

The Salish Seeds Project: A Case Study in Developing a Local Plant Materials Program

Eliza Habegger, San Juan County Conservation
Land Bank



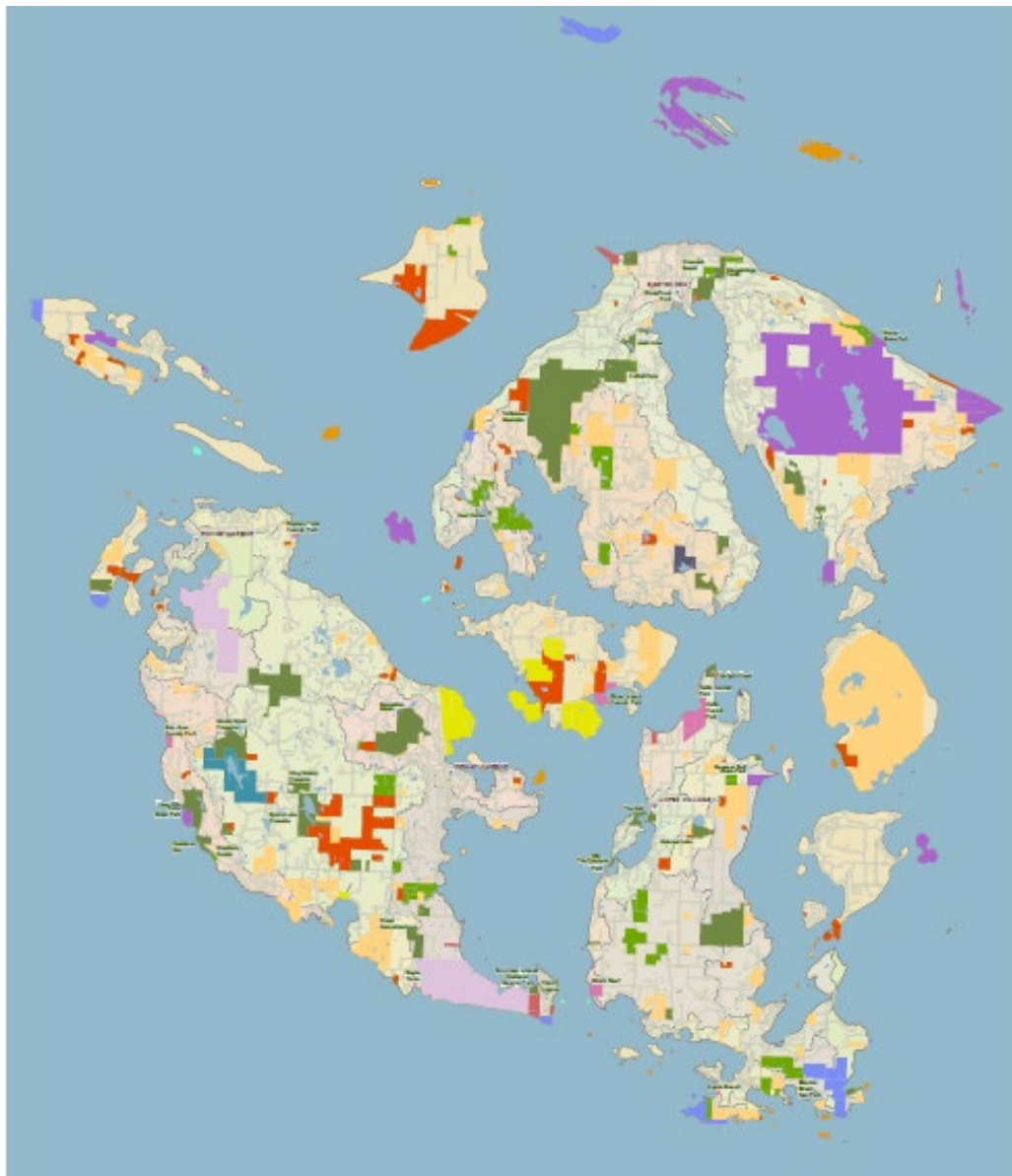
A joint program of the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust



S salish seeds project

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San Juan County Conservation Lands



