



# 2013 Annual Report



Cameron County  
Conservation District





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## Who We Are

### What is the Cameron County Conservation District?

The Cameron County Conservation District, formed in 1967, under the *Conservation District Law*, it is a subdivision of state government and is one of 66 Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our office is located in the Cameron County Courthouse at 20 East Fifth Street and currently houses a three member staff. The purpose of the Conservation District is to promote conservation, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of the land, water, and other natural resources. Cameron County is approximately 397.2 square miles, with a population of approximately 5,100 and is over 90% forested. The office is open Monday through Fridays from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM. This is done through the administration of the following programs:

#### The Chesapeake Bay Program

This program provides cost share assistance for the installation of Best Management Practices (BMP's) to correct existing manure and nutrient problems from agricultural operations.

#### The Dirt and Gravel Roads Program

This program is designed to fund environmentally sensitive maintenance of dirt, gravel and low volume roadways that have been identified as sources of sediment pollution. The funds are available to local municipalities that maintain dirt, gravel and low volume roads. The Cameron County Conservation District Quality Assurance Board (QAB), which consists

of a District Board Member, NRCS staff member, and a Waterways Conservation Officer from the PA Fish & Boat Commission, it accepts and reviews applications each Fall.

#### Environmental Education

We strive to provide quality programs that relay important conservation information to the citizens of the county. These programs include High School Envirothon, My Growing Tree, Birth of a Tree, Water Quality Education Program, Contractors Workshop, Poster Contest and Wild About Nature Field Day. Also, educational programs are available to the schools in the county for any age group.

#### Erosion and Sediment Control

The CCCD administers the Chapter 102 Erosion Control program through a signed delegation agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bureau of Waterway Engineering and Wetlands. The District Technician reviews and approves E&S control plans for earthmoving sites. Inspections of the sites are conducted to assure the plans are properly implemented.

#### Watershed Specialist

The CCCD provides technical assistance to the Bucktail Watershed Association. Services provided include, but are not limited to: group start up coordination, presentations, grant writing, grant administration, water quality monitoring, technical trainings, interpretation of results and project assessments.

#### Dams and Waterways Management

The CCCD is able to approve General Permits applications, such as stream crossings or utility line stream crossing. This decreases the processing time that it normally takes to have a permit approved through the regional DEP office in Williamsport. The District is also able to handle complaints locally, seeking voluntary compliance before referring sites to the regional DEP office.

**Cameron County Conservation Board of Directors:** Chairman, Frank Galford; Vice-Chairman, Bob Martin; Paul Lyon, Pat Rodgers, Mark Johnson, LuAnn Reed and Commissioner, Phil Jones.

**Cameron County Conservation District Associate Directors:** Nelson Haas and Jim Zoschg, Jr.

**Cameron County Conservation District Staff:** Jan Hampton, District Manager, Todd Deluccia, Watershed Specialist, and Kate Morgan, Conservation Resource Technician.



## Conservation Education



The Cameron County Conservation District (District) considers education a top

priority in our efforts in keeping the conservation of our natural resources an everyday normal mind set for youth and adults alike. It is our sincere desire that

these life lessons stretch the actions of everyone to always be thinking of the blessing we enjoy all around us.

The District held a “Growing Up Wild” training for teachers and non-formal educators through a DEP mini-grant. “Exploring Nature with Young Children” is an early childhood education activity guide that builds on children’s sense of wonder about nature and invites them to

explore wildlife and the world around them.

Through a wide range of activities and experiences, it provides a foundation for developing positive impressions about nature while also building lifelong social and cognitive skills. Workshop participants received a copy of the guide and Act 48 credits.

### About Nature - Grades 4, 5, 6

The District hosted the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild About Nature Field Day. Once again, the event was blessed with a beautiful early Fall day. The stations offered were: Nature Walk-Mark Johnson; Monarch Butterflies-Jess Bierley; Worms-Jan Hampton; Macroinvertebrates-Natalie Aiellio and Kim Lott, Bears-Wayne Hunt, and 100 Years of Elk-Van Wagner. The highlight of the day was the PA Game Commission bringing a tranquillized male

bear for the students to see. Several student assisted with measuring it, putting tags in its ears and pulling a tooth. Using all these factors, they determined the weight to be 115 lbs. and the age of the bear to be about 3 ½ years old. Of course, they also enjoyed Van Wanger’s concert and presentation, especially when he told them they were the only students to ever “Dance with Bears”, a song written by Van and not usually performed for his Elk

Program. The students and teachers all completed surveys telling what they learned at each station. The District thanks all who assisted in this awesome day of much learning and fun!!



