

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Cameron County Conservation District

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Conservation District Board: Mark Johnson, Chair, Paul Lyon, Vice Chair & Farmer, LuAnn Reed, Farmer, Steve VanEerden, Dennis Miglicio, Kirk Bainey, Commissioner Phil Jones

Associate Board Members: Dr. Joseph Blackburn, Shawn Mason, Steve Zoschg, Scott Lyon

District Staff: Jan Hampton, District Manager, Todd Deluccia, Watershed Specialist, Kate Morgan, Conservation Resource Technician

Upon Retirement

My tenure as Cameron County Conservation District Manager has been pure JOY! Not many can say that they loved going to work, but working for a community that I absolutely love was indeed a pleasure. Educating young and not so young people gives me hope and reassurance that our natural resources are in good hands. I will continue on my conservation education path for as long as I am able. Intertwining these thoughts should keep me motivated:

- * One needs direction
- * One must accept change
- * One must remain curious
- * One must communicate
- * One must remain confident
- * One must be committed

Letting go is difficult, but when you see change as a new adventure and not an end in and of itself, then it makes the transition that much easier, that much more exciting. These changes will whisk me along towards life's many blessings!

There are advantages to advancing age, and one of them is the storehouse of memories that enable us to recall precious happenings in our lives. The past 18 years have given me incredible memories that will be enjoyed for years to come, sometimes triggered by the most unexpected things. Psalm 92:14 Even in old age they will be vital and green. THAT is my goal as I ride off into the sunset.

My co-workers, Todd Deluccia and Kate Morgan, have enhanced my life and the District's ability to conserve and educate as many as we can about our natural resources. They have nurtured me, sometimes kicking and screaming, into the technology age. Another blessing for which I am grateful. They have been an amazing source of positive productivity and pride in their many accomplishments on behalf of the Conservation District. *I wish them the very best as they carry the torch onward and upward!*



Jan Hampton, District Manager, retired after 18 years of faithful service at the end of 2015. We wish her the best as she starts this new adventure.

Conservation Education

The Cameron County Conservation District, takes pride in consistently offering quality



Talking Turkeys with 3rd Grade

environmental education opportunities to the youth of Cameron County. In 2015, District Manager Jan Hampton, provided monthly lessons to the kindergarten and 3rd grade classrooms of the Cameron County School District, while school was in session. This was done with the support of Conservation Resource Technician, Kate Morgan and Penn State Extension's Natalie Aiello.

Hampton's monthly visits to 3rd grade included a lesson on the water cycle and how snowflakes are formed in January. In February the subject focused on animals with more than one heart. Some of animals talked about were the octopus with three hearts, the worm with five and the hagfish with three. In March students started a project that included a co-reading presentation of poems all about insects. Over the next three months Mrs. Hampton presented on each type of insect the students were reading about in their poems. In June the students presented the poems to Mr. Porkolob's class and several faculty members. Students then were treated to bug themes snacks, including bug juice, snail rolls, ants on a log, Oreo beetles and caterpillar grapes. Mrs. Hampton then surprised the kids with real insects covered in chocolate, they had their pick of crickets and mealworms, or cherry ant hard candy. The highlight of the program was school superintendent, Mrs. Holjencin eating a chocolate covered cricket!

When the school started back up in the fall, Mrs. Hampton continued visiting 3rd grade with a new set of students, she started the school year off with a lesson about leaf structure and purpose. Students then

played Ginkgo Bingo, teaching them to identify many common leaves. Next up was a lesson on bats, in October, where students made a bat craft using pine cones and read the story *Stellaluna*. In November, was all about the wild turkey and their habitat. 2015 was wrapped up with a snowflake program in December.

The kindergarten programs with Aiello, included programs on animal camouflage, what is wild, leaves, and conifers. In the fall Hampton made stops at the after school groups, presenting programs on bats, that also included a sweet treat for 1st and 2nd grade. In partnership with DCNR's Kim Lott and Tanya Meyer from the Bucktail Watershed Association, Hampton and Watershed Specialist, Todd Deluccia, assisted with water quality and watershed lessons to 3rd and 5th grade.

