



Mapping Invasive Species on the Wayne National Forest

National Forest Foundation grant and University partnership provides two interns for the Wayne National Forest to focus on invasive plant species.



Inventorying populations of Asiatic stiltgrass, one of the Wayne's worst forest invaders because it is shade tolerant and readily spreads along trails, roads, and drainages.

Positioning Systems (GPS) to map invasive plant species in the Recreation Area. The interns will also organize and lead volunteer workdays to remove NNIPS in late summer and early fall.

In addition, they will hope to make posters for the campgrounds and give talks on invasive species.

Kirschbaum hopes this is only the beginning of a partnership that will combat invasive species on a larger scale than just the Wayne National Forest.

Kirschbaum has big plans. "I'd like to set up a Weed Management Area with private and public landowners to monitor and control invasive species in Scioto, Lawrence, Gallia, and Jackson Counties," he said.

He said he hopes to expand the partnership to other universities, organizations, local and state government and local business groups. Kirschbaum notes that the Wayne can only

The National Forest Foundation (NF) recently awarded Dr. Robert Culp and Dr. Gary Belcher of Ohio University Southern \$4,000 to map invasive species in the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area.

"Along with a matching contribution of \$4,000 from Ohio University Southern, we now have a total of \$8,000 to map invasive plants in the Vesuvius Recreation Area" said District Botanist Chad Kirschbaum on the Ironton Ranger District.

With this money OUS has hired two local interns. The interns will use Global

treat approximately 160 acres per year which doesn't begin to address the problem.

“In order to comprehensively address the spread of invasive species, we need to form partnerships to fight invasives on a landscape scale.

“Invasive species don't recognize political boundaries and fighting them on only the Wayne National Forest isn't good enough,” Kirschbaum explained. “They easily spread from adjacent properties. Fortunately, organizations like NFF and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation have grant programs that can provide funding for programs that build local coalitions, so we will continue to build and strengthen partnerships to deal with the threat of invasive species.”

The Vesuvius mapping project is a partnership between the Wayne, OUS, the Shawnee Nature Club; the West Virginia Native Plant Society, Tri-State Chapter; and the Ohio Invasives Council.

Invasive species are a major threat to the health and productivity of our nation's forests. The 5,775 acre Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area hosts a myriad of invasive species including multiflora rose, autumn olive, honeysuckle, English ivy, garlic mustard, and princess tree.

These invaders diminish recreation opportunities, ecological diversity and negatively impact the local economy. Seeds from this area have a high potential to spread due to the high numbers of visitors who camp, fish, and hike in the area. Once the invasive plant species infestations are mapped, the Wayne will develop a plan to treat and restore the area.

Restoration is especially important in the Lake Vesuvius area because of the high number of state listed and regionally sensitive plant species that reside there. Rare animal populations in the area depend on native vegetation for food and cover and are also negatively effected by the invasive plants.

Story by Chad Kirschbaum and Teena Ligman

For more information contact Teena Ligman at 812-277-3579