

So Long, Suckers

The final chapter in a 20-year  eradication effort

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WPPA Environmental Seminar

Date: September 24, 2026



Mediterranean Vineyard Snail

- Small terrestrial snail native to Mediterranean
- Simultaneous hermaphrodites
- Can produce up to several hundred eggs per mating in fall/winter
- 1-2 year life cycle
- Can withstand warm temperatures, dryness and fasting
- Massing behavior during aestivation



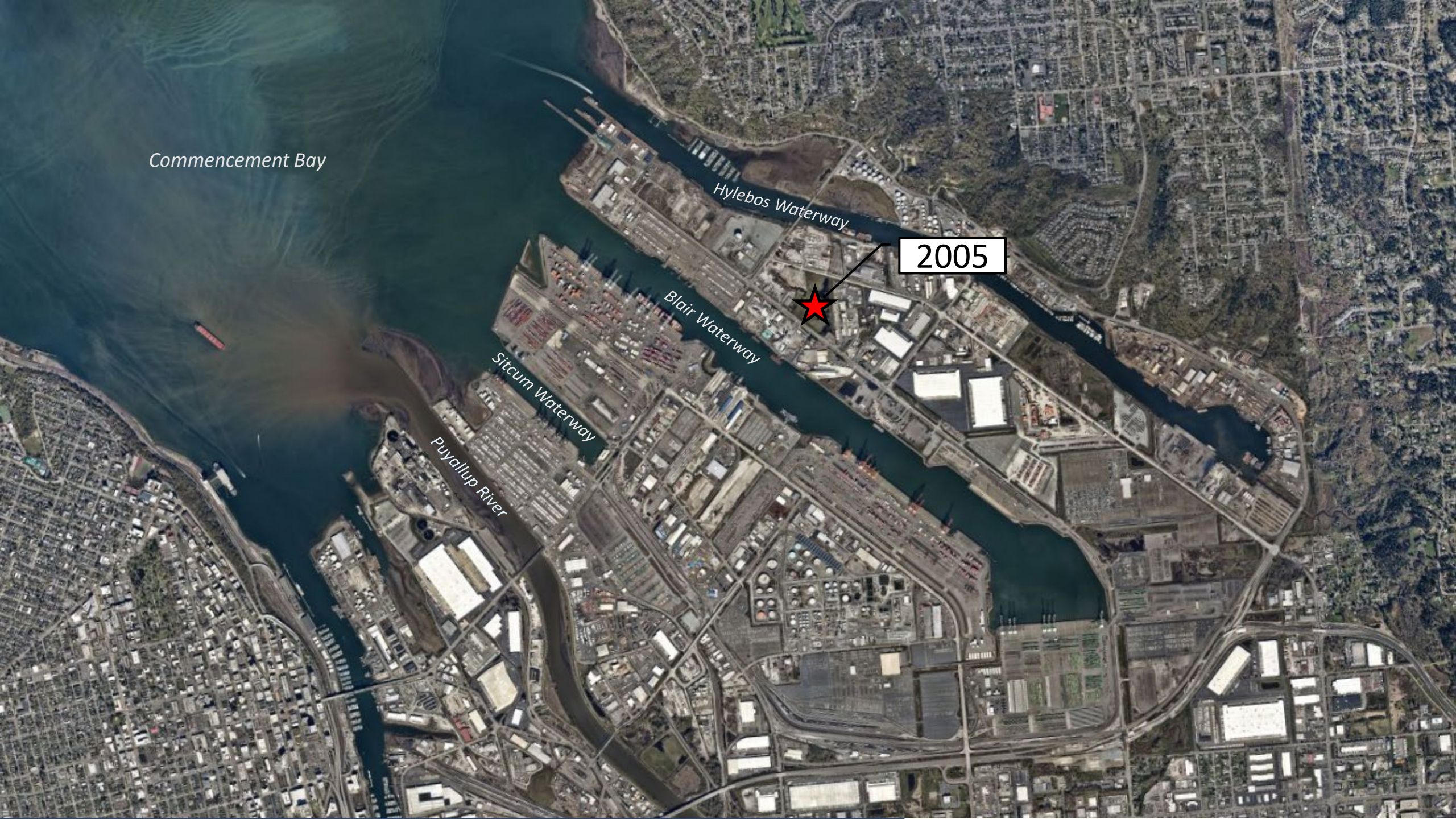
Cernuella virgata



Agricultural Pests



- Introduced to Southern Australia in early 1900s
- Rapidly established grain pastures
- Feed on and contaminate grain crops
- Cluster at the top of crops and clog harvesting machinery
- Rejection by overseas importers to avoid contamination
- Costs Australia growers \$10 million annually



Commencement Bay

Hylebos Waterway

2005

Blair Waterway

Sitcum Waterway

Puyallup River

Little snail, big problem



WASHINGTON TOP EXPORTS



Washington-Origin Food & Agricultural Products, Calendar Year (Jan-Dec)

	Top 3 Markets, Each Product	U.S. \$ Value 2025	% Change 2024 to 2025
All Food & Agriculture	Japan, South Korea, Philippines	16.86 billion	-10.69
Washington-Origin Food & Agriculture*	Canada, Japan, Mexico	7.81 billion	1.69

Rank	Description	Top 3 Markets, Each Product	U.S. \$ Value 2025	% Change 2024 to 2025
1	French Fries, Frozen	Japan, South Korea, Taiwan	1.09 billion	-2.02
2	Fish and Seafood	Canada, China, Netherlands	1.01 billion	7.27
3	Apples	Mexico, Canada, Taiwan	819.32 million	-3.07
4	Dairy	Japan, Mexico, Philippines	692.81 million	22.48
5	Wheat	Philippines, Japan, South Korea	684.75 million	5.05
6	Hay	Japan, South Korea, China	443.87 million	-10.10
7	Hop Cones and Extracts	Belgium, Germany, United Kingdom	332.19 million	2.17
8	Cherries, Sweet, Fresh	Canada, South Korea, Taiwan	319.90 million	9.11
9	Beef	China, Hong Kong, Japan	220.67 million	-31.41
10	Pulses	Spain, China, Canada	173.76 million	-16.03



