

Project Implementation in the Skagit Basin: Considerations and Case Studies



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Initial Considerations

- Every site is different – know yours
 - Species composition
 - Terrain, light availability, soil, moisture levels, water
- Seek the right resources for assistance
 - DNR (small landowner office), consultants, SRSC, etc.

Managing For Large Woody Debris



- LWD Importance:
 - Pools
 - Bank stabilization
 - Channel complexity
 - Refugia for fish

LWD Factors

- In-channel function
 - Small channels vs. large
 - Long & short-term woody debris recruitment
- Recruitment
 - Trees leaning towards stream
 - Promoting growth of existing conifers



First Considerations Will Inform Next Questions

- What harvest prescription to pursue if any?
- Other site prep?
- What species to replant with?
 - Shade tolerant? (hemlock, cedar, spruce)
- Don't only have to plant conifers
- Multiple plantings?

- Identify potential issues beforehand
- Maintenance and monitoring necessary for long-term success



Alternate Plans

- Allow harvest within riparian zone through Forest Practices
- Conifer restoration common type of alt. plan
- Goal of reestablishing conifers near the stream to enhance long term function
- Existing templates – Fixed Width and Overstocked Stand



HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THIS WEBSITE? **TAKE A BRIEF SURVEY.**

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Alternate Plans

Site-Specific Management Opportunities

Alternate plans allow landowners to apply for more site specific management flexibility than the standard Forest Practices Rules allow. To be approved an alternate plan must provide protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the protection provided by the Forest Practices Act and Rules. Click on the picture below that best describes your situation to be directed through the process of creating an alternate plan.

Templates:



[Fixed Width Buffer](#)



[Western WA
Overstocked stand](#)

Other scenarios:



CONTACTS

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FILES

- [Alternate Plans for Family Forests FAQs](#) (2,992KB PDF)
- [FPA/N Alternate Plan Form](#) (244KB PDF)

RELATED LINKS

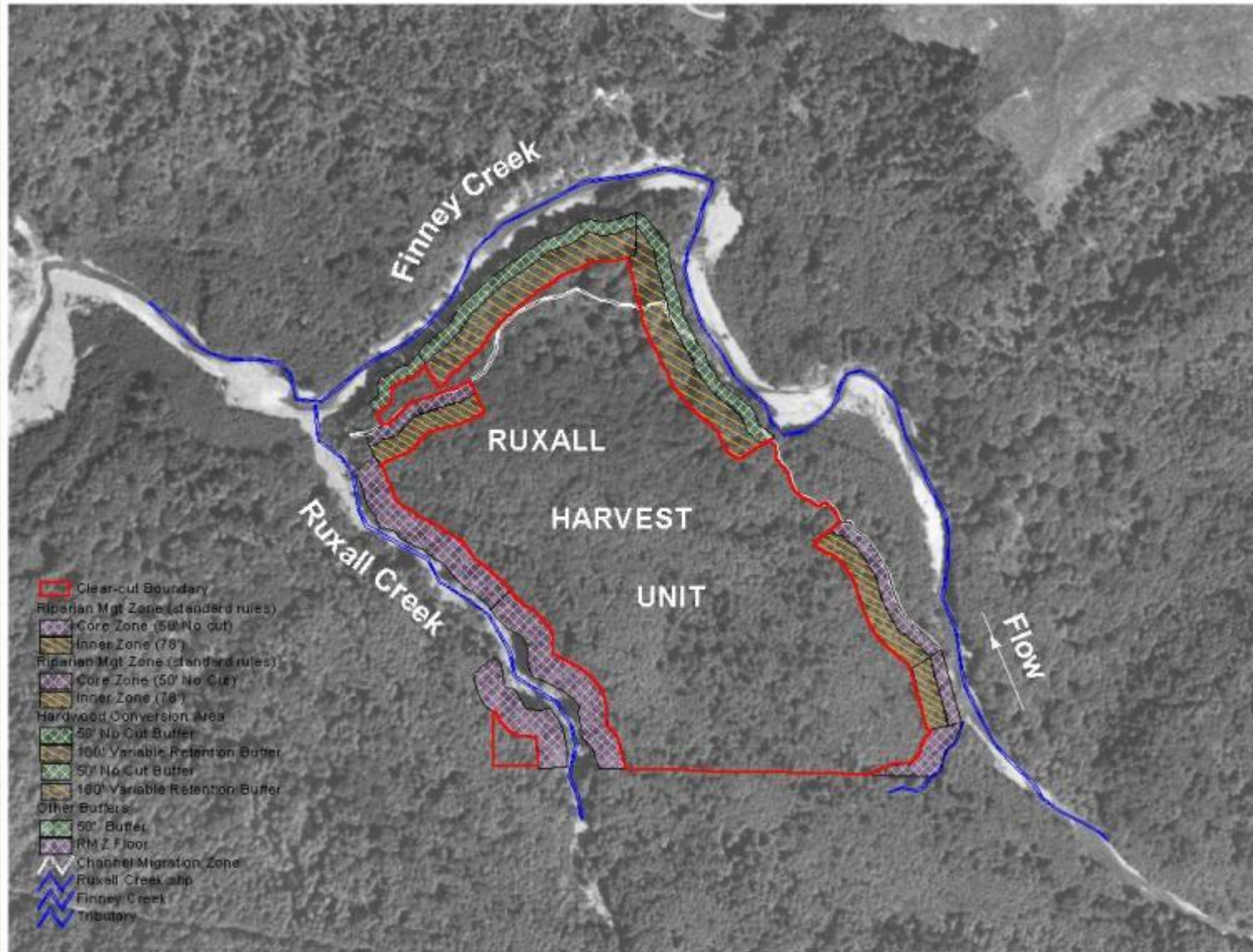
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Finney T-Rux



