

Working with Private Landowners on Managing Invasive Species



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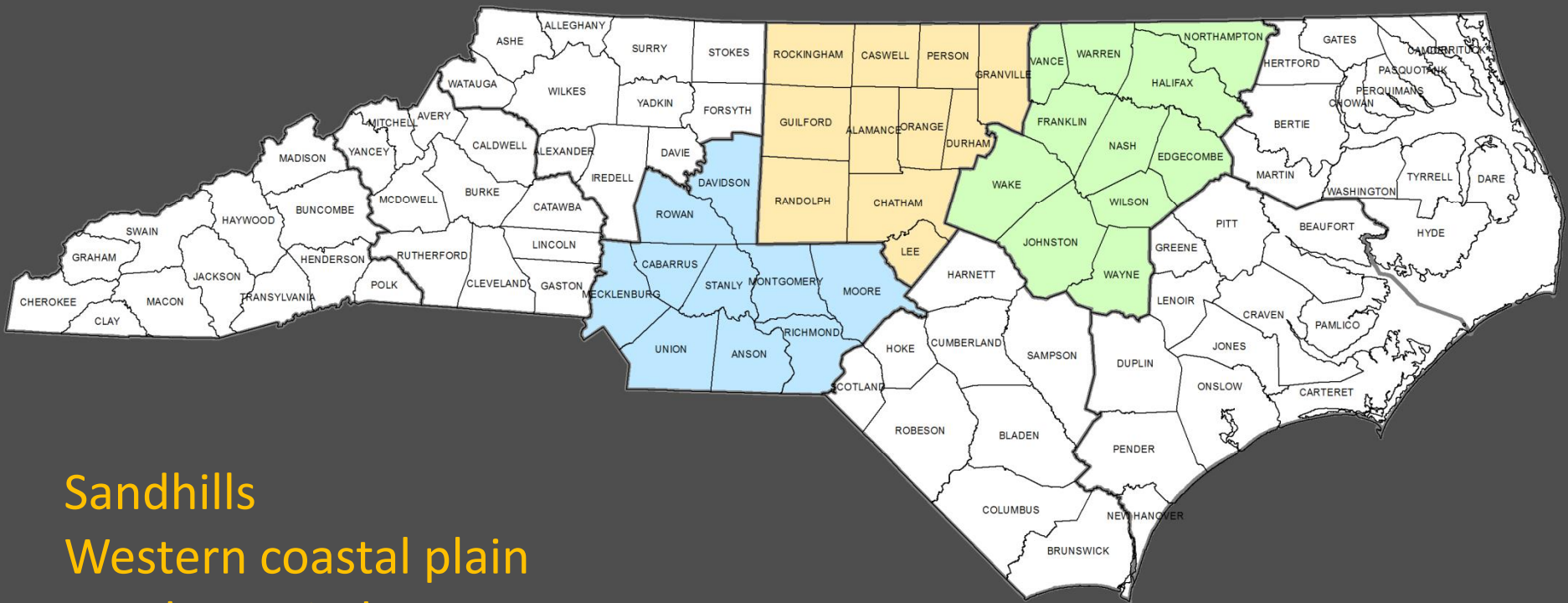
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My Job



- To help private landowners manage their property for wildlife
- Started out as Forest Stewardship Biologist
- Transitioned into TAB

My Work Area



Sandhills

Western coastal plain

Northern piedmont

Urban: RDU, Triad, Charlotte Metro

Uwharrie Mountains

Resulting Connections

- > 215 landowners
- > 30,000 acres
 - Range 11 – 3,992
- > 20 consulting foresters
- > 15 conservation partners





Situation

- ALL properties have at least one exotic, invasive species present
- In fact, most have 3-6+ invasive plants, that are not only present but thriving

Plants Only

Who Are the Top 20 Offenders?

1. Japanese stilt grass
2. Privet
3. Japanese honeysuckle
4. Lespedeza
5. Tree-of-heaven
6. Multiflora rose
7. Grasses
8. Princess tree
9. Olives (*Elaeagnus sp.*)
10. Kudzu



Plants Only

Who Are the Top 20 Offenders?

11. Chinese wisteria
12. Exotic thistle
13. Nandina
14. Mimosa
15. Vinca, ivy, periwinkle
16. Chinaberry
17. Morning glory
18. Bamboo
19. Trifoliate orange
20. Bradford pear



A photograph of a large, dense bush of purple wisteria flowers in full bloom. The flowers are numerous and hang in long, drooping clusters. The background shows green foliage and a clear blue sky. The word "Challenges" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow font.

