

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT

I. Project Information:

Project Title: Conservation Actions to Address Invasive Species Threats in the Cache River and Shawnee

Project Number: T-77-D-1

Federal Program: PR, DJ, **SWG**, Section 6, CVA, BIG-P, NCWC, _____ SWG _____

(circle or write in the name of the federal assistance funding source)

Reporting Entity:

Name: Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Address: 941 State Highway 146W, Golconda, IL 62938

Phone Number: 618-944-1736 **E-mail Address:** info@shawneercd.org

Principle Investigator/Project Manager: Kevin Rohling

Person Preparing Report: Tabitha L. Ayres

Date Report Prepared: 12/01/2018
(month/day/year)

II. Performance Report Information:

Type of Performance Report: Quarterly, Annual or **Final** (Circle type of report)

Reporting Period: 07/12/2011 to 12/31/2018
(month/day/year) (month/day/year)

Actual Accomplishments vs Project Objectives:

Objective #1 - Coordinate efforts, programs, and projects across the state to reduce redundancy, increase cooperation and resource sharing, and increase success of invasive species management affecting SWG eligible SGNC, their habitats, or species likely to invade those habitats.

Actual Accomplishments:

- Met with IDNR and U of I to discuss the addition of Wildlife Diseases to the Wildlife Action Plan and the Invasive Species Campaign and the development of a Wildlife Disease Rapid Response Plan
- Agreed to continue giving presentations for Master Naturalist Program in Illinois
- Visited Box Turtle health monitoring field site and observed field crew collecting and analyzing data
- Discussed funding opportunities and the creation of a CWMA with JDCF for the NW Strike Team
- Organized and conducted a Cooperative Weed Management Area workshop in partnership with MIPN and Champaign County Forest Preserve District on 9-29-2014, discussed Cooperative Weed Management Area establishment in West Central Illinois with IDNR

- Met with the Illinois Association of County Engineers planning committee to discuss invasive species management, enhanced spread prevention, and increased communication between county engineers and land managers and biologists
- Worked with IDOT and partners (TNC, USFS, USFWS, and IDNR) to develop and submit a proposal to NFWF Pulling Together Initiative for the creation of a vegetation management team to treat invasive species over 320 miles (25%) of state primary highway
- Worked with IDNR, NWTF, and SIPBA to develop a proposal to apply for Habitat Stamp Funds, to provide private landowners with accessibility to prescribed fire, TSI, and invasive species control
- Discuss NAWCA grant project with USFWS and DU
- Attend Hill Country Forest Partnership meeting
- Lead a discussion on invasive species educational efforts to group in NW Illinois
- Reviewed CWMA MOU for Champaign CWMA group that is starting to form
- Discussed with Sea Grant potentially starting research on bait as a pathway of introduction for new invasive species
- Reviewed ROW herbicide manual with Extension PSEP and worked with them to edit and develop new text for manual
- Attended CWMA planning committee for Headwaters CMWA and reviewed grant proposals
- Assisted IDNR in developing funding proposals for invasive species control work
- Gave presentation and lead a hike for the Master Naturalist Program
- Provided updates on invasive species issues to IDNR Forestry and IDOA
- Participated in Invasive Disease Webinar
- Met with IDNR Forestry Group to discuss Trail of Tears and other projects
- Reviewed final version of new ROW herbicide applicators training manual
- Gave presentation on invasive species at Master Gardener statewide conference
- Gave presentation to Master Naturalist and lead hike in Springfield
- Answered questions from state regarding kudzu distribution
- Discussed forest management at Cedar/Draper with IDNR
- Discussed invasive species special with Audubon
- Helped USFS with species target list
- Participated in MIPN Call

Objective #2 - Coordinate CWMA Cooperator interest in COA's and target control and prevention activities.

Actual Accomplishments

- Participated in weekly conference calls with TNC's Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team
- Set up IDNR funded boat ramp surveys for aquatic invasive species, hired and trained contractors to conduct surveys
- Held quarterly CWMA Steering Committee meetings to forward the project goals
- Discussed USFWS prioritization model for invasive species control with Kathy Burchette and the possibilities of providing funding to a graduate student at SIUC through the summer to add in factors associated with climate change and to prioritize species while taking into account the use of prescribed fire; agree to set up a meeting between USFWS, SIUC, and the CWMA
- Corresponded with CONWR and IDNR regarding EAB confirmation in Williamson Co.
- Sought funding to print Japanese chaff flower control guide
- Attended weekly conference calls for Invasive Species Strike Team; reviewed Strike Team annual report
- Sent outreach notice from APHIS on *Phelipanche aegyptica* to SIUC researchers

