

**FRIENDS of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Inc.**  
&  
Resource Management and Science  
Blue Ridge Parkway

**Demonstration Volunteer Projects  
June 2007 Project**

**STATE LINE WETLAND RESTORATION**

Project Description

Exotic vegetation on the Blue Ridge Parkway has been surveyed and mapped just south of the VA/NC state line between mileposts 217 and 223. This area includes such invasive, non-native species as Japanese spirea (*Spirea japonica*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*). These known infestations are in need of management to contain or prevent their spread. Because these species are not easily controlled by hand-pulling or digging, much of the management work will be cut stump treatments, consisting of cutting off the plant stems near the ground with pruning shears, lopping shears or small saws and applying herbicide to the freshly exposed stump with a shoe polish-type applicator.

Timeframe

During the first two weeks in June (June 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, or 16), a crew of volunteers is needed to assist with cutting and treating this vegetation. The work would consist of one 6-8 hour workday, depending on weather conditions. A maximum crew size would be 10 individuals, though as few as 2-3 volunteers could be beneficial.

Volunteer Skills

Volunteers need not have prior knowledge of these plants, but it would be helpful. Most of the target plant species are easily recognizable in the field and identification will be taught on site. A knowledge of herbicide applications and equipment is not a necessary prerequisite for this work.

Site Conditions

While some of this vegetation occurs along fence rows, much of it is in or near wetlands-small streams or swampy areas. Volunteers would be asked to meet at a predetermined location along the Parkway between mileposts 217 and 223, and walk a short distance to the work site(s). Some of the work may take place inside an agricultural lease, with cattle or horses present in the fields.

Protective Equipment/Clothing

Anyone wishing to participate in this project would need to be physically fit, with the ability to use hand tools and navigate muddy terrain and briar-infested areas. Poison ivy and bees are hazards that may be encountered. Volunteers should come prepared by wearing durable clothes that can get dirty, wet, and/or muddy. Long pants, shirts with long sleeves, gloves, and sturdy boots are a must.

A lunch and adequate drinking water would need to be packed, and restrooms would not be readily available during the work hours. The rewards are a day spent outside, observing the flora and fauna while ridding a portion of our park of non-native invasive pests.