Challenges

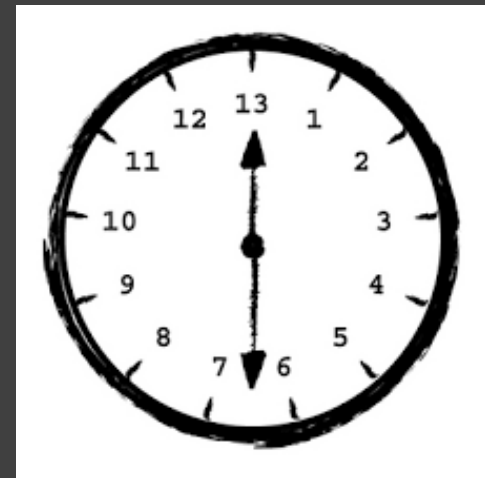
Challenge #1

- Educating landowners about invasive species, even if:
 - They don't realize they have invasive species, or how many
 - They introduced the species
 - They aren't "good" at plant or animal identification
 - They don't know they need to know (Oriental bitterweet)



Challenge #2

- Overcoming differences
 - Property size
 - Multiple landowners
 - Working through someone else
 - Different demographics
 - Age and ability
 - Finances and feasibility
 - Time and motivation
 - Know-how and equipment





Challenge #3

- We 'introduced' the species, or encouraged others to do the same
 - Kudzu
 - Sericea lespedeza
 - VA-70
 - Sawtooth oak
 - Vetch



Challenge #4

- Your experience and knowledge
 - Hands-on experience controlling invasive species
 - Pesticide credits
 - Equipment
- Your devotion



Challenge #5

- But it's so pretty!
 - Explaining the nature of invasive species
 - Emphasizing the importance of biodiversity
 - Finding alternatives



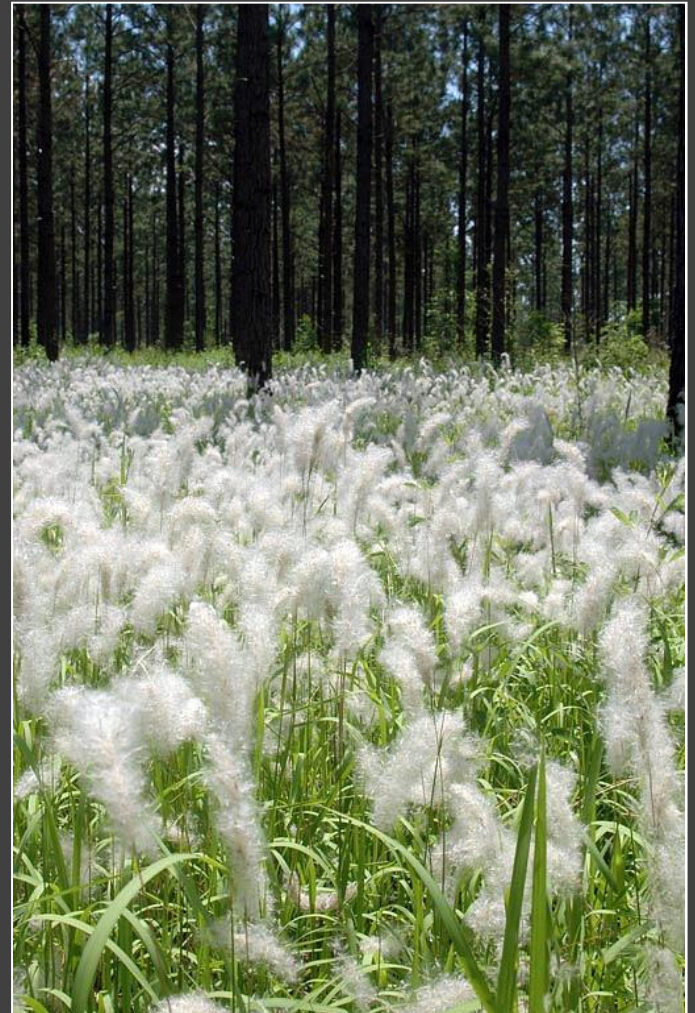
Challenge #6



- Extent of the problem
 - Overload of species
 - Major infestation
 - Overwhelming odds
 - How much work is needed (patience and persistence)
 - Is it possible to control?

