







OF NORTH CAROLINA



Protecting nature. Preserving life."

nature.org

















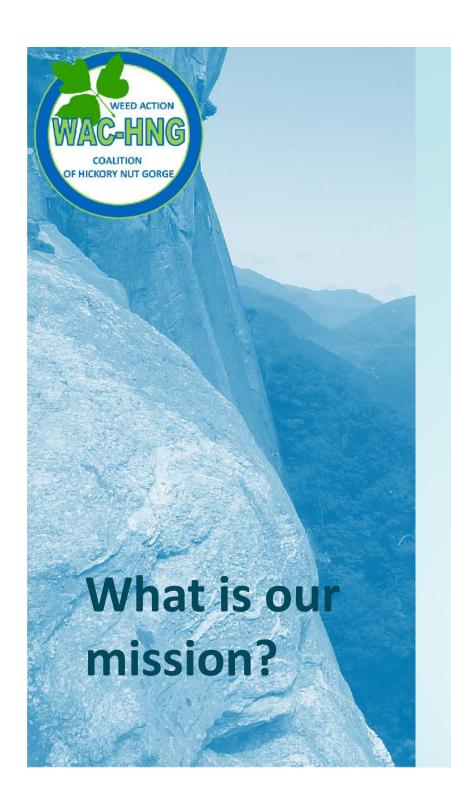




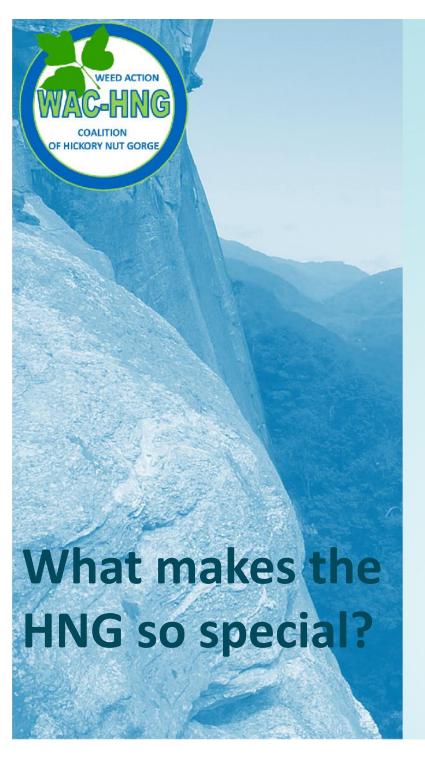


"Giring Beyond the Horizon"

Who are we?



"to identify, remove, and prevent the further proliferation of non-native invasive species in the HNG watershed in order to preserve the biological diversity, health, and scenic beauty of the **Hickory Nut Gorge."** 

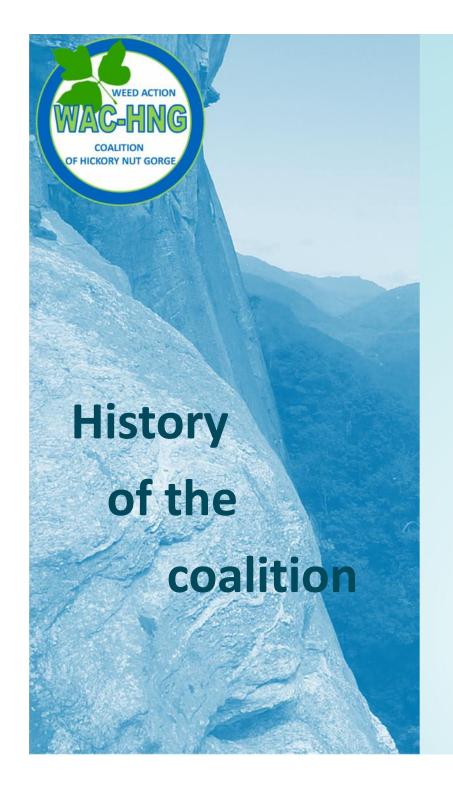


The Hickory Nut Gorge Natural Area is ranked as one of the top five most bio-diverse areas of North Carolina.