Photo credit: WSU

- WA is major US supplier
- Produce most in nation behind ND, KS and MT
- POT transported 4.5 million tons in 2025

Commencement Bay

Hylebos Waterway

2006

Blair Waterway

117



Sitcum Waterway

Eradication Strategy Meeting 2007

MEDITERRANEAN SNAIL

CERNUELLA VIRGATA (DA COSTA)

ERADICATION

2007

Summary Report



Prepared by
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection Division
Pest Program

February 25, 2008
Randy Taylor, Eradication Coordinator



- Outreach
- Vegetation removal
- Debris Removal
- Habitat alteration
- Molluscicide

Eradication activities



Port Parcel 117

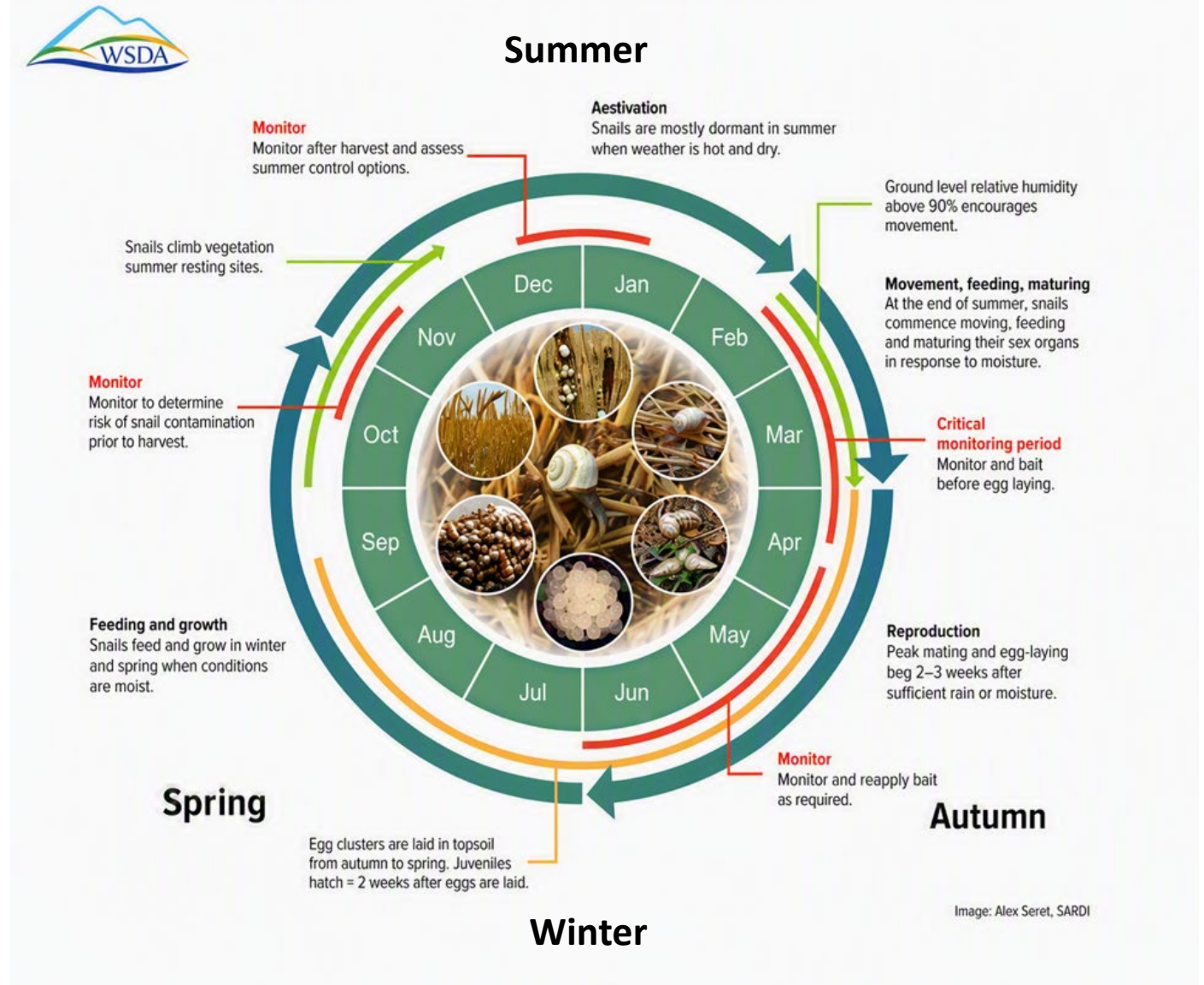
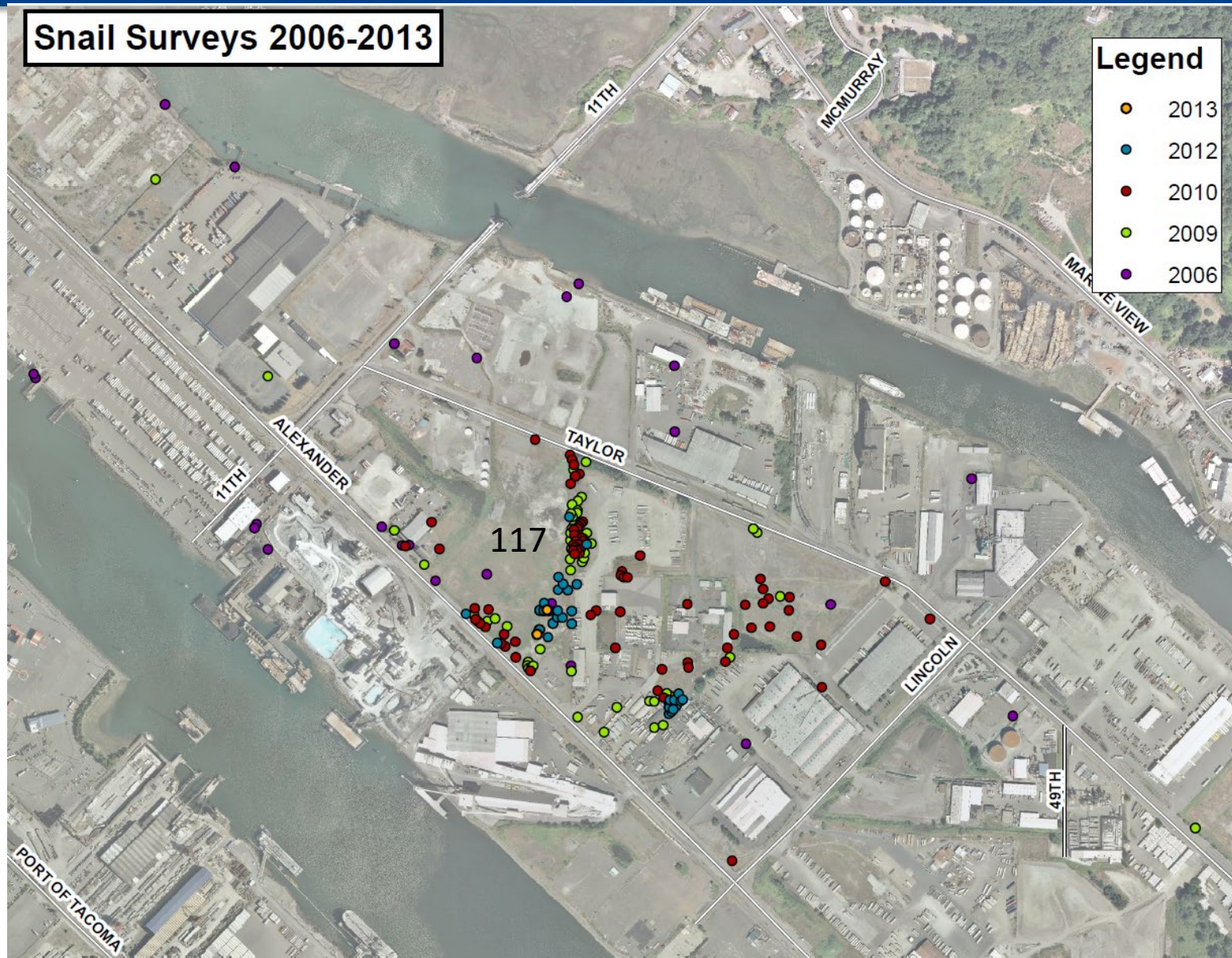


