



NPS Invasive Plant Management Teams

2025
Natural Resource
Stewardship & Science
Biological Resources

About the Invasive Plant Management Program

The Invasive Plant Management Teams (IPMTs) were created in 2000 through the Natural Resource Challenge to assist parks with the growing threat posed by invasive plants. Since that time, 17 IPMTs have been established and served 310 park units in fiscal year 2025 (FY25). Faced with unique challenges, each IPMT incorporates strategies that best serve their partners to effectively protect natural and cultural resources and educational and recreational opportunities by providing or funding on-the-ground invasive species management support. The IPMTs also lead restoration efforts to increase native plant community resilience and reduce susceptibility to future invasions. The IPMTs are an integral part of the National Park Service's (NPS) response to the invasive species threat and provide a source of expertise in invasive plant management not otherwise available in most parks.

2025 Key Metrics

XX,XXX

Acres treated

310

Parks Supported

XXX

of species targeted



Volunteers engaged

455

Volunteers engaged

1,573

Volunteer hours



Youth engaged

452

Youth engaged

96,058

Hours spent

17

Invasive Plant
Management Teams

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\$5.11M

NPS Program Investment

\$6.75M

Other Contributions





Protecting Park Resources

In FY25, the IPMTs were instrumental in ensuring the long-term resilience and enjoyment of our national parks. Their work spanned the entire country: strengthening forests and grasslands in the East against future invasions and climate-driven disturbances, controlling invasive plants across the fragile desert and prairie ecosystems of the West, and protecting culturally significant sites in Hawai'i from species that threaten both ecological integrity and heritage values. These efforts collectively highlight the essential role IPMTs play in preserving the health, diversity, and stories embodied in America's national parks.

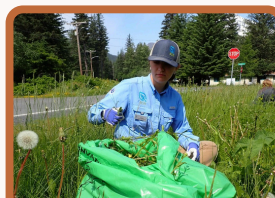
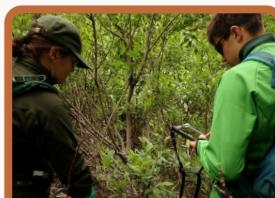
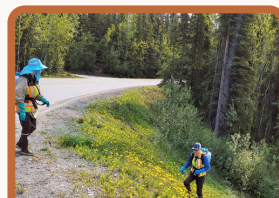
Wildfire Management

The IPMTs play a vital role in supporting wildfire management across national parks. In FY25, teams worked proactively to reduce invasive vegetation that fuels faster-moving, more intense wildfires, while also collecting native seeds and restoring ecosystems that are naturally more resilient to future fire events. Their efforts extended well beyond park boundaries through partnerships with other agencies and organizations, ensuring that wildfire protection benefited entire landscapes rather than just isolated units. These actions helped protect sensitive natural and cultural resources while laying the foundation for healthier, more fire-adapted ecosystems.

Youth Engagement

With a focus on developing future leaders in invasive plant management, the IPMTs invest heavily in internships, hands-on training, and volunteer opportunities that introduce young people to careers in natural resource stewardship. These programs equip participants with practical field skills, a strong scientific foundation, and real-world experience managing invasive species across diverse landscapes. In FY25, this commitment to workforce development was substantial: IPMTs engaged 452 youth participants and employees, who collectively contributed over 96,000 hours to invasive plant management efforts. Their involvement not only strengthened current projects but also helped cultivate the next generation of natural resource professionals trained in science-based invasive plant management practices.

