

Monongahela National Forest

2013 Invasive Species Accomplishments

Invasive species management on the Monongahela in 2013 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 357 acres of invasive plant infestations to reduce threats to nearby populations of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants.
- Treated 459 acres of infestations to reduce competition to regenerating trees in old harvest units and ecosystem restoration areas.
- Treated 11 acres of garlic mustard to shield an adjacent backcountry area from invasion.
- Treated 40 acres for tree of heaven around the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center.

In-house treatment projects:

- Treated 80 acres of garlic mustard and Japanese stiltgrass to prevent further spread by timber harvest activities.
- Treated multiflora rose on 223 acres of range allotment land.
- Treated 11 acres of reed canary grass in wildlife openings.

New CWPMA treatment project with WV Division of Highways:

- Developed pilot project with WV DOH to more effectively control Japanese knotweed along road right-of-ways.
- Along with partners, surveyed and treated a five mile section of road near Lost River State Park.

- WVDOH road crews cut down Japanese knotweed in and adjacent to the right-of-way and developed partnership agreements with adjacent private landowners.
- Field crew cut Japanese knotweed beyond the right-of-way and six weeks later sprayed all resprouts.



A variety of IPM methods are used by the CWPMA field crew such as hack & squirt, hand pulling, and spot spraying.

Potomac Highlands CWPMA education and outreach efforts:

- Conducted outreach for all elementary schools in Grant County reaching 350 school children, who pulled 13,000 pounds of garlic mustard and helped inventory 30 acres for invasive species.
- Hosted a total of nine successful Garlic Mustard Challenge events in West Virginia and partnered with groups for an additional six pulls in Illinois, Ohio, and Virginia. Together, volunteers served

2,593 hours and removed 37,900 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 Invasive Species Day” at the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center. The event featured a garlic mustard pull, eight activity booths for children, four short skits by local students about the threat of NNIS, and a lunch filled with garlic mustard treats.
- Partnered with the mayor of Elkins to proclaim May 25, 2013 as the third annual “Invasive Species Awareness Day.” CWPMA partners spoke to area students about the threat that invasive species pose to their natural heritage, and the students created alien species banners that adorned the streetlights of Elkins for three months.
- Hosted “Nuggets for Knotweed” to increase awareness on NNIS, especially Japanese knotweed, at the McDonalds in Elkins, WV. Over 100 people stopped in to learn about the threat of NNIS, to see live demonstrations on the proper treatment of Japanese knotweed, to play invasive species jeopardy, and to visit with Puddles the Blue Goose and Smoky Bear.
- Established billboards along high-travel routes into the Monongahela National Forest to increase travelers’ awareness that moving firewood can also move tree-killing insects and diseases and remind visitors to protect their favorite areas by buying and using firewood locally.
- Developed and installed educational displays at high visitation pathways into the National Forest. Panels provided general background on what NNIS are and why they are a problem, and each additional panel focused on a single invasive species including: Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock wooly adelgid, garlic mustard, and Japanese stiltgrass. Together, it is estimated that these newly installed educational signs will be seen by over 85,000 people each year.
- Hosted, “Tucker’s Big Bash” on November 9, 2013 to celebrate the history, culture, and natural heritage of the Appalachian forest of West Virginia. The event featured hands-on activities for kids including three activities focused on NNIS, a reading of the new children’s book, The Pests That Girdle the Home of Tucker the Turtle, snacks, and live

music. Over 120 people attended Tucker’s Big Bash and a total of \$2,100 was raised.

Fund Code	Funding*	Acres	Comments
NFWW	\$29,089	1,189	CWPMA and FS crews
NFWW	\$7,900	--	Education & outreach
NFTM	\$9,563	80	FS crew
Total		1,269	

Partners/Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, Appalachian Forest Heritage Area, WV Division of Highways, volunteers from the local community.

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CWPMA partner Linda Carnell (WV Division of Forestry) delivers educational signs and an Asian longhorned beetle replica to Oglebay Park.