Legend

NPS	WA state parks
SJC Parks	The Nature Conservancy
Town of Friday Harbor	Land Bank Conservation Easement
U. of WA	Land Bank Preserve
US BLM	San Juan Preservation Trust Preserve
US Fish and Wildlife	San Juan Preservation Trust Easement
WA DNR	Towns & Villages
WA Fish and Wildlife	



photo credit: Susan Vernon



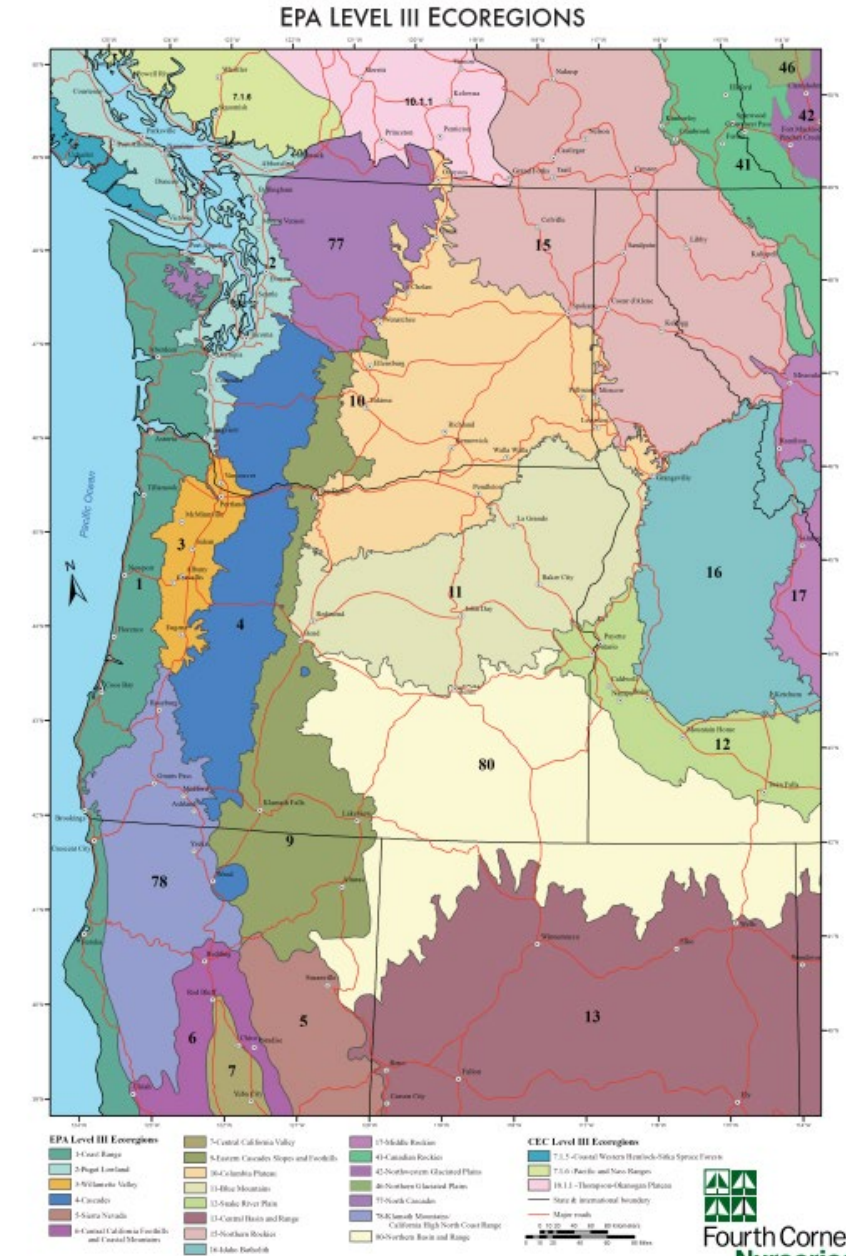


Seed zones based on ecoregion



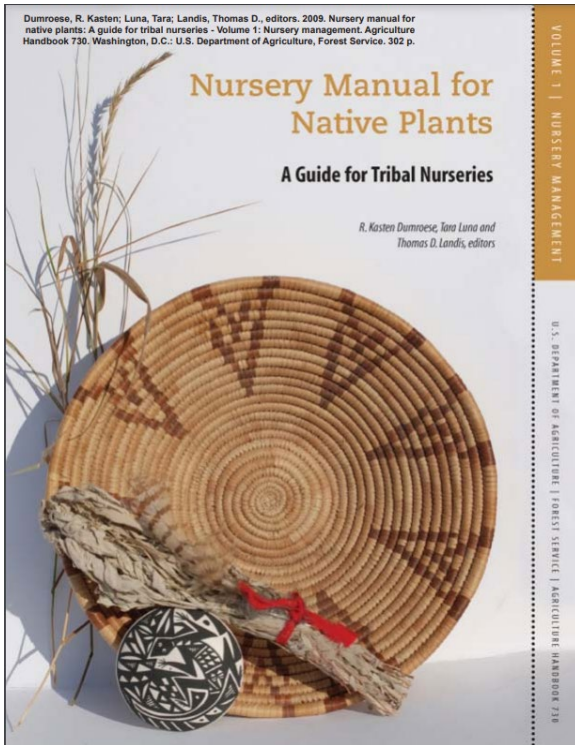
Plectritis congesta

South Puget
Sound (top),
San Juan County
(bottom)