ALASKA

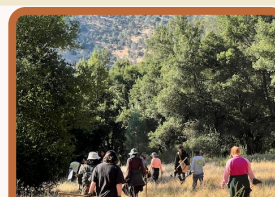
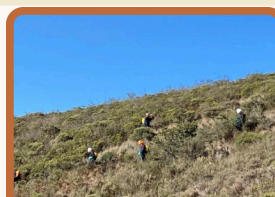


ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	16	50	6	4,568

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Alaska (AK) IPMT supported on-the-ground efforts across the state by placing Student Conservation Association interns in five national parks. These interns worked under IPMT guidance to tackle invasive plants and collect native seeds—efforts that strengthen both immediate management needs and long-term ecosystem resilience. The team also deployed two experienced volunteers, both retired NPS staff, to the remote Serpentine Hot Springs area in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Remarkably, this location had not been visited since 2004, making their return a valuable opportunity to document current conditions and support park stewardship. Beyond these deployments, the AK IPMT completed 69 native seed collections for the national Seeds of Success program—critical contributions that help advance restoration efforts across Alaska’s unique and sensitive landscapes.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	16	160	16	794

CALIFORNIA

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the California Invasive Plant Management Team (CA IPMT) supported parks across the state in tackling high-priority invasive plant challenges and strengthening restoration capacity. The team funded *Cotoneaster* (*Cotoneaster spp.*) control in coastal grasslands at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, piloted innovative steam treatments to manage invasive annuals at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and continued efforts to contain stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) at Pinnacles National Park. CA IPMT also led post-fire seed collection, curation, and production efforts for the region, gathering more than 300 pounds of seed from over 100 native species. To further bolster restoration readiness, the team installed a dedicated seed-storage cooler at Point Reyes National Seashore, upgraded nursery facilities at four parks, supported fire-emergency planning, and launched a tribal stewardship partnership at Redwoods National and State Parks to help protect Tolowa Dee’ni sacred sites from invasive plant encroachment.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

ALASKA: 1) The AK IPMT Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns Anna Grace McCall and Isabelle Millan applying herbicide in Denali National Park and Preserve on common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale ssp. officinale*). 2) AK IPMT and Kenai Fjord National Park and Preserve’s Kelli Palaka (NPS staff) and Atlin Ryan (Youth Conservation Corps) treating and mapping common dandelion in the park’s outwash plain. 3) The AK IPMT SCA intern Delany Frank pulling invasive plants at the Seward Community weed pull co-hosted by Kenai Fjords National Park and Preserve and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District.

CALIFORNIA: 1) California State University students test the use of direct steam application to invasive annual species at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. 2) Retreatment of *Cotoneaster* in the upper reaches of the Tennessee Valley at Golden Gate National Recreation Area to protect the coastal prairie habitat necessary for survival of the mission blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides missionensis*). 3) American Conservation Experience crew members head into the field in search of the invasive stinkwort to uproot at Pinnacles National Park.

FLORIDA

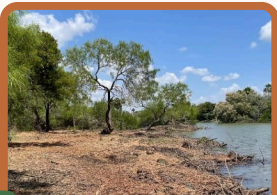


ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Partner Parks	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	16	0	0	0

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Florida/Caribbean (FLC) IPMT advanced invasive plant management across several partner parks, continuing projects at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Canaveral National Seashore, and Everglades National Park. The team prepared for additional FY26 work targeting a suite of high priority species, including water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*), Peruvian primrose willow (*Ludwigia peruviana*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), and Brazilian peppertree (*Schinus terebinthifolia*). At Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, extensive mowing and removal of Guinea grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*) were completed through on-island purchases and services. The FLC IPMT also supported Everglades National Park by assisting with aerial surveys of roughly 38,000 acres in the East Everglades, helping parks better understand invasive species distribution across critical wetland ecosystems.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	8	0	0	0

GULF COAST

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Gulf Coast (GC) IPMT continued its contractor supported approach to treating priority invasive species across partner parks. Contractors treated five tree and grass species in four Texas parks, while the liaison provided oversight to ensure work met park needs. The team also collaborated with the FLC and Southeast Coast IPMTs to support treatments in Florida and Georgia, and the liaison participated in the FLC IPMT annual ranking meeting. Notably, GC IPMT funded early detection and rapid response treatments for Guinea grass at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and contractors reduced a large Brazilian peppertree infestation to near maintenance levels at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

FLORIDA: 1) NPS staff treating portia tree (*Thespesia populnea*) on Elliott Key in Biscayne National Park. 2) FLC IPMT and Everglades National Park staff before boarding the helicopter for an aerial reconnaissance flight of East Everglades where approximately 38,000 acres were surveyed. 3) FLC IPMT and park staff removing a patch of latherleaf (*Colubrina asiatica*) on Elliott Key in Biscayne National Park as part of the annual ranking meeting field day project.