In January, DCNR, CCOYA and the District presented a Project WET Teachers'



What's Wild with Kindergarten

Workshop to the Cameron County School District on their in-service day. Nine hands on lessons were presented and each participant left with a Project WET curriculum guide and materials to use on lessons.

In March the District helped sponsor a program from the Wildlife Naturalist, Jack Hubley's. All of Woodland Elementary School students were able to participate in a very interactive and humorous program.

In April, the District celebrated Earth Day with a program for 3rd grade, where they had a presentation on reptiles and amphibians, spring bingo and students also made their own pine cone bird feeders. 1st grade students had a program on leaves and read "The Giving Tree".

(Continued from Page 2) The District also assisted Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities (CCOYA), with several field days in May. First up was 2nd grade, who visited the Andrew's Farm. Hampton, presented the Enviroscape, demonstrating how pollution affects a community and its water resources. Deluccia helped with students with a fishing activity at the farm's pond. 4th grade visited Sizerville State Park where CCOYA facilitated a great field day. Hampton provided a program on birds and Deluccia, did a great program on macroinvertebrates, with DCNR's Jessica Deluccia. Lastly, Hampton helped the Life Skill's students with a program on leaves, where they also got to make sun prints, and shirts designed with leaves. Deluccia again helped with a fishing program.

Over the summer the District again partnered with CCOYA to present programming to 4-H. Hampton presented a lesson on maggots and their benefits. Other programs also included a camping experience, where Hampton presented a lesson on lightning bugs.



Insect treats with 3rd Grade

In September the District hosted the 9th Annual Wild About Nature Field Day. This year, the

program was held at Sizerville State Park. Student's attended several stations that included, spiders, birds, snakes, macroinvertebrates, chromatography and a nature walk. A total of 120, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders attended the field day that was blessed with beautiful sunny weather.

The District was visited by several NRCS soil scientist to collect soil samples to create soil monoliths to use as educational tools. This was a great opportunity made possible through a NRCS grant. In the fall the District hosted a project tour of several sites around the county. The District staff was joined by several Board Directors, a few members of the public and

even a four legged companion. The highlight of the tour was the final spot at the long awaited



Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor Classroom located along the Gary Dubler Memorial Nature Trail. The classroom, is just one piece of the overall trail project, which will include several interpretive signs along the trail that are to be manufactured and installed in 2016.

The Trout in the Classroom program at Woodland Elementary has been a big hit with the kids. The District Partnered with Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities and the School District to provide this program to both 3rd grade classes of Mr. Porkolab and Mrs. Wilson. Children receive brook trout eggs from the PA Fish and Boat Commission and raise them from egg all the way to young of year. In May the students will release their fish into the East and West Branches of Cowley Run. The curriculum teaches the students about the many aspects of PA's state fish including diet, habitat, life cycle, and much more.

The District again partnered with the McKean County Conservation District to hold the Wild Envirothon competition. Teams from each county's schools compete to find out who has the most knowledge about the state's natural resources. Topics include aquatics, wildlife, forestry, and soils. Also each year is a current topic and this year that was urban forestry. Cameron County had 3 teams at this years event. First place was Team Big Country Susie Guiso, Nate Sestina, Taylor Gillette, Haley Abriatis, and Katie Caldwell. Second Place was Team Yeti Olivia Guisto, Jase Gillette, Kendyl Guisto, Autumn Abriatis, and Brendon Guisto. Third Place was Team Twig Tasters Tess Dubler, Kira Aikens, Ariel Farren, and Abby Rowan. Team Big Country had the highest score of both counties on the aquatics test and also won the right to participate at the State Envirothon where they worked hard but came up empty handed.