T-Rux Prescriptions

- Joint effort between SRSC and Goodyear Nelson
- ~10ac streamside forest, ~3000' ft riparian habitat
- 50' no harvest buffer – short term woody debris and shade retention
- Between 50' and 150' large maples, cottonwoods and conifers left; remove alder
- Planted conifers (cedar, spruce, hemlock, grand fir) 300-400 trees/acre



Successes and Challenges



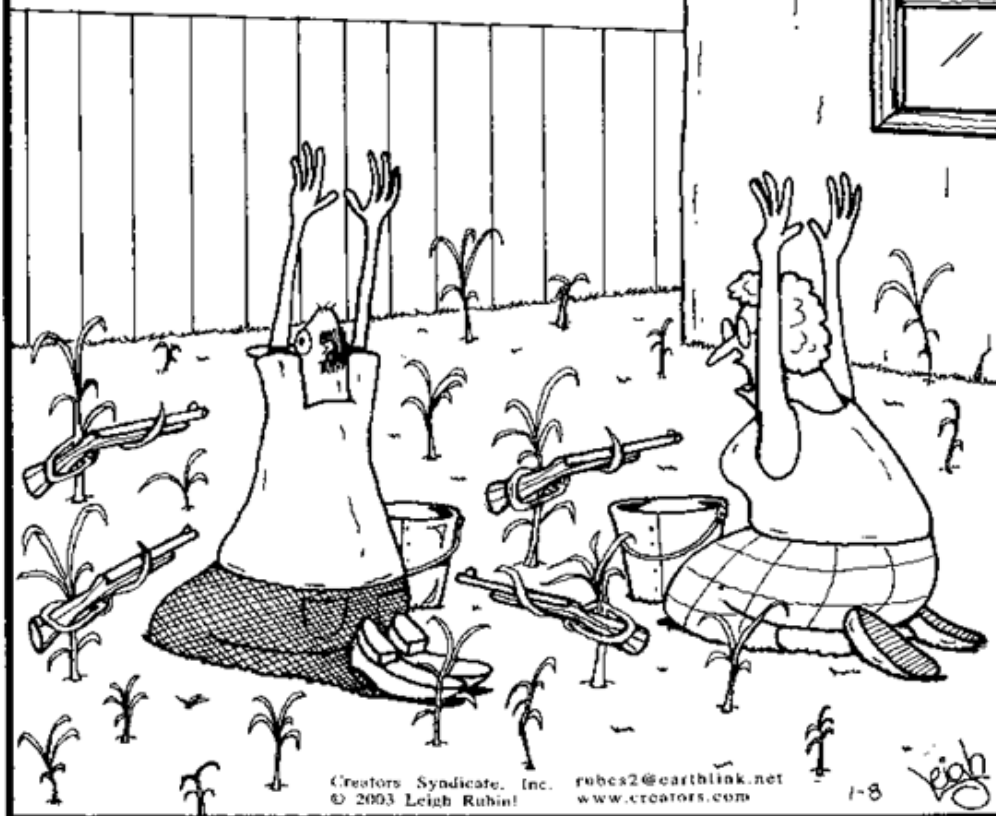
Maintenance Challenges: Vegetative Competition

- Competition from understory brush
 - Ex - Salmonberry
- Overstory competition
 - Ex - Red Alder, Big Leaf Maple, etc.
- Not enough light for planted seedlings



Rubes By Leigh Rubin

www.rubescartoons.com



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"We never should have waited this long ...
Now the weeds have *completely*
taken over."

Invasive Species



Control Options

- Mechanical
 - Weedwhacking, mowing, grubbing, saw-work, etc.
- Chemical
 - Herbicide application



Two-Step Process for Himalayan Blackberries



Animal Damage

- Deer, elk browse
- Cedar is candy!