GOLF COAST: 1) GC IPMT liaison assisted Southeast Coast IPMT with Chinese lespedeza (*Lepedeza cuneata*) treatments at Chattahoochee National River and Recreation Area in Georgia. 2) Site cleared of a monoculture of mature Brazilian peppertree at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Texas by GC IPMT contractors. 3) GC IPMT contractor scouts an infestation of Guinea grass for treatment at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in Texas.

GREAT LAKES

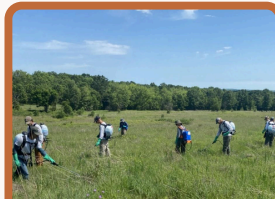


ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	13	0	7	6,280

HIGHLIGHTS

The Great Lakes (GL) IPMT marked FY25 with steady progress despite a slightly scaled back deployment schedule. Treatments were completed across seven parks. To bolster the team’s efforts, a dedicated WisCorps crew supported operations throughout the summer travel season. Their partnership, along with contributions from NPS staff and additional collaborators, allowed the team to surpass expectations. A key milestone was the team’s first treatment at River Raisin National Battlefield Park, where ten acres of prairie were prepared for seeding planned in fall 2026, and seven acres of invasive understory were cleared. These restoration efforts will help visitors better understand the site’s historical significance by restoring conditions that more closely mirror the landscape of the 1813 Battle of River Raisin.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	15	0	13	16,388

HEARTLAND

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Heartland (HTLN) IPMT advanced restoration efforts across 12 Midwestern national park units. The year marked several notable achievements: a 94% reduction of crownvetch (*Securigera varia*) at Pipestone National Monument after four years of dedicated management, the complete removal of mature giant bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*) at Hot Springs National Park, and meaningful prairie rehabilitation at Homestead National Historical Park following extensive thicket reduction. These successes not only strengthen native ecosystems but also enhance the integrity of culturally significant landscapes throughout the region. Such progress is made possible by the commitment of environmental professionals, scientists, youth partners, community volunteers, and the IPMT staff. The team’s portfolio now encompasses 22 priority projects, with 10 new acres added to ongoing, strategically timed management efforts.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

GREAT LAKES: 1) GL IPMT, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area staff instructing National Chainsaw Safety Program Sawyer level chainsaw class in the field. 2) GL IPMT collaborating with Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore staff to treat slender false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*). 3) GL IPMT staff with dedicated WisCorps Crew at River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

HEARTLAND: 1) Conservation Corps of Iowa and NPS staff chipping woody plant material at Homestead National Historical Park. 2) Conservation Corps of Iowa and NPS staff removing invasive giant bamboo from a natural area at Hot Springs National Park. 3) Conservation Corps of Iowa and NPS staff treating restored prairies at Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield.

LAKE MEAD

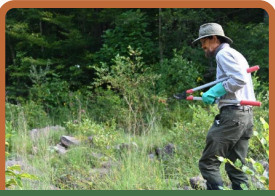


ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	17	20	0	0

HIGHLIGHTS

The Lake Mead (LAKE) IPMT supports parks and partners across the desert Southwest, tackling the region’s most persistent invasive plant issues. In FY25, the team supported a Burned Area Emergency Response project at Joshua Tree National Park, removing Sahara mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*) and successfully reducing seedbank contributions that would have hindered post fire recovery. LAKE IPMT also provided support for Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)-funded work for Great Basin National Park, controlling musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) in previously burned landscapes. Additional SNPLMA-funded treatments focused on springs and riparian areas at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, where crews revisited sites first addressed in the 2000s. By controlling tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), and California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), the team reduced competition with native species and helped these sensitive ecosystems continue their long-term recovery.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	22	80	21	3,000

