

# Big Grasses Can Be Pains In The... Posterior



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# Common Reed

## *Phragmites australis*

- Large Perennial Grass
  - Creeping rhizomes
  - Stolons
- Stems
  - Hollow
  - 12 ft tall
- Leaves
  - Lanceolate
  - 8-16 inches long
  - 0.5 to 2 inches wide



# History

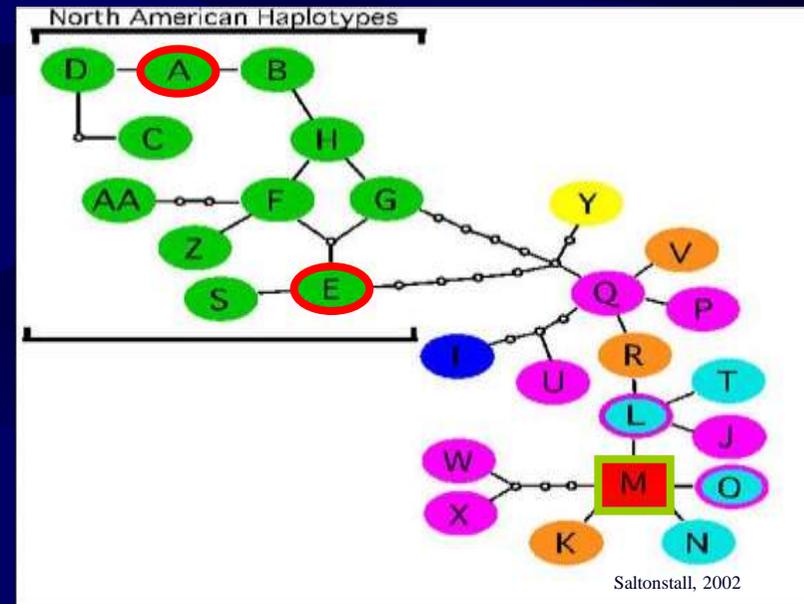
- The earliest traces of *Phragmites australis* in North America come from the 40,000-year-old dung of a ground sloth (extinct for 10,000 years), which was found in the Southwest and contained phragmites (Hansen 1978)
- First reported in Washington in 1882 from Klickitat County, Clallam County in 1927