- Created QR code for webpage link for hunter outreach signage; finalized signage
- Completed training survey for TNC on training volunteers to manage lands
- Provided update on CWMA's throughout Illinois to MIPN
- Completed Vital Lands Illinois Survey; attended Vital Lands Summit
- Set up USFWS and SIUC meeting to discuss prioritization model at CONWR
- Organized and attended SWG planning meeting with RC&D and IDNR
- Sought alternative funding sources for invasive species work at GCSP
- Corresponded with U of I Extension to recommend non-copyright sources of invasive plant photos
- Continued disseminating Management Guide
- Communicated research related to Phragmites control and microbial relationship with soil scientists
- Communicated with state wide partners for Callery pear mascot art to assist with outreach efforts
- Approved proof for Callery pear signage for Illinois Stop the Spread! Campaign
- Discussed the coordination of CWMA outreach efforts with establishment of a Plants of Concern (POC) program in Southern Illinois with several interested groups; composed outreach email with Rachel Goad (POC in Northern Illinois) and Sonja Lallemand (U of I Extension) to determine the number of interested volunteers
- Researched the EPA and glyphosate regarding potential changes in regulations
- Announced the nation-wide search for a new CWMA coordinator and worked with hiring committee to identify candidates and schedule interviews
- Participated in weekly conference call with TNC's Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team
- Toured Cretaceous Hills Project Area

Objective #3 - Engage stakeholders to enhance cooperative efforts.
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Actual Accomplishments

- Participated in meeting with INPS to discuss the formation and benefits of a Native Seed and Plant Growers Association
- Held quarterly CWMA Steering Committee meetings, including regional stakeholders and conservation professionals responsible for greater area
- Conducted CWMA outreach in administration and planning by communicating with other CWMA's at CWMA meeting in Duluth MN
- Attended CWMA brainstorming session to develop ideas to fund a statewide effort
- Participated in meeting with INPS to continue the formation of a Native Seed and Plant Growers Association
- Worked with IDNR and Sea-Grant to draft "Be a Hero, Transport Zero" terrestrial campaign messaging
- Participated in "Stop the Spread" Campaign planning meeting
- Discussed PTI grant with Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation for continuation of NWIL Strike Team and formation of CWMA
- Participated in meeting with CWMA, IDNR, TNC, and USFS to discuss plans for new invasive species strike team
- Worked with SIU, CBG, and IDNR to draft proposal for Plant of Concern project
- Conferenced with Laurel Wilson, CWMA coordinator in MN, to discuss building a successful program
- Planned and implemented outreach at the USFWS Wingbee on J. chaff flower to look for seeds dispersed by waterfowl
- Received copy of signed CWMA MOU from IDNR
- Met with SIUC and USFWS to discuss prioritization model for invasive species control planning following staff changes

- Worked on boot brush publication
- Communicated with IDoA regarding pesticide license testing
- Discussed applying for a NFWF PTI with Rachel Goad of the Chicago Botanic Gardens – Plants of Concern program, to bring the program to southern Illinois and hire a new coordinator to run a program focused on conservation of rare plants and controlling invasive species threats to them
- Distributed “Management of Invasive Plants of Southern Illinois”
- Communicated with new SIUC faculty to discuss invasive species research ideas for the WPF grant cycle
- Discussed invasives and the CWMA as a regional strategy for invasive plant – or agricultural weed control - with USDA post-doc researcher
- Consulted with Champaign Co. CWMA about setting up their MOU and appropriate contacts for Dept. of Ag and U of I Extension
- Consultation with USFWS about new listings to the Injurious Species Ad Rule 805 for the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership training meeting; also discussed creating and installing a Hydrilla outreach billboard
- Worked with SIUC and other partners on revisions to Stop the Spread! Signage
- Ordered prints of “Management of Invasive Species of Southern Illinois” for the Illinois Recreational Access Program and USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- Reviewed edits to the FIAM prioritization model with SIUC and USFWS following conference call; review FIAM peer reviewed scientific publication
- Planned invasive species award ceremony; collected nominations from Steering Committee and partners
- Sent State T&E list, EOR form, and IFIAM survey protocol to USFWS CERCLA; discuss new research projects and collaboration between USFWS and SIUC
- Worked with Invasive Plant Control Inc. to obtain funding to commission an artist to create a Callery pear invasive species creature or mascot
- Communicated with USFWS about new aquatic boat ramp signage
- Worked with Sea Grant on Be a Hero Transport Zero terrestrial campaign
- Disseminated brochures from Stop the Spread Campaign
- Organized and held an Awards Ceremony for invasive species initiatives in Southern Illinois
- Presented program on invasives for children and educators at Stewardship Week
- Presented program and booth on invasives at Nature Fest
- Led discussion about invasive species in Thompson Woods at SIUC
- Received reports of garlic mustard at Snake Road, Larue Pine Hills and work with Master Naturalists to set up ability to hand-pull the infestation to reduce impacts to native spring wildflowers
- Discussed possibility of writing a Japanese chaff flower EA with the USFS botanists and Matt Lechner
- Advised on Jimsonweed control in pasture
- Arranged date for PSEP testing through Dept. of Agriculture with USFWS and IDOT
- Advised contractor on wild buckwheat control in young tree plantings