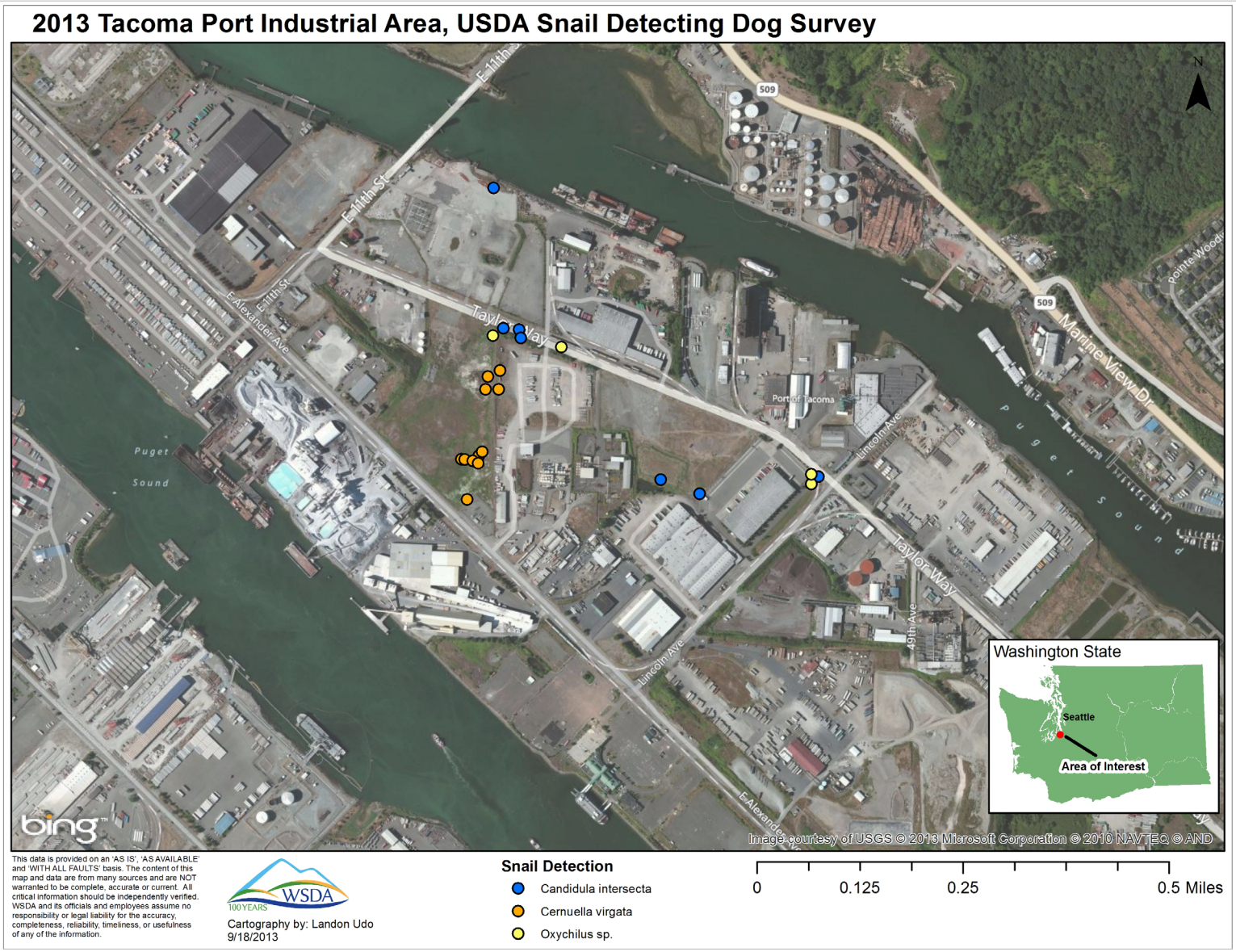
Image: Alex Seret, SARDI

Bait application coincides when snails are most active

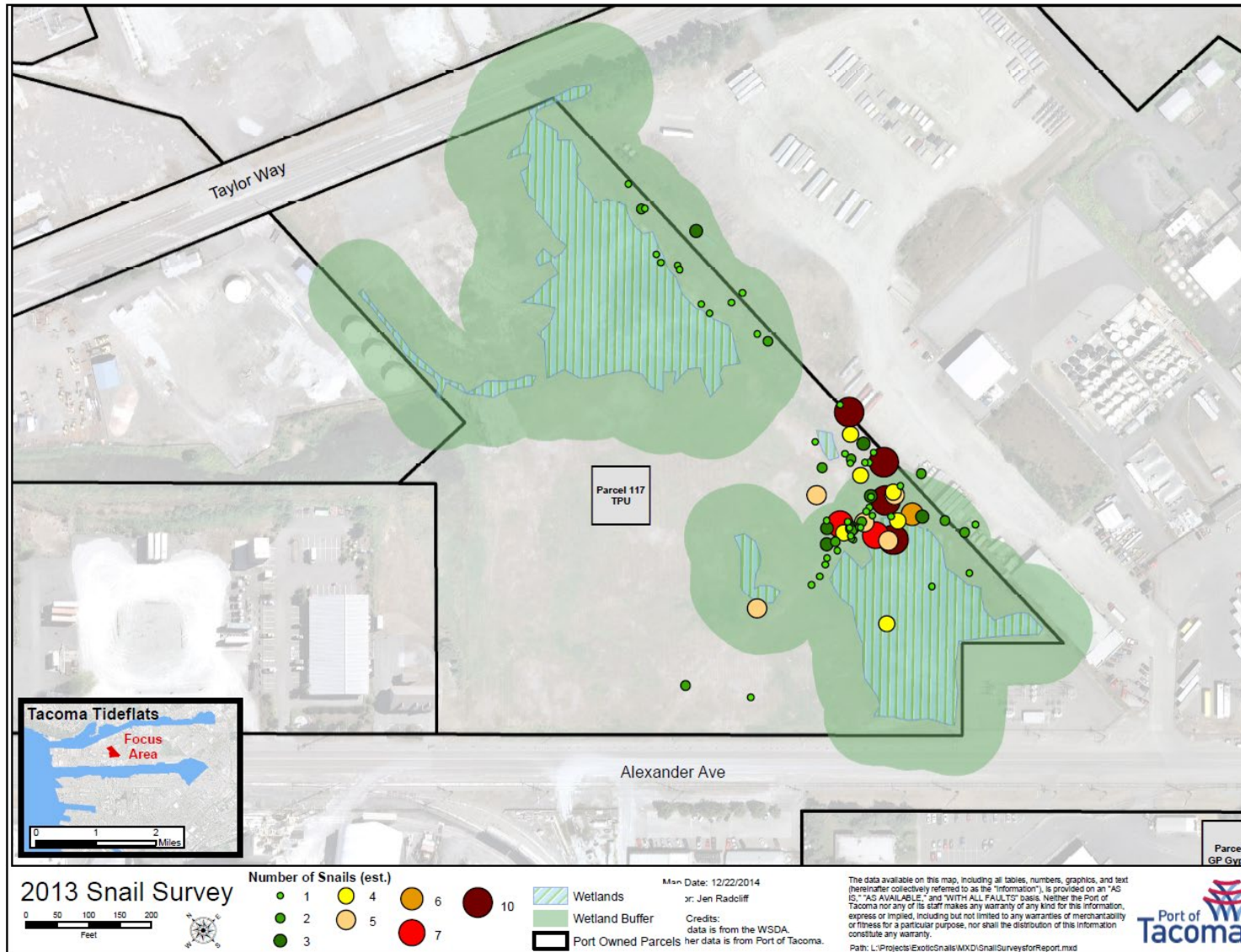
Snail Detections 2006-2013



Thinking outside of the shell



Refuge to be Eradicated



Port Parcel 117

City of Tacoma Permits:

- 2013-2023 Critical Areas Activities Allowed (5yrs)
- 2024-2025 1-year extension

Steam Cleaning



56°C to depth of 6cm for 30 minutes

No Hitchhiking



Don't let snails hide and ride



Stop invasive snails from hitchhiking on your truck.