Student Participants at Wild About Nature

### The WILD Envirothon Grades 9-12



Envirothon Participants

Fourteen Cameron County students participated in The WILD Envirothon held at the McKean

Sportsmen’s Club. The event received donations from Embassy Powdered Metals, Singer’s Auto and Emporium Secondaries. The Cameron County School District took 2nd and 3rd

place out of eleven other schools from McKean County. Cameron County’s winning team earned the highest score in Aquatics. The team of Levi Moser, Paul Etchepare, Karen Flament and Rowan Crisp then prepared to attend the state competition at Juniata College. Taylor Gillette joined them to fulfill the five member requirement. District Manager Jan Hampton (Hampton), assisted with Registration, Travel Judges and the Advisor forum at the state event.

The Eastern Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation presented an excellent program on their efforts in reclaiming abandoned mines for students. Each participant tie-dyed a T-shirt using “Yellow Boy” (iron oxide powder from some of abandoned mine sites.) Students really seemed to enjoy tapping into their creative sides, as did the adults! The District also applied for a Envirothon Grant for 583.00, which included the fees for District staff clearances.

### School Programs

Hampton continued conservation education programs at the School District with a program for fourth graders on the Water Cycle, beginning with snow, instead of a raindrop. Students discussed the many places a snowflake can fall. Then

students visited stations representing those places and received a bead for each spot. Each student ended up with a bracelet that they could look at and tell where they had been. Hampton presented a lesson on worms to third

graders. They looked at Red Worms and discovered unique things about them. Students then dipped worms in paint and placed them on a piece of construction paper and watched while the worms became artists. *(Continued On Page 5 - School)*

## Conservation Education

*(Continued From Page 4 - School)* Students then washed them and released them on the football field.

Hampton visited a second grade classroom as a Mystery Reader and talked about water pollution and read two books on the value of wetlands.

In the spring Hampton visited the second graders after school program to read a

story called "Ribbit!", and talked about different habitats of aquatic animals. What fun!!

In the fall Hampton presented two after-school programs with first and second graders. Students learned about bats and their benefits to humans. Did you know that bats have thumbs, knees and a tail? Students made their own hanging bats out

of men's black socks.

Hampton served as a mentor for Casey Clingan's Senior Project, making Wood Duck boxes. He completed the project with a final presentation. He did a good job and attendees learned that the boxes could be used by Screech Owls and Hooded Mergansers, as well.

### Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities

The District continued to partner with Don Bickford and the Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities (CCOYA) Program. CCOYA and the School District's Outdoor Club hosted the High School Life Skills class at the Andrew's Farm on a day filled with outdoor activities. The District's Enviroscope was a big hit. The students enjoyed a fishing program and a skulls and furs program. It was heart-warming to see the Outdoor Club members each work with a student and share the simple joys of fishing. Some had NEVER held a fishing pole. CCOYA hosted second grade at the Andrews Farm, for another day of outdoor

activities. The District again used the Enviroscope with to demonstrate Point and Non-Point Pollution and how to prevent it. The students fished, explored skulls, scat and hides and also attended a station on bees presented by Joel Caldwell.

The last day of the school year was spent with fourth grade students at Sizerville State Park. The District held a station on Benthic Bugs & Bioassessment. The kids used ordinary office objects to simulate macroinvertebrates, collected them from a tub of water, separated them into classes and then used a formula to

calculate the health of their imaginary stream.

The District assisted with a CCOYA sponsored Youth Outdoors day at the Andrews Farm where Hampton gave an introduction to streams and wetlands.

The District assisted 4-H and CCOYA in July for another program at the Andrews Farm. Fourteen kids enjoyed two days of learning about macroinvertebrates, streams, reptiles, amphibians, wetlands, fly fishing, bee keeping, and a tracks and traces program where each child made a plaster cast of a wild animal track.