Salish Seeds Project Goals

1. Produce San Juan County provenance plant materials for habitat restoration projects with a focus on prairie/oak species
2. Develop and strengthen relationships with other regional native plant producers
3. Engage our community in native plant recovery



Getting started – A few resources:

RNGR plant propagation protocol database -

<https://npn.rngr.net/propagation>

Kew Gardens millennium seedbank -
<https://www.kew.org/wakehurst/whats-at-wakehurst/millennium-seed-bank>

Dumrose et. al. 2009. Nursery manual for native plants: A guide for tribal nurseries

USDA Corvallis PMC. 2015 Native Seed Production Manual for the Pacific Northwest.



Thank you, other producers

Oxbow Farm & Conservation Center Native Plant Nursery

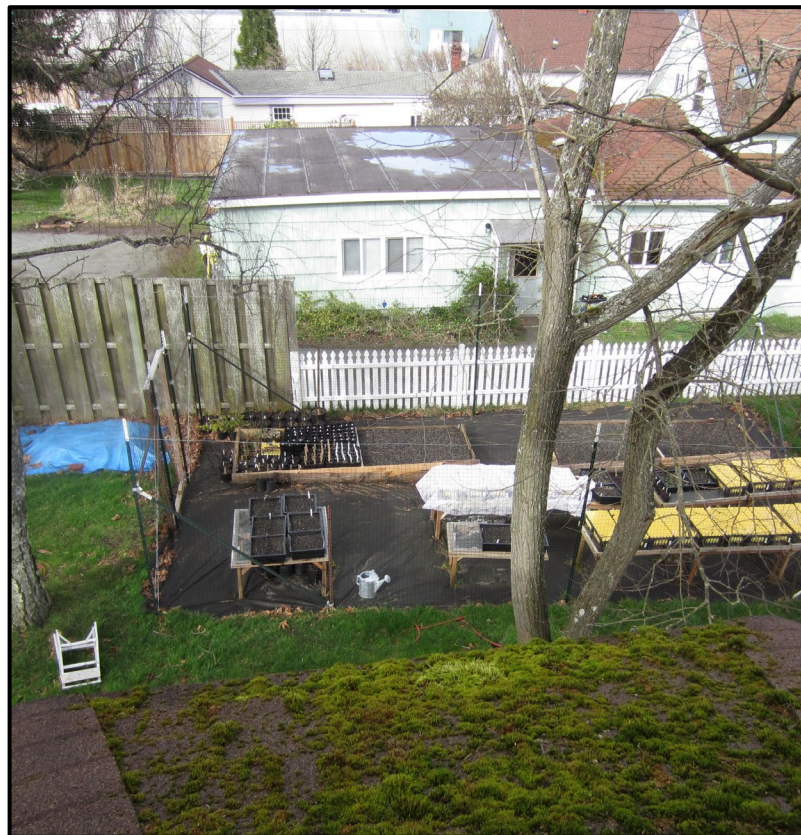
Past and present Whidbey Island growers:
Pacific Rim Institute, Native Plant Stewards,
Whidbey-Camano Land Trust, Frosty Hollow,
Northwest Meadowsapes

Center for Natural Lands Management

Sustainability in Prisons Program

Fourth Corner Nursery

Satinflower Nurseries



Starting small, 2012 - 2013



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Salish Seeds Project Nursery, Red Mill Farm



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Licenses and Permits:

Nursery retailer
business license (WA
Dept. of Revenue)

Seed labelling permit
(WA Dept. of Agriculture)





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Wild seed collection



Seed production



Bulbs



Plugs



Public plant sales





Outreach



What does it cost?

2021 Operating Expenses

\$37,000 - Wages and Benefits

\$4,000 – Supplies

\$7,000 – Professional Services

\$48,000 Total - to produce 20 lbs. of seed, 25,000 plugs and bulbs, 2,300 4" pots, conduct outreach and coordination, public plant sales events

We received \$18,000 income from sales.

Challenges

High costs of being a small producer, particularly with seed: no efficiency of scale, seed testing expense

Difficult to anticipate future seed needs – developing a new seed crop takes 2 – 4 years or more



Benefits

Increased availability of plant materials

Development of local knowledge base in native plant production

Deeper knowledge of individual plant species is gained through propagation and informs restoration

Helping the general public access native plant materials too





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