

UAWA Final Report

The Upper Allegheny Watershed Association has completed work on our CHP Mill Creek Invasive Plant Control Project. The purpose of the grant was to eradicate Japanese knotweed which has become established on the headwaters of Mill Creek above Coudersport in Potter County. The grant was used to augment work the UAWA and our partners had already begun in this area on Sweden Township Property in 2016. Manual cutting of the knotweed was performed by members of UAWA as well as our partners First Fork Sinnemahoning Watershed Association and God's Country Chapter Trout Unlimited. The chemical application work was done by our partner FFSWA which obtained the necessary applicator insurance, chemicals, permits and licensing. FFSWA was reimbursed for these expenses out of grant funds. Attached is a complete expense form and receipts for grant funds expended.

Our overall objective of knotweed eradication in the Mill Creek basin is an ongoing project. CHP grant funding has enabled us to effectively treat 13,565 square feet of private property on six parcels, although this is by no means the extent of the infestation in this area. Because of the inherent difficulty in controlling this invasive plant, future monitoring and treatment will be required. Our secondary objective has been met. We now have a well-established framework for future efforts.

Project sustainability is an important issue. We will be evaluating the effectiveness our efforts for some time. The biggest obstacle to sustainability is adequate financing. UAWA has some funds remaining from a donation by JKLM Corporation which will be utilized in the project area. Pesticide applicator insurance is a disproportionate expense for a project of this size. The UAWA will be exploring alternatives to purchasing insurance solely for this project. In the future we may hire a contractor for chemical applications since a contractor is responsible for applicator insurance. We will continue to monitor and maintain the areas already treated. Expansion of this area will depend on financing. We will also be evaluating the effectiveness of manual cutting. There is some question as to whether this labor-intensive practice is effective for larger infestations such as we have encountered. Future projects will depend on the available resources at our disposal. It may be that expanded efforts in this area will require a much larger overview, even beyond our capabilities as an organization.

Included in this submission are lists of our volunteer hours, mileage, and tasks performed. Volunteers were from UAWA, God's Country TU, and FFSWA.

Accomplishments:

Control of riparian stands of knotweed at the six properties mentioned above. Approximately 400 linear feet of Class A Wild Trout streambank has been treated.

There were no riparian buffer or stream channel projects included in this grant.

Submitted by
Frank Weeks
Sec/Treas UAWA
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Sweden Township site before



Sweden Township site before



Sweden Township site after



Bob Lloyd site after hand cutting

