

# Invasive Species Management at DoD Facilities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Through the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program, the nonprofit organization Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) created pilot invasive species management programs at military installations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Partnerships, capacity-building events, and consistent on-the-ground work were key areas of focus. These programs support the military mission by creating safe and realistic training and testing grounds; using partnerships to increase impact of DoD dollars invested in conservation; and proactively supporting biodiversity and healthy ecosystem function, thus reducing the likelihood that funding will need to be diverted from other priorities to address environmental regulatory issues in the future.

## Partnerships with neighboring landowners



(left) NSF Indian Head, MD: Habitat restoration took place at a wetland that spans the border of the installation and an adjacent state park. Pictured: a volunteer from a state program (foreground) and a Navy natural resources specialist (background) plant native species.

(above) NSF Carderock, MD: WHC facilitated a partnership with the county government, which owns the property to the north of the installation. In spring 2009, the partners came together to remove invasive species and plant natives in a forest buffer that stretches across the two properties. Follow-up work will take place in fall 2009.

## Community volunteer days



At volunteer days for DoD personnel and community members, WHC employees provided information about impacts of invasive species and trained volunteers on removal techniques. Volunteers removed invasive plants and planted natives with high wildlife value. Pictured above: (left) A county master gardener removes crown vetch with NSF Carderock personnel. (right) Volunteers take a break in the shade and learn about the wildlife value of native species they will plant.

**SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**CONSERVATION PARTNERING: INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AS A SUCCESSFUL WATERSHED PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP**

During this time of tightening budgets, it's more important than ever to find innovative, efficient ways to produce lasting conservation results. This seminar will cover the who and how of using community partnerships to break the costly cycle of short-term projects and user-managing for long-term success. We will focus on invasive species management as a jumping-off point for partnership conservation programs.

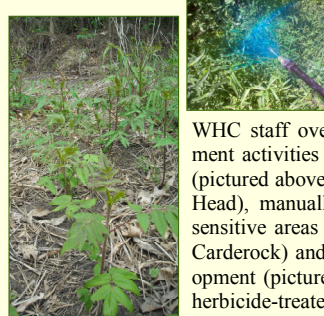
**"A COUNTRY'S WORTH BEING PRESERVED IS A COUNTRY WORTH PRESERVING."**  
—Department of the Interior, Secretary of the Interior, Gifford Pinchot

LOCATION: NSF Carderock — Building 40, 9500 MacArthur Boulevard, West Bethesda, MD, 20817  
 DATE: Thursday, April 23rd, 8:00am — 4:00pm  
 WHO SHOULD ATTEND: military personnel, community members, government officials, nonprofit employees, business owners, land owners, and any other interested parties  
 REGISTRATION: Required, no fee. E-mail: [ConservationTraining@NSV.af.mil](mailto:ConservationTraining@NSV.af.mil) or call Susan Heller, Registration, at 202-243-5972  
 EXHIBITS: There will be an exhibition booth area in the lobby of Building 40, open to any group that would like to display information about its accomplishments and services. If interested, please indicate that you will be an exhibitor when you register.  
**"CREATING HEALTHY AND RESTURABLE COMMUNITIES...TRANSFORMS US FROM MANAGED TO PERFECTIBLE"**  
—Carol Brubaker, Director, Environmental Markets

**MORNING SESSIONS**  
 Featured speakers: Don Schregardus, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy - Environment; Peter Boyce, DoD natural resources deputy director; Bob Hoyt, Montgomery County Dept. Environmental Protection director; Leopoldo Miranda, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Chesapeake Bay Office supervisor; Mary Trivaglini, The Nature Conservancy & North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

**AFTERNOON SESSIONS**  
 Attendees will split into small groups for interactive learning activities. Groups will tour Carderock natural areas and participate in an invasive species management planning class.  
**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: www.wildlife.org/conservation**

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## Conservation partnering seminar

WHC worked with NSA North Potomac, county government and nonprofit partners to hold a seminar about creating partnerships for watershed conservation,

with focus on invasive species management. 150 people attended, representing 14 military installations, federal and county agencies, community groups, corporations and schools. Speakers included Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment) Donald Schregardus (in middle in left picture) and Montgomery County Maryland Department of Environmental Protection Director Bob Hoyt (on left in left picture, talking with WHC President Bob Johnson) as well as scientists from nonprofits and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. After listening to the speakers, attendees participated in workshop activities such as learning to identify invasive species with an expert from a local watershed society (pictured above). Attendees reported developing new conservation partnerships and updating land management plans as results of the seminar.

## Consistent treatment, monitoring & maintenance

WHC staff oversaw day-to-day invasive species management activities such as coordinating herbicide applications (pictured above: spraying Japanese stiltgrass at NSF Indian Head), manually removing small invasive populations in sensitive areas (pictured right: digging phragmites at NSF Carderock) and monitoring native plant community development (pictured left: sumacs emerging amongst debris of herbicide-treated Canada thistle at NSF Carderock).