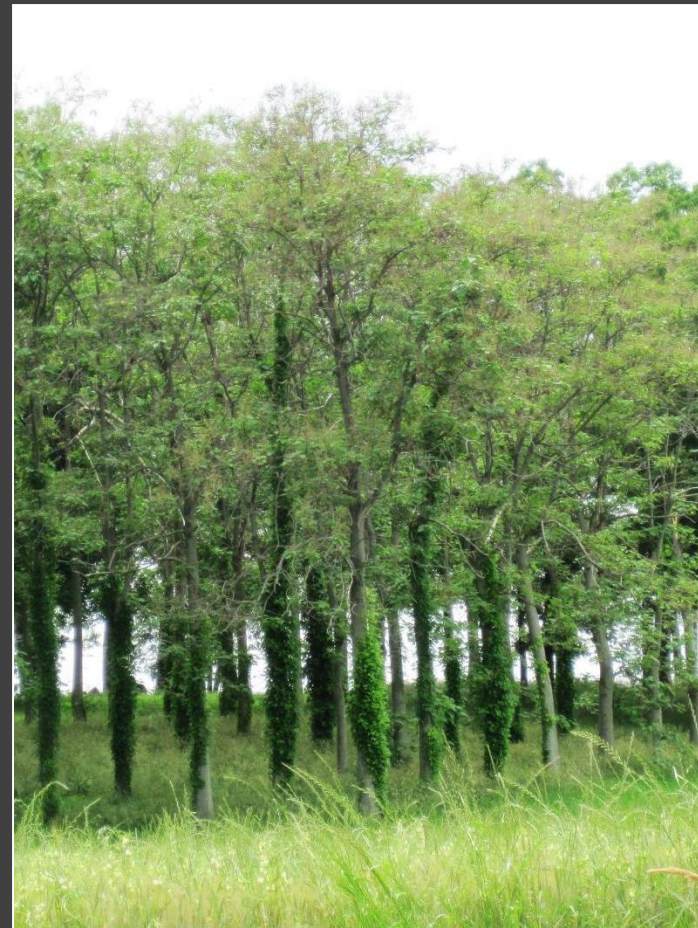
Challenge #7

- Bad neighbors
 - Infestation on neighboring property
 - Impacts response time



Ultimate Challenge

- **INDUCING CHANGE**
- Encouraging landowners to spread the word to neighbors, etc.
- Becoming an advocate for you





A photograph of a lush field of yellow wildflowers and green grasses. In the background, there is a dense line of green trees under a cloudy sky. The word "Opportunities" is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the center of the image.