### Community Workshops

The District hosted three community workshops in 2013. After receiving a mini educational grant from DEP the District hosted two Rain Barrel/ Rain Garden Workshops. The first workshop was held at the Sinnemahoning Wildlife Center, and the second was held at Sizerville State

Park. The classes were very well received and

everyone went home with their own rain barrel, in total nineteen rain barrels were given out to participants. After feedback from workshop participants, the District hosted a composting workshop at Sizerville State Park. Long time District Board Member and life long composter, Mark Johnson, shared the Joys of Composting. Each participant received a composting bin to take home.

The District partnered with Jim Clark of Penn State Extension to test the water

quality of pond in the Sinnemahoning Watershed. In total 31 ponds were tested. The District held a Pond Owners Tour at Denny

Miglicio's to assist pond owners with proper pond management and discuss the results of their pond water quality test. This project was funded by a Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Grant.



### Township Convention

The District was invited to speak at the Township Convention. Hampton's presentation took a look back at "What

Came BEFORE Conservation Districts?" She spoke on Cameron County Civilian Conservation Camps and the CCC in

general. It was very well received and several share their connections to the CCC after the presentation.

# Watershed Restoration

## Stream Projects

The Conservation District (District) was very busy in 2013 with streambank stabilization and fish habitat enhancement projects. Six sites were completed this year. The goal of these projects is to protect streambanks from erosion, enhance fish habitat, all while making it aesthetically pleasing.

The Miglicio Habitat Enhancement in Clear Creek was the location of previous work completed by the Conservation District. Previously log crossvanes, log framed stone deflectors, bank cribbing, and random boulders were installed. In 2013 one of those previous log crossvanes was rehabilitated slightly and a new log crossvane was installed.

The Cunningham Stabilization was completed in Sinnemahoning Portage Creek. This project had four different sites within the property. Three modified mudsill cribwalls were constructed along with a log crossvane. When it was said and done 20 sections of modified mudsill



Cunningham Project

The Williams Stabilization was completed in Sinnemahoning Portage Creek. This site was a 500 foot long bank that was approximately ten feet

high and had eroded a pasture so much that the fencing for cattle was hanging out over the stream. The fencing was removed and temporary fence was installed. Twelve sections of modified mudsill cribwall was installed and the existing bank was graded to a 2:1 slope. Permanent fencing was then reinstalled.

The Salt Run Habitat Improvement was a partnership of the Emporium Water Company, Cameron County Outdoor Youth Activities, and the District. This site is the location of the children only fishing section of Salt Run. This project improved upon structures previously installed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. Two log crossvanes and eight single log deflectors were constructed, stabilizing 300 feet of streambank.

The Sizerville Streambank Stabilization was completed in West Cowley Run. This site was threatening the loss of a hiking trail and coming dangerously close to the park amphitheater. This 300 foot project included seven sections of modified mudsill cribwall, rootwad reclamation, and a log crossvane.

The Young Stabilization was the last project of the year. This site was located on the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek. This project was a severely eroded 500 foot long and twelve

entering into May Hollow and the second biggest contributor in the entire Sterling Run Watershed. This site is an old deep mine discharge. Water chemistry at this site was flowing at a pH of around 3.0 and had very high acidity levels. To combat this, two vertical flow wetlands were constructed to treat acidity and low pH. This then flows into a surface flow wetland that finishes off cleaning up any remaining metals. In the end from start to finish the water coming out of the treatment system has a pH of

foot high streambank.

Ten very large single log deflectors were installed at this site. Several pieces of large woody debris that had been causing most of the issues were removed as well.

2013 was successful year for streambank stabilization and habitat improvement. For the six sites completed there was approximately 2,700 feet of streambank stabilized with 63 habitat devices. This is an important program for Cameron County. Because of the remoteness of the County and the limited development, streambank erosion is the major problem facing the waterways. This program has been in place since 2006 and over 70 sites have been completed throughout the county while stabilizing over three miles of stream all while providing high quality fish habitat. This program has been very beneficial to the residents of Cameron County and will continue to be for years to come. 2014 will be an amazing year as well with project slated for work in Driftwood Branch, Sterling Run, East Cowley Run, North Creek, West Creek, and the First Fork of Sinnemahoning Creek. In total nine sites will be completed that will total well over a mile of stabilization and habitat enhancement.