Streambank Stabilization and Fish Habitat Enhancement

2015 was a slow year for the Conservation District when it comes to streambank stabilization and fish habitat enhancement. With high flows well into July and then again in the end of construction season this fall it was difficult to get on the job sites. Despite tough conditions five sites were completed in East Hicks Run and Sinnemahoning Portage Creek. Crossvanes were the only type of structure installed in 2015. Crossvanes are a structure that are typically built with stone and are used for streambank stabilization, fish habitat, and grade control. In 2012 the Cameron County Conservation District decided that it was a complete possibility of these structures to be built with logs and rebar and engineered a design. This in turn drives costs down to approximately 10-20% of the cost of stone structures and is much more aesthetically pleasing. The structure consists of two large logs for arms and a large log for a throat that are lap jointed and pinned to the stream bottom with four to five foot rebar. There is also a geo-synthetic fabric that is a barrier used to prevent stone and gravel from washing underneath the logs. The resulting structure creates wonderful pool habitat for aquatic life and in ways is much more reliable than a traditional stone structure. The structures work by funneling water into the center of the stream creating a plunge pool and depositing the gravel on the downstream sides of the arms which stabilize the banks as well. In some instances this structure can also be used as a grade control where there is streambed instability.

In East Hicks Run three log crossvanes were installed, one at each site. This project was a partnership with the DCNR Elk State Forest and the Elk County Conservation District. In 2014 a site was completed near the confluence of the East and West Branch of Hicks Run in Elk County that included the installation of multilog deflectors, random boulders, and a log crossvane. The three sites in 2015 were located in Cameron County. The Hicks Run watershed is a very popular fishery in both Cameron and Elk County and the Districts along with Elk State

Forest will likely continue to work there as a partnership in the future.

Two sites were completed in the Sinnemahoning Portage Creek. Reports done by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the PA Fish and Boat Commission both show that the lower Portage watershed severely lacks quality instream pool

habitat. In 2014 the Conservation District received a grant from Headwaters RC&D Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee for the Portage Pool Habitat Initiative. This grant was for the construction of six large log crossvanes to be installed in various locations in the bottom six miles of Sinnemahoning Portage Creek. These crossvanes have braved very high water in the fall of 2015 and are working great with some of the pools created being over seven feet deep.

2016 is shaping up to be a busy year. Habitat work will be completed on the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek, Salt Run, Sterling Run, Brooks Run, and Wycoff Run. These will be a combination of streambank stabilization and fish habitat enhancement with structures such as modified mudsill cribwall, multilog deflectors, log framed stone deflectors, and random boulders being installed.



Fair Crossvane at installation (top) and during high water (bottom)

Acid Mine Drainage

The Conservation District continues to work on the Sterling Run drainage. In 2013 a grant was received from Growing Greener in the amount of \$678,333 for the permitting, design, and construction of the PORT14 and FIN32/33 Passive Treatment Systems.

The way these systems work is pretty simple but effective. The polluted water enters a vertical flow wetland. In this VFW the water must go through a layer of mushroom compost and limestone before it enters the piping of the pond. This removes the oxygen so that metals don't clog the system and then brings the pH of the water up. This water then enters a precipitation basin where it is oxygenated again and the metals drop out in a solid form. The clean water then enters one more pond where it goes into a surface flow wetland helps clean up the water a little bit more before entering back in the stream.

2015 has been busy with the construction continuing throughout the year. At the current time

both sites are nearing completion. Ponds have been built at both sites and piping and materials will be installed.

Estimated completion date is June of 2016.



AMD Discharge Finley Run

It has been a goal of the Conservation District for a long time now to get the Sterling Run drainage back to the beautiful trout streams that they once were. Work has been completed in May Hollow in the past at the MAYH49 and the County Landfill locations. Those treatment systems are working well taking water that has a pH of around 3.2 and bringing it up all the way to approximately neutral (7.0). With the completion of two new systems in Finley and Portable along with the work already done in May Hollow, acid mine drainage in Sterling Run should take a major hit.

Headwaters RC&D: Sinnemahoning Stakeholders

Settlement monies in the amount of \$3.175 million from the June 30th 2006 Norfolk Southern train derailment that caused a serious fish kill in Big Fill Run, Sinnemahoning Portage Creek, and the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek are administered by the Headwaters RC&D Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee. This is a nine member committee consisting of one representative from each of the following organizations; Cameron County Conservation District, McKean County Conservation District, Cameron County Commissioners, McKean County Commissioners, Department of Environmental Protection, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and two public seats.



