

**BROOMBUSTERS INVASIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

# Flammable Broom

"Scotch Broom  
is a **volatile flash fuel**..

It will increase a wildfire's fuel load

escalate the fire's intensity

compromise fire situations

make fires more difficult to fight."

Why is broom so dangerous?

- Fuel Load - massive amounts of dry vegetation
- Ladder Fuel - grows 9 ft tall, carries flames UP
- Continuity - forms dense, wide-spread thickets
- Urban Interface Fires - grows everywhere
- High oil makes it easy ignition source



FireSmart lists broom in  
Highest Risk category.

Let us start by going south about 1500 km  
– to Santa Rosa and surrounding counties.

## THE TUBBS FIRE

Santa Rosa & Sonoma County

During a span of more than 23 days in October 2017, this wildfire consumed 36,807 acres destroyed 5,643 homes and buildings, and resulted in the loss of 22 lives.

Here is my son-in-law's story.



Rob:

“That is Scotch Broom? That was the plant that covered the fields where I lived in Santa Rosa! I didn’t know it was flammable.”

**People in Santa Rosa know now.**



**SANTA ROSA area wants to rebuild**  
and also prevent another catastrophic wildfire.

**Top Priority: Eliminate Scotch broom.**

**Vegetation Management Ordinance (ORD-2023016):**

Effective January 2024, this ordinance explicitly names **Scotch broom** ... as "non-native hazardous vegetation" that must be removed if it is **within 30 feet of a public right-of-way, 100 feet of a structure, or 30 feet of a property line.**

**Sonoma County** has a similar ordinance. Residents must manage vegetation within 100 feet of any structure or property line.. While native plants may remain, invasive and highly flammable species like Scotch broom are primary targets for removal...

Under California law, it is illegal to sell Scotch broom.

## REALITY CHECK....

Those ordinances will not pass here now.  
Timing and budgets will not allow.

## But what can we do?

Educate the public. Publicize the problem and the solution. Work with FireSafe with vegetation removal & roadside chipping. Reduced disposal fees. Draw more volunteers for Broombusting events. Help those who can't. *Let's brainstorm.*



# 2026 is Broombusters 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Alberni Valley was one of the FIRST!



2018 Alberni Valley Visitor's Center

Broombusters have documented 50,000 hours of cutting broom between 2014-2025. Including 2006-2014 - 75,000 hours!

# Port Alberni "Battle the Broom" Events

On May 4, 2024, at the Echo Center, Port Alberni celebrated many years of Broombusting.



**CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO BATTLE THE BROOM**



Be a Broombuster this Spring and help keep invasive broom at bay!

To see upcoming events and sign-up: [broombusters.org/port-alberni](http://broombusters.org/port-alberni)



# Port Alberni "Battle the Broom" Events

## North Island College in 2025

Thank you, Port Alberni for sponsoring these events!





STARFLEET Alberni Deep Space Port.



We recognize and honor their contributions over many years.

WORKING TOGETHER



Thank you Arrowsmith Rotary. They arranged a cut at the high school 2014. Broombuster Sales with Ryan Dvorak, Forestry Instructor

Alberni Valley Nature Club  
& Ducks Unlimited with  
Broombusters at  
Somass Estuary

WORKING TOGETHER



Sproat Lake Area D  
volunteers appreciate the  
yearly Broom Cut and Luncheon.







More Broom Cuts  
in Port Alberni

**Currently, a core group in Alberni Valley works tirelessly each spring to control the spread of broom.**



Land Based Learning Students



Redd Fish (with Broombusters) held a broom cut in Tofino as their 2024 restoration project for the West Coast Triple Plank 50 volunteers showed up in the pouring rain!

We want to do more on the West Coast!