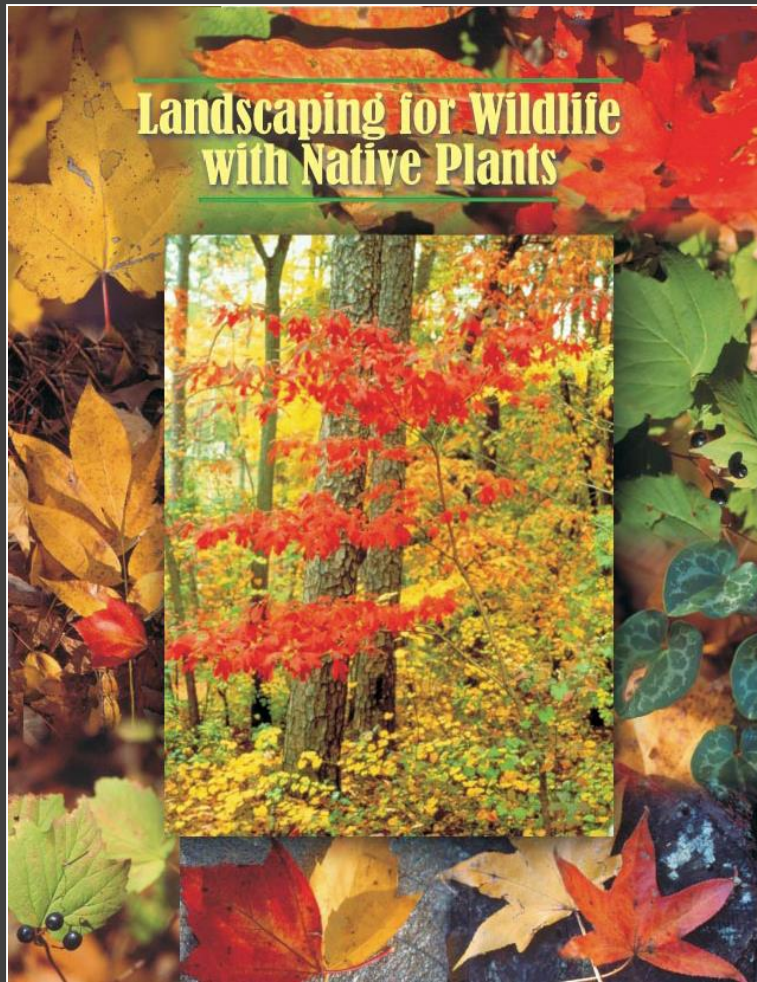
Opportunities

Opportunity #1

- Educating landowners about invasive species
 - Workshops
 - Demonstration areas
 - Science Festival events
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week



Opportunity #2



- Plethora of resources
 - USFS books
 - NC IPC, SE EPC
 - UGA CISEH
 - EDDMapS
 - NCSU “going native” website and pubs
 - Many, many more...
 - You!

Opportunity #3

- Availability of native alternatives
 - Supply and demand
 - Increase in native plant nurseries, and selection



Opportunity #4

- Cost-share programs
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program



Opportunity #5



- Rules and regulations
 - Feral swine
 - Aquatic plants
 - Mute swans, European starlings, rock doves (pigeons), English sparrows
 - African clawed frogs
 - Coyote

Opportunity #6

- Citizen science projects
 - WaspWatchers: EAB
- Large-scale campaigns
 - Don't Move Firewood
 - Hydrilla Hunt



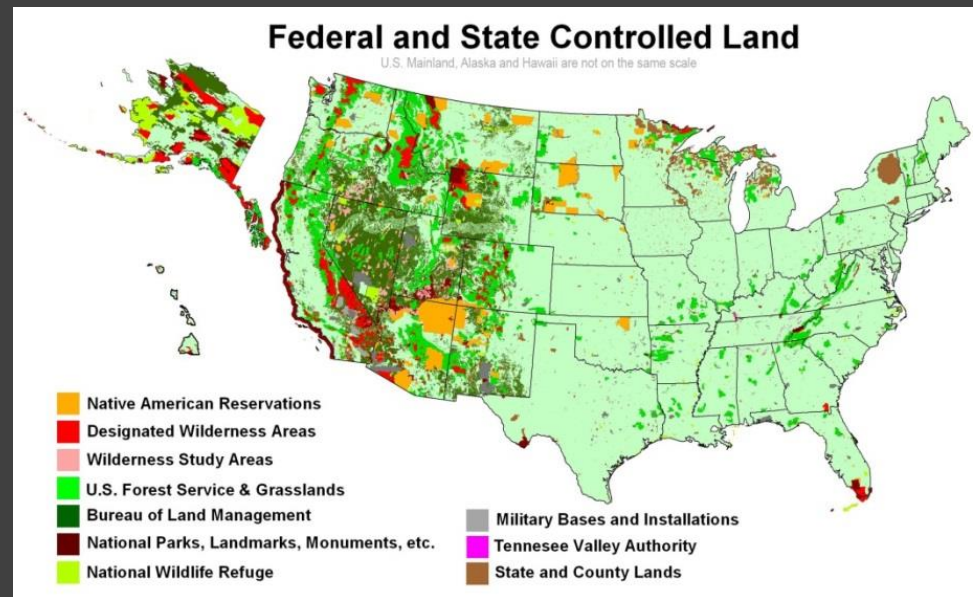
Opportunity #7

- Early detection and rapid response
 - EDDMapS
 - NC Invasive Plant Council
 - National Invasive Species Council
 - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health
 - USDA National Invasive Species Information Center



Ultimate Opportunity

- **SCALE**
- North Carolina is approximately 90% privately owned!
- Potential exists for a *significant* impact on native ecosystems



The more we can educate private landowners about the impacts of exotic, invasive species, the closer we are to making a difference on a grander scale

Questions?

“On a global basis...the two great destroyers of biodiversity are, first habitat destruction and, second, invasion by exotic species”

- E. O. Wilson