<p>Objective #4 - Ensure agency and cooperator ability to manage invasive species introduction and spread through Policy Review and Development.</p>
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Actual Accomplishments

- Reported on the results of a federal hearing on a proposed invasive species bill
- Participated in conference calls with neighboring states on Invasive Species Assessments research
- Worked with a team at IDNR to review IDNR internal policy on invasive species and developed updated draft that includes spread prevention, prioritization, and enhanced management activities

- Worked with USFS to update and obtain partner signatures on CWMA Memorandum of Understanding
- Provided update on invasive species-related Conservation Congress goals to IDNR Assistant Director
- Discussed Emerald Ash Borer Quarantines with NRCS, IDOA, and USFWS
- Discussed white fringetree regulations with IDOA in light of recent research showing it as a host for Emerald Ash Borer
- Continued species assessments for policy review and recommendation. Created or revised assessments on European wand loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, Giant knotweed, Bohemian knotweed, teasel, and Paulownia.
- Worked with IDNR, Sierra Club, Illinois Green Industry Association, and Illinois Environmental Council to develop bill proposals to amend the Illinois Exotic Weed Act to add recommended species and to establish May as Invasive Species Awareness Month in Illinois
- Facilitated feedback on proposed Injurious Species Rule changes
- Discussed pursuing Asian Crazy Worm regulations with IDNR
- Discussed current regulations on Rhamnus frangula with IGIA and a local nursery
- Discussed Phragmites regulations with Will County FPD
- Participated in Landscape Architects meeting and manned a booth on invasive species and discussed regulations and voluntary reduction of the sale of invasive species
- Discussed Herbicide testing categories with UofI Extension PSEP and started reviewing pesticide manuals
- Discussed Exotic Weed Act Amendment with Sierra Club and others
- Discussed Noxious Weed Act with IDNR Fisheries
- Assisted IDNR in drafting a position paper of Exotic Weed Act amendment
- Developed Proclamation proposal for invasive species awareness month
- Answered questions about invasive species regulations and how the new legislation will change regulations
- Discussed regulatory needs with IDOA
- Amended documents summarizing regulated species in Illinois to reflect new changes
- Reviewed and edited manuscript on species assessments
- Discussed new EAB regulations

Objective #5 - Target available technical and financial assistance to landowners for invasive species control which benefits SWG eligible SGNC and their habitats.

Actual Accomplishments

- Assisted U of I Forest Resource Center, MIPN, U of I Extension, IDOA, IDNR, SIU, TNC, a consulting forester, and several various private landowners in the identification of multiple potential invasive species
- Discussed management planning and control options for various invasive species with Lincoln Memorial Gardens (Sericea lespedeza), IDOT (teasel, purple loosestrife, and lespedeza), IDOA (kudzu), Friends of Sangamon Valley (Callery pear), SIU (exotic cattails, chaff flower), TNC (kudzu), IDNR (stiltgrass, thistle, flowering rush, cup grass), Iowa DNR (flowering rush), Indiana Invasive Species Taskforce (chaff flower), Morton Arboretum (water mint), private landowners (autumn olive, Asian crazy worms, phragmites, tree of heaven, Oriental bittersweet, Japanese stiltgrass, bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle Sericea lespedeza, and Callery pear), contractors (kudzu, yellow nut sedge), NIIPP (kudzu, stiltgrass), USFWS (tree of heaven, emerald ash borer), Green Earth, Inc. (bamboo), Bremer Sanctuary (Oriental bittersweet), Will County FPD (Phragmites), Extension (honey locust), ACOE (Burning bush), Shawnee National Forest (Japanese stiltgrass),
- Researched crazy worm control and prevention strategies

