



War on Invasive Plants: Ironton RD - Wayne National Forest

The Ironton Ranger District, Wayne NF aimed high and achieved big on invasive species control in 2007.



Volunteers, led by STEP students Michael Wagner & Philip Green, mowed over 5 ac. of stillgrass along trails at Lake Vesuvius.

The Ironton Ranger District treated over 503 acres in fiscal year 2007 with the aid of the Non-Native Invasive Species Control Plan, several seasonals, volunteers and District staff. Though there were many successful projects in 2007, here are the highlights of a few of the projects.

The 2007 season started with the annual Vesuvius Recreation Autumn Olive Control project. This project was implemented in 2005 with the treatment of Autumn Olive in the Iron Ridge Campground. All patches of the invasive shrub were mapped and then dug with hand tools or a tractor. Sixty-five acres of scattered Autumn Olive have been treated. These areas are

annually monitoring and retreated for root sprouts. Herbicide application was used for the first time in 2007 to control sprouts. Since these removals were in a high visibility area, most of the Autumn Olive shrubs were replaced by planting native species to provide screening and natural barriers.

Multiflora rose, Amur Honeysuckle and tree of heaven were the targets of the Binion Wildfire invasive project. Much of the control activity occurred in the winter months. Several acres choked out by multiflora rose were treated by Michael Wagner, a STEP employee from Ohio University. Under his leadership, workers from the Federal Prison Camp partnered with the Forest Service to encourage native plant growth and regeneration on over 190 acres of federal and private land. "It was cold and the multiflora rose bit back, but in the end we prevailed" said Wagner. For the Binion project, the Forest Service employed the Wyden Amendment to work on neighboring private land to treat an area that was severely burned by a wildfire in 2005.

Another project that was implemented in 2007 was the Kosmos ATV Trail NNIS Control project. This project aims to pre-treat invasive species along nearly 30 miles of existing, user-created trail that will eventually become part of the official trail system. In 2007, 200 acres of stiltgrass, Autumn Olive and Amur Honeysuckle were treated by Wayne National Forest personnel. An NNIS control contract will be implemented in 2008 to

control another 742 acres of invasives in the Kosmos area.

Projects to control stiltgrass in wildfire areas, along timber access road and recreation areas were also implemented in 2007 by Forestry Technician Sean Gwin, Michael Wagner, Jake Emnett, Fred Ashworth, volunteers and the Federal Prison Camp crew. Forty-one acres of garlic mustard was controlled on the District, most of which was to protect the rich stream corridor of Little Storms Creek. This effort was aided by volunteers and partners from the Iron Furnace Cooperative Weed Management Area.

The Ironton District currently has 7 invasive species control projects targeting 12 invasive species in areas where there are rare plants or areas such as trails and wildfires where invasive species can easily spread and multiply.

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