



Sheep grazing as method for eradication of the Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*



Chatarina Karlsson
Länsstyrelsen Västerbotten/County administrative
board of Västerbotten




- July 2022: Enormous amounts of Himalayan balsam

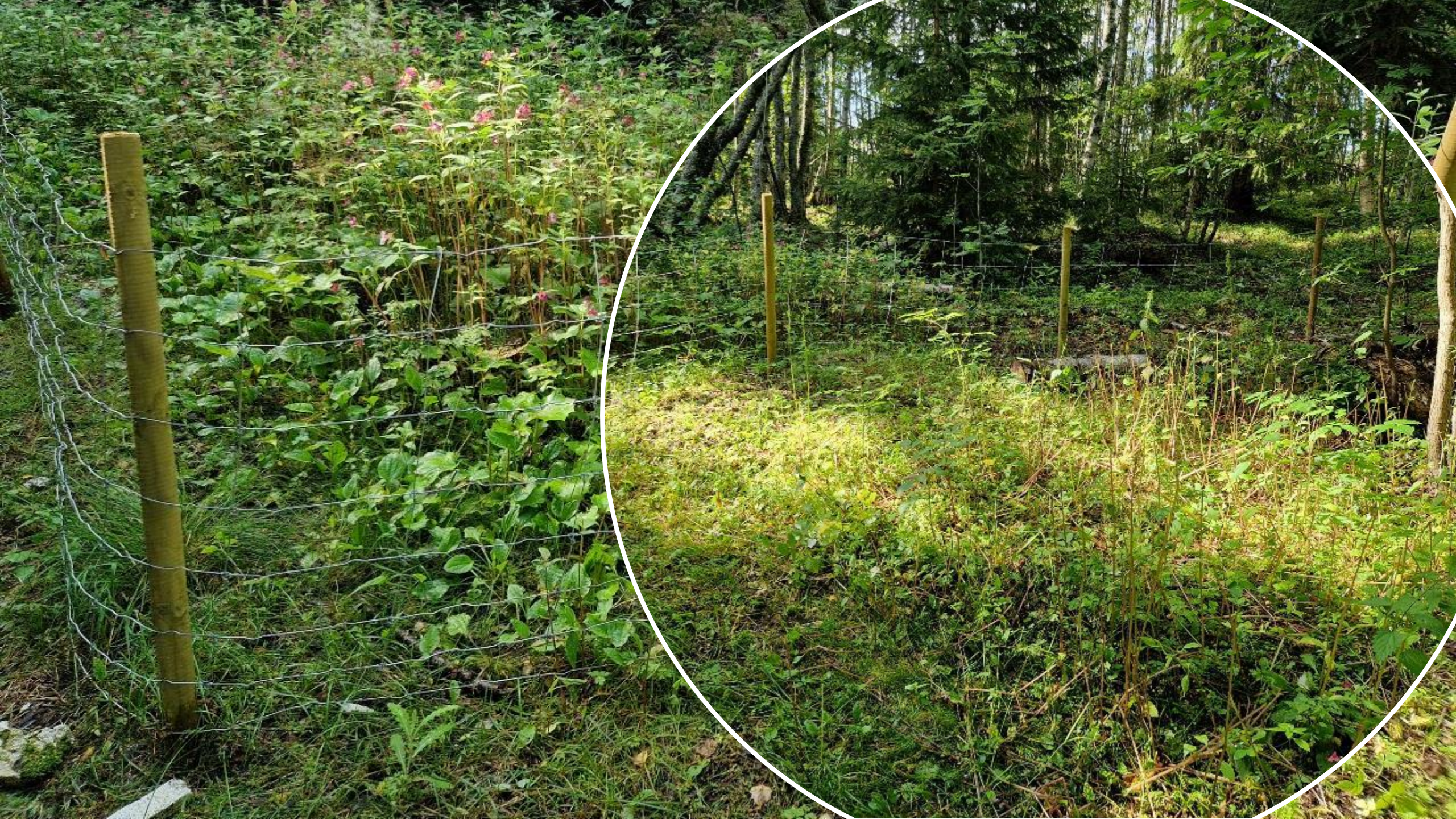


- 3,5 ha
- Landowner: municipality
- Former paintball-area
- Adjoining nature reserve
- CAB demanded action



- Clean up in june - lots of garbage
- Electric fence
- 6 sheep: Texel/Dorper
 - july to end of august

- 
- Preferred balsam over other vegetation
 - Ate both small as well as large plants, but left larger stems




What to think about

- How many sheep is needed?
For 3,5 ha 6 sheep were enough. Should be there the whole season.
- What breed should be used?
In this case Texel/Dorper worked fine
- How many years is the grazing needed?
- Fencing; might not include all himalayan balsam, so manual eradication might be needed

Can the sheep be a spread risk?

- Seeds can get stuck in the hooves - cut them before leaving the area or directly when they come home
- Seeds can get stuck in the sheeps whool
- Do the seeds survive the sheeps digestion?
- Seeds can follow the sheep and be left in the transport



Leave them in a small pasture the first week/weeks after coming home so it is easy to detect and erradicate if plants starts to grow



Thank you for listening. Questions?



Three years of covering - a small roseplant is still there but the recovery of the spot looks very good.

About 15 % is re-established with natural plants