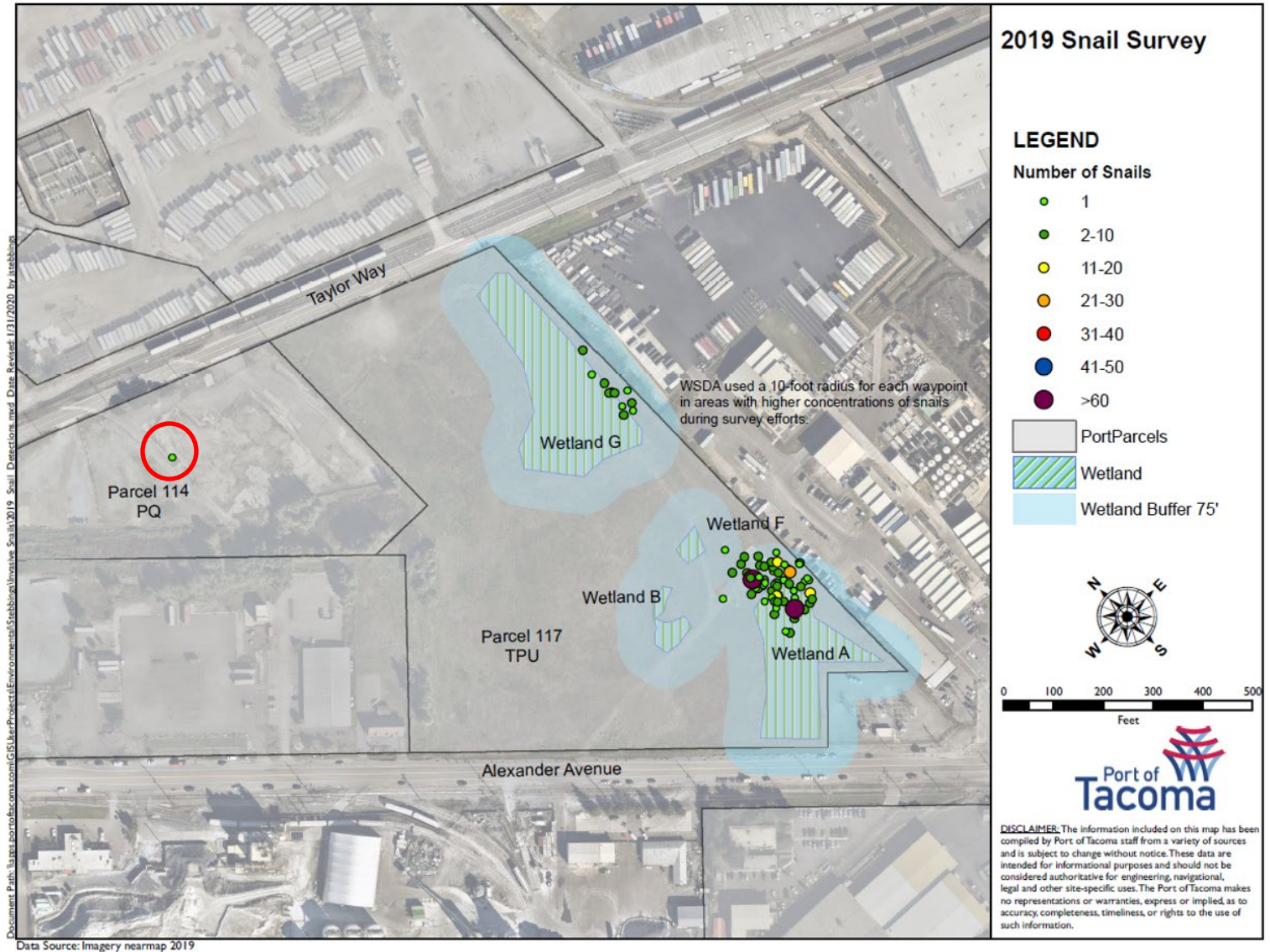
Check your trucks and tires for snails that try to stow away on freight vehicles, tires, and cargo containers.

If you find snails or other potentially invasive pests, please send photos of them to the Washington State Department of Agriculture at PestProgram@agr.wa.gov or call 1-800-443-6684 if you have questions.



