

A photograph of a forest six years after a fire. The foreground is dominated by dense, vibrant foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red, characteristic of invasive species like Norway spruce. The background shows a stand of tall, thin, dark tree trunks, likely black spruce, which are still standing but appear sparse. The sky is overcast and grey.

Invasive Species
6 Years After Eagle Creek Burn
September 2nd, 2017

A photograph of a dense forest. The foreground is filled with vibrant green ferns and other undergrowth. The middle ground shows a path or clearing with more green plants. The background is a dense stand of tall, thin, vertical tree trunks, likely deciduous trees, reaching towards the sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, with some shadows cast on the forest floor.

Vision statement of the Scenic Area Act

“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”

EMSWCD weed control in the gorge prior to the fire

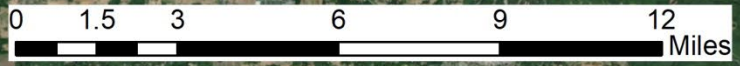
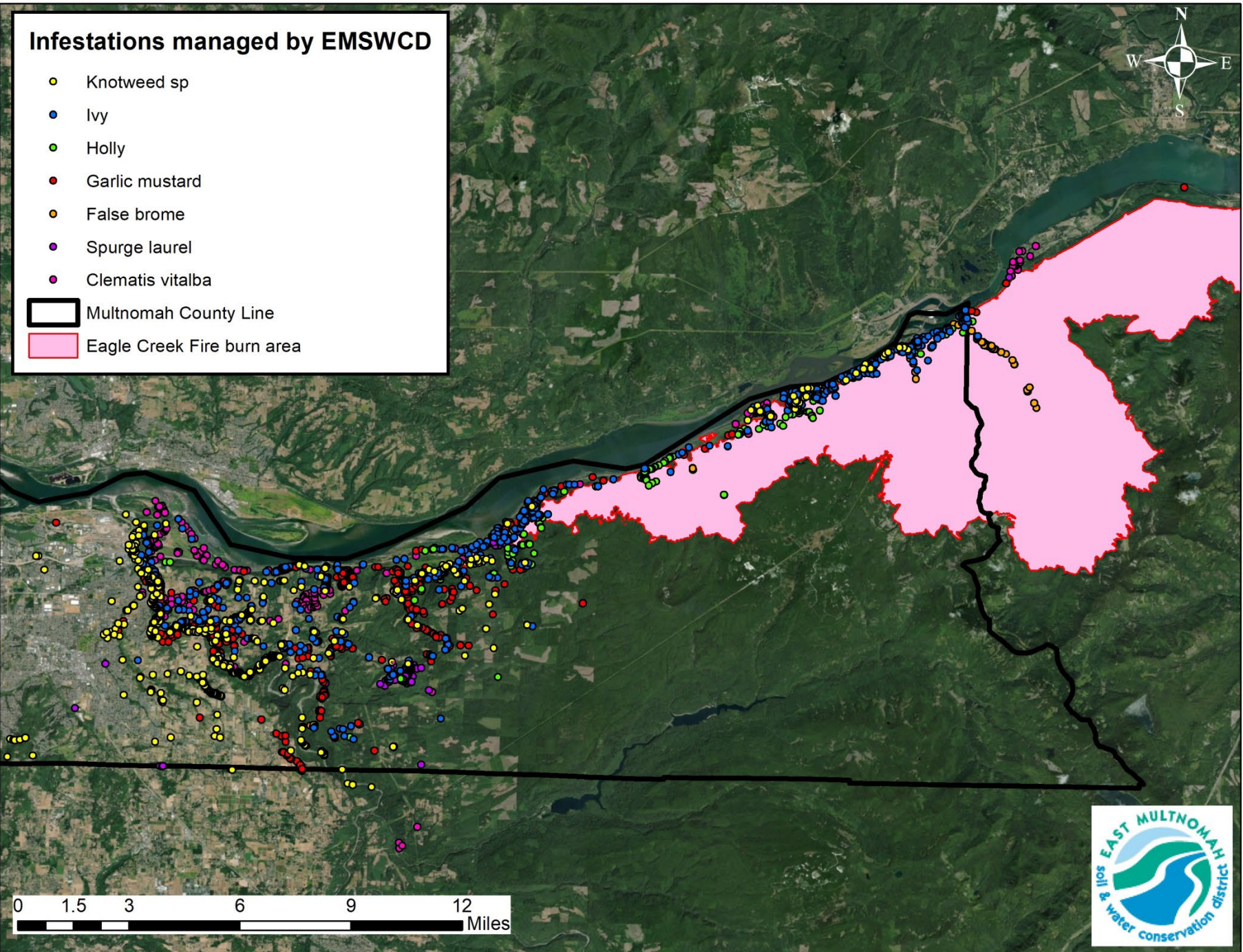
- 2007 Knotweed
- 2008 Garlic Mustard
- 2009 EDRR (False Brome, Spurge Laurel, Purple Loosestrife)
- 2010 Clematis Vitalba
- 2012 English Ivy