Sizerville Project

## Acid Mine Drainage

It has been a goal of the Conservation District for a long time to clean up the mess from past mining practices in the Sterling Run Watershed. Cameron County is fortunate that there was little coal mining in the area unlike some of the neighboring counties. Over the last several years this goal has started to become a reality.

In late 2012 and early 2013 the May Hollow 49 (MAYH49) site was completed. This was the major contributor of acid mine drainage

approximately 7.0 and has a net alkaline discharge that is also beneficial for smaller AMD seeps downstream.

Along with the MAYH49 in May Hollow the Cameron County Landfill AMD site was completed. This acid mine drainage is at the old County landfill. Along with AMD seeping out, garbage leachate was an issue as well. Two small treatments were completed at this site. Both sites consisted of the construction of precipitation basins and surface flow wetlands. (Continued on Page 7 - Acid)



## Train Derailment and Stream Recovery

2013 marked the seven year anniversary of one of the biggest environmental disasters to ever grace the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. On June 30, 2006 a train on its way from Binghamton, NY to Harrisburg was derailed down Keating Summit because of flooding in Eastern PA. Keating Summit is one of the steepest railroad grades in PA. A number of circumstances lead the train to be out of control, derailing near Big Fill Hollow a tributary to Sinnemahoning Portage Creek. The derailment resulted in over 46,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) spilled in Portage Creek, Driftwood Branch, and eventually down Sinnemahoning Creek. Fish kill was documented for 35 miles, along with considerable macroinvertebrate kill and other aquatic organisms such as reptiles and amphibians were affected as well. Norfolk Southern was fined 7.35 million dollars and was ordered to clean up the mess. Seven years later things are looking pretty good.

The best guesses by Fish and Boat Commission and DEP stated that

seven years would be the estimated recovery of the streams. Driftwood Branch and Sinnemahoning Creek are back to normal. Anglers are once again catching large smallmouth bass, trout fishing is back to normal with stockings never being cancelled even just months after the spill, and hatches of insects are as good as they have ever been. Portage Creek took the hardest hit from the derailment. The headwaters of Portage Creek is a Class A mixed brook and brown trout stream. Many of these fish have moved back in. Most of Portage Creek's tributaries are also Class A and/or have wild trout in them helping with the recovery. Some of the really large brown trout are still missing but they are being seen once again. Aquatic insects and forage fish are back in full swing and this will help make those really nice trout grow into trophy trout.

Another good thing that arose from the tragedy was a great funding opportunity for the area. Of that 7.35 million dollars, over 6 million has been earmarked for funding in the



Healthy Portage Creek brook trout caught exactly 7 years to the date after the spill

Sinnemahoning Creek watershed. Some of that money is in an endowment, creating funding for the future. Since this funding has become available, over 2 million dollars have been spent on streambank stabilization, fish habitat enhancement, AMD cleanup, illegal dump cleanup, education, and other great projects, most of which have been funded directly in Cameron County. With the streams being resilient and bouncing back on their own, it is great that this money can be spent to make a great watershed even better. This tragedy had many thinking that Portage Creek and Driftwood were dead forever. Thankfully that was not the case and things are on the mend.

(Continued From Page 6 - Acid) When the landfill was capped in the 90's large quantities of lime were mixed with the soil layer. This had a high pH discharge but was full of large quantities of metals like aluminum, iron, and manganese which are toxic to fish. The garbage leachate was also detrimental to the aquatic communities of May Hollow. The treatment systems remove the remaining metals and ill effects of the garbage and clean water flows back into May Hollow.

The combination of MAYH49 and Cameron County Landfill sites have had great impacts to the May Hollow drainage. There are still several small discharges but the Conservation District believes that the extra treatment at these two sites is enough to combat any remaining AMD downstream. The construction of the two systems should cleanup May Hollow to what it once was. The other two major players in the Sterling Run cleanup are Finley Run and Portable Run.

In 2012 the Conservation District received a Growing Greener grant for the permitting, design, and construction of FIN32/33 and PORT 14. Portable Run has had some re-mining in its watershed that has beneficial impacts to the stream because of the alkaline additions that are placed into the soil. The only remaining major pollution entering Portable Run is the PORT14 discharge. This discharge will be treated using a vertical flow wetland that works similar to the system at MAYH49. This system should be the last step in returning Portable Run to its former glory. The FIN32/33 site is the largest contributor of AMD to Finley Run and to the entire Sterling Run drainage. This tributary has pH readings of approximately 3.0 and has very high levels of acidity and metals. Because of the toxicity of this water, this will require a complex system. The discharge will be treated by four different vertical flow wetlands. The water will then be

collected from those four ponds and sent to a oxidation precipitation basin which will collect the metals in the water. This water will then flow to a surface flow wetland that helps polish off any remaining metals before entering back into Finley Run as clean water. The construction of these systems will be in 2014.