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PEST
PROGRAM





Escargot to hell, Port of Tacoma tells invasive snail

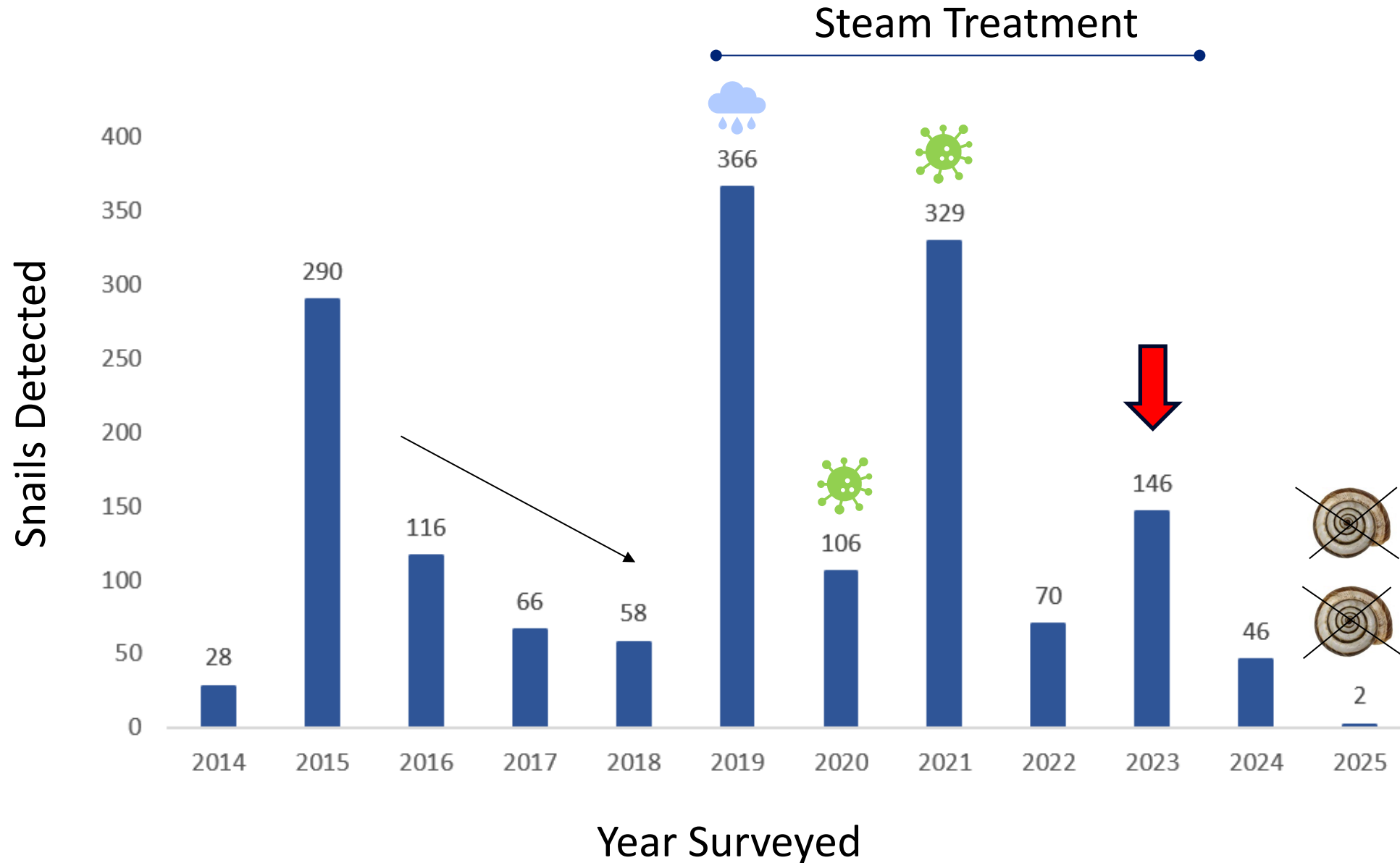
By John Ryan

Published July 17, 2019 at 2:44 PM PDT

▶ LISTEN • 1:24



Parcel 117 Snail Detections





United State Department of Agriculture

...prohibiting pesticide use within the wetland area has created a refuge from molluscicide treatments for the snails...In the last 10 years alone APHIS has contributed \$1.4 million to the eradication effort...



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It would be a missed opportunity not to eliminate the Mediterranean vineyard snails before they create grave economic problems for Washington.



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

WSDA strongly recommends that legal barriers, mitigation requirements, and permits restricting development on this remaining site infested with snails be re-evaluated and ultimately relaxed or waived for this unique situation, as it is in the best interest of Washington's and the nation's food supply.

Parcel 117 Wetlands



TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPACTS PARCEL 117 SUMMARY TABLE

HABITAT TYPE	LOCATION OF IMPACT	IMPACT TYPE	IMPACTS (AC)
PEM Wetland Habitat	Wetland 1	Permanent	0.234
PEM Wetland Habitat	Wetland 2	Permanent	5.188
PEM Wetland Habitat	Wetland 3	Permanent	0.024
Total Impacts:			5.446

Notes:

1. See section 2.1 for individual wetland details.

AC = acres

City of Tacoma Permits:

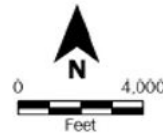
- Critical Areas Development Permit

Washington State Department of Ecology Permit:

- Administrative Order

No Federal Permit Required

Wetland Mitigation



Vicinity Map

Parcel 117 Snail Eradication Mitigation Project
Tacoma, Washington



Figure 1

Sources:
• ESRI
• Pierce County PublicGIS

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

Disclaimer: This figure was created for a specific purpose and project. Any use of this figure for any other project or purpose shall be at the user's sole risk, and without liability to GeoEngineers. The locations of features shown may be approximate. GeoEngineers makes no warranty or representation as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability of the figure, or data contained therein. The file containing this figure is a copy of a master document, the original of which is retained by GeoEngineers and is the official document of record.

TABLE 3. PROPOSED MITIGATION

HABITAT	CITY OF TACOMA REQUIRED MITIGATION RATIO	ACREAGES		CREDITS	
		REQUIRED MITIGATION (AC)	PROPOSED MITIGATION (AC)	REQUIRED MITIGATION (CREDITS)	PROPOSED MITIGATION (CREDITS)
Parcel 12 Re-establishment	1:1	3.022	3.022	3.022	3.022
Parcel 12 Enhancement	2:1	0.096 ¹	0.096	0.048	0.048
Parcel 37D Re-establishment	1:1	1.106	1.106	1.106	1.106
Parcel 37D Enhancement	2:1	0.832	0.832	0.416	0.416
Lower Wapato Advance Mitigation	1:1	0.854	1.800	0.854	2.340 ²
Totals:		5.910	6.856	5.446	6.932

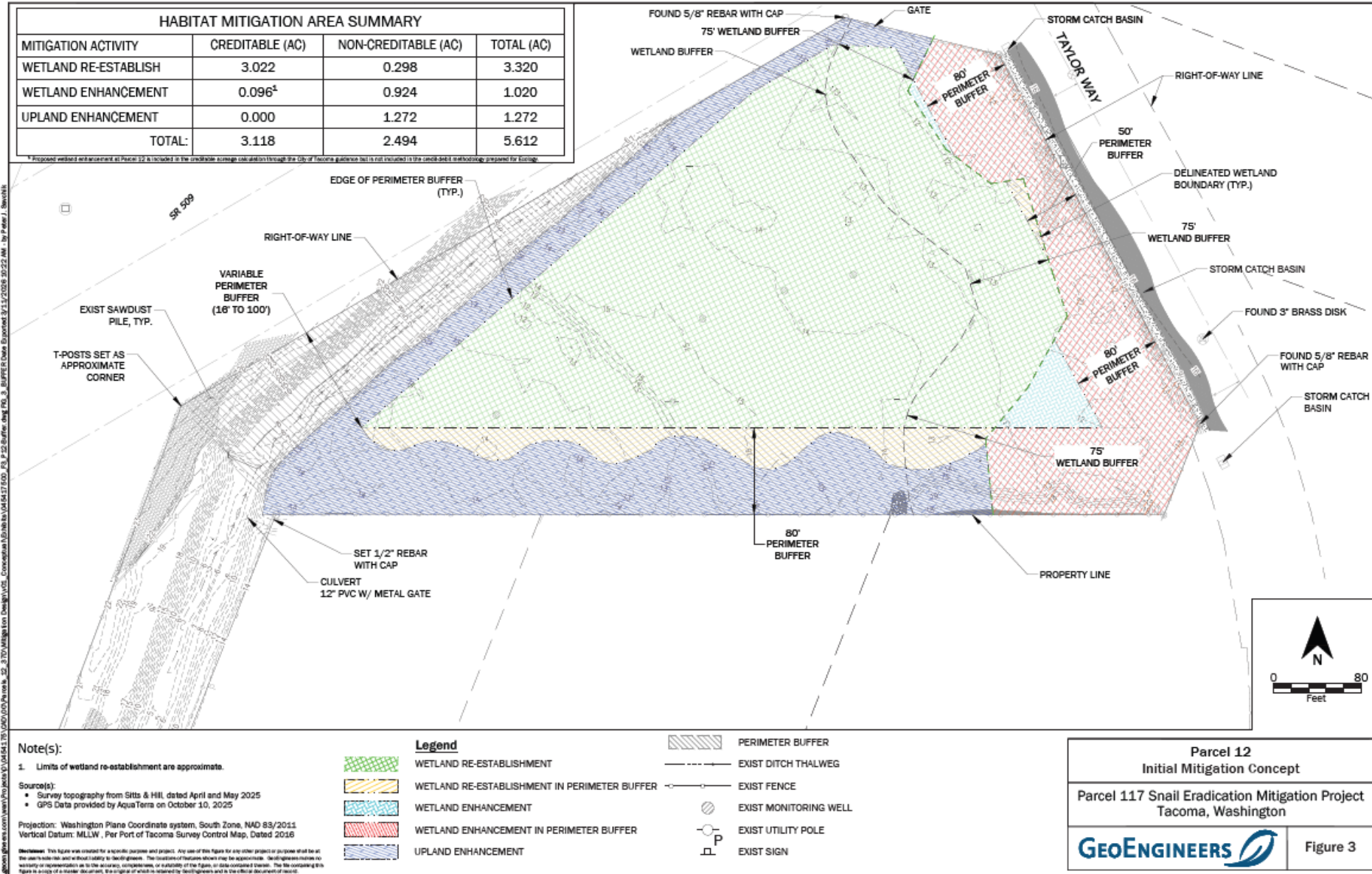
Notes:

¹ Proposed wetland enhancement at Parcel 12 is included in the creditable acreage calculation through the City of Tacoma guidance but is not included in the credit-debit methodology prepared for Ecology.

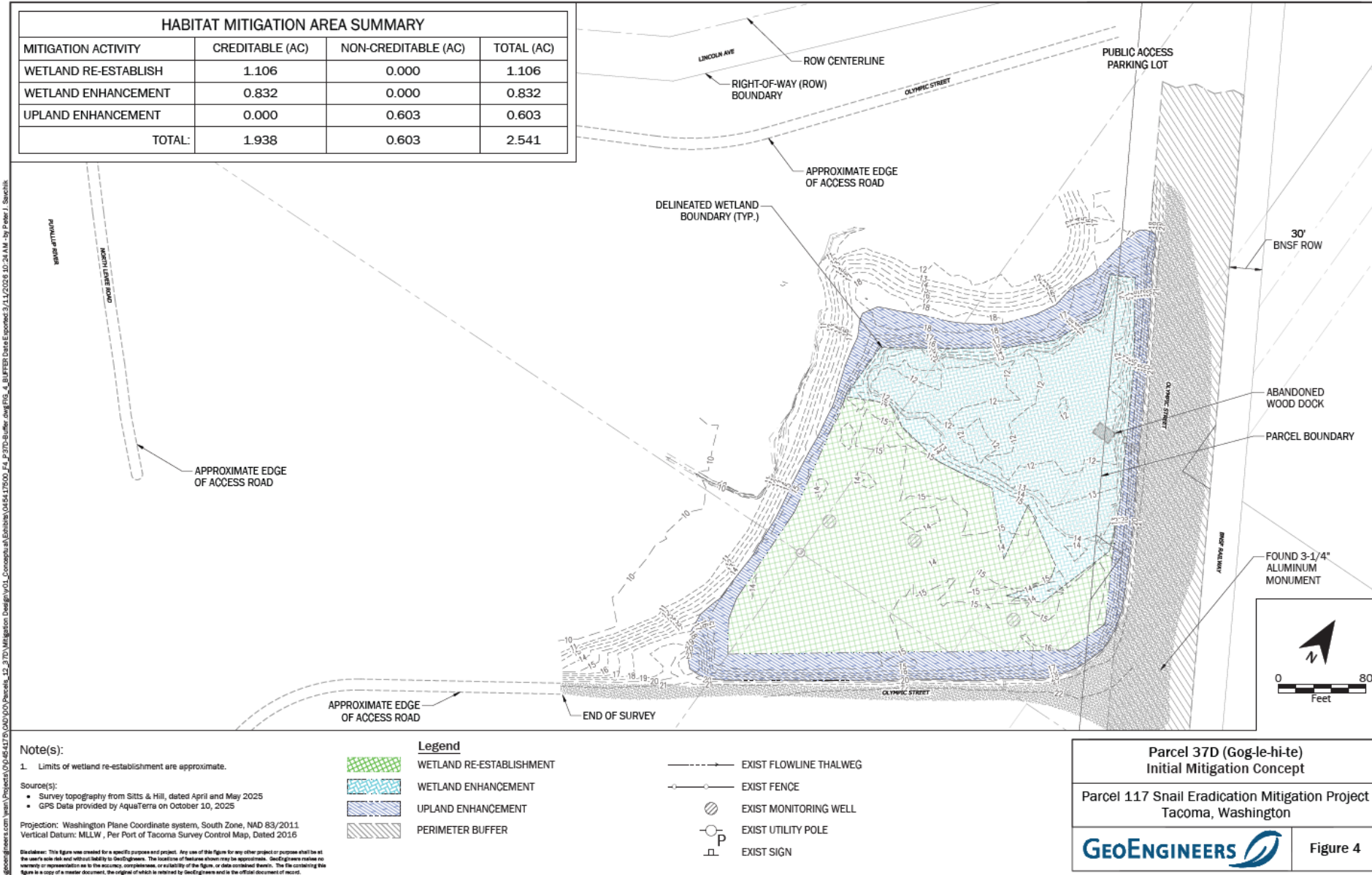
² Although City of Tacoma guidance provides a 1:1 ratio for wetland creation/re-establishment, Ecology has requested the use of the ratio in the LWCHP Advance Mitigation Plan of 1:1.3.

