Siuslaw National Forest Invasive Plant Program

- Are Weeds a Problem on Siuslaw NF?

- 146 species of non-native plants found on the Forest representing about 22% of total vascular plants.

- A total of 37,000 acres of invasive plants have been inventoried.

- 22 of the 146 are designated Noxious by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

#1 Scotch broom 20,000 acres

#2 European beachgrass 12,000 acres

#3 Bull Thistle 3,000 acres

#4 Himalayan blackberry 2,000 acres

- To help determine the level of threat and priority for treatment three broad categories can be used.
  - 1) Apparently not invasive and not much of a problem, so far… (pearlwort in sidewalk cracks). A low priority for treatment.
  - 2) Invasive but naturalized and <u>mostly</u> restricted to highly disturbed areas such as roads (creeping buttercup). Efforts generally limited to best management practices but treatment may be considered for high value sites or travelways.
  - 3) Invasive with the potential to impact natural habitats including forest, meadows, riparian areas (knotweed, false brome). Highest priority for active treatment including all available methods.

- Weed Treatment on Siuslaw NF has averaged between 600 and 1,000 acres per year.

- Before 2010, herbicide use was restricted to a gorse site, a small area of Japanese knotweed, and limited areas of European beachgrass. Most treatment relied on manual, mechanical, or biological methods.

- While non-herbicide methods work for some invasive species, others require chemical treatment for effective control (knotweeds).

- In 2010 NEPA completed allowing for the use of herbicide on highest priority species and sites (2000 ac).

- Invasives Treatment in the Marys Pk Stewardship Area.

  - <u>Meadow knapweed -1 acre</u>
  - Goal = Eradicate (high priority sp.)
  - ✓ 2006-2009 Manual grubbing
  - ✓ 2010-2011 Spot spray with 2% glyphosate (Aquamaster), 1% surfactant (LI-700).
  - ✓ 2012 Repeat herbicide treatment if needed.

  - <u>Scotch broom</u>
  - Goal = Control in high-traffic areas
  - ✓ 2007-2009 Manual/mechanical pulling, cutting, and brushing along Roads 3000 and 3010.
  - ✓ 2012 Continue with previous treatments.

- <u>False brome</u>
- Goal = Control (keep out of woods)

✓ 2007-2009 Manual grubbing and mowing at selected sites along the Marys Pk. Road and Connor's Camp.

✓ 2010 Harlan Road included in a BLM herbicide contract.

