis Vitalba
• 2012 English Ivy
Partnerships

• **USFS** funding $17,450 for 1 year
• **OPRD** funding ~$40,000 for 2 years
• **EMSWCD** funding $95,000 per year for existing control projects
• **Friends of the Gorge**
• **ODOT**
Strategy

• **USFS** to prioritize woody species such as blackberry, ivy, scotch broom.

• **OPRD** to prioritize weeds from the **CGCWMA** weed list. ~200 species.

• **EMSWCD** to continue EDRR.
  – Prioritize garlic mustard and false brome.
  – Keeping r.o.w weeds in the r.o.w
  – Context.
Ownership within Eagle Creek Fire Boundary

- EMSWCD_Boundary
- Fire Perimeter
- USFS Lands
- State Lands
- Other Ownership

Ownership based on taxlots within burn area.
Trailheads with parking lots leading into the burned area.
Treatment totals

- **667 acres** covered (gross)
  - 296 USFS
  - 372 OPRD

- **20.28 miles**; trail and roadside
  - 17 miles USFS
  - 4 miles OPRD
Key observations

• Native regeneration happening quickly.
• Areas that were weedy before the fire tended to be weedy post fire. Blackberry, herb robert. Except false brome.
• Pristine tended to be pristine after.
• Annual weeds w/ windborne seeds already seemed to be everywhere. Wall lettuce, prickly lettuce...
• Perrenial Peavine, shiny geranium???
Moving Forward

• USFS & OPRD decisions
• Fire lines
• EMSWCD continue EDRR
  – Expand control list.
- Bindweed
- Bishops weed
- Blackberry
- Burdock
- Dames Rocket
- Knapweed sp.
- Foxglove
- Groundsel
- Herb Robert
- Holly
- Ivy
- Knotweed
- Lemon Balm
- Perennial Peavine
- Prickly Lettuce
- Reed Canary Grass
- Scotch Broom
- Shinning Geranium
- Travelers Joy
- Velvet Grass
- Vinca minor
- Wall lettuce
- Yellow Hawkweed
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Questions

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