Of the over 500 plant species, 36 are listed as rare or significant.

There are 15 rare animal species.

There are 14 significant natural communities.



2010: Invasives identified as priority by the Friends of Hickory Nut Gorge

2011: CMLC applies for and receives "Pulling Together" NFWF grant

**2012:** CMLC hires coordinator

**2012:** CMLC establishes Americorps HNG Associate position

2012: Partners identified and initial meeting conducted

2013: Focus on groundwork for 5-year strategies

**2014:** Progress on all strategies

## WAC-HNG Strategic Management Plan 2013-2018

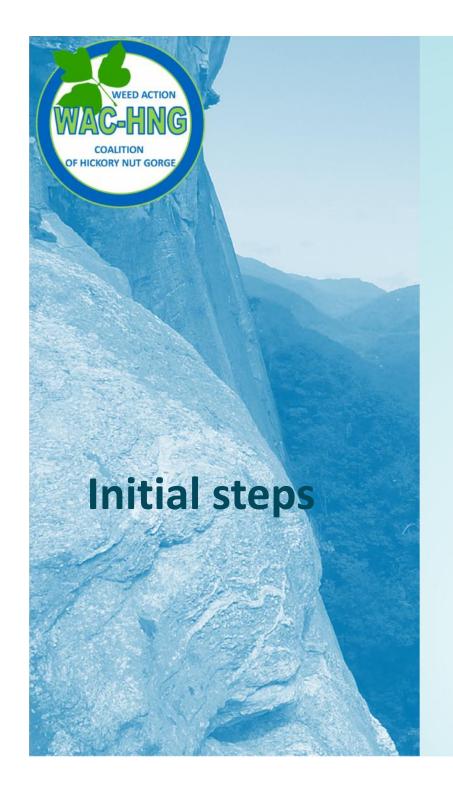
## **Overall Goals:**

- Sustain and grow an effective and productive WAC-HNG.
   Review and revise the long-term strategic plan every 3-5 years.
   Achieve a target reduction of invasive exotic species in the gorge.

	Funding	Inv/ Restor/ Monit.	Control	Educ/Outreach	Manpower				
Goals:	Establish sustainable funding methodology for WAC-HNG which also stimulates local businesses related to WAC-HNG purpose.	ing methodology VAC-HNG which stimulates local nesses related to  Determine extent of invasive exotic infestation. Develop operating plan protocols for restoration and future monitoring mentioning methodology  management of priority invasive exotic plants withing the HNG watershed as described in the operating		Increase public awareness of both the impacts of invasive exotic plants and the importance of natural resource conservation.	Establish an effective, sustainable source of volunteer labor for WAC-HNG projects.				
Outcomes:	\$130,000 /year	100% inventory, est.protocols	90 % reduction per site	100% landowner contact	Sustained invasives SWAT				
Strategies:	Pursue grant opportunities Stimulate local businesses related to WAC-HNG goals Solicit site management plan requests from local landowners using fee for services structure Develop a cost-share program with follow-up contractual obligations Establish yearly fundraising drive in the gorge Pursue WAC-HNG endowment fund	Inventory and map public, private and ngo lands within HNG watershed for invasive exotic species Develop target reduction % based on inventory Prioritize sites for treatment based on operating plan criteria Establish criteria for restoration Develop ongoing inventory and monitoring rotation protocols Develop method for early detection of invasive exotic species Identify resources for restoration	Establish goat operation     Write management plans for priority areas     Schedule SWAT days for treatment of high priority private landowner areas     Schedule SWAT days on high priority ngo lands     Identify and solidify resources for paid control of invasives     Purchase chemicals in bulk for partner organizations     Articulate position on types of effective treatments (ie, goats vs. chemicals vs. manual control)     Establish contact with key landowners	Establish fundamentals of clearinghouse function     Develop network of lay people focused on extending reach of WAC-HNG     Measure brand awareness of WAC-HNG     Define network of agencies for referrals     Engage the public through media campaigns     Identify various targets of media campaigns     Utilize existing festivals and partner activities     Establish HNG invasives day	Identify and target rotation of groups for participation in SWAT days     Conduct SWAT workshops for training     Write core curriculum for training volunteers     Recruit landowners for neighborhood party organization				

