

False Brome Working Group
OSU Research Forest-Blodgett Tract field trip
Mar. 9, 2004

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The False Brome Working Group inventory task group identified the isolated Blodgett tract *Brachypodium sylvaticum* population as Priority level A for inventory and control/eradication.

The Blodgett tract is in the Nehalem watershed in Columbia County. False brome has been found in three sections: T7N R5W Sections 19, 29, and 30. The grass appears scattered along road margins and in open areas on or along skid trails (Figure 1).

Debbie Johnson relocated some areas she had previously found to have false brome. Glenn Miller took photos and recorded GPS readings for some patches we found.

In early March, the false brome has distinctive golden thatch, with vibrant green shoots about 5-6" at the center of the clump. There are other grasses that have somewhat similar appearance in the area, so positive identification of the grass requires familiarity with the false brome or botanical expertise.

The false brome does not appear to have invaded areas away from the roads and trails, though we didn't do a systematic survey. Our hypothesis for the day was that the extremely lush shrub layer creates an unfavorable competitive environment for the false brome. We did look at one new clearcut with very low cover of any kind which didn't appear to have the false brome. It would be useful to survey older clearcuts in the area, along with their treatment history (herbicide, etc.). If new cuts are put into areas fed by infested roads, spread of the false brome along the road system and into the clearcuts is a possibility. Monitoring at this site could be useful in assessing vulnerability to invasion for the higher precipitation zones in the Coast Range.

However, we believe eradicating the outlying population of false brome to be of more importance than monitoring spread rates. Even if the grass were limited to roads and trails in forested stands, road traffic, road maintenance, and logging equipment movement could easily move seeds off the OSU land and possibly into more suitable habitats in Columbia County or further west in the lower Nehalem watershed.

We recommend that the roads and skid trails be inventoried, false brome locations identified, and infestations promptly treated to control/eradicate this outlier population. Given the current distribution, spraying along the roadsides

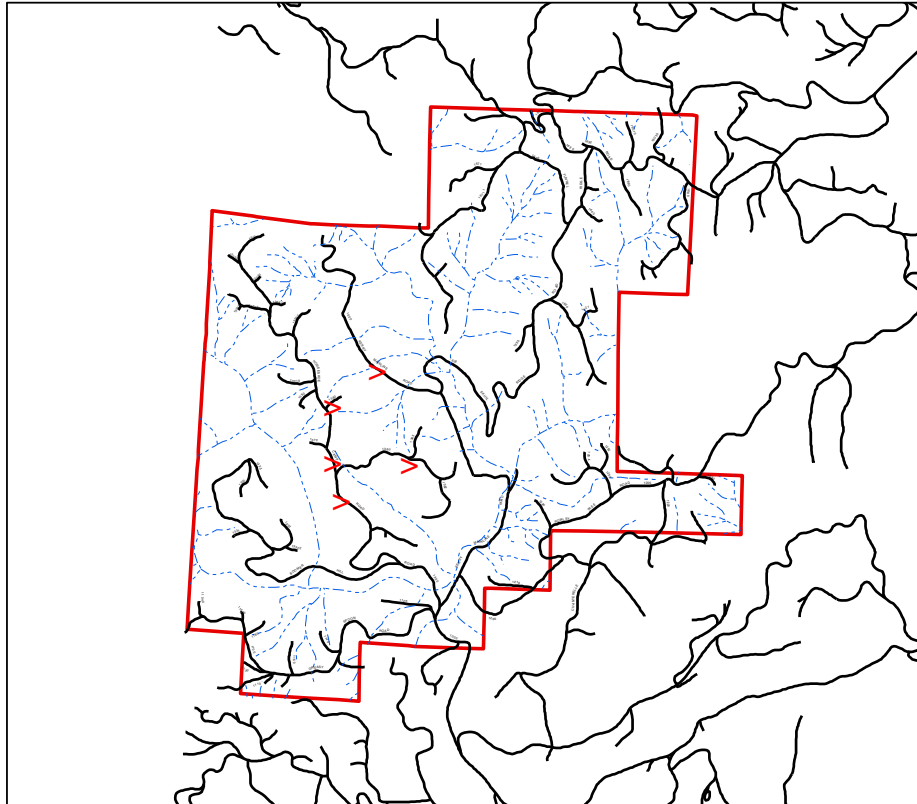
could be a cost-effective and efficient method for control. However, in other regions game trails have been found to be vectors for false brome spread. Follow-up monitoring and possibly additional treatment both along roads and along game trails seems necessary. Outreach to neighboring landowners and/or county weed control contacts may be effective in locating and eliminating any other populations which may have established in nearby road systems.

Since control/elimination of this outlier population is a priority for the control strategy for this rapidly expanding weed, we will follow up this visit by contacting Dean Salwasser as head of the OSU Research Forest to ensure his awareness of the importance of prompt action.



OSU Blodgett Tract

Locations of False-brome from 3/9/2004 Field Trip
False-brome Inventory Task Group



Coordinates of False-brome Locations

X-Lambert_NAD27	Y-Lambert_NAD27	X-UTM_NAD83	Y-UTM_NAD83
1,277,766	888,530	5,216,635	351,013
1,276,057	889,828	5,216,127	351,424
1,276,057	888,585	5,216,115	351,045
1,276,249	887,724	5,216,166	350,781
1,277,055	890,621	5,216,438	351,656

- > False-brome Locations
- - - - Streams
- Roads

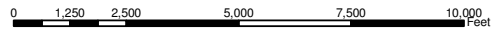


Figure 1. Locations that false-brome was identified during the 3/9/2004 field trip.