

ADDRESSING NON-NATIVE SCOTCH BROOM IN WASHINGTON IS CRUCIAL TO forest health, wildfire prevention and salmon recovery



Photo credit: John Gussman, DoubleClick Productions



Photo credit: Jill Silver

Over the last five years, disastrous forest fires in Washington State cost an average of \$153 million a year. In 2018 alone, 1,850 fires burned statewide, affecting 440,000 acres of land.¹ In light of our rapidly changing climate and declining health of our forests, it's imperative to support common sense prevention programs that reduce hazardous wildfire fuels.

Cytisus scoparius, commonly known as Scotch Broom, is a non-native shrub and invasive species in Washington. Unfortunately, not only is Scotch Broom highly flammable and a serious fire hazard, it's also a threat to native prairies and forests, inhibits timber regeneration, and is toxic to grazing livestock and wildlife. It's estimated that the prevalence of Scotch Broom throughout the state costs \$142.8 million per year—that's without including costs to salmon recovery efforts or from fire hazards.²

Just as it's critical to put fires out when they're small, it's crucial we prevent a highly flammable and invasive species like Scotch Broom from spreading throughout Washington State.



WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Washington needs common-sense, state-funded programs that pay local workers to remove fire hazards from our landscapes, thereby creating job opportunities in rural communities, ensuring healthy ecosystems for salmon, and improving forest health.



BETTER FOREST HEALTH



REDUCED FIRE HAZARD



NEW RURAL JOBS



IMPROVED WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY



SALMON RECOVERY



IMPROVED AIR QUALITY



ENHANCED CARBON SEQUESTRATION

¹ WDNR Wildfire Strategic Plan https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Wildfire_Strategic_Plan

² WISC Economic Impact of Invasive Species to Washington State https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/council_projects/economic_impact/Invasive%20Species%20Economic%20Impacts%20Fact%20sheet%20Jan%202017.pdf
https://rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/press/2017/164.shtml

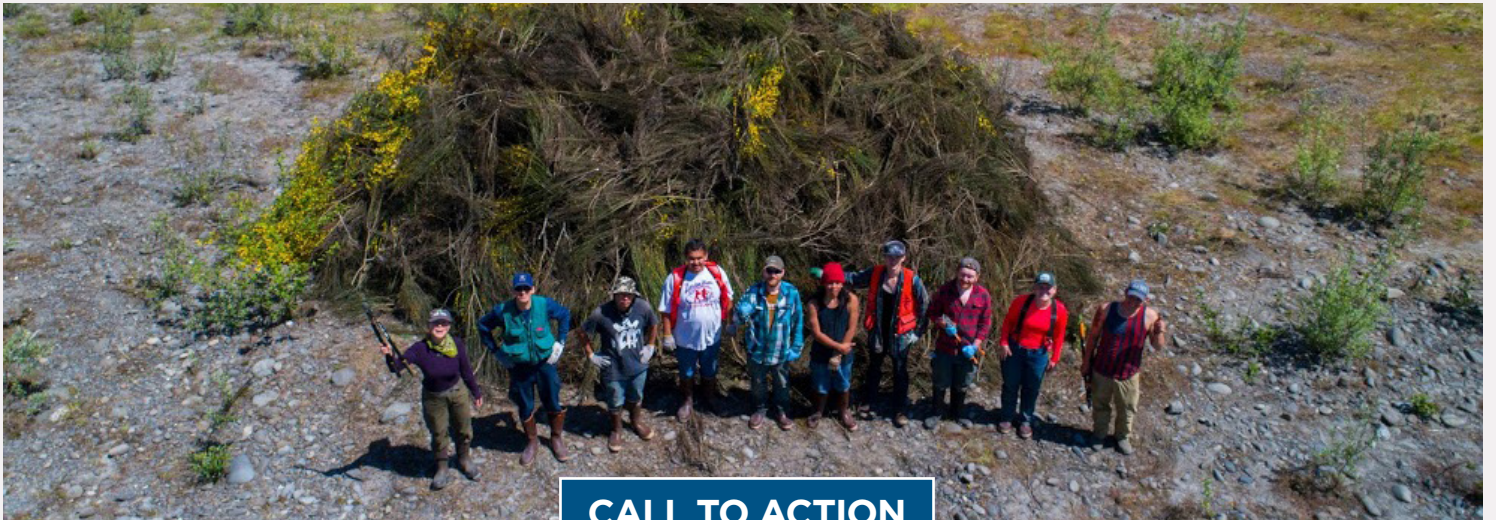


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CALL TO ACTION

to reduce wildfire risk, increase salmon recovery,
improve forest health and grow rural jobs:

- > **Incorporate Scotch Broom prevention and control in State Forest Health Planning**
- > **Incorporate Scotch Broom prevention and control in State Forest Practices Regulations**
- > **Incorporate Scotch Broom prevention and control in Climate Change legislation**
- > **Eliminate Scotch Broom in ALL gravel mines**
- > **Certify weed-free gravel and mines**
- > **Require certified weed-free gravel** in all restoration projects, forest road construction and other development activities
- > **Create a protocol to quarantine seed-infested gravel** in reclamation areas of gravel mines for the length of time seeds remain viable—up to 90 years
- > **Establish practices to control Scotch Broom** prior to construction, and to ensure soils with seeds are not transported to other locations
- > **Develop a program for equipment washing** or certification of clean equipment, and build the practice by providing full support for an initial period of time
- > **Add disclosure of Scotch Broom** infestation to property titles so that potential buyers are aware of impacts and costs they may face.

Create a Conservation Corps program, employing local crews in their watersheds to protect forests, salmon, wildlife, natural resources industries and our communities through elimination of Scotch broom.

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