Infestations managed by EMSWCD

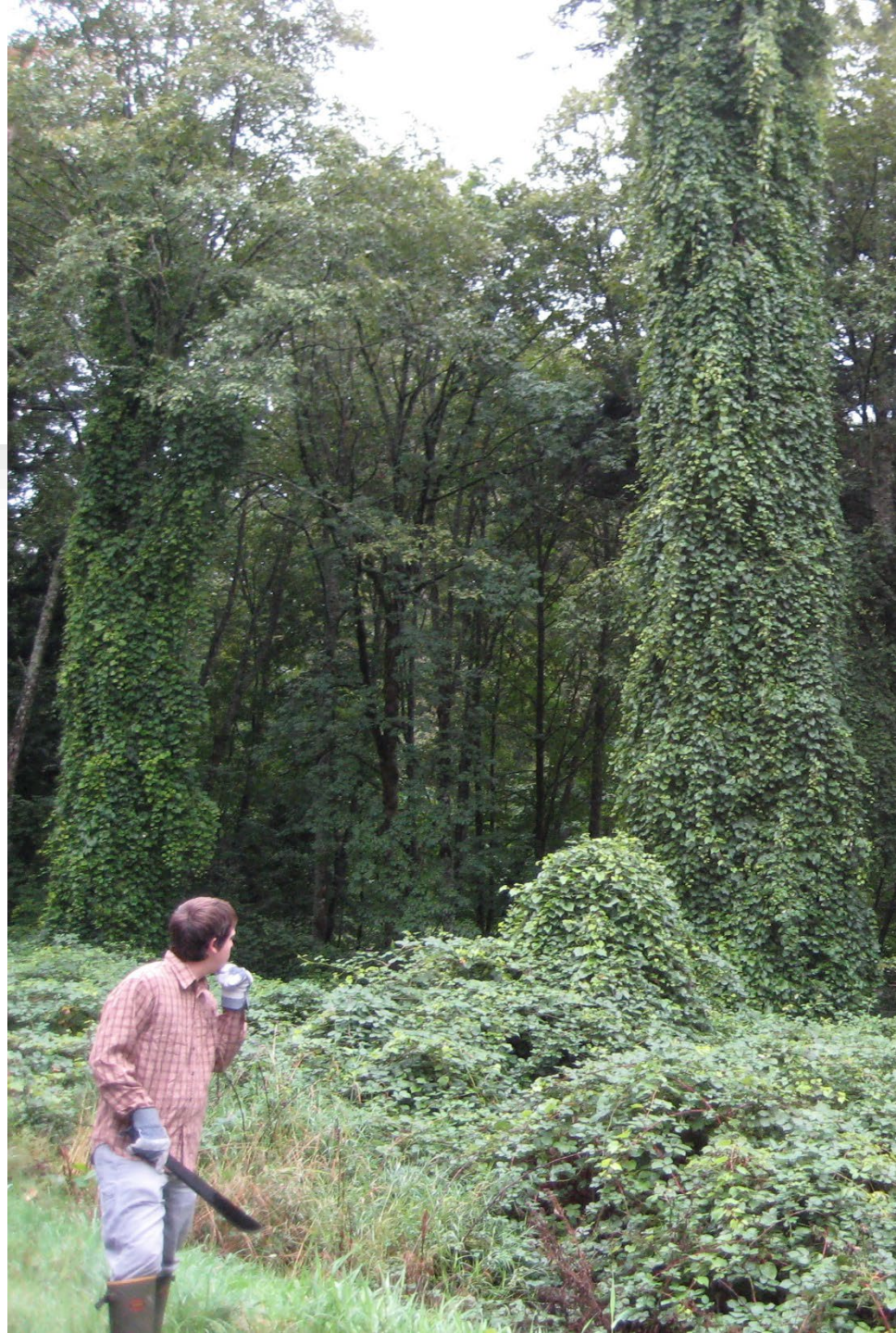
- Knotweed sp
- Ivy
- Holly
- Garlic mustard
- False brome
- Spurge laurel
- Clematis vitalba