WEST COAST: TOFINO & UCLULET





**REDD FISH**  
RESTORATION

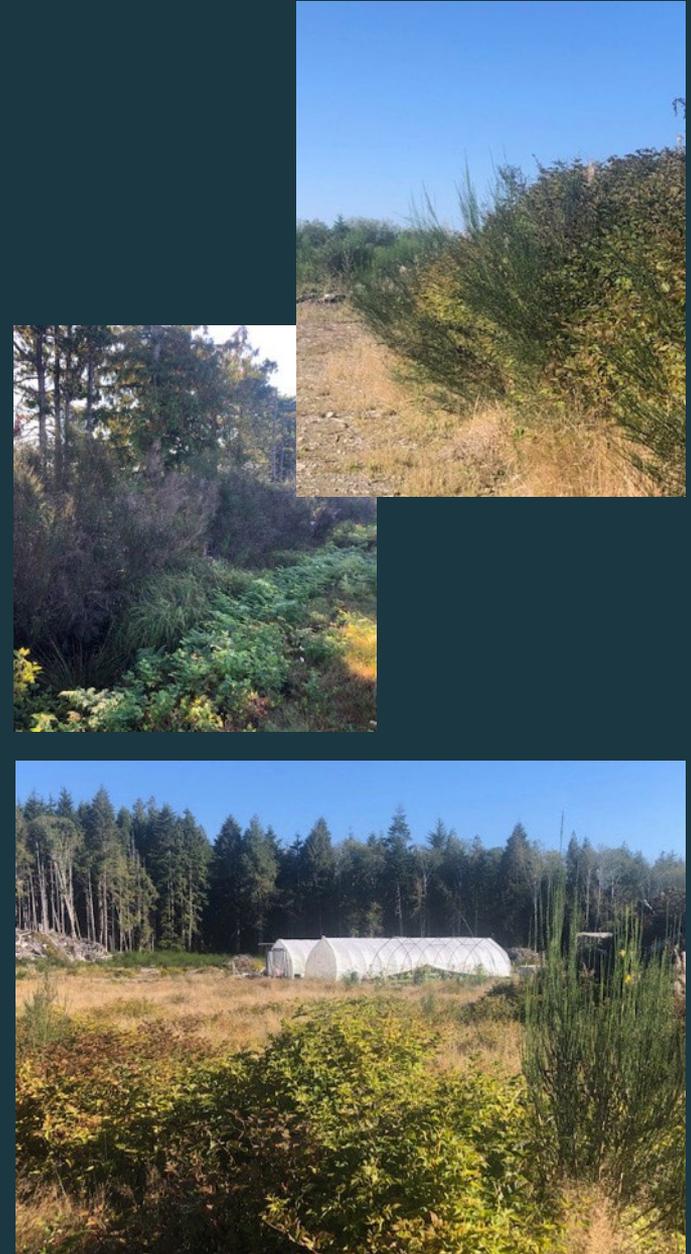


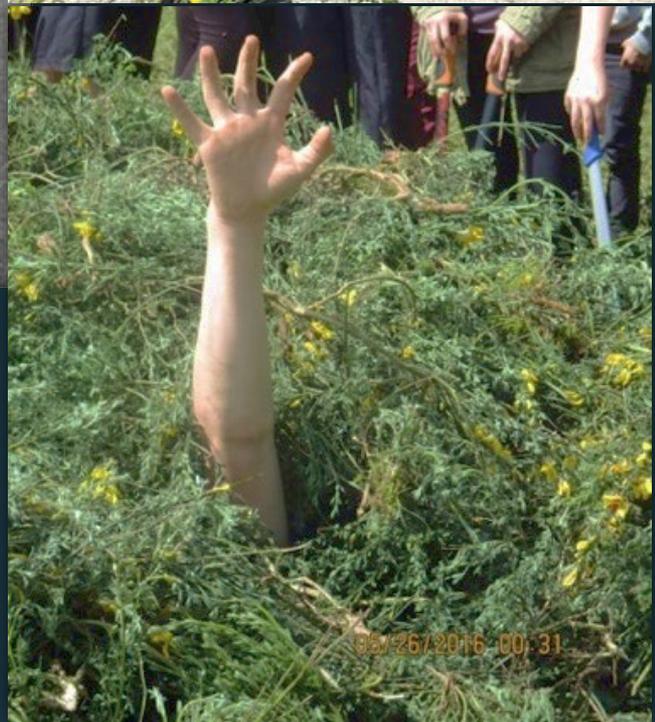
WEST COAST: TOFINO & UCLULET

# NEXT STEPS FOR THE ACRD

- How can the ACRD encourage more volunteers?
- How can we work with FireSmart?
- How can we make it easier for volunteers and landowners to dispose of the broom?
- Can we draw more consistent organizers and volunteers on the West Coast?
  - Tofino airport has lots of broom –not too late.
  - Broom on Hwy 4 into Ucluelet – not too late.
  - Broom spotted on the Wild Pacific Trail – just starting.
- We thank ACRD for the Grants which keep us going.

The world has gone *crazy*.  
It's the perfect time to build community.  
Broombusting is one way to do it.





*We can't leave this problem to future generations.*

**Let's stop the spread of Broom.**