MID-ATLANTIC

HIGHLIGHTS

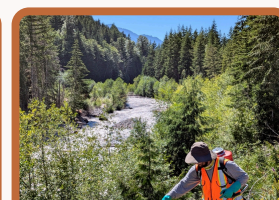
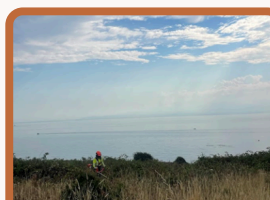
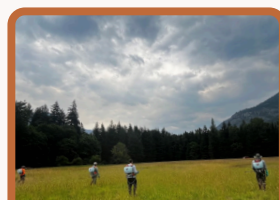
The Mid-Atlantic (MA) IPMT made significant strides in FY25, supporting 15 parks in safeguarding natural resources and advancing regional Grassland and Resilient Forest initiatives. Working with a wide network of partners, the team located and controlled early detection and rapid response species in Shenandoah National Park, substantially reduced invasive cover in the sensitive river scour prairies of Gauley River National Recreation Area, and improved habitat for endemic plants and pollinators by sowing native grasses and wildflowers on former agricultural lands in two parks. A notable highlight was the discovery and documentation of a critically imperiled wildflower population at a partner site, enabling park staff to plan targeted preservation and expansion efforts. Throughout the year, the team upheld efficient, safety-focused operations that protected employees, visitors, and sensitive park environments.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

LAKE MEAD: 1) LAKE IPMT crew member Kolbeinn Wesen controlling buffelgrass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. 2) LAKE IPMT crew member Wesley Scott controlling invasive plants within the Pipeline Fire burn scar on behalf of the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff, AZ. 3) LAKE IPMT crew members Alex Demers (L) and Nick Koch (R) at Great Basin National Park.

MID-ATLANTIC: 1) MA IPMT crew members identify plant species while surveying an overlook at Shenandoah National Park. 2) MA IPMT crew member scans for invasive plants along a river scour prairie at Gauley River National Recreation Area. 3) MA IPMT conduct stump treatments of kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) at Colonial National Historical Park.

NORTH COAST- CASCADES

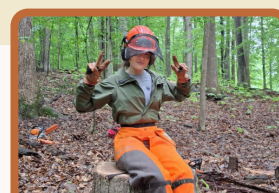
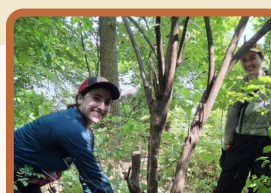
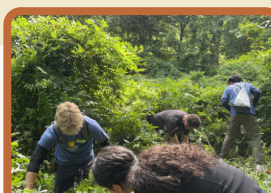


ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	10	0	10	8,360

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the North Coast–Cascades (NCCN) IPMT concentrated its efforts on post fire recovery across the North Cascades National Park Complex, surveying burned landscapes and treating emerging infestations. A major focus was preventing the spread of Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) and rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) into recently burned areas, helping protect fragile ecosystems during early succession. The team also collaborated with the Institute of Applied Ecology to collect native seed from priority species, strengthening future restoration efforts. These collections will support post fire revegetation at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, as well as at Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Together, these actions advanced long term ecosystem resilience by limiting invasive plant expansion while ensuring native species are available to re-establish in recovering habitats.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	13	568	13	9,426