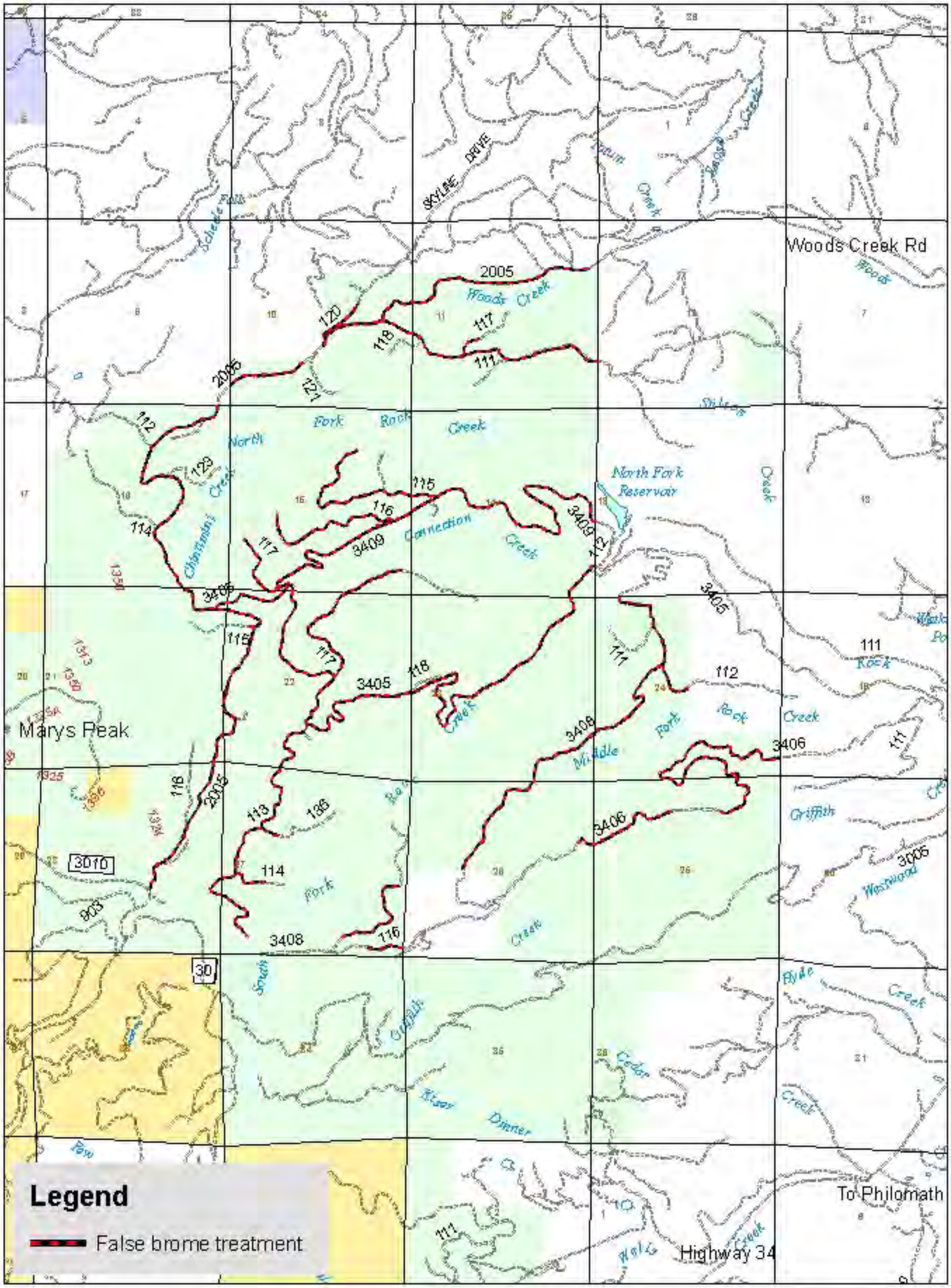
✓ 2011 26 miles of FS road treated in June-July with a mix of 2% glyphosate (Aquamaster) and 1% surfactant (LI 700), applied as a spot spray with hand-held wand.

✓ 2011 Follow up treatment in the Bridge Project Area in August to pick up any plants missed earlier.

✓ 2012 Repeat 2011 treatments.

- Emphasis on false brome control resulted from 1) 2010 EA, 2) Marys Landscape Management EA 3) 2010 treatment by the BLM and City of Corvallis on shared roads.

Siuslaw false brome treatment contract



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

July, 2011 Road 3408. 4 weeks after false brome treatment.

- <u>Everlasting Pea - 5 acres</u>
- Goal = Eradicate
- No prior treatment
- 2012 Spot spray with 2% glyphosate (Aquamaster), 1% surfactant (LI-700).

- <u>Project Criteria for Marys LMP</u>

  - A minimum of two herbicide treatments of false brome before project activities can begin.

  - Beginning at project implementation annually monitor all roads, landings, temporary roads, and areas of ground-based logging for the presence of false brome (stewardship contracts).

  - Equipment, rock, gravel, erosion control materials all weed-free.

Other Problem Areas

- Robert's geranium occurs sporadically along roads. Potential to spread into forest habitat. Manual control for 2-3 years may be effective on small (<1/10 ac) sites. Larger infestations likely require herbicide treatment.
  - ✓ Assess and treat.
  - ✓ Any herbicide requires additional NEPA.

- False brome in Pioneer Butte Meadow. This site was not known before 2010 and not included in the 2010 Herbicide Treatment EA. Without control other restoration goals will not be met.
  - ✓ Needs NEPA to allow herbicide treatment.

- Ox-eye daisy appears to be increasing in the summit meadow.
- Vegetative spread through rhizomes makes it is difficult to control using manual methods alone.
- Threatens a relatively rare example of a Coast Range bald dominated by native plants.
- Manually cutting flower heads may reduce the rate of spread but long-term control will likely require herbicide methods.

- Ongoing infestations of tansy ragwort, bull thistle, sheep sorrel, Himalayan blackberry and other naturalized invasives.