



DOD Early Detection Rapid Response Invasive Species Strike Teams-A Pilot Demonstration Year 2

Project # 13-622

Background:

In 2012 DoD Legacy funded the EDRR Invasive Species Strike Team Pilot Project to aid in the control of invasive plants and restoration process. Because no integrated pest management effort is successful by treatments only, the Strike Team Pilot Demonstration incorporated a variety of techniques to aid in the restoration of natural areas, including EDRR, the promotion of leveraging funds and knowledge through Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs), to providing DoD facilities with new technologies to manage and monitor control efforts through IPCCConnect (an online management tool). This effort has continued into the 2013 calendar year with continued efforts at NAS Patuxent River (MD), Fort Detrick (MD), Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC_Arnold AFB) (TN), and NAS Cherry Point (NC); with the addition of Camp Rilea OANG (OR).

Objective:

The overall objective of this effort is to justify the need for Department of Defense Invasive Species Strike Teams. These “teams” are reflective of Invasive Plant Control, Inc.’s travel teams, the National Park Service’s Exotic Plant Management Teams (EPMTs), and US Fish and Wildlife’s Strike Teams. “Teams” work with individual facilities/sites of their prospective agencies that can provide management planning, mapping, on-the-ground selective invasive species management, partnership building, educating and training, to providing technical assistance for cliental.



Japanese stiltgrass control at MCAS Cherry Point, NC

Summary of Approach:

This DoD Strike Team approached the effort of its existence by returning for a second year to monitor and maintain existing sites at the 4 previously mentioned facilities. As with EDRR intervention, constant monitoring is essential to ensure a viable native habitat. The Strike Team Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were also updated, along with training in-house staff, promoting CISMAs, and creating treatment delineations of the treatment zones. Rapid mobility is the essence of any strike team. The DoD Strike Team staff was able to respond to 5 overall facilities starting in eastern NC, then to Western Oregon, Middle TN, then 2 sites in MD.

Benefit:

The DoD Strike Team Pilot Demonstration results provides evidence that when called, the strike teams can respond and determine a treatment regime, provide selective control of invasive plants, create reports, provide assistance to the natural resource management staff; then move to the next objective. These deliverable maintain suitable training areas for DoD forces as well as ensure the environmental directives are met.

Accomplishments:

This is the second year of the DoD Strike Team Pilot Demonstration. During 2013 the Strike Team was able to review and discuss invasive plant control strategies with partnering Natural Resources Specialists; provide over 384 acres of selective control treatments on 23 invasive plants; provide and emphasize the importance of monitoring/maintaining previous invasive plant management sites; reconnoiter these sites to determine regeneration and provide native plant installation if needed; continue to develop relationships between facilities and surrounding stakeholders to form partnerships through Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs); update and fine tune IPCCConnect.org as the premier online tracking/reporting tool; as well as updating the SOP Manual for DoD EDRR Strike Teams.

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