- ▭ Multnomah County Line
- ▭ Eagle Creek Fire burn area



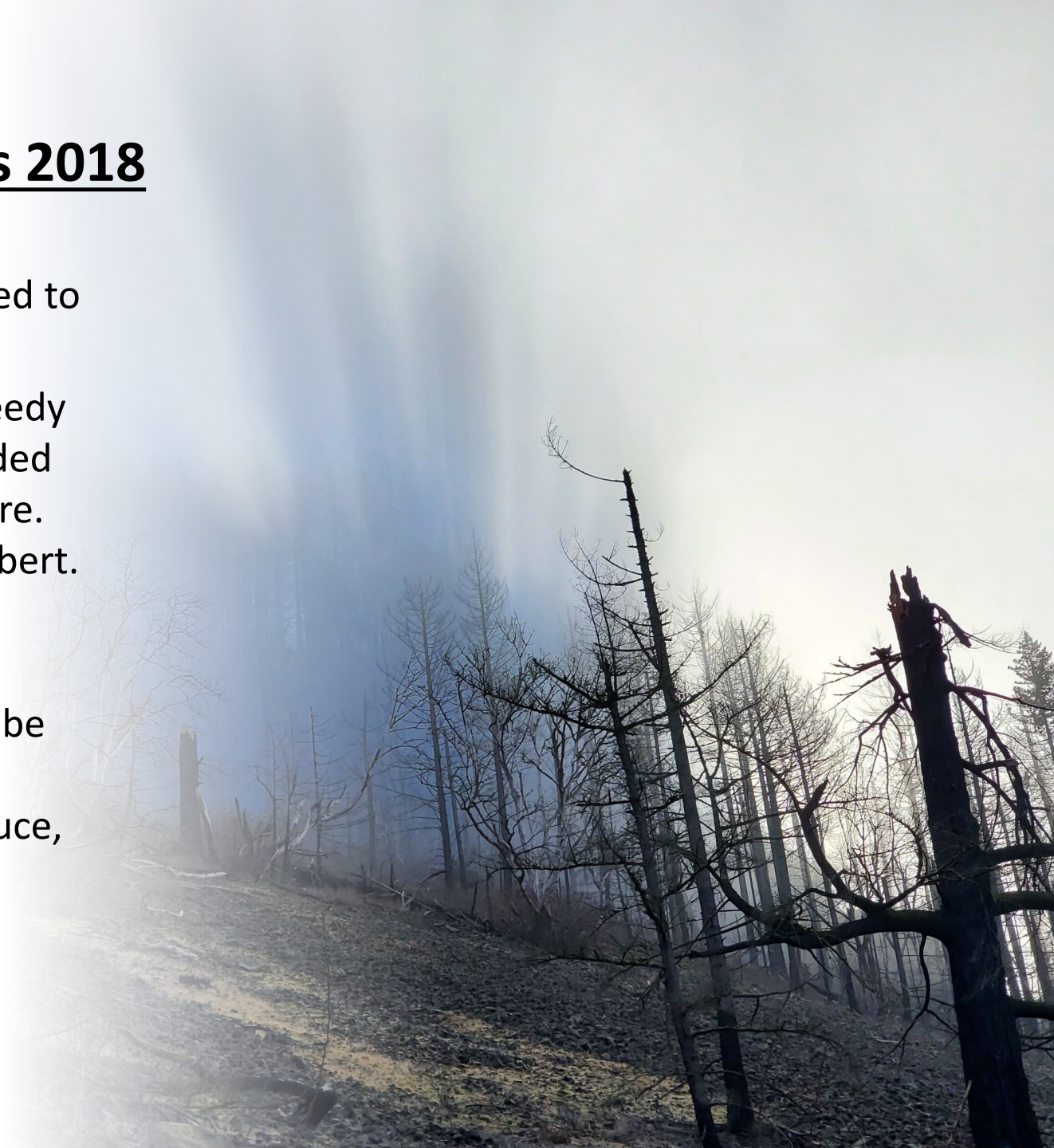
Strategy in 2018

- **USFS** to prioritize control of woody species such as blackberry, ivy, scotch broom. Trail vectors
- **OPRD** to prioritize control of weeds from the CGCWMA weed list. ~200 species.
- **EMSWCD** to continue current control projects
 - Private properties
 - Keeping right of way weeds in the right of way.
(ODOT & Union Pacific)



Key observations 2018

- Pristine areas tended to be pristine **after**.
- Areas that were weedy **before** the fire tended to be weedy post fire. Blackberry, herb robert.
- **Except** annual windborne seeds... Already seemed to be everywhere. Wall lettuce, prickly lettuce, groundsel...



