

A CWPMA Approach from West Virginia: The Potomac Highlands CWPMA

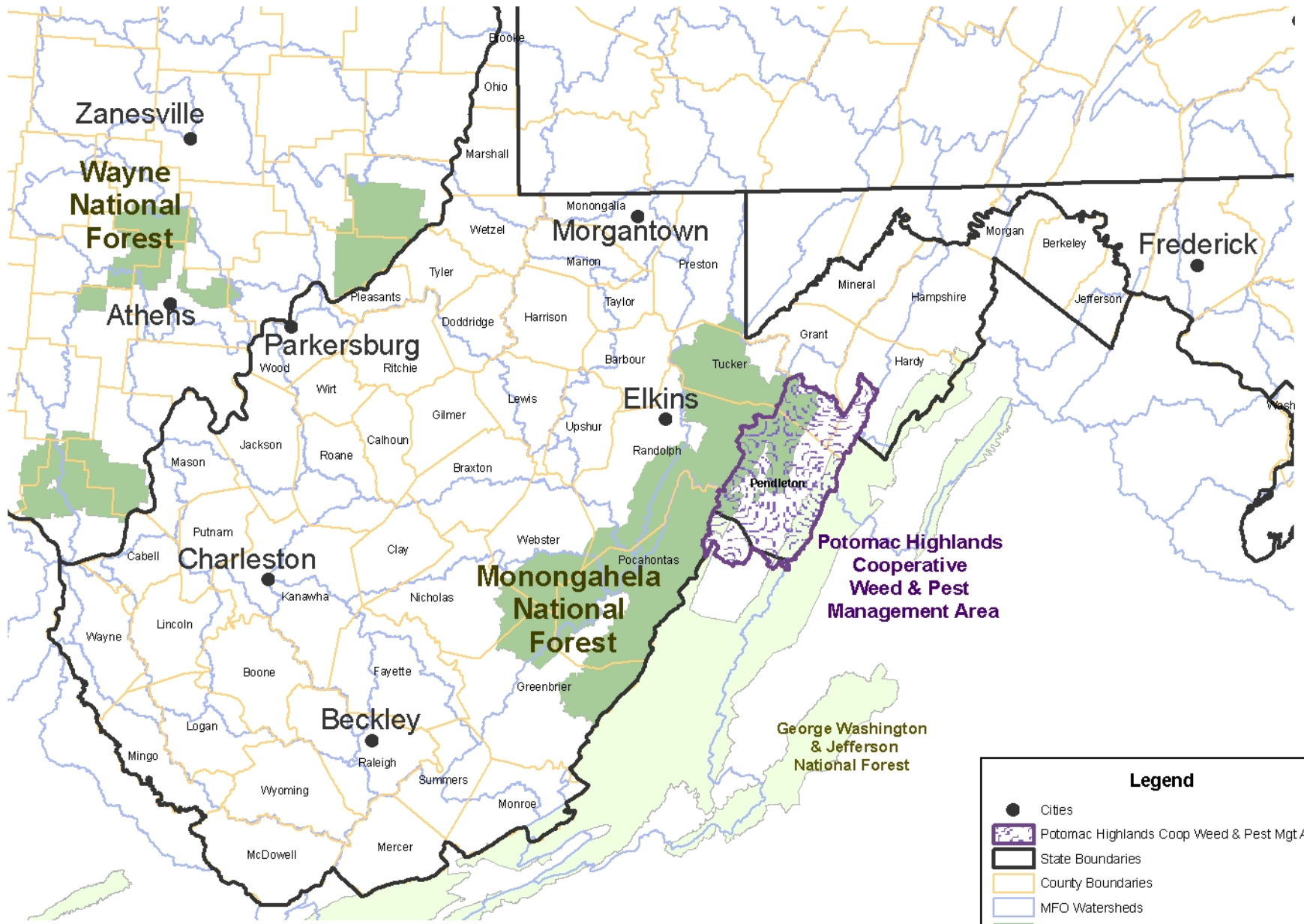


The Nature Conservancy: Keith Fisher, Director of Conservation

Mission

The mission of the 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.