AC = acres

Parcel 12 Concept



Parcel 37D Concept

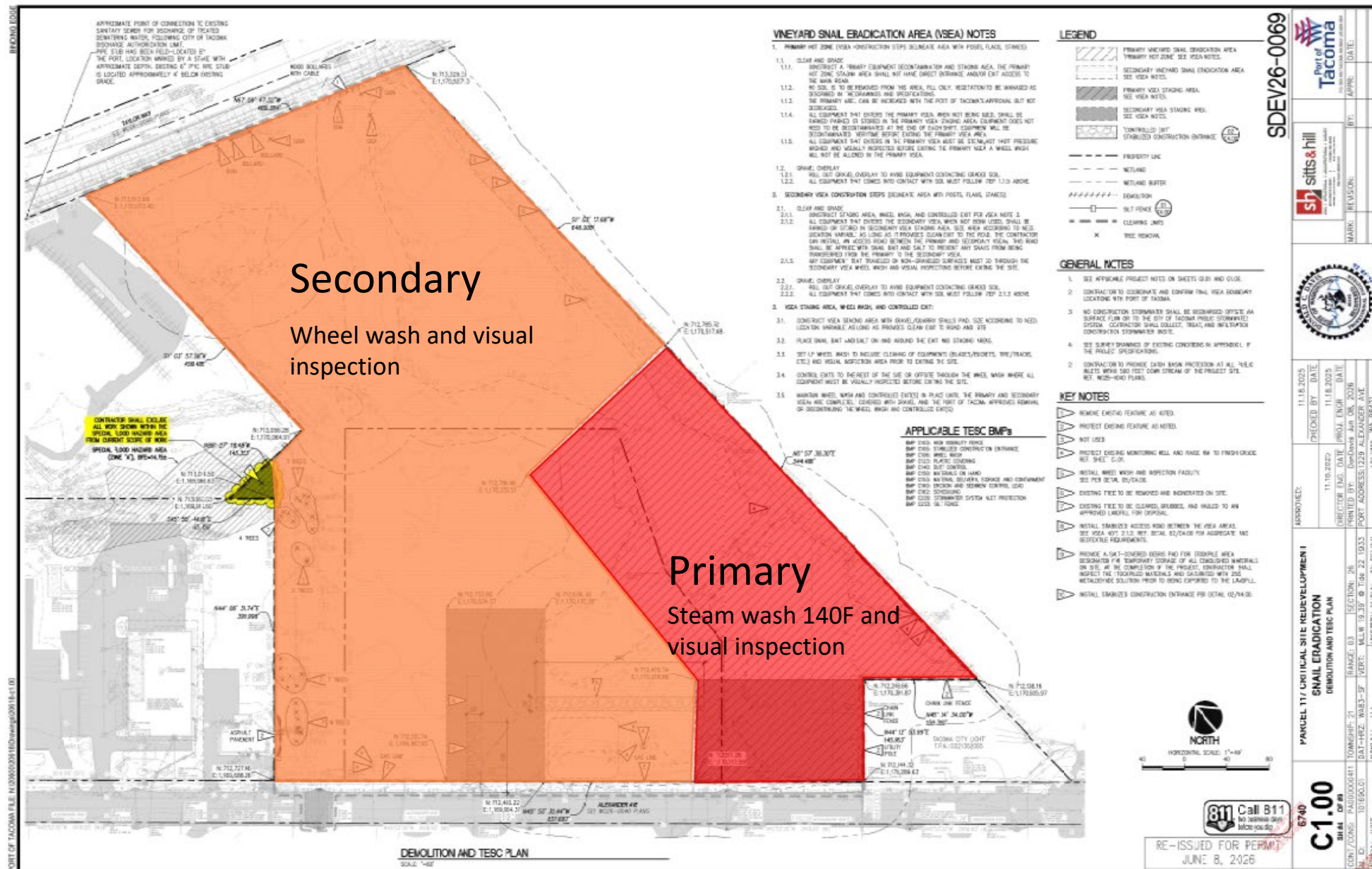


Project Neptune



Figure 2. Port of Tacoma Neptune Development project elements

Port of
Tacoma



Port of Tacoma Commission approves ground lease for major cold storage facility expected to create up to 400 jobs

June 16, 2026



Media Contact

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[253-428-8674](tel:253-428-8674)

The Port of Tacoma Commission on June 16 approved a ground lease with Saxum Investment Company, LLC for a cold storage and food processing facility on a 30-acre site between Taylor Way and Alexander Avenue on the Blair-Hylebos Peninsula.

Once complete, the project is expected to create up to 400 jobs and generate up to \$43 million in annual wages, according to the developer's estimates. Subject to final design, Saxum anticipates investing up to \$250 million in the project.

"When we talk about supporting family wage jobs, this is exactly what we mean," said Port of Tacoma Commission President Dick Marzano. "We thank Saxum for committing to grow the workforce in Pierce County and for recognizing the Port of Tacoma as a great place to do business."



News

[See all >](#)

September 2, 2026

[Working Waterfront: September 2026](#)

August 27, 2026

[Commission meeting recap: August 18, 2026](#)

August 13, 2026

[Conservation workers remove invasive species from Port of Tacoma habitat site](#)

August 3, 2026

[Working Waterfront: August 2026](#)

July 21, 2026

So Long, Suckers!!!



August 31, 2026

A Cautionary Snail

- Quick action is necessary to avoid quarantines and costly operational impacts.
- Invasive species are expensive. Eradication efforts to eliminate the 1623 snails on Parcel 117 cost ~\$3 million or ~\$1900/snail.
- Invasive species can result in lost revenue while real estate isn't in use.
- Be proactive rather than reactive.



Acknowledgements



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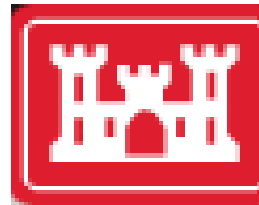
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