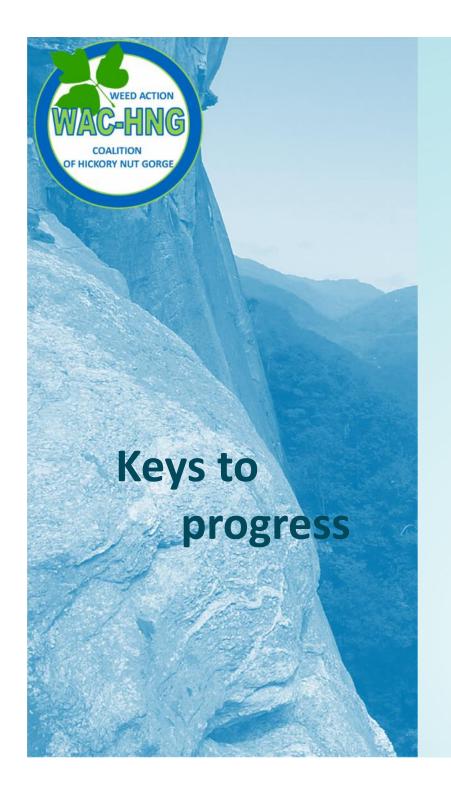
## Administrative Record-keeping Responsibilities:

110								_
	herbicide purchases and use	field work	outreach/landowner contacts	volunteers	bookkeeping	research	subcommittee reports	

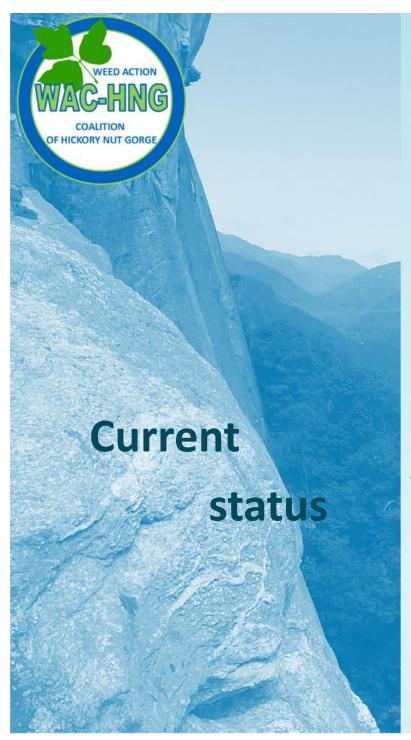


- 1) Prioritize invasive species
- 2) Identify two-pronged approach
- 3) Develop protocols for WACHNG's operation
  - a) Monitoring
  - b) Treatment
  - c) Restoration
  - d) Volunteer program
- 4) Project treatment costs
  - a) Volunteer
  - b) Contractor
  - c) Labor crew
- 5) Develop and implement operating plans

