

SCORING TABLE FOR STREAMKEEPERS' NOXIOUS WEED DATA
--for application to Streamkeepers' Physical Habitat Index, incorporating data from 1999-2005

Definitions of terms:

Encroaching on stream channel = non-aquatic weeds that grow next to the water and eventually create new land habitat in the stream channel

D = density, with density classes defined as follows by the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Board:

1. Not obvious; can be found by searching in and around other species.
2. Patchy; can be seen only by moving through the vegetation or searching for it while standing in one place.
3. Easily seen by standing in one place and glancing around, but not an obvious dominant. In a mixed stand, several species may fall into this category.
4. Co-dominant: Shares dominance relative to other cover or is slightly subordinate to other native or exotic species. E.g., a mixture of weeds on abandoned farmland.
5. Dominant: Dominates the site. Provides essentially total cover when viewed casually.

High-impact species = a term used here for riparian-zone plants which can have a more harmful impact than others when density is held constant. This higher impact can occur either through overstory coverage or biotoxicity.

Overstory coverage = plants which have a perennial presence above the level of forbs and grasses, including trees (holly), shrubs (Scotch broom, butterfly bush, Himalayan blackberry), and perennial vines (ivy).

Biotoxicity = containing or releasing chemicals which cause harm to other organisms. Plants such as poison hemlock, giant hogweed, and tansy ragwort contain chemicals which cause harm to other organisms when ingested or absorbed. Plants such as herb Robert and spotted knapweed give off allelopathic chemicals which suppress germination of other plants.

| Grade | Description | Aquatic general criteria | Aquatic specific criteria | Riparian general criteria | Riparian specific criteria |
|-------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | No weeds | No weeds in or encroaching on the stream channel | | No weeds in riparian area | |
| 2 | Minimal probable current impact to ecosystem | Weeds present, but little probable impact on hydrology or habitat | Aquatics or encroaching terrestrials present but not meeting criteria below | Weeds present, but little probable impact on riparian habitat | Riparian weeds present but not meeting criteria below |
| 3 | Moderate probable current impact to ecosystem | Encroachment on bankfull channel with minor probable impact on hydrology or habitat | D=2-3 if aquatic; D=3-4 if encroaching terrestrials | Co-dominant coverage, or significant presence if a high-impact species | D=3 if high-impact; D=4 if not |
| 4 | High probable current impact to ecosystem | Encroachment on bankfull channel with significant probable impact on hydrology or habitat | D=4-5 if aquatic; D=5 if encroaching terrestrials | Dominance of cover, or co-dominance if a high-impact species | D=4-5 if high-impact; D=5 if not |