- Provided technical assistance to IDNR for tank mixing of Milestone and herbicide rates for woody invasive plant control using basal bark applications, glyphosate efficacy and understanding treatment results
- Provided information on aquatic-labelled herbicides for primrose control to Extension
- Identified and reported kudzu population at Giant City State Park
- Worked with Center for Ecology / IDNR summer interns on surveys of privately owned Nature Preserves for invasive species
- Approved cost-share contract work for control of Japanese stiltgrass on private land (Williamson Co.)
- Outreach to private landowner for Japanese chaff flower control
- Worked with local contractor to report roadside infestation of purple loosestrife to IDOT for control
- Consulted with IDNR forester regarding cost-share funds
- Worked with private landowner (Pope Co.) to survey land for tree of Heaven control cost-share, resulting in the detection of mature infestation of Japanese chaff flower; reported chaff flower to SIU, USFS, IDNR, and discuss control with land owner
- Discussed cost share with landowner (Union Co.) in Trail of Tears COA; worked with IDNR forester for cost-share assistance in writing a Forest Management Plan, Answered requests for cost-share information from private landowners (Williamson and Johnson Co.'s), Advised landowners on invasive species control recommendations, Discussed USFWS Private Lands cost-share assistance program, IRAP program, and CWMA SWG cost-share program with 12 landowners
- Discussed chaff flower distribution with Purdue
- Discussed mist blowers with local contractor and IDNR
- Assisted IDNR with Japanese honeysuckle phenology question
- Researched Palmer Amaranth distribution in Illinois
- Discussed sawtooth oak management and identification with IDNR and INPC
- Discussed aerial treatments for bush honeysuckle with UGA
- Discussed funding options for invasive species control work at Trail of Tears State Forest
- Discussed management planning and control options for various invasive species-related issues with TNC (non-invasive seed mix for erosion control), Illinois Forestry Association (Phenology information for northern Illinois invasives), Midwest Groundcovers (Non-invasive alternative planting species), landowners (identification and control of mulberries), contractors (cut stump treatments), Iowa DNR (stiltgrass control), McCleansboro City Clerk (Phragmites control), Shawnee National Forest (Invasive Species Priority lists), UIUC Plant Clinic (Alternatives to callery pear), and Missouri MDC (Mapping and invasive species treatment tracking software)
- Worked with 10 landowners on setting up invasive species control cost-share
- Consulted with USFWS Private Lands Biology, IDNR, and NRCS regarding cost share planning and implementation to benefit SGNC
- Researched mulching as a means of woody invasive removal
- Requested SGNC maps from IDNR to prioritize cost share
- Consulted with multiple partners regarding cost share and invasive species control at Trail of Tears SF at a COA meeting
- Prepared cost share contracts for four landowners
- Reviewed forest management plans, EcoCAT, and contractor bids
- Assisted landowners in reviewing bids and answering invasive species control questions
- Discussed timing of stiltgrass control and timber harvest and BMP's with landowner and INDR
- Consulted with contractor on Kudzu treatment methods
- Visited Phragmites infestation site for consultation with landowner and NRCS
- Assisted several landowners and other reporters in identifying 9 suspect populations of Giant Hogweed
- Assisted various agencies and organizations (Morton Arboretum, USFWS, TNC, USFS, INHS, NIIPP, IDNR, IDOA, and various landowners) with identification on control recommendations for Hydrilla,

Sawtooth oak, Barberry, bush honeysuckle, Japanese honeysuckle, curly pondweed, kudzu Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese chaffflower, lesser celandine, reed canarygrass, Japanese knotweed, wintercreeper, Brown marmorated stinkbugs, Viburnum leaf beetle, and jumping worms.

- Assisted USFWS in surveying suspect locations of Salt Cedar
- Work with INDR and NWTF to plan invasive species control work on private lands
- Contacted NRCS and contractors to identify priority landowners for invasive species treatments
- Discussed new EAB regulations
- Discussed invasive species special with Audubon
- Discussed invasive species tours with landowners
- Discussed seed collection for stiltgrass with CWMA
- Discussed kudzu with USFS
- Discussed labeling of crossbow herbicide with IDNR, UIUC, and Dow Agrosiences
- Answered questions about lespedeza
- Assisted with species ID (suspect Kudzu)
- Discussed curly pondweed control
- Answered researcher questions regarding invasive species
- Assisted land manager with identification of unknown species
- Assisted IDNR with species ID
- Helped ID unknown species
- Answered questions about invasive species management at landowner forestry field day
- Assisted landowner with identification of unknown species
- Developed recommendations for honeysuckle control for landowner

Objective #6 - Provide Training to enhance ability of land managers and landowners to safely and effectively manage invasive species affecting SWG eligible SGNC or their habitats, including control, early detection, and spread prevention practices.