Finley Run was mined hard in the 60's and 70's and there are several other issues remaining in the watershed. Just recently the Conservation District has requested funding for more work in the area. Once the remainder of Finley Run is remediated along with the re-mining in the watershed, Sterling Run will again be a wonderful trout stream. Many old timers talk about the glory days of catching big brown trout and beautiful brook trout in this stream. It saddens them that Sterling Run was ruined in the 70's. Many are very excited for its recovery.

## Agricultural Conservation

The Cameron County Conservation District (District), strives to serve the local agricultural community, assisting them in conservation efforts that not only protect our natural resource but also enhance their operations to make them more efficient. In 2013 the District hosted the 10th Annual Agricultural Producers' Meeting (AAPM). The AAPM was created in 2003 by District Manager, Jan Hampton, NRCS District Conservationist, LouAnn Swope, and FSA Coordinator, David Stratton, in an effort to assist Cameron County's farming community with conservation efforts. They created a program to reach out and inform the community on how agencies can provide a wealth of knowledge for



10th AAPM

technical assistance and financial assistance. Through this they also informed the community on regulatory requirements that

may apply to their operation. Over the past decade the AAPM has grown and adapted to continue to meet the needs of the agricultural community. The District wishes to thank all of the sponsors for the 10th AAPM, with their contributions the District was able to host an wonderful event. Sponsors included: Embassy Powdered Metals, Fox's Pizza Den, Straub Insurance Agency, The Creekside Inn at Sizerville, Emporium Secondaries, Northwest Savings Bank, Pizza Palace, L&M Lumber, Cameron County Chamber of Commerce, and the Aroma Café.

The District continued to encourage farmers to participate in our partnering agencies programs that may benefit their operation. Many of our farmers participated in a joint program with the District and Penn State Extension to test the water quality in over 30 ponds in Cameron County. Many farmers utilize in pasture ponds as a water source for their livestock, and many have never had their ponds tested. Penn State Extension, followed the water testing up with a

presentation on pond management. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy also is supporting a two year riparian planting buffer planning program in 2013 and 2014.



Pasture Walk

In the August Penn State Extension hosted a Pasture Walk at District Board member, Paul Lyon's farm. Lyon's farm in a well established beef grazing operation, which has recently worked with NRCS to develop a spring watering system at his operation.

The District was awarded funding to host three Manure Management Workshops and on Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop from PACD that will be held in early 2014. The District is planning to hold workshop on manure management that will focus on three groups, including equine, backyard and traditional farming operations.

## NRCS Project Review

2013 Conservation Projects implemented through the NRCS Financial Assistance programs Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP):

### Steve Zoschg – CSP

- Rotated supplement and feeding areas in 62.2 acres of pasture.
- To reduce pesticide drift, used drift reducing nozzles, lowered pressures and lowered boom height on spraying equipment used on 39.2 acres of cropland.
- Harvested hay in a manner that allowed wildlife to flush and escape by using a flush bar attached to equipment, mowed during daylight hours and mowed in a side-to-side pattern.



Zoschg - Flush Bar

### Steve VanEerden – CSP and EQIP

- Maintained his previously established 2 acre pollinator habitat. (CSP)
- Initiated 2.5 acres of Early Successional Habitat (ESH)– sprayed pre-emergent and had forester mark trees to be removed leaving 10 seed trees /acre; purchased fencing materials to erect fence to protect ESH area from deer pressure

### Dave Lombardo – CSP and EQIP

- Maintained 10 acres of Crop Tree Release area that were previously established (CSP)
- Continued to implement Integrated Pest Management Plan on 361 acres (CSP)
- Maintenance year for 29 acres of Forest Stand Improvement practice

### Pete Grovanz – EQIP projects in progress

- Water control structures on access

road and interior fencing for rotational grazing system.