Animal Damage

- Antler rubbing
- Beavers



Managing for Animal Damage



- Protectors for seedlings
- Focus on leader growth
- Many different types of protectors
- Overplant

Other Options

- Repellent
- Cages over larger trees
- Animal traps
- Dogs!



www.methowconservancy.org

Other Unforeseen Surprises

- Windfall
- Sitka spruce tip weevil
- Infestations
- Argument for planting mixed species



Haystack Rd. Harvest

2.4 Acres F-113

1.8 Acres F-128

.25 Acres N

- Removed hardwood beyond 25' from stream
- Retain all conifers within buffers
- Left hardwoods within 50' that were leaning towards the stream
- Removed hardwoods within 25' that were leaning hard away

Legend

Haystack Rd. Harvest

- 25 foot no cut buffer
- Unit 2; F Buffer - 128 (1.8 Acres)
- Unit 1; F Buffer - 113 (2.4 Acres)
- Unit 1; Np Buffer - 50 (.25 Acres)
- Parcel Bndry



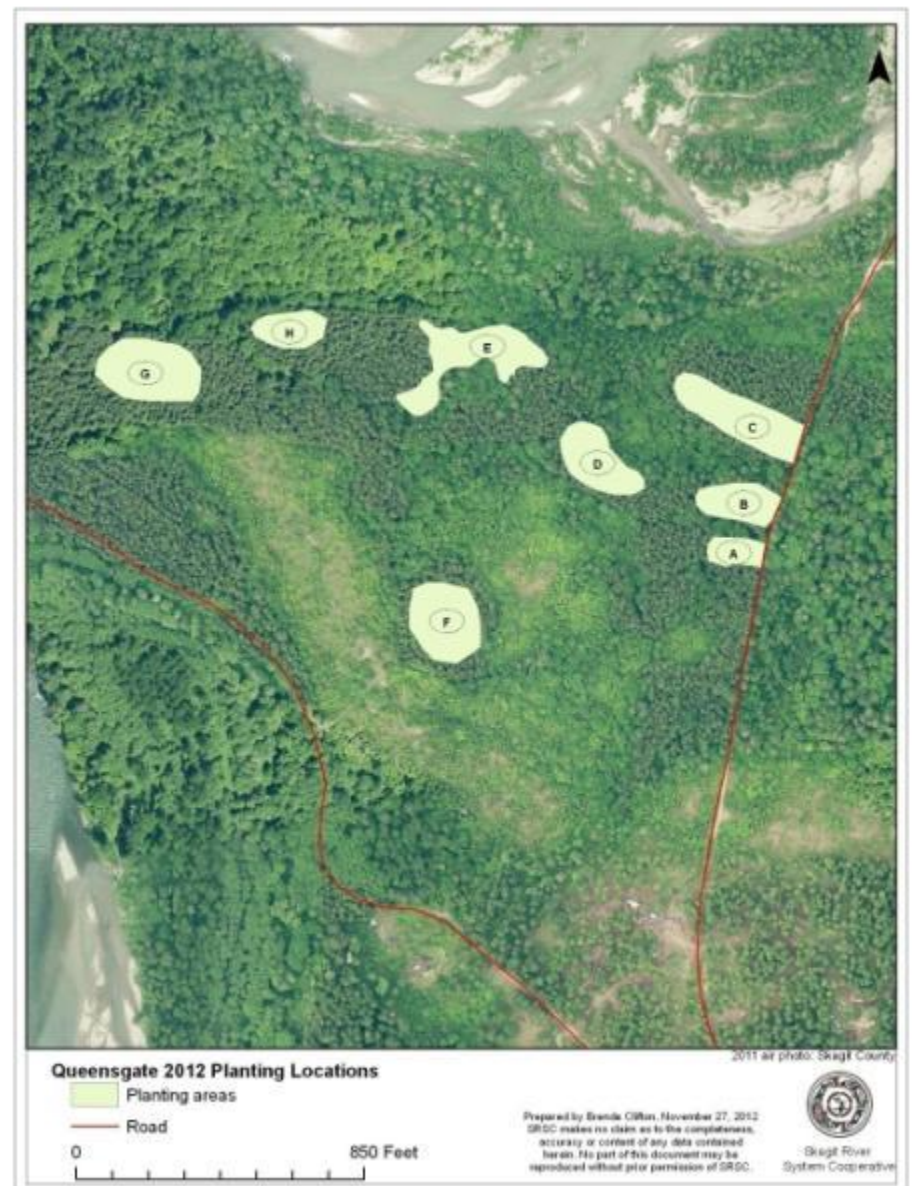
- Blackberry invasion, Upper Skagit pushed for brush control
- More difficult to maintain your site when you don't live onsite

DNR Conifer Restoration Field Survey

- Conifer restoration generally poor - lack of brush control and browse protection
- Landowner involvement key. Resident landowners more likely to follow through
- Still, riparian functions were protected on nearly all sites

Thinning Options

- Queensgate – SRSC and USFS project
- Thinning patches for planting
- Allows for canopy openings and light entrance



Invasives and Conifer Restoration: SLT Och's Property





SLT Ochs Property, Proposed Planting Area

Samish Knotweed Revegetation Program



understory planting area (floodplain terrace) - 7.4 acres

Migratory channel, knotweed treatment and early successional planting area > 6 acres

0 162.5 325 650 975 Feet





Concluding Thoughts

- Know your site and consider your options
- Use local resources
- Keep LWD management in mind
- Existing templates are out there
- Anticipate potential challenges
- **Riparian projects are a commitment!**

Questions?