Purpose

• “Evaluate the character and health of vegetative communities, with an emphasis on invasive species.”
Project Goals

- Design replicable methodology
- Map location and extent of invasive species
- Map native habitats
- ID best areas for management/containment
- ID invasives that are still controllable
- Analysis and assistance for future management and treatment
Methods
Methods

• Ownership (= site)
• Map vegetation cover types – 2012 only!
• Map target invasive species – ODA list & more
• Rate habitat quality
• Map native habitat
• Management recommendations
• GIS Mapping
Methods – Native Habitat

- Invasives few or absent
- High diversity of native species
- Low disturbance/few human impacts
- Structural diversity
- Connectivity
Methodology – native habitat

• High native/low invasive species
• Vegetation plots – 2012 only!
• Document change over time
• GPS’d but not permanently monumented
• Dominant species by layer
• Invasive species present
• Photo points
Field Surveys
Field Surveys

- 2012 - July to September
- 2013 – May to July
- 58 sites
- 45 ownerships – public and private
- 2,566 acres surveyed
- Field assistance by BSWCD, OPRD, Marvin Gilmour
False brome
Results

- Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, common tansy common and widespread
- Thin strips of habitat usually overrun with invasives, especially Himalayan blackberry
- False brome common, scattered in small pops.
- Invasive trees and woody vines common
- Water primrose common in sloughs and ponds - often very dense
Native Habitat

- 64 areas on 37 ownerships
- 384 total acres
- < 0.1 acre to 102 acres
- Average size = 6 acres
- Concentrated in interior forest habitats
- Mostly on larger sites
- Mostly on public ownerships
Management Recommendations

• Protect the best
• Prioritize small & emerging weed populations
• Prioritize control of false brome, ivy, clematis, water primrose, Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife
• Work with land-owners to set weed control priorities
• Periodic surveys with follow-up treatments
Challenges/Limitations aka Lessons Learned

- Access – dense vegetation, aquatic habitats, boat-only sites, private land issues
- Late season phenology – hampered ID of good habitats in 2012
- 2012 method too detailed & time consuming
- Automate field mapping and data collection
HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY
WATER PRIMROSE
BARRED OWL