Actual Accomplishments

- Worked with IDNR to enhance their invasive species website to make information on invasive species more readily available to public
- Developed statewide phenology reports for invasive species for July and August and distributed them throughout the state
- Worked with Sea Grant and USFWS to draft up spread prevention signage for Cypress Creek targeted towards hunters incorporating 'Be a Hero, Transport Zero' campaign
- Reviewed Bid package for invasive species work at Sparta complex for IDNR
- Reviewed chaff flower control recommendation article from SIU
- Agreed to give a training workshop and lead a hike on invasive species management at Carlyle Lake.
- Gave presentation and helped lead tour on invasive species at an Extension workshop
- Correspondence with USFWS CONWR and staff at Presbyterian Camp Carew regarding autumn olive removal assistance and training (10-02-2014)
- Distributed list of known invasive species control contractors to IDNR District Foresters and others (10-09-2014)
- Answer questions from NRCS about potential use of passionflower and honeyvine milkweed use in pollinator gardens (12-4-2014)
- Discussion with NRCS and SIUC regarding crop field edge management following Goods From Your Woods workshop and possible changes to policy to allow landowner more options for management (12-4-2014)

- Organizing and help conduct three Emerald Ash Borer workshops in southern Illinois at Crab Orchard NWR, Pinckneyville, and Harrisburg
- Started planning invasive species workshop with IDNR Forestry for Washington County region
- Started planning tour of invasive species at Rend Lake for ACOE Staff
- Began planning for 2015 Illinois Invasive Species Symposium
- Gave presentation on Herbicide use and safety and equipment maintenance at Sustainable Living Expo
- Gave presentation on woodland invasive species management at Carlyle Lake
- Participated in webinar on invasive species mapping programs
- Distributed recommendations for winterizing sprayer equipment
- Agreed to give an interview to a radio report about invasive plants
- Agreed to give a presentation on woody plant control and new EDRR species for extension and IFA in northern Illinois. Also agreed to host a 'teach the teacher' session at same location to instruct extension agents on how to talk about invasive species and management
- Agreed to organize a webinar on landscape-scale invasive plant management project for NA-IPC as part of National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- Interviewed by a reporter about invasive plant impacts to natural resources and agriculture
- Interviewed by a reporter on First Detector's Program, biodiversity and threats to the Cache River Watershed
- Gave presentations on invasive species, EDRR, Prevention, and Management at IDNR Heritage Divisional Meeting, Gateway Green Conference, Central Illinois Highway Commissioners Meeting, Illinois Indigenous Species Symposium, NRCS program in Okawville, Lower Sugar River Valley Watershed Association, Iowa Weed Commissioners Association Annual Meeting, and the Illinois Forestry Association
- Facilitated webinar on landscape-scale invasive species control projects
- Finished an article on invasive species management for Illinois Forestry Association
- Continued organization Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month and began collecting event submittals.
- Finalized agenda for the Illinois Invasive Species Symposium and began getting online registration set up
- Finalized event entry for Invasive Species Awareness Month
- Finished organizing Illinois Invasive Species Symposium and conducted symposium
- Organized Invasive Species Awards program - solicited nominations, organized a selection committee, and conducted awards ceremony
- Conducted a timber management workshop in Springfield
- Conducted a presentation and hike on invasive species for Audubon
- Gave presentation on invasive species awareness for Lincoln Memorial Gardens
- Organized and conducted a workshop on mobile technologies for natural resource data collection
- Developed statewide phenology reports for April, May and June and distributed them widely
- Filled in for CWMA in educational effort at Trail of Tears
- Gave training at Sustainable living EXPO
- Developed recommendations for honeysuckle control
- Wrote articles for IFA on invasive species
- Wrote article on invasive species impacts to oaks and prepared a fact sheet on bush honeysuckle for IFA
- Discussed BAHTZ with Se Grant, reviewed logo designs and discussed outreach campaign
- Conducted training for Lincoln Memorial Gardens
- Continued organizing MIPN conference
- Gave presentation on invasive and native species for Sierra Club
- Facilitated webinar on aerial control of bush honeysuckle

- Gave training presentation on invasive species at Sustainable living expo
- Participated in Invasive disease webinar

Objective #7 - Reduce the spread of exotic species which are likely to threaten SWG eligible SGNC or their habitats through widespread adoption of spread prevention Best Management Practices.