2015 marked the 7th round for the Sinnemahoning Watershed Grant Program. Thirteen projects were funded totaling \$181,420. This funding will be used for projects in the Sinnemahoning Creek watershed. Things such as water monitoring, invasive plant control, fish habitat enhancement, streambank stabilization, environmental education, acid mine drainage remediation, aquatic organism passage, and access were funded this year.

Since the inception of the program in 2009 \$1,036,214 in funding over seven years and that money has helped leverage approximately an additional five million dollars. Because of the nature of the program and how the endowment was setup, this money will be available in perpetuity and works solely off of interest

Dirt and Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

2015 marked a great milestone for the Dirt and Gravel Road Program. For the first time since 1997 the program received an increase in funding thanks to the Act 89 Transportation bill increasing the funding from 6 million to 35 million annually. This of course meant a big bump in funding for Cameron County. The District now receives roughly \$120,000 for dirt and gravel road projects to minimize pollution from roadway sediment.

Also new to the program was the addition of low volume roads. The Conservation District received an additional \$40,000 for these types of projects. A low volume road is a road that receives less than 500 cars a day and is either paved or tar and chipped. This additional \$40,000 allows the District to improve our waterways even further by protecting streams from sediment and other forms of pollution coming of these paved roads.

The program revamp meant a lot of new challenges for Conservation Districts across the state and the Quality Assurance Board (QAB) of the Cameron County Conservation District worked hard to come up with new policy and reviewing of new projects. In 2015 the Conservation District QAB which is a 3 person committee that consists of one member from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), one member from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and one member from the Conservation District met to review projects and funded 3 Dirt and Gravel Road projects in the amount of \$90,200. These

projects were funded in Gibson, Shippen, and Lumber Townships.

The Gibson project is a stream crossing on Dark Hollow

on Jerry Run Road. An older, undersized pipe that was an aquatic organism barrier will be removed. In its place a structural arch pipe will be installed to allow adequate water movement in high flows, increase navigability of the stream for aquatic organisms such as fish, and decrease sediment pollution. This project cost \$39,650.

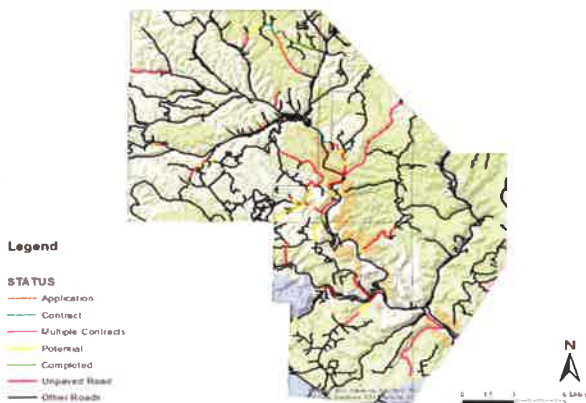
The Lumber project is located on Mason Hill Road. This site includes the installation of crosspipes to improve drainage. Also a swale will be constructed on a up slope field to collect sheet flow water and divert it under the road instead of directly onto the road. This project cost \$38,808.

The Shippen project located on Sizer Run Road is a drainage project as well. Cross pipes and turnouts will be installed for improved drainage. In addition the road sub base will be improved with 2RC stone. This project came in at \$11,564.

The District is still working with several municipalities in the County on future projects both dirt and gravel and low volume roads and hope to have them funded shortly. Construction on the three sites already funded will begin in 2016. The Dirt and Gravel Road program is a great asset and has dramatically improved roadways and waterways in our County and will continue to do so for quite some time.



Dirt Road on Elk State Forest



Erosion and Sediment Control & Waterways and Wetlands Management

There was a decrease in the number of permits and plans processed by the District in 2015. There were no new pipeline projects in 2015, which caused the number to rise in 2014. There was one NPDES Individual Permit reviewed by the District and one ESCGP-2 reviewed as part of regional project that was organized through the Clearfield County Conservation District.