HIGHLIGHTS

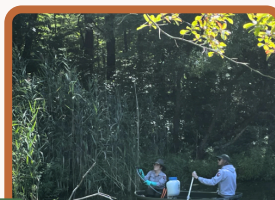
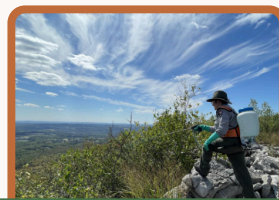
In FY25, the National Capital Region (NCR) IPMT demonstrated resilience and agility amid reduced staffing, strategically adjusting field schedules and focusing on the highest-impact projects. While limited capacity meant not all partner park requests could be fulfilled, the team still improved resources across 12 parks in the region. Volunteers, coordinated by the dedicated Volunteer and Partnerships Coordinator intern, played a vital role, contributing meaningful, hands-on support to restore natural areas. The IPMT advanced multiple early detection & rapid response projects, including management of Japanese chaff flower (*Achyranthes japonica*) in three parks and a single population of butterbur (*Petasites hybridus*). The team also supported meadow improvement initiatives in three NCR parks to maintain continuity of grassland restoration efforts. Staff completed Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance and Operations training, annual Invasive Plant Practitioners training, First Aid/CPR/AED certification, and initiated Firefighter Type 2 training. Several staff also assisted with a wildfire response at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

NORTH COAST-CASCADES: 1) The NCCN IPMT crew gridding the area outside of the historic Buckner Orchard located at Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. 2) NCCN IPMT crew member brush cutting Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) in San Juan Island National Historical Park. 3) NCCN IPMT crew member treating flat pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*) and polar hawkweed (*Hieracium atratum*) near the Nisqually River at Mount Rainier National Park.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION: 1) University of Maryland students removing wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) at Fort Dupont, National Capital Parks-East. 2) Volunteers removing Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) with hand saws during a monthly volunteer event on Theodore Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. 3) NCR IPMT staff celebrating completion of Chainsaw Safety, Maintenance, and Operations training at Great Falls, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.

NORTHEAST



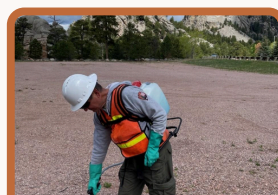
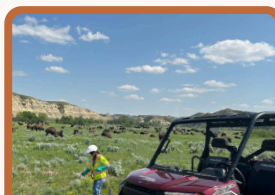
ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	35	64	3	1,180

HIGHLIGHTS

In fy25, the Northeast (NE) IPMT delivered on-site invasive plant management across 12 National Park Units, including three new partner parks, and provided technical guidance to 10 additional parks. Early in the season, the team completed 18 day trips to nearby parks, including supporting Regional staff on high priority Resilient Forest initiatives. At an Appalachian National Scenic Trail Burned Area Rehabilitation site, the Regional Fire Ecologist enlisted the team to conduct critical post fire early detection and rapid response treatments. At another location on the scenic trail, the team collaborated with partners and volunteers to treat barberry (*Berberis spp.*) to safeguard a rare sedge population, while also developing and implementing a monitoring protocol to track treatment success and sedge trends over time. The team also hosted a training at Steamtown National Historic Site, conducting safe, high-priority treatments along the railway with a dozen maintenance staff.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Hours for Volunteers	# of Youth Participants	Total Hours Invested
XXX	14	0	17	4,080

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Northern Great Plains (NGP) IPMT advanced landscape scale restoration across some of the region's most iconic parks. The team welcomed a new crew leader and partnered with the Conservation Corps of Iowa to tackle major invasive plant challenges, including extensive leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) treatments at Devils Tower National Monument and the Missouri National Recreation River. Crews removed mature Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) stands on the Missouri River at Knife River National Historic Site, and completed helicopter treatments targeting leafy spurge, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and white horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*) in remote wilderness areas of Badlands, Wind Cave, and Theodore Roosevelt National Parks. Early detection and rapid response remained a priority, with swift elimination of high risk species, such as hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*) at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, spotted knapweed and common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) at Devils Tower, and absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) at Mount Rushmore National Monument.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

