

Monongahela National Forest

2014 Invasive Species Accomplishments

Invasive species management on the Monongahela in 2014 focused on treatment of NNIS to protect high-value resources, such as TES species, facilities, and range allotments. Our treatment work was accomplished through our partnership with the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, as well as through in-house efforts. Our partnership with the Potomac Highlands CWPMA also led to several noteworthy accomplishments in education and outreach.

Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area treatment projects:

- Treated 754.4 acres of invasive plant infestations to reduce threats to nearby populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and to reduce competition in ecosystem restoration areas. In particular, these treatments included:
 - Treatment of 40 acres of tree of heaven and 40 acres of Japanese knotweed at Seneca Rocks Discovery Center.
 - Treatment of 258.5 acres of garlic mustard to shield an adjacent backcountry from invasions.

In-house treatment projects:

Treatments totaled 373 acres. These treatments included the following:

- Garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed were treated at prominent recreation and administrative sites.

- Various species were controlled to limit spread due to timber harvest activities.
- Treated multiflora rose on 123.3 acres of range allotment land.
- Tyrol knapweed, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and nodding thistles were treated on range allotments.



Knotweed thicket post-treatment at Seneca Rocks Discovery Center. Photo courtesy of Ben Rhoades, ERT Crew Leader, TNC

Potomac Highlands CWPMA education and outreach efforts:

- Hosted a total of six successful Garlic Mustard Challenge events in West Virginia and partnered with groups for two additional pulls in Tennessee and Virginia. Together, volunteers served 1,164 hours and removed 3,355 pounds of garlic mustard. Many of these hours were used as match for grants that

- resulted in on-the-ground treatment by the CWPMA field crew.
- Hosted “Discover Nature Day” at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center. This event featured a garlic mustard pull, sixteen activity booths for children, a live bat presentation, and a 50th Wilderness Act Anniversary and Smokey’s 70th Birthday celebration.
- Distributed educational non-native invasive species display boards to popular camping and recreational areas throughout West Virginia. Each display provided information about non-native invasive species. Additional panels included information about a specific invasive species such as: Asian longhorned beetle, Japanese stiltgrass, hemlock wooly adelgid, and garlic mustard.
- Developed a Tucker the Turtle Children’s Field Guide to serve as a companion to the children’s book The Pests that Girdle the Home of Tucker the Turtle. This guide provides interesting facts and tips for identifying fifteen non-native invasive species including: garlic mustard, mile-a-minute, northern snakehead fish, gypsy moth, Japanese knotweed, Chinese mystery snail, tree-of-heaven, emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, Japanese stiltgrass, Asian longhorned beetle, zebra mussel, hydrilla, purple loosestrife, and kudzu.
- Facilitated the installation of one boot brush station at the Greenbrier State Forest and one bike wash station at Seneca Rocks.



Oglebay Park’s invasive species display. Photo courtesy of Linda Carnell, Forestry Program Specialist, WV Division of Forestry

Fund Code	Funding	Acres	Comments
NFVW	25,400	1,042	CWPMA & FS Crews
NFRG	500	53	FS crews/permittees
NFTM	2,100	32	FS Crew
Total			

Partners/Coordinators: The Nature Conservancy, Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, and volunteers from the local community

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