



NJ Invasive Species
Strike Team

FoHVOS
FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE

Strike Team Report August 2018

We've been working hard to obtain grant funding and we have two exciting projects that are ready to go! Special thanks to our funders – United States Forest Service and Victoria Foundation!

The success of these proposals was COMPLETELY dependent upon a host of fantastic partners that agreed to provide their expertise and vital matching contributions. While these projects will keep us hopping, we're constantly on the lookout for more funding – please reach out to us if you have any projects where the Strike Team can be a partner!

- Mike Van Clef, Strike Team Project Director



In addition to seeking out grant funding, FoHVOS has been putting in extra effort to improve administrative supports for our statewide Invasive Species Strike Team since our generous grantors cover only mission work.

We are so pleased to share that our friends at [VolunteerConnect](#) spent almost a year finding us the perfect executive to help us craft a strategic marketing plan. Andrea Stumpf has already spent significant time meeting with Mike & me and researching best practices to apply. To date she has met her deliverable deadlines and we couldn't be happier with her work. We anxiously await her final recommendations.

Thank you to all of our volunteers helping us eradicate invasive species. If you would care to join the fight and help us either indoors or out, please reply to this email and we can add you to our volunteer ranks.

- Lisa Wolff, FoHVOS Executive Director

United State Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Grant

This is a big one! Over the next three years, we'll be working with Mercer County Parks, Monmouth County Parks, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, New Jersey Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Service and The Sourland Conservancy toward effective and efficient invasive species control in high priority forests throughout the state. Under our previous grant with USFS, we identified 25 high priority forest areas (5 per Landscape Project region - thanks to Pete Winkler's exceptional GIS skills!). With our partners, we'll be working on field surveys, development of concise 10-year invasive species



management plans and beginning plan implementation. Control work will maximize protection of conservation values such as rare species habitat and eliminating populations of newly emerging invasive species. This project includes a large number of privately-owned forest lands, with NRCS and TSC, we'll identify 50 landowners that are interested in working on invasive species planning.



Wild Comfrey is an interesting rare species specializing on Sourland soils, but completely absent elsewhere in the state, making it vital to protect our local populations.

Victoria Foundation

Similar to the above, the Strike Team will be working with a host of partners on developing five concise 10-year management plans – and initiating plan implementation through the work of partner staff or contractors and Strike Team land stewards and seasonal interns. Partners include the Trust of Public Lands, Ridge and Valley Conservancy, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, Raritan Headwaters Association, Mendham Township, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Schiff Natural Lands Trust, and Hunterdon Land Trust.

In addition to our 'standard' work, we're extremely excited to have a youth outreach and training component. While we continue to provide in-depth training sessions across the state (contact us if you would like one), we're extending our efforts to Newark area high school students – two training sessions will introduce students to the nuts-and-bolts of the Strike Team (e.g., plant identification, use of our phone app to collect data) as well as trying to generate interest in conservation careers.



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey's West Brook Preserve in West Milford will be part of our Victoria project -- the property is vital to the protection of water that feeds the Wanaque Reservoir.



Strike Team App Updated!



Thanks to funding provided by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, we are pleased to have updated our phone app! In response to our survey, we made it MUCH EASIER to collect data in the field and many new species have been added. You'll only have to submit a photo and select the size of the population and we'll do the rest on our end! Please remember that the Strike Team ABSOLUTELY NEEDS partners and members of the general public to submit data.

NOTE: You'll have to delete your current version and then download the new version.

The Strike Team needs your help to fight invasive species throughout New Jersey. By making a membership donation, you directly fund our efforts to keep invasive species at bay and protect our native plants and wildlife. Donate through the link below!

[Donate](#)

The above link will take you to the PayPal donation page for Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space. The Strike Team is a project of FoHVOS, so any donations you make will still fund strike team efforts. Thank you for your support!

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