Chapter 102: Erosion And Sediment Control

Outreach Events	9
Event Participants	234
Technical Assistance	40
News Releases	20
Incomplete Plans	1
Complete Plans	10
Initial Technical Reviews	7
Follow Up Reviews	9
Project Acres	474
Disturbed Acres	17
NPDES General (minor)	1
NPDES Individual	1
Complaints	18
Project Sites Inspected	18
Total Inspections	35
Permit Fees Collected	\$1,500.00
E&S Fees Collected	\$1,015.00

Chapter 105: Dam Safety & Waterways Mgt

Outreach Events	8
Events Participants	234
Technical Assistance	31
News Releases	20
Incomplete Applications	3
GP-1	1
GP-3	3
GP-8	3
Complaints	14
Project Sites Inspected	18
Total Inspections	35
Non-compliance (Referred)	1
Permit Fees Collected	750

The District partnered with Elk, McKean, Potter and Warren County Conservation Districts offering a series of workshops. The District received \$750 from PACD's Non-point Source Pollution Mini-grant program to host a Timber Harvesting Workshop. In addition to this workshop, the multi-county District partnership included a one day Dirt and Gravel Road training for contractors, three general workshops focusing on Chapter 102: Erosion and Sediment Control and Chapter 105: Waterways Management, and a technical workshop on best management practices. Each District involved in the partnership, has been successful in writing PACD Mini-grants for another round of workshops in 2016.

Natural Gas Development

2015 brought a decrease in gas well development in Cameron County. The following is a summary of gas well development from DEP's Oil & gas Management's website. In 2015, no conventional (shallow) wells were permitted or drilled in the county. Twenty-three unconventional (Marcellus or deep) wells were permitted, all were identified as horizontal wells. All of the permits were issued for wells located in Shippen Township.



Seventeen unconventional wells were drilled in 2015, all were located in Shippen Township. A total of 343 DEP inspections were completed on unconventional wells. No violations were found on the 62 total wells inspected.

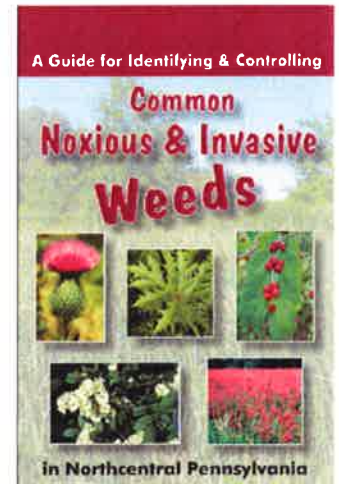
Agriculture Conservation Review

In the 2015 the District held their 12th Annual Agriculture Producers' Meeting. It was a great success with record attendance. The District partnered with Penn State Extension to offer pesticide credits for those in attendance. Through a grant from Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), the program was held free of charge. In addition to pesticide credits, participants also received two soil samples and a 2015-2016 Agronomy Guide from Penn State. These tools allow farmers to continue to update their manure management plans and implement best management practices on their farms.

In August, District Manager Jan Hampton, provided a display that was created using funds from a PACD Mini-grant for the Cameron County Fair. In addition to District staff, the display was manned by some of the District's community partners throughout the week. This is a program the District hopes to build upon in the future.

The District was awarded a Non-point Source Pollution PACD Mini-grant for \$2,000, to continue

Watershed Awareness through, four events between 2015 and 2016. The workshop series started with the presentation at the 2015 Cameron County Fair, and the last three will be in 2016, and include the 13th Annual Agriculture Producers' Meeting, a Backyard Conservation Workshop, and 102-105 workshop. Additionally the District received a Manure Management PACD Mini-grant for \$750, to work with farmers to develop Manure Management Plan and assist with the Annual Agriculture Producers' Meeting. The District also partnered with Headwaters RC&D Council, to reprint a Weed ID Pocket Guide, to distribute at the NW PA Grazing Conference and the eight County Conservation Districts in the Headwaters Region, this was the \$2,500 grant from the CREP PACD Mini-grant program.