NORTHEAST: 1) NE IPMT conducting foliar treatments along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail near Lehigh Gap. 2) NE IPMT and park staff foliar spraying common reed (*Phragmites australis*) from a canoe at Weir Farm National Historic Park. 3) NE IPMT stump treating large autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) at Flight 93 National Memorial.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS: 1) A NGP IPMT member treats leafy spurge with a UTV sprayer at Theodore Roosevelt National Park with a large herd of bison in the background. 2) NGP IPMT crew member treats spotted knapweed with a backpack sprayer at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. 3) The NGP IPMT and Conservation Corps of Iowa gather at Devils Tower National Monument after a week of invasive plant treatments.

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	28	0	45	3,450

HIGHLIGHTS

The Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) IPMT partnered with 28 parks in FY25, coordinating a wide range of invasive plant management projects despite operating at roughly 20% below full staffing—including the unexpected loss of the Colorado crew leader just before the season began. Working alongside youth corps partners and park staff, the team delivered extensive on-the-ground support: invasive plant control, seed collection, restoration work, Burned Area Response projects, fuel reduction, native plant salvage and translocations, early detection and rapid response surveys, hazardous tree removal, biocontrol releases and monitoring, and safety and technical trainings. The NRM IPMT also managed key cooperative agreements that expanded invasive plant management capacity across the region, including partnerships with Montana, Utah, Larimer County, Western Colorado Conservation Corps, Mile High Youth Corps, and Montana and Colorado State Universities—ensuring critical projects moved forward despite staffing challenges.

PACIFIC ISLANDS



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	10	601	212	20,880

HIGHLIGHTS

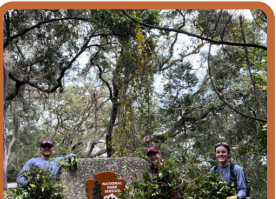
In FY25, the Pacific Islands (PI) IPMT advanced landscape scale conservation across Hawai'i and the Pacific by controlling 90 invasive plant species on thousands of acres. At Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, crews targeted more than 45 emerging invasive plant species, while cultural landscapes at Kaloko Honokōhau, Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau, and Pu'ukoholā Heiau were restored through the removal and chipping of thousands of pounds of kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) and haole koa (*Leucaena leucocephala*). To strengthen wildfire preparedness, the team supported two major agreements: one with the University of Hawai'i to map hazardous fuels created by invasive plants using LiDAR, and another with Conservation Legacy to position fellows for resource protection planning ahead of fire events. A new University of Hawai'i partnership will also deliver pesticide training tailored for natural area practitioners, filling a critical need across the Pacific.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN: 1) NRM IPMT, Utah Conservation Corps, and Fossil Butte National Monument staff pose for a picture in front of the park entrance sign after a job well done. 2) Kyle Blair (Montana Conservation Corps Fellow) decontaminates the work truck prior to leaving Rocky Mountain National Park for Yellowstone National Park to prevent cross contamination. 3) Julia Arsan (Montana Conservation Corps Fellow) meets a local on Bighorn Reservoir at Bighorn Canyon NRA while traveling to treat a hard to access Russian olive stand.

PACIFIC ISLANDS: 1) A PI IPMT member applies herbicide to fire-promoting fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) to protect the cultural landscape of Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park. 2) Staff from PI IPMT and Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park discuss removing mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) and paspalum (*Paspalum dimidiatum*) from the culturally and biologically significant wetlands of 'Aimakapā loko 'i'a (fishpond). The remains of a heiau, or Hawaiian sacred site, are visible. 3) PI IPMT and partners staff cut and chip invasive kiawe to remove trailside hazardous fuels and destructive invasive vegetation from cultural landscapes at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park.