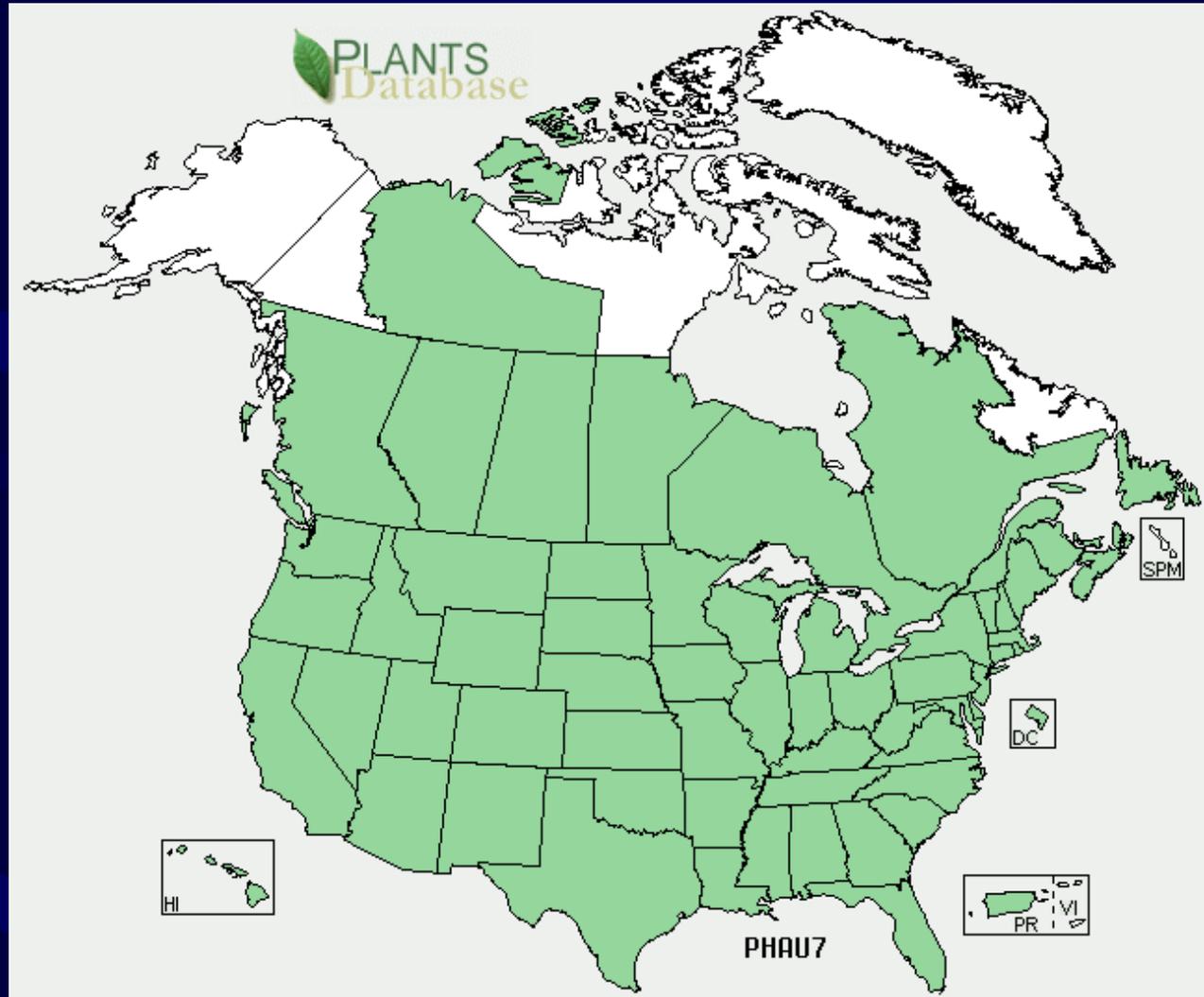
- Mid 1990's the Army Corps of Engineers reports sites are spreading and *Phragmites* is behaving aggressively
- 1998 Army Corps formally requests that the WSNWCB list it as noxious weed, placed on monitor list instead to determine if it is native