NRCS Program Review of Cameron County

Conservation Practices implemented through USDA NRCS programs in 2015:

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with a total of \$12,565.00 contracts written to implement:

- Access Control (fencing for forest regrowth): 5 acres
- Riparian Buffer to benefit terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat: 3 acres
- Retrofit watering facilities for wildlife escape & enhanced access for bats & birds: 5

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) with a total of \$21,154.00 contracts written to implement:



Wildlife escape



Herbaceous Weed Control

- Herbaceous Weed Control: 41.5 acres
- Roof Run off (barn gutters): 1
- Underground outlet: 30 linear feet
- Cover Crop: 4 acres
- Brush Management: 48 acres
- Herbaceous Weed Control: 43 acres
- Tree/shrub establishment: 1 acres

Bucktail Watershed Association

The Bucktail Watershed Association is a concerned group of citizens united to promote wise watershed stewardship for property and stream protection in the Driftwood Branch and First Fork of the Sinnemahoning Creek watersheds.

The Bucktail Watershed Association's goals are:

- To promote flood and erosion control projects
- To maintain and/or improve stream habitat
- To control invasive plants
- To promote public awareness and outreach
- To promote recreation and tourism that is harmony with the goals of the BWA.



Accomplishments: BWA volunteers have placed watershed educational signs and maps at state parks and Woodland Elementary School, planted streamside forest buffers and stream restoration projects, organized stream and roadside garbage cleanups, and treated miles of stream banks for invasive plants.

Current Projects: BWA is working to control invasive plant species such as mile a minute vine, Japanese knotweed, and buckthorn. In the spring of 2015, BWA started a volunteer water quality monitoring network.

Future goals: Work on more habitat improvement projects, address stream bank erosion problems, plant trees in stream corridors to shade and lower stream water temperatures, continue invasive plant control activities, and increase membership.

Activities Recap for 2015:

In January 2015 the BWA submitted grants to the Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee (train wreck/chemical spill settlement funds) for Japanese knotweed and mile-a-minute vine control work for 2015, and received funding from the Dominion/Western PA Conservancy mini-grant program to cover the cost of our insurance for our pesticide applicator permit. BWA also requested and received funding to re-start a volunteer water quality monitoring program. In March, the BWA was awarded the funds from the Stakeholders Committee and held our annual Driftwood Branch stream cleanup, prior to the annual canoe / kayak race, in partnership with other local groups.

In early spring, pre-emergent herbicide was applied to mile a minute vine on the Gerg, Weir and Burkhouse properties west of Emporium, and to sites on the properties of Tzanakis, Flynn, Fapore, Card and Grimone along the Driftwood Branch above Sterling Run (total: 300 gross acres). BWA did follow up treatment from May-September, spraying and hand pulling, and later in the season, when the plants were loaded with seeds, BWA bagged and burned the mile-a-minute.

Starting in May and running through July, the BWA led trainings on the issues of water quality and how to monitor streams using equipment that BWA had purchased with a grant. BWA started out at Woodland Elementary, visiting the 3rd, 5th and 6th grade classes. BWA developed power points that educated students about the causes and issues affecting water quality, and then went out to the Driftwood Branch and tested water. Jan Hampton and Todd Deluccia assisted with the third grade class. BWA held three trainings for adults, two in Emporium and one at Sinnemahoning State Park, and have a total of 12 volunteers testing water in our watershed.

The BWA staffed a booth at the Weekend in the Wilds in July, and handed out membership and information fliers, and held our annual crayfish races. "Driftwoodstock", a BWA outreach event, was held in September with very few attendees. Live music and educational tables were the highlights of this event. The BWA also manned a display table at the Cameron County Fair, and at the Sizerville State Park Fall Festival in October.

From September thru October, BWA continued to work with their partner the Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area (SIPMA) on treating the highly invasive Japanese knotweed. Sites were treated in the Driftwood Branch and First Fork of Sinnemahoning Creek watershed totaling approximately 57 miles of streambank between the 2 watersheds and several upland sites near Emporium while working with over 180 cooperating landowners. The BWA is the financial manager for the Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area whom works to treat many different invasive species throughout the area.