- Discussed boot brush stations as a spread prevention technique with Will County FPD
- Reviewed planting recommendations for Illinois Forestry Association and recommended the removal of several species due to invasiveness
- Reviewed tree planting list for IDNR Forestry (looking for potentially invasive species)
- Correspondence with NRCS Ryan Pankau regarding NRCS-recommended boot sanitization spray to minimize movement of pathogens (10-03-2014)
- Work on hunter outreach signage for spread prevention with IDNR and USFWS at Cypress Creek NWR (10-01-2014, 10-15-2014, 10-20-2014); Create link to hunter outreach information on CWMA page (10-25-2014); Signage finalized (12-10-2014)
- Participated in Working group to develop BMPs to prevent the spread of Asian Crazy Worm
- Assisted Crab Orchard with Aquatic Invasive Species signage on spread prevention
- Participated in Invasive Ornamental Working Group meeting in Indianapolis. This group works to develop common sense compromises on invasive species used as ornamentals to prevent further introduction
- Continued participating in advisory group for developing BMPs to reduce the spread of Asian Crazy Worms
- Discussed boot brush installation with USFS and Eagle Scout, pulled together supplies for installation and agreed to help eagle scout
- Reviewed Stop the Spread signage design for SIU
- Worked with IDNR to develop signage to promote equipment sanitation to be placed at boat ramps
- Finalized hunter outreach signage in cooperation with Cypress Creek NWR
- Updated and revised Boot brush signage

Objective #8 - Reduce the impacts of invasive species in natural areas and other lands that serve as habitat for SWG eligible SGNC .

- Reviewed several Threatened and Endangered sites to fill out EORs and assess invasive species threats and developed and submitted 14 EORs for listed plant species, information included presence/threat of invasive species
- Arrange for Strike Team, IDNR, and SIPBA assistance in controlling Japanese stiltgrass at privately owned Nature Preserve, Susan's Glade (Johnson Co.) in advance of planned fall prescribed burn
- Work with Wyemann Center youth to remove autumn olive at Devil's Kitchen Lake at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
- Report and coordinate control of purple loosestrife population at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
- Secure legal agreements for TNC Strike Team to work on private lands to remove Japanese chaff flower on 3 privately owned properties
- Coordinate TNC Strike Team assistance with removal of Japanese stiltgrass at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Rocky Bluff Trail
- Plan 3 landowner property visits to implement cost-share contracts
- Answer questions about cost-share program from Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association members (10-22-2014)
- Survey properties and complete two cost-share contracts and request reimbursement

- Answer cost share questions from new consulting forester (12-18-2014)
- Provide cost-share prioritization list to invasive species (12-18-2014)
- Allocate funds to two properties for spring invasives work (12-22-2014)
- Discussed Stewardship week and invasive species control project with Dixon Springs Ag Center
- Halt Petco sales of Aquatic Injurious Species, Brazilian elodea; provide information for blog article to reporter
- Reviewed sites for several TnE species and filled out EORs including invasive species threats
- Toured several Nature Preserves to evaluate invasive species threats and aid in developing management plans

Objective #9 - Compile information on current distribution of invasive species affecting SWG eligible SGNC or their habitats, various invasion pathways, and techniques to prevent and limit their spread and make available to land managers and other stakeholders through Illinois.

- Reviewed recent invasive species distribution reports to EDDMapS for accuracy and added them to the public database
- Sent data on teasel and phragmites distribution to UGA for inclusion on national maps
- Reviewed voucher specimens for invasive species boat ramp survey, entered data into spreadsheets and created maps of results
- Attend planning meeting with SIUC, IDNR, and CWMA to develop Mississippi and Ohio River survey protocol for monitoring plant communities with a focus on Japanese chaff flower
- Provide information on invasive and native plant coevolution to SIUC researchers
- Respond to collection request of Japanese stiltgrass tissue for research purposes
- Work with USFWS and private contractor to discuss arrangement of Phragmites control on private land upstream from restoration project
- Advise SIUC researcher on using seeds of invasive grasses for experimental purposes
- Continue drafting pathways of spread document
- Discussed aerial herbicide applications with IDNR's IRAP program as a technique for bush honeysuckle control
- Investigated a report of Kudzu in northern Illinois
- Discussed LiDAR's usefulness for surveying for invasive plants with IDNR GIS Specialist
- Updated known Illinois distribution of knotweed in national database
- Assisted Jo Davies conservation Foundation with accessing phenological data for invasive plants in northern Illinois
- Discussed garlic mustard infestation persistence with MIPN and sent out a general inquiry to Illinois practitioners looking for observations and general information on the subject
- Entered new records for Japanese Stiltgrass in Iowa and developed a press release / species alert on the new find
- Investigated report of European Frogbit in Illinois
- Drafted position description for Data Management Specialist
- Collected information on the distribution of Poison hemlock and wild parsnip to include in national database
- Reviewed recent literature on invasive species impacts to SGNC
- Reviewed current distribution data for several invasive species (Japanese knotweed, Japanese stiltgrass, Sericea lespedeza, burning bush, Oriental bittersweet, Bradford pear) to identify gaps in data to target data collection efforts.

