

Allegheny National Forest

FY2013 Invasive Species Accomplishments

Non-native Invasive Plant Treatments

A total of 294 acres of non-native invasive plants were treated across the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). Treatments were accomplished via stewardship contracts, ANF staff, Federal Correctional Institute McKean prison crew, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), and student interns. Some of the species treated included: garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), goatsrue (*Galega officinalis*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Exotic bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* sp.), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). Two outreach/education sessions on invasive plant identification and their impacts were given to ANF staff and one to a local garden club.

Zebra Mussel Monitoring

To monitor the risk of additional zebra mussel introductions into the Allegheny River and prevent boaters with a high risk of harboring the species from launching, 508 boaters were randomly screened at two Forest Service boat launches. Also, for boats that were launched without being screened, trailers (2,041) were inspected in parking lots for evidence of aquatic vegetation that might harbor zebra mussels. No evidence of the species was detected.

Gypsy Moth Monitoring

ANF and State & Private Forestry (S&PF) staff conducted fall gypsy moth egg mass counts in areas that experienced moderate to heavy defoliation early in the year. Egg mass data were collected on over 190 plots (7,859 acres) to predict future gypsy moth populations, and therefore defoliation potential. Overall, egg mass counts were low (<250 egg masses per acre, the amount normally considered to cause “nuisance” levels of defoliation in recreational or residential settings) due to a combination of a naturally occurring soil fungus (*Entomophaga maimaiga*) and a virus (nucleopolyhedrosis virus-NPV) carried by the moths themselves. The virus appeared to control populations the most as indicated by the large

number of dead, inverted gypsy moth caterpillars observed early in the year.

Forest Pest Outreach & Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Monitoring

ANF and State & Private Forestry (S&PF) staff worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to organize a workshop aimed at training volunteers to identify and report new hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) infestations in northwestern Pennsylvania. Participants observed HWA first-hand and gained experience in detection, monitoring, and reporting protocols. They also had an opportunity to volunteer for the “Adopt-a-Hemlock” program to conduct surveys and report new infestations in local hemlock forests. Additional workshops were scheduled for FY2014. To date, 19 areas have been adopted with additional volunteers completing surveys as possible while out in general forest areas. A total of 1,913 acres and 862 hemlocks have been surveyed over 128 volunteer hours.

While HWA has been in the northeastern United States since the 1950s and was found in southeastern Pennsylvania in the 1960s, it only recently spread to northwestern Pennsylvania. HWA was detected in Cook Forest and Clear Creek State Parks (both to the south of the ANF) in the spring of 2013, and on the ANF including along the Clarion River, Allegheny River, and Allegheny Reservoir as well as within the Tionesta Research Natural Area in FY2014.

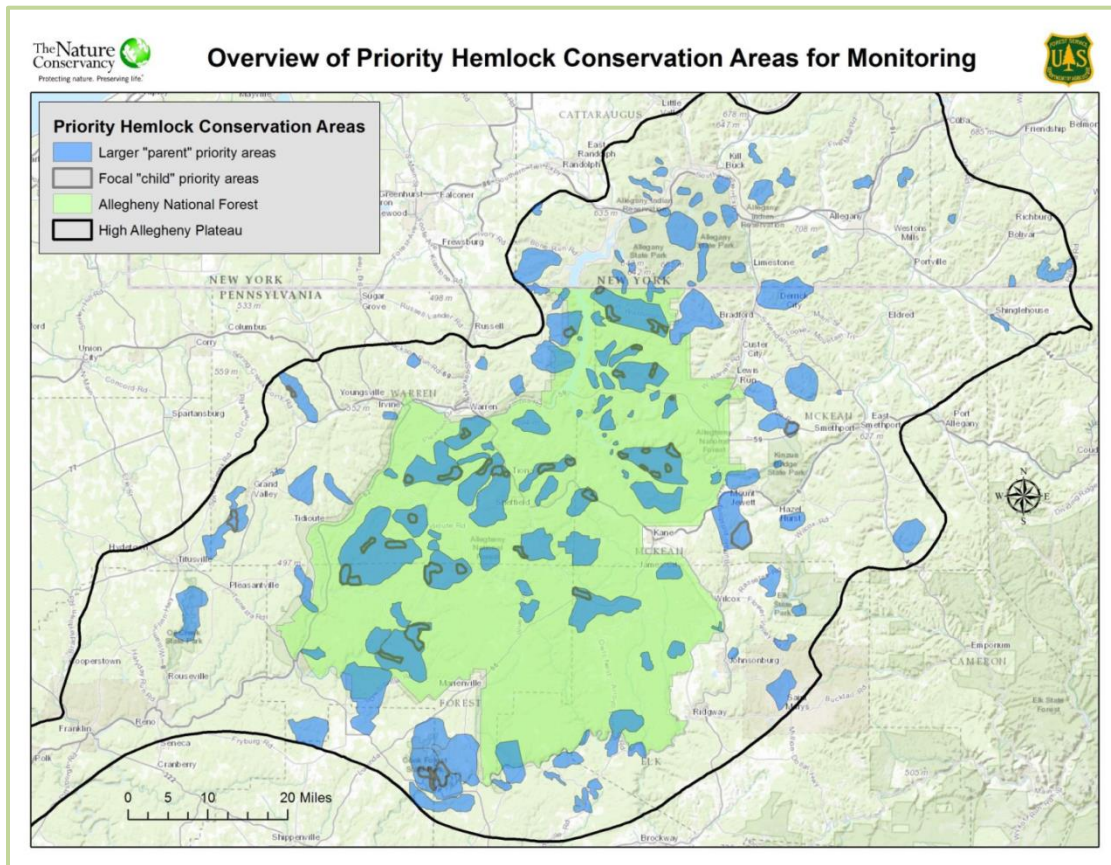


Hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) infestation

Hemlock Conservation Strategy

Using Forest Health Protection (FHP) funds awarded by State & Private Forestry (S&PF), the ANF implemented its Challenge Cost Share Agreement (CCSA) with the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (PA TNC) to develop a hemlock conservation strategy for subsection 212Ga, the unglaciated High Allegheny Plateau (HAP). Two workshops were held with partners (e.g., state and federal agencies, forest products industry, conservation groups, etc.) to provide input on the

strategy, particularly the conservation priority of hemlock stands within the HAP. A third and final workshop was held in early FY2014 to review results of the hemlock stand prioritization and discuss development of a Cooperative Pest Management Area and emerging HWA control strategies.



Initial hemlock conservation priority areas in High Allegheny Plateau Hemlock Conservation Strategy

Species Targeted	Accomplishment	Funding	Fund Code
NNIPs	294 acres	\$95,400	NFVW, NFWF, GSRV, NFTM,
Zebra mussel	508 boats, 2,041 trailers	\$4,000	NFIM, NFWF, NFRW
Gypsy moth	190 plots (7,859 acres)	\$12,500	NFVW
HWA	19 sites (1,913 acres, 862 hemlocks)	128 Volunteer Hours	n/a
Hemlock conservation strategy	Implement CCSA with PA TNC	\$15,600	NFVW



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