# Dr. Kristin Saltonstall

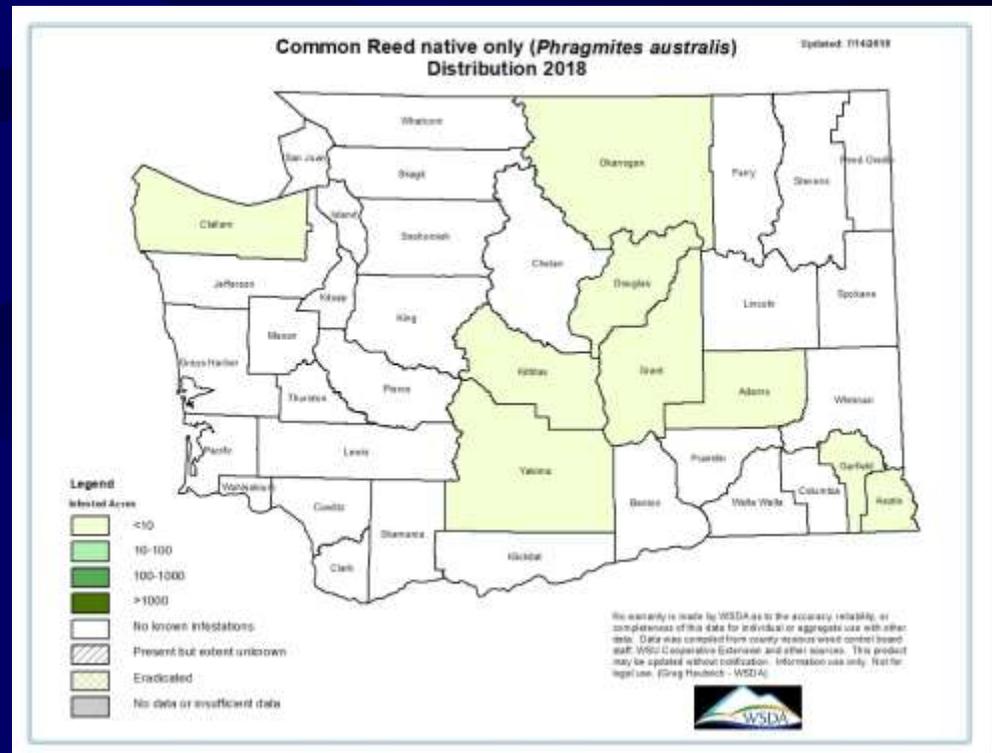
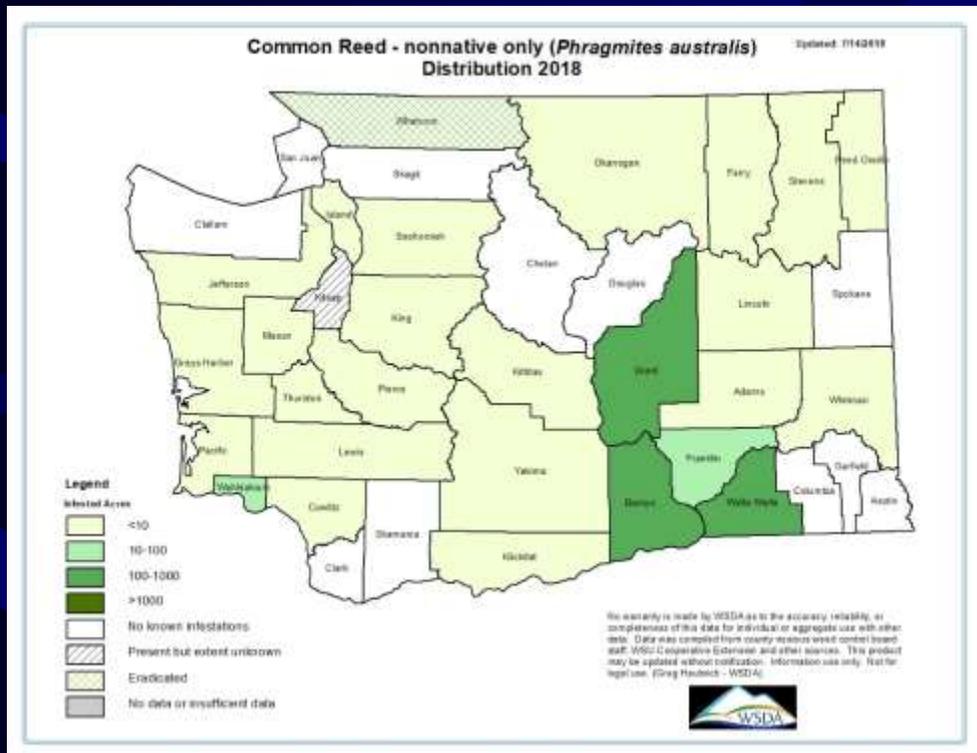
- 2002 confirmed the existence of native North American haplotypes (lineages) and European haplotypes
- 27 distinct haplotypes worldwide
- 11 haplotypes native to North America
- 2 introduced haplotypes, types “M” and “I” (and “L”?)
- Types “M”, “A” and “E” were found in WA



