



THE POTOMAC HIGHLANDS COOPERATIVE WEED & PEST MANAGEMENT AREA

Preventing and Managing the Spread of Invasive Species and Protecting the Native Ecosystems of the Potomac Highlands: 2015 Highlights

YEAR-END REVIEW

We are pleased to share highlights of the Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed & Pest Management Area!

The Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA) is a partnership between federal, state, and local agencies, community associations, non-profit organizations, and private land owners aimed at coordinating efforts and programs for addressing the threat of invasive species. CWPMA members are dedicated to invasive species management.

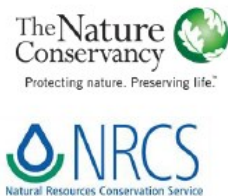
The mission of Potomac Highlands CWPMA is the prevention and management of invasive species in the headwaters region of the South Branch of the Potomac River in West Virginia and Virginia.

We are dedicated to decreasing the impacts of invasive species on native plant and animal communities, public and private forests, private and agricultural lands, and local economies through public awareness, education, professional improvement and environmental awareness.



The PHCWPMA Field Crew and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conquer a massive patch of Japanese knotweed in Parsons, WV. Photo Credit: V. Woltz

***We Are the Potomac
Highlands CWPMA!***



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

2015 proved to be another extremely productive and fruitful year for the PHCWPMA:

- Over 4,314 acres treated for non-native invasive species.
- Over 4,400 people reached through education and outreach programs.
- 12,885 pounds of garlic mustard pulled and over 600 volunteer hours logged for the 7th Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge.
- Over 900 in attendance at Discover Nature Day.
- PHCWPMA geographic boundary expanded to include Grant, Pendleton, Hardy, Randolph, Pocahontas, and Tucker Counties in WV and Bath, Highland, Augusta, Rockingham, Page, and Shenandoah Counties in VA.
- NNIS data standardized and entered into I-Map Invasives software application.



Volunteers pose proudly with a heaping bag of garlic mustard pulled as part of the Garlic Mustard Challenge at Discover Nature Day.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The PHCWPMAs education and outreach programs encourage people to be more responsible landowners and a new generation of citizen scientists.

- **Discover Nature Day 2015** had **955** attendees. Volunteers pulled **3,115** lbs. of garlic mustard. Partner-run booths included pollinators, trout, wetlands, benthic macroinvertebrates, fly tying, invasive species, red spruce, and an inflatable bat cave.
- The **7th Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge** was a success. **12,885** pounds of garlic mustard were pulled and reported from TN, VA, PA, WI, and WV.
- **95** 5th grade students from Petersburg Elementary School learned to identify and report invasive species through the **Citizen Science Program**.
- **346** reached through **Hiker/Camper/Angler Outreach Program**.
- **Landowners surveys** and PHCWPMAs materials sent to **3,000** landowners. **343** surveys were returned.

WEED WARRIORS

The PHCWPMAs and partners put a lot of work into fighting the spread of non-native invasive species and protecting our native ecosystems:

- The PHCWPMAs field crew, operating out of **The Nature Conservancy**, treated non-native invasive species using mechanical and chemical methods on **1,575** acres this year, an increase from around 1,400 acres last year. The total adjusted acreage was **2,183** acres!
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** applied **2,070** acres of Brush Management on **105** farms in Grant, Hardy, Pendleton, Tucker, Randolph and Pocahontas counties in WV.
- **The WV Division of Forestry—Kumbrabow State Forest** treated stiltgrass along 2 miles of road.
- **The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** and the **U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team** released weevils as biocontrol against purple loosestrife and Japanese knotweed respectively.



Local artist **Emily Prentice** created a series of prints for the PHCWPMAs centered on the threat of invasive species. “Bringing light to these issues is my small way of contributing to a much larger fight: to protect the land around us, which is also our home.”

To learn more about the PHCWPMAs and view the complete 2015 annual report, visit:
<http://www.phcwpma.org/>