October 2017



May 2018



May 2018





2018



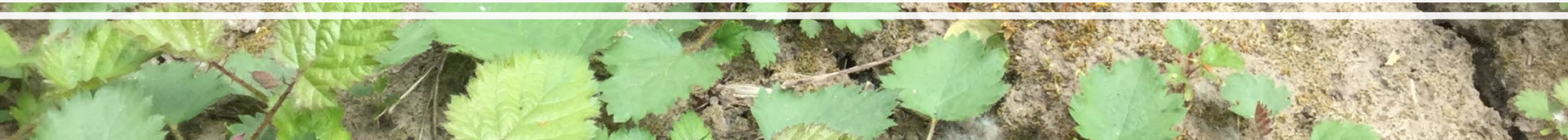


2018





2018

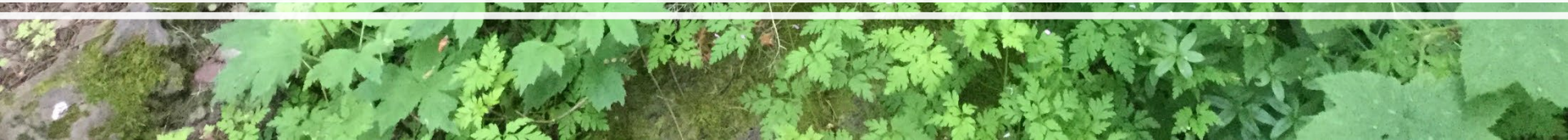


September 2018



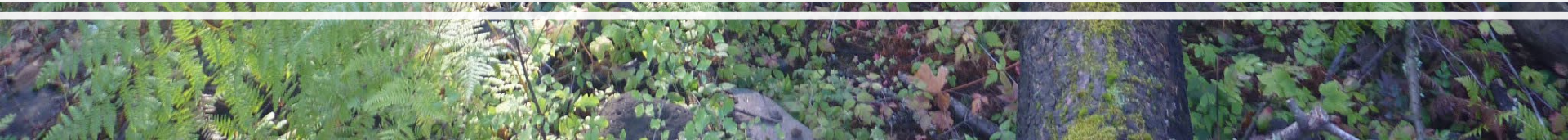


2020



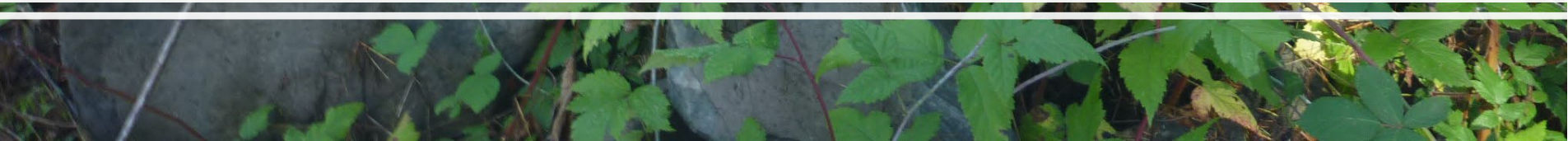


2020





2020



2021





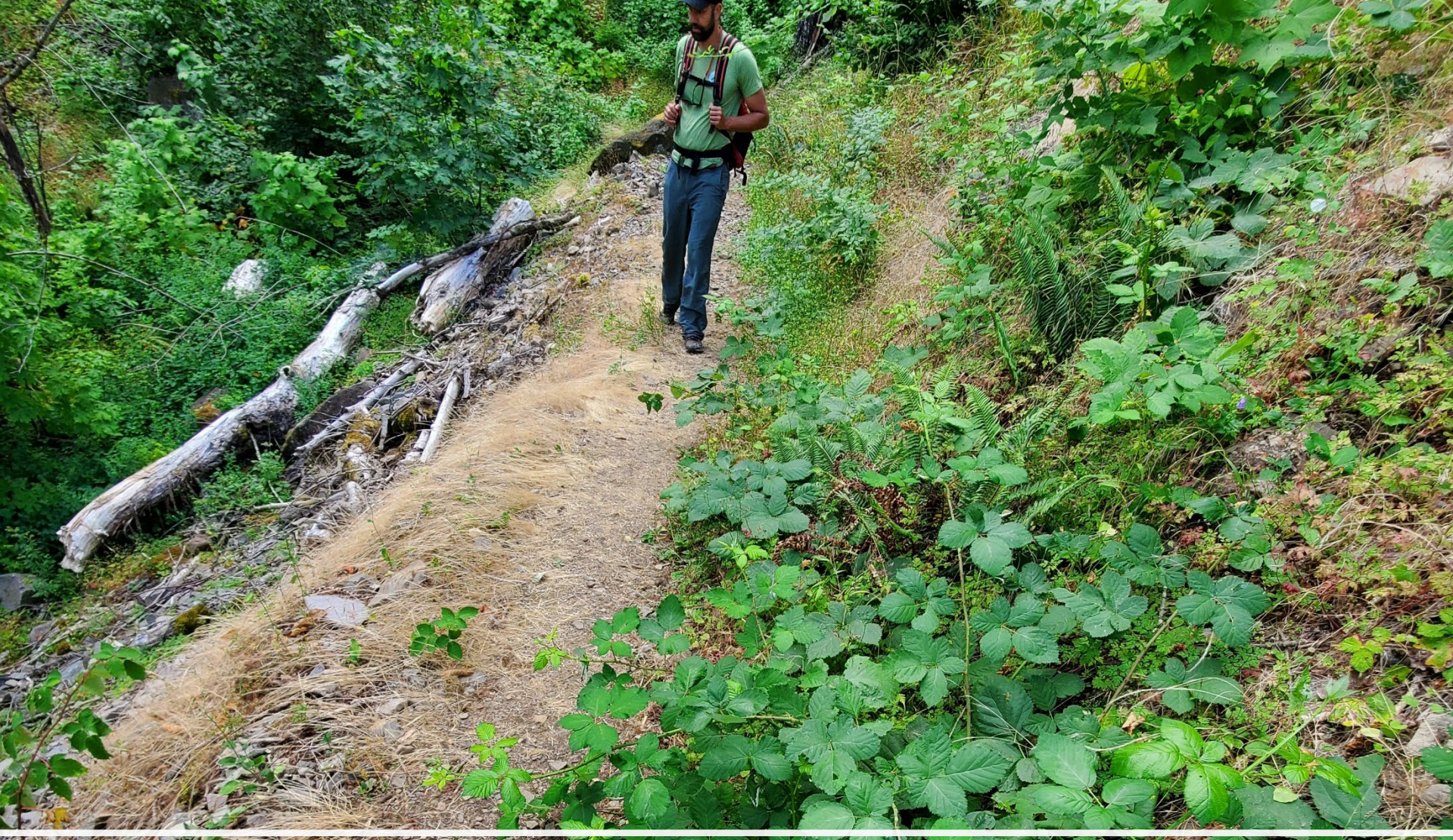
2021





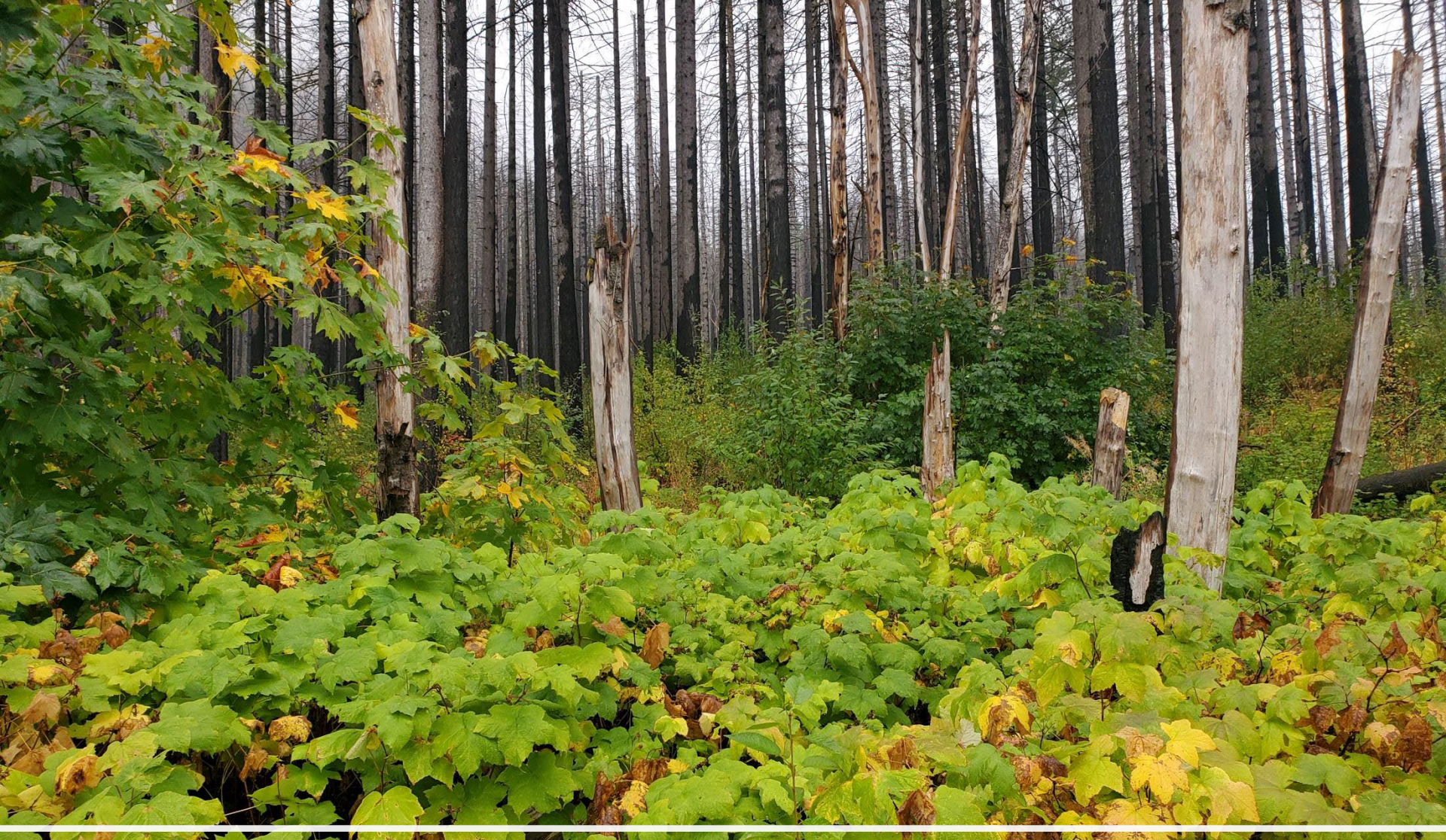
2021





2021





2022





2022



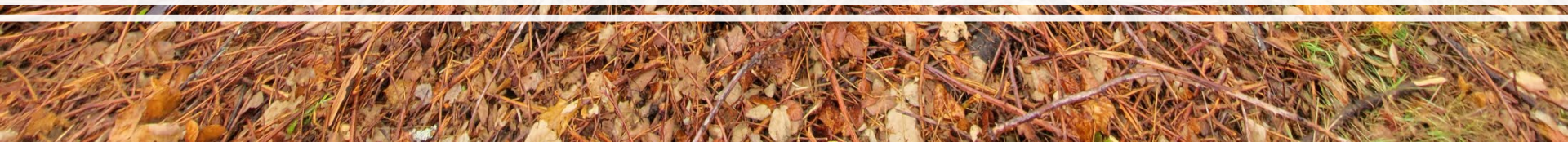


2023





2023



Key observations

2024

- Most annual weeds that exploded in 2018 quickly reduced % cover (excluding shiny geranium and *Torilis* sp, and everything on our EDRR list that we control annually...)
 - **Blackberries** dominated native species. Rapid expansion into burned areas of native tree and shrub seedlings.
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Lessons learned

- More aggressively target blackberry and scotch broom in the first few years.
 - Pre burn blackberry mapping.
 - Let the fire work for you. Be opportunistic!
 - Pre burn contingency/disaster planning.
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Considerations and Common Themes

- “Pull early and pull often”
- Don’t be scared of change.
- Be efficient.
- What are your mgmt. goals?
- How is climate change going to affect your program?





Having fun, getting it done, and looking good apparently. My goons from Mosaic helping provide the perspiration. And providing brain power and some pics for this presentation. Also shout out to JLM, Ash Creek crews, my ex partner in crime Jon Wagner, and so many others.

Questions?

Chris Aldassy

East Multnomah
SWCD

chris@emswcd.org

503-784-6069