# North American Distribution



# General Distribution of Phragmites



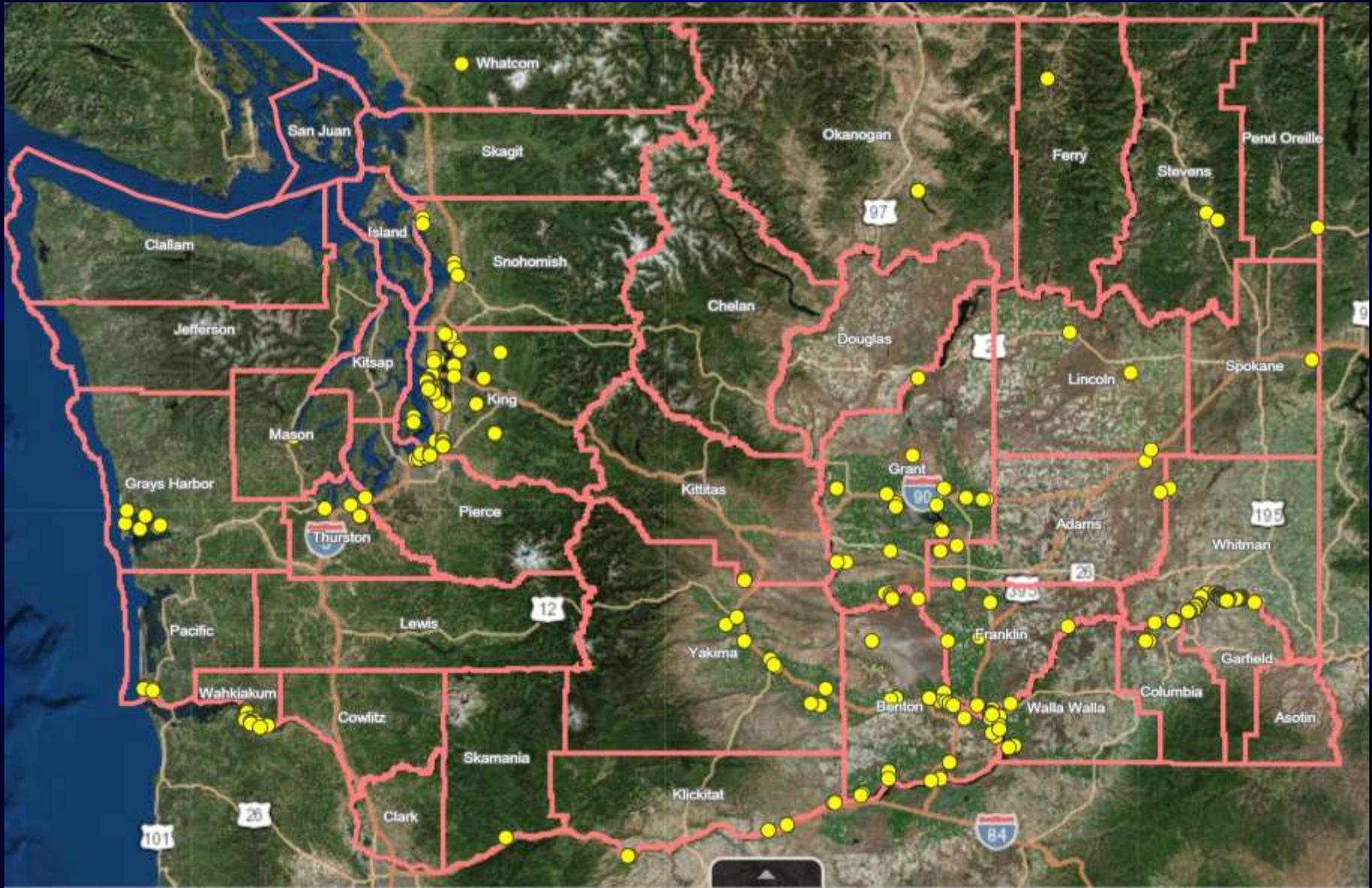
**August, 1995**



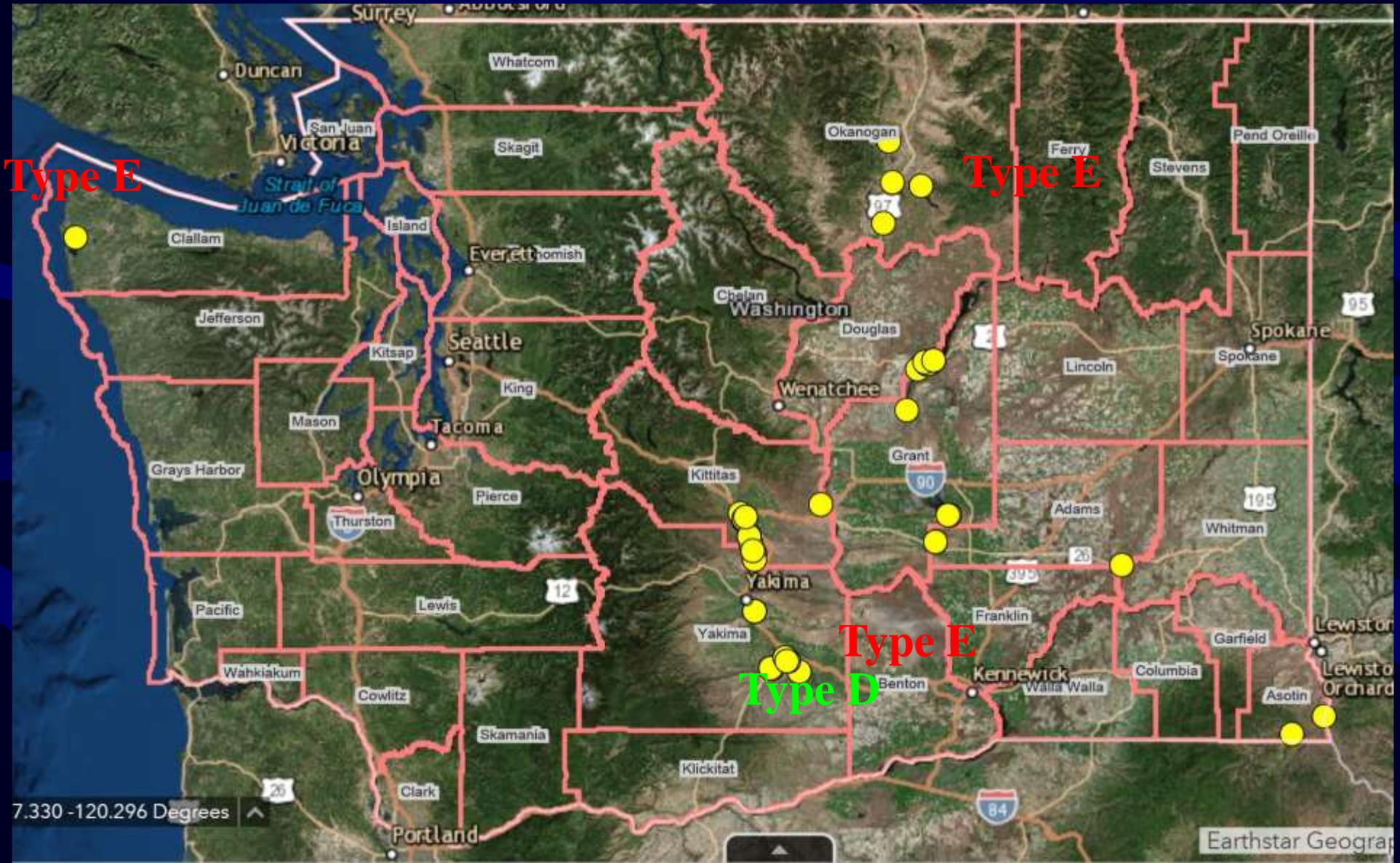
**September, 2007**



# Introduced Phragmites



# Native Phragmites