Objective #10 - Establish and implement an effective Early Detection / Rapid Response (EDRR) program, including an enhanced online mapping system, an interagency network and protocol for rapidly responding to any early detection events against species which threaten SWG eligible SGNC or their key habitats.

- Participated in a web conference with River to River CWMA, SIPBA, IPC, and UGA on technology for managing invasive species and prescribed fire programs
- Received negative test results for ranavirus for box turtle collected in Jackson County; notified IDNR and USFS; discussed development of protocol for dealing with suspected cases of ranavirus with IDNR and University of Illinois (10-10-2014)
- Correspondence with SIU researcher about Japanese chaff flower location at Heron Pond (10-21-2014)
- Conducted 7 First Detector Training Programs across the state to train over 170 attendees on EDRR of new invasive species. Dates and locations of trainings were: Collinsville, Jan. 29; Wheaton, Feb. 3; DeKalb, Feb. 4; Charleston, Feb. 12; Macomb, Feb. 18; Moline, Feb. 19; Bloomington, Feb. 26;
- Worked with UGA to figure out glitches in EDDMapS online invasive species mapping tool
- Participated in a national effort to develop a framework of a national EDRR program
- Continued assisted in the development of an ASTM standard for reviewing potential of new species to become invasive
- Participated in First Detector Program planning call
- Reviewed 1st Detector Flyer
- Answered emails about jumping worms and ANS
- Toured plant clinic and discussed jumping worms
- Facilitated the collection of samples of suspects Jumping worm population
- Worked with IDNR and IDOA to set up protocols for verification of jumping worms and standard response
- Participated in national EDRR committee conference call
- Answered emails about jumping worms and ANS
- Reviewed 1st Detector Flyer

Objective #11 - Assist with Management and Control of new and existing invasions that threaten SWG eligible SGNC or their habitats.

- Helped organize and conduct a SWAT event to control invasive species at Gleason Nature Preserve in central Illinois on 9-11-2014
- Weekly conference call with The Nature Conservancy's Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team to discuss ongoing control work and control methods and EDRR work across the region.
- Correspondence with landowner Gary Pluta to advise about the timing and methods of woody invasive species control through the fall and winter (10-03-2014)
- Organized and conducted IDNR SWAT event for bush honeysuckle control in Benton (11-5-2014)
- Organized and conducted SWAT event for bush honeysuckle and other woody invasive species at Trail of Tears (11-12-2014)
- Participated in controlled burn at Trail of Tears State Forest
- Drafted stewardship proposal for exotic shrubs at Ozark Hills NP
- Toured Round Bluff and Cretaceous Hills Nature Preserves with IDNR to assist in developing management plans and invasive species control specs
- Development restoration maps of Ozark Hill Prairie to guide tour of site.

- Weekly conference call with The Nature Conservancy’s Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team to discuss ongoing control work and control methods and EDRR work across the region.

Objective #12 – Develop and implement strategic management plans for reducing the impact of invasive species on SWG eligible SGNC in Conservation Priority Areas (specifically the Shawnee National Forest, Pine Hills; Cache River, Cypress Creek; and Eastern Shawnee).

- Continued monitoring and sampling Mermet lake for curly pondweed turions to evaluate strategic eradication plan and activities
- Surveyed Trail of Tears and mapped invasive species on site. Developed detailed distribution maps to be used in planning for future management
- Met with Strike Team planning committee to work on priorities and plans for fall/winter
- Participated in Trail of Tears State Forest Management planning group. Assisted with planning and implementing invasive species control efforts through the collection of invasive species distribution data, development of detailed invasive species maps, processing of aerial imagery and creation of shapefiles, photographing invasion, developing detailed cost estimates and recommended control scenarios, and participation in planning meetings
- Assisted IDNR in developing comments on Shawnee National Forest Scoping for Cretaceous Hills Management Project, that involves invasive species management. Gave a presentation on invasive species campaign and Cretaceous Hills NF project, participated in tour of proposed project sites
- Developed detailed control options and cost estimates for invasive species work at Trail of Tears State Forest
- Assisted in the development of a bid proposal for invasive species control work at Trail of Tears State Forest
- Reviewed Trail of Tears State Forest Habitat Management Plan and provided comments

Reasons Estimated Goals were not Met:

(In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328 (b)(2)(ii), the level of detail required for this section of the performance report is, if applicable, is the reasons why the applicable goals were not met within the given performance reporting period. Otherwise, indicate this was not an issue during the given reporting period by stating, “Not Applicable”.)