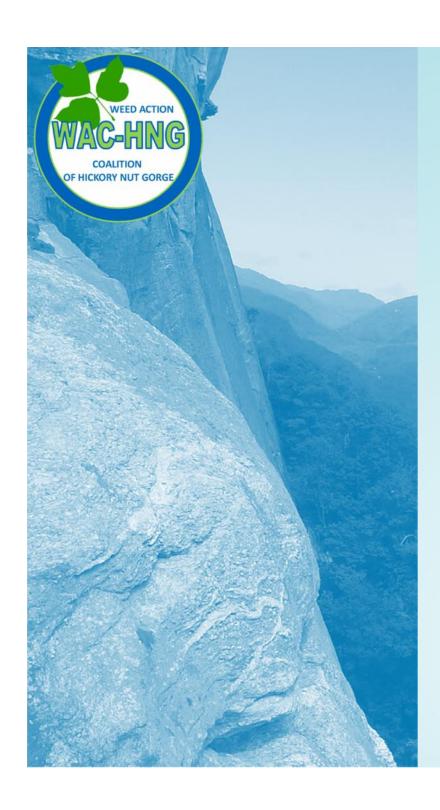
Deliverables	ID*	Duration	Start	Finish	Jul	Au	Se	r O	ct N	lov D	De d	Jan	Fel	Ма	ı Aj	or IV	a <sub>j</sub> J	un J	ul /	Aug	%comp.
							ш	Ш	Щ	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	4	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		
Establishment of CWMA for HNG			6/14/12	10/31/12			L.	ш	Щ	Ш	ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	4	Ш	Ш	Щ	Ш	4	100
governed by ongoing steering committee							Ш	ш	Ш	Ш	щ	Ш	Ш	Ш	4	Ш	Ш	Щ	Ш	ш	
Inventory of priority sites and future inventory schedule			7/1/12	12/31/12		Н		Н	H		-	Н	Н	Н	#	Ш	Н	Н	Н	$\blacksquare$	100
Strategic Plan 2013-2018			11/8/12	03/31/13				#					#		Ħ		Ш	Ш			100
Operating plan for each subcomittee per Strategic Plan			1/2/13	03/31/13						Ħ				Щ			Ħ	Ш		Ш	100
Tasks	ID*	Duration	Start	Finish	Jul	Au	∫ (Se	t O	ct N	lov C	Dec	Jan	Fel	Ma	l II Aj	l Di W	la <sub>)</sub> J	ur J	ul <i>i</i>	Aug	%comp.
Deliverable: Establishment of CWMA						Ш	Ш		Ш						П			Ш			
							Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		Ш		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		
Call with NFWF to determine scope and term of grant	DS, KR	1 day	8/1/12	08/03/12			Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Develop timeline and list of deliverables	DS	2 w eeks	7/16/12	07/31/12		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Meet with partners	DS, part	1 month	7/16/12	08/16/12		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Review grant documentation for firewise grant	DS	1 w eek	6/14/12	06/21/12		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		100
Research other CWMA plans	DS	2 w eeks	6/14/12	06/28/12		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Invite key landow ners to steering committee initial mtg	DS	1 month	8/3/12	09/08/12			Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Schedule initial steering committee meeting	DS	1 day	9/1/12	09/01/12					Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш				Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		100
Identify steering committee members	DS, part	1 month	9/1/12	10/01/12				Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш		Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Determine levels of committment	DS, part	2 months	9/1/12	11/01/12							Ш	Ш				Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	100
Solidify boundaries for CWMA, create working map	SC	3 months	7/1/12	10/01/12																	100
Schedule monthly steering committee meetings	SC	12 months	9/1/12	08/31/13																	ongoing
Develop MOU and "hold harmless" agreements	SC	2 months	8/1/12	10/01/12																	100
Report on grant progress	DS		11/30/12															Ш			100
Assess monthly progress per spreadsheet	DS, SC	monthly	7/1/12	08/31/13																	ongoing
Final report due NFWF	DS	1 month	11/30/13	11/30/13						Ш											



- 1) Partner contributions
  - a) Private landowners
  - b) Municipalities
  - c) Government agencies
  - d) Conservancies
- 2) Full-time Americorps to conduct inventory and workdays
- 3) Ability to receive continuing grant funding
- 4) Identification of labor crew to treat invasives
- 5) Development of database to track progress



- 1) Outreach
  - a) Billboard 942,000 exposures
  - b) News publications 123,641 exposures
  - c) Presentations 1,406 people reached
- 2) Manpower
  - a) 993 volunteer hours
  - b) approx. \$21,000 saved
- 3) Inventory
  - a) 3275 acres
  - b) high priority snha's
- 4) Treatment 479 acres
- 5) Site management plans
  - a) ordered 14
  - b) written 11
  - c) in process of implementation 7



When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

-John Muir



## **Contact WAC-HNG:**

Phone: (828)-625-9983 ext.506

E-Mail: contact@wachng.org

www.wachng.org