SOUTHEAST COAST

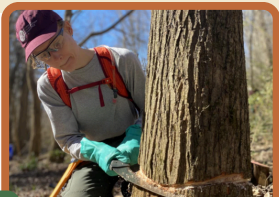


ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	15	30	24	4,352

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Southeast Coast (SEC) IPMT traveled to 10 partner parks, bringing specialized expertise and hands on support across the Southeast Region. The team led an ambitious collaboration with Conservation Legacy youth crews to combat common reed in sensitive wildlife habitat at Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout National Seashores. At Moores Creek National Battlefield, staff provided training to new personnel, strengthening local capacity for invasive plant management. Early detection and rapid response efforts at Cape Hatteras National Seashore focused on halting the spread of Japanese sedge (*Carex kobomugi*) across vulnerable beach dunes. Beyond fieldwork, SEC IPMT invested in developing future practitioners—offering mentorship, field guidance, and professional growth opportunities to crew members. Both individuals completed their terms with seasonal job offers in the Department of the Interior, highlighting the team’s role in cultivating the next generation of natural resource stewards.



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	20	0	36	8,400

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, Hurricane Helene inflicted severe damage across Blue Ridge Parkway, home base for the Southeast (SE) IPMT, delaying the arrival of three American Conservation Experience youth crew members. SE IPMT field crew leader Toby Obenauer was deployed as the incident’s lead sawyer, clearing debris and opening critical roadways for search and recovery operations. In May, Toby retired after 22 years of dedicated service, leaving a legacy of exceptional field leadership and training expertise in chainsaw work, UTV operations, safety, and herbicide application that strengthened parks throughout the Southeast Region. From June through September, SE IPMT led invasive plant control efforts at six Appalachian parks alongside a youth crew, while liaison Lauren Serra contributed to regional coordination through the Appalachian Highlands Inventory and Monitoring annual meeting and the Florida/Caribbean IPMT ranking session. Overall, SE IPMT treated and surveyed invasive plants at 11 partner parks.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)

SOUTHEAST COAST: 1) SEC IPMT at Fort Pulaski National Monument clearing invasive common reed in preparation for a foliar treatment of new growth. 2) SEC IPMT at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park preparing backpack sprayers for invasive plant treatments. 3) SEC IPMT at Fort Frederica National Monument hand pulling invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) from the maritime forest.

SOUTHEAST: 1) SE IPMT flagging invasive trees with orange flagging to assist with mapping and treating. 2) SE IPMT at Congaree National Park using hand tools to girdle an invasive Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) tree. 3) SE IPMT crew lead teaching a UTV safety class at Little River Canyon National Preserve.

SOUTHWEST



ENGAGEMENT BY THE #S

Acres Treated	Parks Supported	Total Volunteer Hours	# of Youth Participants	Total Youth Hours
XXX	45	0	29	4,900

HIGHLIGHTS

In FY25, the Southwest (SW) IPMT advanced restoration and resilience across 12 parks. At Bandelier National Park, crews used hydromulching to stabilize soils and promote native vegetation recovery after disturbance. In Arizona, Saguaro National Park, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Arizona Invasive Species Strike Team, and SW IPMT strengthened their Collaborative Audubon Treatment and Inventory Squad partnership to map and treat fire prone vegetation—an effort increasingly vital as wildfire risks intensify across the region. The team also deepened youth engagement by partnering with Conservation Legacy, the Ancestral Lands Corps, and the Conservation Corps of New Mexico, fostering conservation ethics among local and Indigenous youth. In a pioneering collaboration, SW IPMT joined the USFWS Strike Team and the Sonoran Desert Network to launch a pilot project aimed at preventing the spread of American bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), a highly destructive invasive species threatening Western parks and wildlife refuges.

Photos from left to right (all NPS photos)
SOUTHWEST: 1) A member of the Collaborative Audubon Treatment and Inventory Squad crew cutting tamarisk at White Sands National Park. 2) Setting up an autonomous recording unit to detect bullfrogs in collaboration with USFWS. 3) Hydromulching at Bandelier National Park..