Funding agreement with Illinois Department of Natural Resources expired and could not be renewed due to new GATA regulations implemented during the project timeline. As such, the final analysis of data compilation via the contracted data position could not be completed.

Additional Pertinent Information:

(In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328 (b)(2)(iii), the level of detail required for this section of the performance report is, depending on the type of project (i.e. Research, Implementation, etc.) and whether it is an Annual or Final Performance Report, is to include additional information relevant to the project, such as: analysis and explanation of cost overruns or high unit costs; included Photographs, Maps, Data, Publications, Management Implications, Recommendations, etc. Otherwise, indicate this was not an issue during the given reporting period by stating, “Not Applicable.”)

N/A

Significant Developments:

(In accordance with 2 CFR 200.328(d) the level of detail required for this section of the performance

report is to address when events occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, the non-Federal entity must inform the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity as soon as the following types of conditions become known: (1) Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of the action taken, or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation. (2) Favorable developments which enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned. Otherwise, indicate this was not an issue during the given reporting period by stating, "Not Applicable.)

n/a

Executive Summary:

(Regardless of the date when the federal agreement for the funding of this project was executed, ALL annual and final Performance Reports must contain this section. The executive summary should be less than four pages in length and contain relevant literature citations, when applicable. Executive summary for planning or research projects shall include a summary of the study objectives, research methods, major accomplishments and findings. Executive summary for implementation projects shall include a summary of activities, work location(s), and major accomplishments.)

The initial goals of this project were concentrated upon applying the Wildlife Action Plan, and it's four identified actions:

1. A comprehensive, integrated approach is essential to effectively address invasive species.
2. Fill information gaps and develop conservation actions to address stress.
3. Prioritize high-quality natural areas, large habitat patches, and other key locations for invasive species control.
4. Marketing, technical assistance, incentives and cost-sharing to prevent invasions, control invasive species (mechanical, chemical and biological), and restore natural disturbance regimes (e.g, fire) on private lands.

The actions were distilled into a course of specific actions and engagements to help spread the importance of invasive species control with the project region:

- 1) Work with 15 private 15-20 private landowners to provide direct technical assistance and aid with development management plans for controlling invasives affecting SWG eligible SGNC, implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs), and providing information on funding sources for invasive species control.

We privately worked with 10 landowners, one-on-one, to educate and improve private lands. Further landowner training was conducted at regional trainings that took place throughout the region.

- 2) Work with landowner groups, such as the Illinois Forestry Association and the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association to enhance technical know-how of landowners regarding invasive species management through demonstration plots (at least three priority sites) field tours (6-8), and training sessions (at least 5).

Conducted 7 training sessions, with more than 170 participants, and partnered with IFA, SIPBA, U o I Master Naturalists, and the Trail of Tears State Forest Management team.

- 3) Work with the ISC advisory board and meet bi-annually. The ISC advisory board will assist with coordination efforts, programs, and projects across the state to reduce redundancy, increase

cooperation and resource sharing, and increase success of invasive species management affecting SWG eligible SGNC, their habitats, or species likely to invade those habitats (see Expected Results 1).

Participated in ISC Advisory Board, attending meetings and teleconferences until state funding was suspended. Many state offices and partners suspended activity at the same time, and work slowed

- 4) Facilitate the update and expansion of the Illinois Vegetation Management Guidelines (document which gives technical guidance to land managers on how best to control invasive species) by addressing new invasive species, new research on efficacy of management techniques, new herbicides, and label changes to existing herbicides.

Due to changes in other publications, the Illinois Vegetation Management Guidelines were not directly updated. Instead, Cooperators worked together to improve identification databases and GSI mapping to be to track and identify invasive species

- 5) Facilitate the development of an ISC website including an online database that can map the distribution of invasive species across the state and document benefits to SWG eligible SGNC and critical habitats.

Website was not successfully developed, due to loss of funding and time restrictions. However, infestation data was shared with eddmaps.org and inhs.illinois.edu to further cooperative efforts.

- 6) Work with IDNR and other agency staff, researchers, landowners, and other interested parties to collect and compile distribution information on invasive species infestations throughout Illinois and develop maps and a status report based upon results.

While data collection was limited due to the early termination of project, information was shared and distributed to IDNR, USFS, U of I, eddmaps.org and similar non-profit conservation partners and projects.