

Infographic: Climate Change, Glacial Retreat, Riparian Succession, and Scotch Broom Impacts to Riverine Habitats

A Growing Problem: Climate change and melting glaciers increase sediment flux in rivers; increasing bank erosion and requiring road repair. Materials and equipment used for bank revetments often introduce invasive Scotch broom seeds, which establish and spread on river gravel bars and floodplains.



Why It Matters: Scotch broom affects the growth of early-successional riparian plant communities, necessary for development of native soil and microbial communities; and eventually, the late-successional large conifer trees that contribute large wood and structure to channels and root stability along banks.

Scotch broom is unpalatable to wildlife and does not provide the carbon sequestration or habitat-forming functions of mature native forests, disrupting the provision of ecosystem services to all native species.

Jobs in Restoration: 10,000 Years Institute is developing jobs in restoration, employing and training local crews, working with landowners and agencies to eliminate Scotch broom from pastures, gravel mines, harvest units, roadways, and river corridors. With an average 10,000 seeds per plant each year, seed viability to a reported 90 years, and an estimated 50,000 acres of Scotch broom on the Olympic Peninsula, this species will provide full-time year-round job opportunities for decades to come!



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