### Paul Lyon – EQIP

- 1.5 acres of Forage and Biomass planting were established in grazing system.
- Implemented an additional 3.9 acres of Prescribed Grazing System (keeping records of animal movement through system).

### Robin Kuleck – EQIP

- Completed 1200 feet of fencing for rotational grazing system
- Installed 387 feet of water pipeline to provide water in grazing paddocks
- Installed 3 Frost-free hydrants
- Implemented 6.6 acres of Prescribed Grazing system (Keeping records of animal movement through system)



Kuleck - Hydrant



## Erosion and Sediment Control & Waterway and Wetland Management

In 2013 the Cameron County Conservation District (District) was evaluated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to determine how the District was implementing their two DEP delegations for Chapter 102: Erosion and Sediment Control and Chapter 105: Dam Safety and Waterway Management. DEP's Bill Heim and Darrell Smeal took part in the evaluation which reviewed the administrative implementation of the delegation as well as the technical review of plans and permits, and field work. Both Heim and Smeal felt the District was implementing the delegations to meet all DEP standards.

The District has implemented the Chapter 102, Level II delegation since 2008 and the Chapter 105 full delegation since 2009. The District was extremely

happy with the review. The delegations help the local community and environment by having a local connection to state regulations. Regulations are standard across the state but the District works closely with local landowners and businesses to see that regulations are followed and easy to understand.

District staff attended the 102/105/NPDES Annual Training presented by DEP and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District's in October and a regional compliance training in Williamsport in December. The District feels with these continued trainings it will serve the counties needs effectively.

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Training Events                  | 4       |
| Event Participants               | 177     |
| Technical Assistance             | 31      |
| Media                            | 3       |
| Initial Plan Reviews             | 20      |
| Follow-up Plan Reviews           | 2       |
| Project Acres                    | 1507.99 |
| Disturbed Acres                  | 72.463  |
| Plan Review Fees Collected       | \$1,655 |
| NPDES Fees Collected             | \$1,000 |
| 105 Permit Fees                  | \$1,000 |
| GP1                              | 1       |
| GP3                              | 4       |
| GP7                              | 7       |
| GP8                              | 5       |
| Complaints Delegated / Inspected | 15      |
| Sites Inspected                  | 34      |
| Total Inspections                | 50      |
| DEP Referral for non-compliance  | 2       |

## Environmental Sensitive Maintenance of Dirt and Gravel & Low Volume Roads

On November 25, 2013, House Bill 1060 was officially enacted which effectively increases funding to the PA Dirt and Gravel Maintenance Program to \$35



Undersized pipe on Dark Hollow, Gibson Township

Million annually (\$7 Million to Forestry, \$28 Million to the State Conservation Commission. Each county will receive approximately five times their original funding. Also, the Bill has added

funding for Low Volume Roads (roads with less than 500 vehicles per day.) Therefore, many more groups will be eligible for this funding: i.e., Boroughs, PENNDOT and Game Commission.

In order to be eligible you must attend a two-day training every five years. Regional trainings are being held around the state.

The District assisted with planning four projects in the county for future funding. Shippen Township is planning road bank stabilization projects on Sizer Run Road and Four Mile Road.

Gibson Township is planning a large scale pipe replacement on Dark Hollow which flows under Jerry Run Road. Lumber and Gibson Townships are partnering on a road surfacing and drainage project near the Village of Sterling Run.

All of these projects will greatly reduce the amount of sediment leaving the roadway and entering streams. Projects not only protect Cameron County's pristine streams but improve the county's road infrastructure.

## Gas Development

Cameron County has some gas well development, the following is summary of gas well development from DEP's Oil and Gas Management's website. In 2013 no conventional wells were permitted, nine horizontal deep wells and

one vertical deep well were permitted. A total of five unconventional horizontal deep wells were drilled. DEP conducted a total of 32 inspections on seventeen different wells. One of those inspections was a conventional well's site restoration.

No violations or enforcement actions were taken in 2013. There were three new Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits issued by DEP and one amendment to an existing permit.

## Sinnemahoning Invasive Species Management Area

The Sinnemahoning Invasive Plant Management Area is a Cooperative Weed Management Area. It is a formal group of partners from state and local agencies, private business, conservation districts, and non-profits all working together to control invasive plants and share information and resources. This program has a coordinator, whose salary is currently funded by a grant from the US Forest Service.