SIPMA

The Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area is a Cooperative Weed Management Area. It is a formal group of partners from state and local agencies, private business, conservation districts, and non-profits all working together to control invasive plants and share information and resources. The program coordinator is currently funded by a grant from the US Forest Service.



The program is overseen by a Steering Committee, which meet three times per year. The Steering Committee is formed by directors and employees from the Elk, Potter and Cameron Conservation Districts as well as the DCNR Elk State Forest and Sinnemahoning Park.

Project Work: Direct SIPMA funding treated Japanese knotweed in Potter County; an isolated population of phragmites, a highly invasive grass, on the East Fork in Cameron County; as well as isolated populations of tree of heaven along the Driftwood. SIPMA partners worked on controlling Japanese knotweed (42 gross miles of stream bank), Japanese barberry (5 acres), mile-a-minute vine (300 gross acres) and 400 acres of buckthorn. The buckthorn was treated in Elk County and Cameron County in State Game Lands 14.

A goal of the SIPMA is to create a database of invasive plants in the watershed. The SIPMA Coordinator has an up to date spreadsheet, and information from that sheet is being entered into the iMapInvasive Program, a national partnership for mapping invasive species. In PA, it is run by the Pennsylvania Heritage Program and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Both the SIPMA coordinator and Kate Morgan have received advanced training to use and enter data in this program.

Outreach and Education: SIPMA held full meetings in February, June and December. The coordinator manned a table at four local outdoor-themed events and put on three educational workshops about weed control in partnership with the Sinnemahoning State Park, and worked with DCNR to offer three workshops for landowners on managing hemlock woolly adelgid. Coordinator also spoke on the topic of invasive plants at the Erosion and Sediment Control workshop sponsored by multi-county Conservation districts, and did a special workshop on Japanese knotweed control for the McKean County Conservation District.

Capacity Building: In 2015 the coordinator wrote grants to the USFS for continued coordinator support, Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee for knotweed and mile-a-minute, and a mini-grant was submitted to the Western PA Conservancy. Funding was awarded by all. The Bucktail Watershed Association (BWA), an important SIPMA partner and financial manager of the organization, submits and manages these grants.

To formalize the Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area, most partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, a non-binding agreement that states support for the SIPMA and each organization's invasive species control actions.

2015 Activities Recap:

- February: Presentation about SIPMA and local weeds to the Cameron County Conservation District Ag Producers Meeting.
- March: "Identifying and Controlling Invasive Bushes and Vines" workshop with Sinnemahoning State Park for pesticide credit.
- April: Speaker at Elk County Conservation District Backyard Conservation Program
- April: Speaker at Erosion and Sediment Control workshop
- April: touch up treatment on tree of heaven
- June: met with PA Game Commission regarding Private Lands Program for landowners
- June SIPMA meeting--presentation about herbicides, with continuing education course credits through PA Dept. of Ag
- June: Sponsored three trainings about hemlock woolly adelgid. Speaker from DCNR Pest Forest Advisor Tim Tomen.
- July: Weekend in the Wilds—share space at BWA booth
- July: Submit grant to PA DEP Growing Greener (still pending).
- July: Speaker at Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association Picnic.
- August: Presented "How to Control Knotweed" for McKean County Conservation District, Port Allegheny.
- August: SIPMA and invasive ID and info table at Elk Festival
- August: "How to Control Knotweed" workshop with Sinnemahoning State Park for pesticide credits.
- September: outreach and info table at Driftwoodstock III (BWA event)
- September weed work: spot treat tree of heaven in Driftwood borough; treat knotweed in First Fork; treat phragmites site in East Fork; Asiatic bittersweet cut stump experiment on Four Mile.
- October: outreach by manning a table at both Sizerville and Sinnemahoning State parks fall events
- December: SIPMA meeting, DCNR Elk State Forest Office.

Cooperating Agencies

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PA Game Commission

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