Attachment 1: Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area



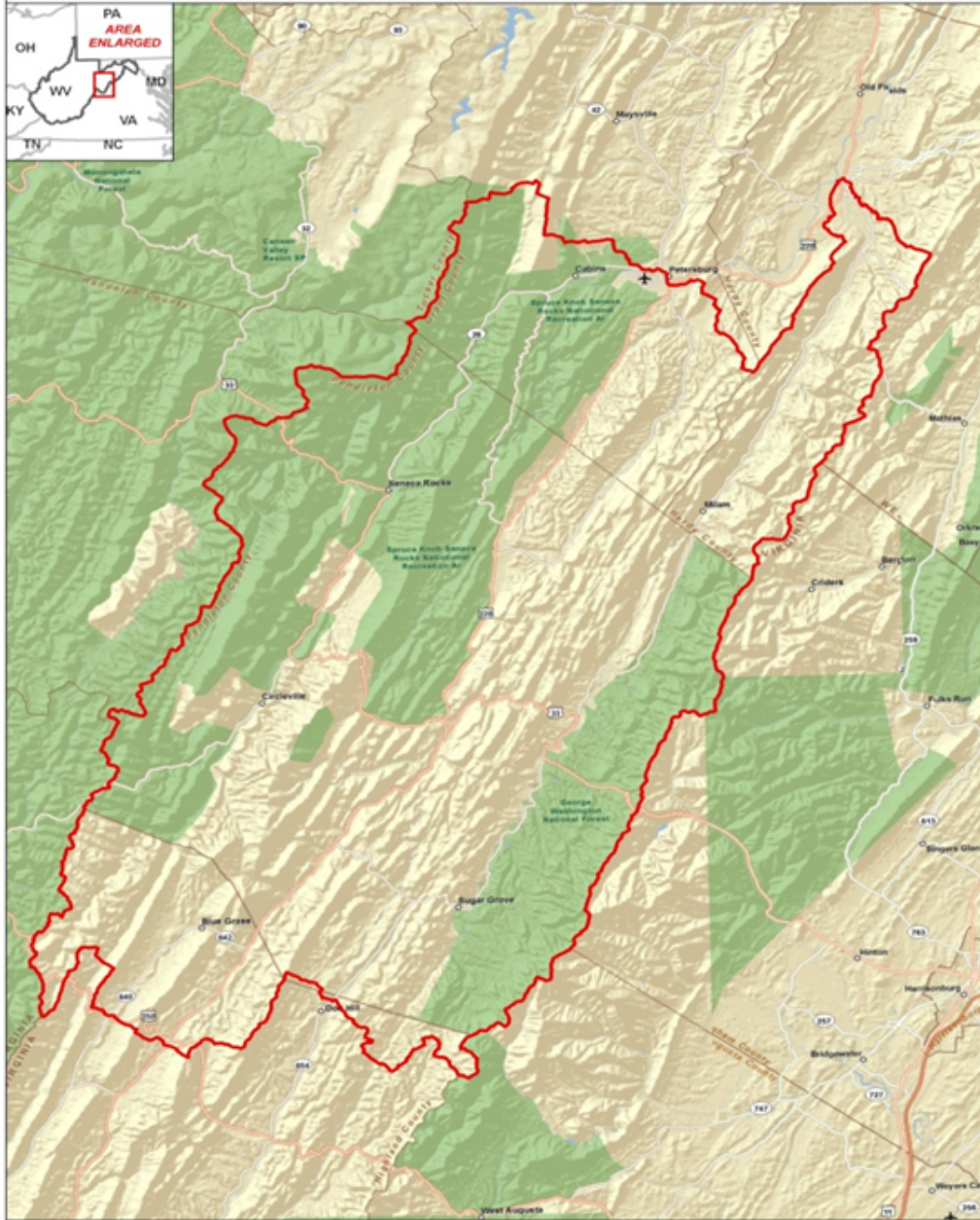
Legend

- Cities
- ▭ Potomac Highlands Coop Weed & Pest Mgt Area
- ▭ State Boundaries
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ MFO Watersheds
- ▭ MFO National Forest Administrative Boundary
- ▭ Virginia National Forest Administrative Boundary

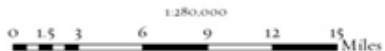
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Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA) Boundary West Virginia, Virginia



 CWPMA Boundary



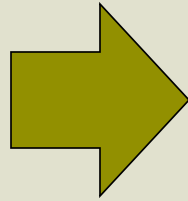
October 2010

Goals

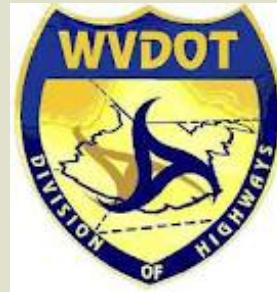
1. Decrease the impacts of invasive species on native plant and animal communities, public and private forest, rivers and streams, agricultural lands, and local economies using Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
2. Develop and support partnerships among a diverse group of private land owners, concerned citizens, agencies, non-profit organizations, industries, educational facilities, and local governments.
3. Increase public awareness of the invasive species problem through public workshops, field tours, community meetings, demonstration areas, and by sharing informational resources.