# Lake Ozette - 2003



# Lake Ozette - 2015



# Lake Ozette - 2017

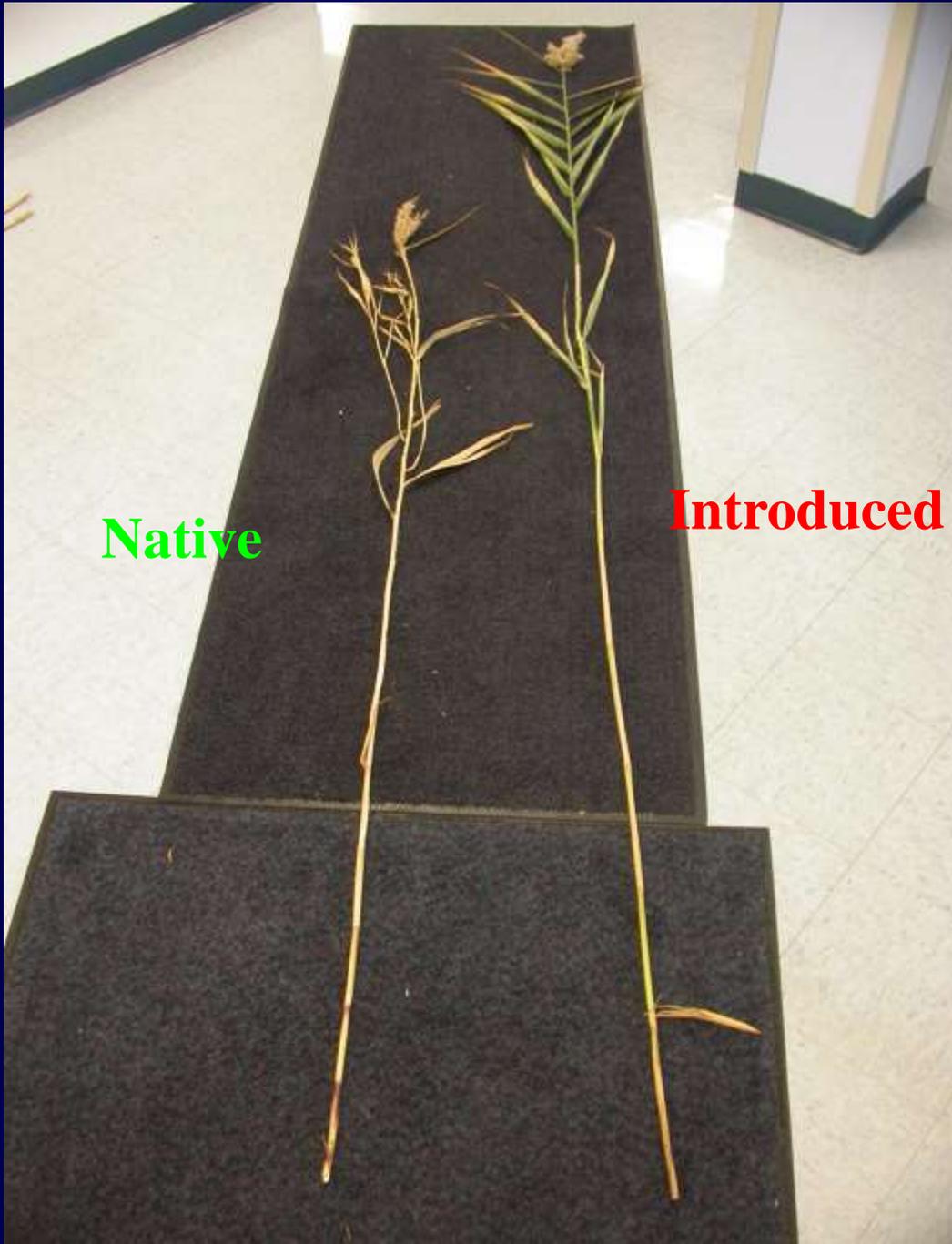


Native and Introduced *Phragmites*  
Identification Characteristics in  
Washington State

**Introduced**

**Native**





**Native**

**Introduced**

A close-up photograph of two plant stems against a grey background. The stem on the left has a distinct purple-red sheath at the base of the leaf, while the stem on the right has a yellowish-green sheath. The leaves are green and elongated.