The program is overseen by a Steering Committee, which meet three times per year, before the regular SIPMA meetings. The Steering Committee is formed by directors and employees from the Elk, Potter and Cameron Conservation Districts as well as the DCNR Elk State Forest and Sinnemahoning State Park.

### Project Work

Invasive plant treatments funded by the US Forest Service were located in Potter and southeastern Cameron County. About 15 miles of creek (the First Fork and Freeman Run, as well as some miscellaneous upland sites) were sprayed for Japanese knotweed in Potter County.

SIPMA partners also worked on controlling Japanese knotweed, glossy

buckthorn, Japanese barberry and mile-a-minute vine.

A goal of the SIPMA is to create a database of invasive plants in the watershed. This project is a collaboration between the SIPMA, the Cameron County Conservation District, and Cameron County. The end result will be a website where the general public and members of the SIPMA can see maps of locations of weeds, treatment and site history, and other important information about the site and the weed. In 2013, SIPMA held many planning meetings with CCCD staff and a mapping/database expert with North Central Regional Planning. The website should be up in early 2014.

### Outreach

The SIPMA partners attended SIPMA meetings in March, July and October. The coordinator submitted articles about invasive plants to two local papers and gave a talk at the Emporium Rotary Club.

A local artist designed a logo for the SIPMA. SIPMA Educational posters, and put them and brochures on display at Sinnemahoning State Park, Elk Visitor Center, Sizerville State Park, Susquehannock, and Elk State Forest

Offices.

The SIPMA coordinator also created outreach materials for and attended booths at Weekend in the Wilds, the Bucktail Watershed Association's (BWA) Annual "Driftwoodstock", and Sizerville Park's Fall Festival.

### Capacity Building

An important part of the coordinator's work is to write grants to continue the invasive species control as well as keep the coordinator position funded. In 2013 the coordinator wrote and submitted grants to the Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee for knotweed and mile-a-minute, and a mini-grant was submitted to the Western PA Conservancy. Most importantly, another grant was submitted in October to the US Forest Service for funds to continue the coordinator's position. The BWA, an important SIPMA partner and manager of the organization, submitted these grants.

To formalize SIPMA, most partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, a non-binding agreement that states support for the SIPMA and states each organization's invasive species control actions.

## Bucktail Watershed Association

- January: The BWA submitted grants to the Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee for Japanese knotweed and mile-a-minute vine control work for 2013.
- February: We received funding from the Dominion/Western PA Conservancy mini-grant program to cover the cost of our insurance for our pesticide applicator permit.
- March: The BWA was awarded funds from the Stakeholders Committee. The annual Driftwood Branch stream cleanup, prior to the annual canoe / kayak race, was held in partnership with other local entities.
- April: Pre-emergent herbicide was applied by Vegetation Managers Inc. to mile a minute vine on the Gerg and Weir properties west of Emporium. This work

went on into August.

- July: the BWA staffed a booth at the Arts Fest, handed out membership and informational fliers, and held our annual crayfish races. We treated several acres of the invasive buckthorn tree near Geotz Summit at the top of the watershed. We discovered a three acre patch of mile-a-minute along the Driftwood Branch near Sterling Run, and treated it. Also several small patches were found nearby and pulled or sprayed.
- August: "Driftwoodstock", a BWA outreach event, was held with 90 to 100 attendees. Twice as many people attended this year as last year. In the early fall, knotweed control efforts included 175 cooperating landowners in Potter and Cameron Counties. Knotweed

work was done starting at the top of the watershed, near the Elk County line to Stillhouse Run at the Emporium Country Club. Also treated were tributaries Portage Branch, Four Mile Run, Cook's Run, Clear Creek and West Creek and included 25 miles of stream bank. In Potter County, we treated knotweed along Freeman and Nelson Runs, and the First Fork for about 15 miles of stream. This work went into October.

- October: BWA submitted a grant request to the US Forest Service for continued weed work and project management.
- December: BWA applied to the Dominion/Western PA Conservancy mini-grant program for continued funding for pesticide applicator insurance.

## Cooperating Agencies and Partners

### **USDA, Farm Service Agency**

Dave Stratton  
103 Market Street  
Coudersport, PA 16915  
814-274-8411

### **USDA / NRCS**

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### **PA Game Commission**

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### **Cameron County Commissioners**

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