

Volunteer Monitoring of Invasive Plants Leads to Control Action at Standing Indian Campground, Nantahala National Forest

Simple but effective payoffs are resulting from SAMAB's invasive plant volunteer monitoring efforts. Volunteer monitors, Victor Forbes and Larry Jelley, with the assistance of monitoring program coordinators, Andy Brown and Jack Ranney, conducted inventory and monitoring on Forest Service road 67 and in the Standing Indian campground. The monitors identified a lone occurrence of multiflora rose in the Standing Indian campground.

The program coordinator notified appropriate Nantahala National Forest staff of this find, and they have arranged to treat and eliminate this occurrence of multiflora rose. This is a case of volunteer action leading to direct results.

Is an individual occurrence a significant threat? Left unchecked, this multiflora rose could provide the seed source to propagate itself on the nearby horseback riding trails, road corridors, and Nantahala River corridor. Some of these corridors lead directly to the Appalachian Trail and significant natural areas. Through volunteer assistance, the Forest Service is able to attack this problem before it gets out of hand. And this ultimately saves everyone time and money.

One of the main reasons for monitoring invasives is to establish an early warning system around our significant natural areas so that they do not become overwhelmed with invasive plants. In the future these monitors will continue monitoring FS 67 and horseback riding trails and hiking trails leading toward the Standing Indian Shelter to assure that spread of this invasive species has been prevented.

Many thanks go to the various USDA Forest Service staff involved in arranging and carrying out the invasive control action, and especially to these volunteers working to reduce the threat of invasive species.