**Native**

**Introduced**

**Native**



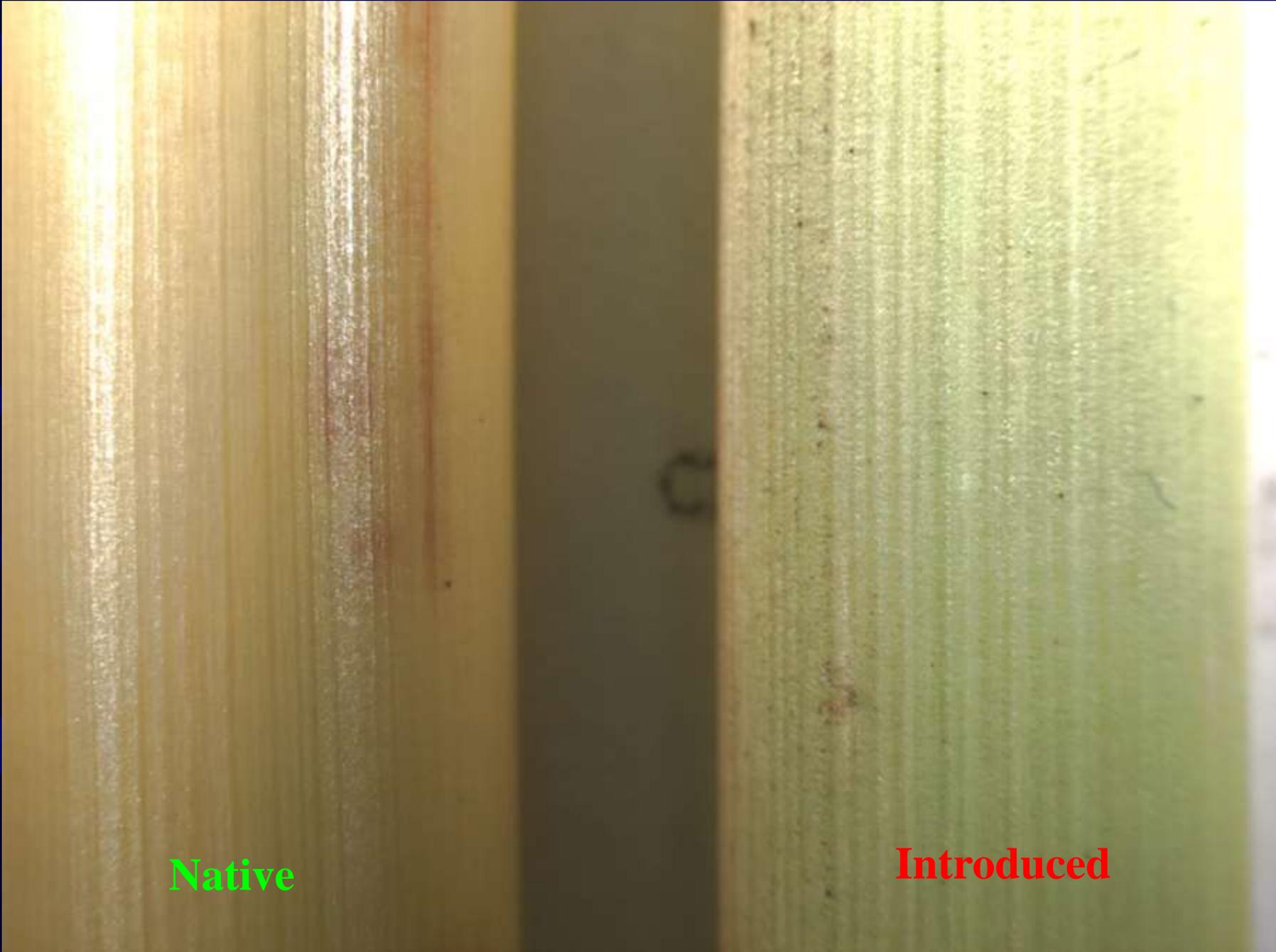
**Introduced**



**Native**

**Introduced**

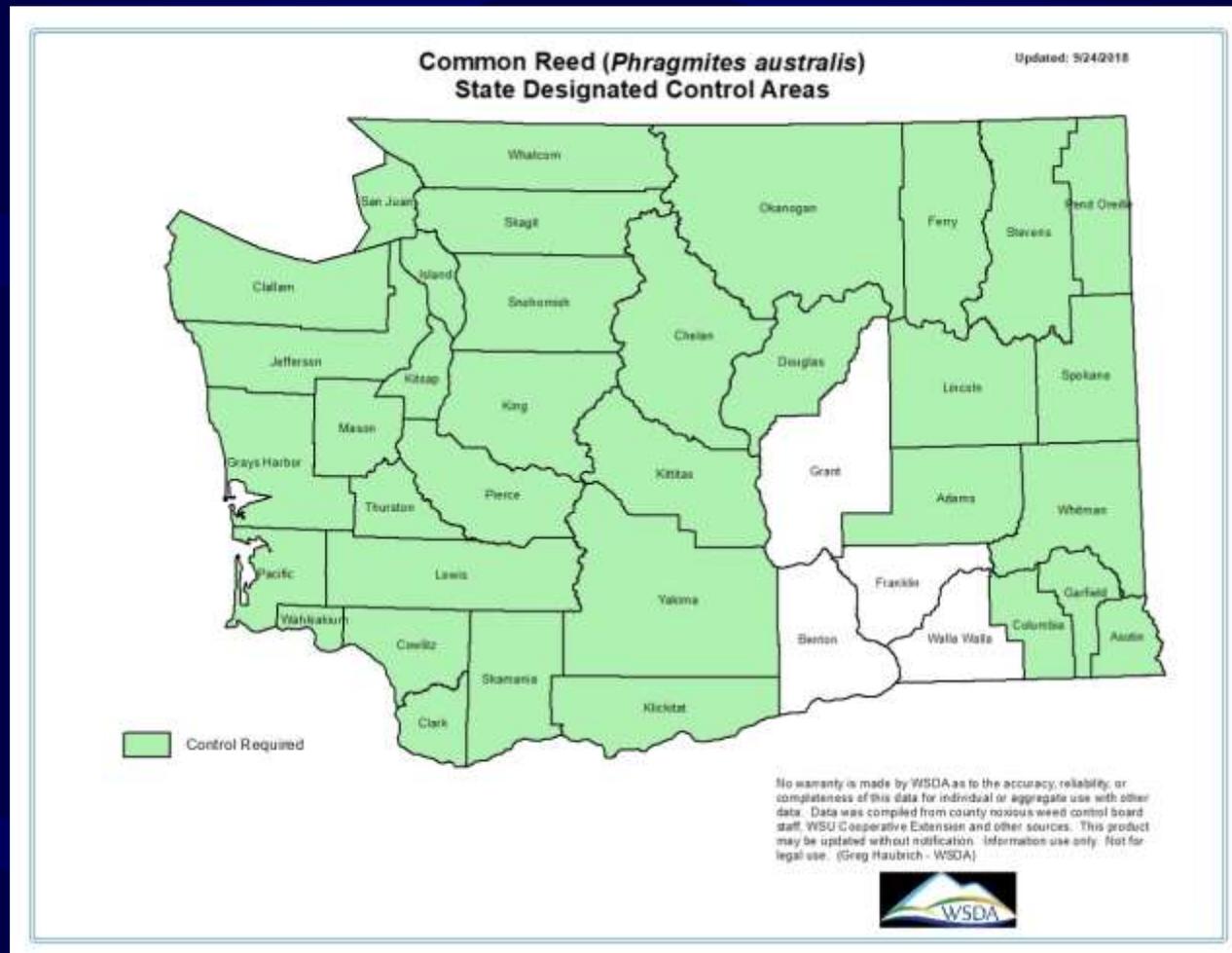




**Native**

**Introduced**

# Phragmites – Class B



# Giant Reed

## *Arundo Donax*

- Large Perennial Grass
- 20 to 30 feet tall
- Leaves alternate and wider and longer than *Phragmites*
- Panicles narrower and whitish in color
- Doesn't appear to produce viable seed in the U.S.



# WSNWCB

- Generally giant reed is taller with thicker stems, thicker rhizomes and wider leaves than common reed, but there is some overlap.
- Giant reed has a wedge-shaped, broad, round-lobed or clasping leaf base while common reed leaf bases gradually taper or narrow.
- Giant reed leaves are also arranged in one plane (2 ranked), while common reed leaves are not arranged in one plane.

# Giant Reed

## *Arundo Donax*

- Listed on State Quarantine and Monitor Lists
- Was being grown commercially in Boardman OR in 2013 for biofuel research
- Touchet WA for long-fiber paper production



# Arundo vs Phragmites



Photos: Dean A. Hendrickson  
Univ. of Texas at Austin

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# Questions?

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