

Invasive Species Working Group Field Day- Pineview campground. 6/15/2023

- **Clint Gilman** and Invader Crusader **Mic Armstrong** started off with a little background on the Monroe County Invasive Species Working Group

- **Charles Mentzel** and his Forestry crew kicked off the day's sessions with specifics on management of invasive species in woodlands. There were many questions on how foresters can clean their tracks, emphasized that the landowners should make sure their contract has clean equipment stated within it, cleaning before and after coming into a site.

- **Rikki Rasch** discussed tools that the management crew uses to stop the spread of invasives, backpack sprayers, skid steer, UTV with booms of herbicides and where each of these things can be used and to what extent. He also discussed calibration of the equipment and PPE needed for close contact with herbicides

-**Rick Schulte** led a talk on herbicide use. Surfactants were discussed and explained how herbicides are meant to absorb into leaves rather than bead up on surface like water does, some at home herbicides were mentioned but not much research as to whether they work well or not

- Invader Crusader **Matt Walrath** talked about the identification of some invasive species, what invasive species are, why we should watch out for them, and ways that community members can map new occurrences in an area using a map on your phone or the computer

- **Rikki Rasch** covered the identification of many of the common woody invasive species and discussed how they can be distinguished from the native species, used real plants for identification

- Two members of the **Goats on the Go** affiliation, **Vern Klingbiel** and **Brandy Ender** described how their goats eat the leaves off of woody invasive species, while being contained in an electric fence. They have the possibility to get hundreds of goats, cost ranges from \$800-\$1400 an acre, usually takes about a day to do a half an acre (depending how many goats and how dense the vegetation is)

- The Fort McCoy invasive species management crew gave demonstrations on how they manage invasives like buckthorn, trees including foliar cut stump and basal application methods.

- Buckthorn management was discussed many times throughout the day. Focused on the aspect of controlling rather than eradicating which would be close to impossible unless it was a small portion of land that was continuously revisited.

-**Mic Armstrong** and **Joey Esterline** discussed native alternatives to landscaping

-Joey discussed how private landowners can tackle invasive species with tools she found work best, making invasive species management more attainable rather than getting professionals to come to their land

-Clint and **Lily Lefebvre** discussed different cost share programs private landowners can use. DNR and MCISWG have cost sharing options. Monroe County LCD cost shares 50% up to \$600 for 3 applicants a year, submit materials to Bob Micheel for the Invasive Species Working Group to look over

- Many free handouts and informational brochures were offered to the landowners along with boot brushes, pens, and posters