Goal 1: Integrated Pest Management

- Crew leader (TNC) and 2 WVCCC members
- Performed treatment on 1,500 acres in 2012
- On federal and private lands



Goal 2: Our Partners



Goal 3: Education and Outreach

Materials

- Quarterly newsletter
- Website
- Videos
- Treatment Slides
- Brochures
- Facebook

Events

- Seneca Rock Discovery Day
- Petersburg Elementary School
- Garlic Mustard Challenge
- Farmers Dinners
- Master Naturalist Meetings
- Master Gardeners Meetings



Goal 3: Education and Outreach

Early Detection of Invasive Species Critical for Eradication

The Potomac Highlands Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA) has spent the last year increasing public awareness of invasive species through public workshops, field tours, community meetings, and by sharing informational resources. In late August, these efforts were rewarded with the detection of a new invader within the CWPMA. Mike Weaver, a concerned land owner, had attended public workshops hosted by the CWPMA that focused on identifying eleven of the most invasive plant species found in West Virginia.

A few weeks later, John Schmidt

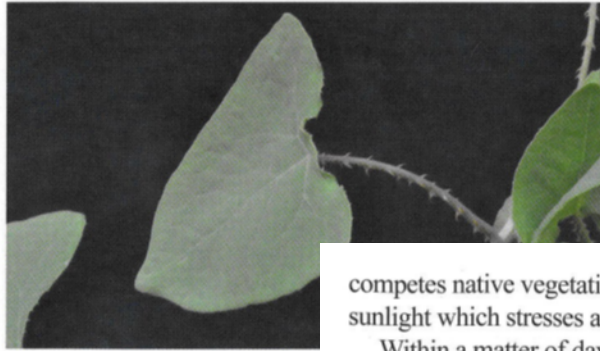


Photo courtesy of Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State

of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Field Office received a call from Mike Weaver. He had discovered a new triangular shaped leaf on his pastures at a meeting. "I went to a couple of meetings," says Weaver.

picked up an invasive species field guide at one of them. That was how I was able to identify mile-a-minute vine."

With a name like mile-a-minute, it is clear why

it competes native vegetation by blocking the available sunlight which stresses and weakens native plants.

Within a matter of days of learning of the location of mile-a-minute, the CWPMA dispatched a field crew, lead by Invasive Species Team Leader Clark Owen, to assist Weaver in eradicating the vine from his property. "The CWPMA did a great job," said Weaver, "They came as soon as they could and treated everything they could find." Several partners including The Nature Conservancy, USFWS, the U.S. Forest Service, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, West Virginia Division of Forestry, West Virginia Division of Highways, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, and West Virginia Rivers Coalition work together as members of the Potomac Highlands CWPMA. The CWPMA counts their work with Weaver as a great success, and an illustration of the power of these partnerships. "It's a great feeling to be able to help concerned landowners like Mike Weaver protect their livelihood and wildlife habitat," said Schmidt. The CWPMA hopes for many more stories of success through partnerships in the future. This is the first time mile-a-minute had been found in the CWPMA and it was very important to treat the newly discovered

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infestation very quickly. Early detection and eradication of small infestations minimizes ecological damage, saves significant time and money, and is more successful than attempts to eradicate large infestations. Yet, early detection requires lots of trained eyes on the ground looking for invasive species. If private landowners find mile-a-minute on their property, they should contact the CWPMA as soon as possible.

For more information regarding the CWPMA and invasive species, please visit the CWPMA website at <http://phcwpma.org> or contact CWPMA Coordinator Rosie Santerre at 304-637-0160.



Mike Weaver at his farm

Our accomplishments...

- Leveraging \$230,000 in grant funds (not counting federal contributions and in kind match!)
- Supported a full time AmeriCorps*VISTA Coordinator for two years.
- Supporting a permanent 50% time, coordinator cooperatively between The Nature Conservancy, the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Questions?

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