

Warren Annual Report: 2024  
Knotweed Program  
From: Jito Coleman

#### Summary

2024 Season has wrapped up. A very involved and very effective year across the board. All tributaries to the Mad River above the covered bridge in Warren are eradicated or being actively managed.

#### Knotweed Site management:

160 + sites under active management  
6 interns (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students)  
One manager (Graduates from UVM Master Naturalist Program: Evan Horne and Dave Moroney split the year)  
Tues evening community work days 4-6 pm

#### UVM program support

Rubenstein school Intern source  
They like us and they make sure we get great candidates. Great situation.  
Senior Professor engagement  
Two top Invasive species specialists are tapping into our Valley as site for their research activity. Could bring multiple Master student thesis opportunities, long term commitment to management programs.  
Ecological Planning Lab  
New UVM initiative to create liaison between UVM assets and local partners.  
This year Hans Estrin came weekly to support our program and learn.  
Geospatial Lab Support  
In conjunction with Senior Interns Evan Horne and David Moroney, they created permanent home for GIS mapping and data management.

#### USFS support

Successfully completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3 year contract to manage knotweed on USFS sites. Next year's level of effort the same. \$3,200/yr

#### FPR-Granville

Focus on Granville sites as they are the source for knotweed propagules into the upper Mad River. More than 30 individual sites being managed with some bare livestock willow plantings on the banks.

#### Lake Champlain Basin Project impact

Dollars for 2 interns: about \$8400, same next year  
Expanded program goals:

- Tracking eradication with sample site measurements each year
  - Valley wide invasive inventory begun
- Gravel decontamination: \$10,000 over two years
- Wabanacki site work has begun

#### Goats Getting After It

No Town funds were used for this project. \$26,400 budget

Friends of the Mad River provided funding vehicle

Goats worked at Riverside Park and Wabanacki Park

Biggest program in Vermont, probably only serious program in VT.

<u>Funding summary</u>	<u>2024</u>
Town of Warren	\$15,000
USFS	\$ 3,200
FPR	\$ 0
LCBP - Interns	\$ 8,400
LCBP – Gravel Decontam	\$ 5,000 allotted

#### 2025 plan

Institutionalize watershed wide program for invasive management