White Mountain National Forest

Non-native Invasive Species Accomplishments 2014

The 2014 NNIS species work on White Mountain National Forest reflected a real team effort, with wildlife and other staff supporting the new Forest Botanist in treating 83 acres. We achieved this target through a combination of manual removals and herbicide treatments, continuing the trend of diminishing and eliminating invasive species populations on the Forest. Compared to many landscapes in the region, the WMNF benefits from the presence of relatively low levels of NNIS infestation, allowing us to respond to and control many infestations before they become intractable.

Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) and Youth Environmental Leadership (YEL) crews helped remove invasive species from Meade Base Camp.

Monitoring of treated sites on the WMNF continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of past treatments. Eleven sites investigated in 2014 (treated in previous years) appeared to be successfully eradicated; many others have been considerably reduced. Most treatment sites in 2014 were easily completed by small teams, although several require multiple staff due to larger extent. Constrained budgets, staffing levels, and other high priority work means that other staff may have less flexibility to help with NNIS treatment in the future. As such, it is imperative that we stay on top of infestations while they're small and more easily managed.

Ten sites were treated with manual removal methods. The Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) and Youth Environmental Leadership (YEL) crews were instrumental in removing several NNIS species from a 5 acre infestation area.

This year we benefited from support via the Two Chief's Initiative, a partnership with Natural Resource Conservation Service to improve drinking water supply

WMNF staff peel bark from white ash bolts in search of evidence of Emerald Ash Borer, confirmed less than 35 miles away from the Forest.

in priority watersheds.

WMNF staff also selected 16 ash "trap trees" from across the Forest in support of efforts for early detection of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) spread in the state. EAB are preferentially attracted to stressed ash trees; the 16 trap trees were girdled in the spring, and were harvested and peeled in November to look for signs of EAB. Fortunately, none were detected, although its spread is almost inevitable. EAB is confirmed within 35 miles of the Forest boundary.

Early detection botanical surveys revealed a new invasive species on the Forest – European Black Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). We are pursuing having this species added to the state and Forest's invasive species lists to facilitate control efforts.

Fund Code	Funding	Acres	Comments
NFVW	$69,000	83	Includes $16K via the Two Chief's Intitiative
Total	$69,000	83	
Partners/Cooperators: Natural Resources Conservation Service (Two Chief's Inititiative); Youth Conservation Corp			

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