



**Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
NAFWS Southeast Regional Conference
Invasive Species Control Techniques & Practical Skills Workshop
Choctaw, MS
August 5-7, 2025**

Objective: To target control techniques for Chinese privet and Feral pigs while training on practical skills necessary for tribal managers to add to their arsenal toolbox when faced with these species, as well as other similar species of concern.

Species of Concern: Chinese privet, Kudzu and Feral pigs

Chinese privet has been allowed to grow and thrive in the Southeast due to runners underground and fruit produced that is preferred by birds that help spread the plant. A shade tolerate plant, Chinese privet is a threat to Rivercane, also known as Swampcane, that is used by Choctaw tribal artisans as it encroaches and chokes out this culturally significant plant and displaces other native species. This workshop will help with identification of privet and provide control techniques to help remove it from an existing Swampcane patch in hopes to regenerate the patch to a productive, stable stand once again.

Kudzu is known as “the plant that ate the South”. With its potential ability to grow a foot a day and its prominent presence throughout the Southeast, Kudzu threatens native vegetation as it overtakes areas and chokes out plants that once thrived. Kudzu is another species that threatens culturally significant plants for the Choctaws and takes advantage of disruption events such as clearcutting and soil removal. This species is another found in the same patch as mentioned in the privet above.

Feral pigs have been species of interest and concern on a wide scale. These non-native species do what they were created to do, which is to eat, reproduce, and survive. Their spread throughout the country does not stop at our tribal boundaries and their presence increases the vulnerability to our lands, resources, and ways of life. Understanding these animals are our first lines of defense to protect our physical, natural, and cultural resources. This workshop was created by the expressed interest of several Southeastern Tribes dealing with the spread of these species. Through realistic perspectives from tribal managers, experiences can help facilitate wild pig management by hearing firsthand accounts of the dos, don'ts, successes, lessons, and challenges that come with attempting to control a species that was literally made to excel and dominate any habitat that they inhabit.



Agenda for Daily Tasks:

Monday, August 4, 2024: Travel Day

Tuesday, August 5, 2024 – Golden Moon Omega Room:

8:30 am: Call to Order, Introductions, Housekeeping

- Mitzi Reed, NAFWS Invasive Species Director

8:45 am: Invasive Species Management Planning Basics

- Mitzi Reed, NAFWS Invasive Species Director

10:00 am: The Importance of Rivercane to Mississippi Choctaws

- Choctaw Cultural Program (10 am)/Tim Oakes, USDA NRCS (10:30 am)

11:00 am: Chinese Privet & Kudzu Identification and Control Measures

- Jim McAdory, MSU Cooperative Extension Services

12:00 pm: LUNCH (On your own)

1:30 pm: (Omega Room) Application Basics for Invasive Plants

- Mitzi Reed, NAFWS Invasive Species Director

2:00 pm: Site Visits in the Pearl River Community (Meet in Lobby) (Beaver Dam Road, Jim Road and Lake Pushmataha)

4:00 pm: Adjourn and Return to Hotel

Wednesday, August 6, 2024 – Meet in Lobby at 7:30 am, leave by 7:45 am (Privet site at Lake Pushmataha)

8:00 am: Hand Tool Use & Safety

- Mitzi Reed, NAFWS Invasive Species Director

8:30 am: Chainsaw Safety & Maintenance

- Sam Farve, Choctaw Fire Department

9:30 am: Removal training with Chinese Privet Site Instructions

1:00 pm: Return to Hotel and LUNCH (On Your Own)

2:00 pm: (Omega Room) Wild Pig Biology/Behavior/Impacts/Disease/Legal Considerations

- Mitzi Reed, NAFWS Invasive Species Director

3:00 pm: (Activity) Tribal Perspectives Roundtable: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly of IS Programming:

Planning – What were the considerations in planning an Invasive Species Program?

Capacity – What is your staff for invasive species management? Are there specific staff assigned?

Implementing – Description of an Invasive Species Program. What were lessons learned/experienced?

Challenges – What were some of the problems experienced? What are some of the barriers?

Education/Outreach – What are some of the outreach activities being done for awareness?

Law Enforcement – What regulations are present, i.e., hunting, transportation, or other considerations?

Cultural Acceptance – Deemed as a resource by many, how do you incorporate this concept into your program objectives?

New Considerations – Any new projects/methods being used? Thoughts for the future – will there always be invasive species? Memorable moments?

4:15 pm: Give Updates for Next Morning

4:30 pm: Adjourn Day 2

Thursday, August 7, 2024 – (Department of NR Classroom) Meet in Lobby at 8:00 am, leave by 8:15 am

8:30 am: Feral Pig Trapping Techniques
- Steven Tucker, MSU Cooperative Extension Services

10:00 am: Basic Marksmanship and Firearms Safety Course
- Jim McAdory, MSU Cooperative Extension Services/Hunter Ed Instructor

12:00 pm: Lunch (On your own)

1:30 pm: Firearm Clinicals (Shooting Range): 5 shoots per round x 5 rounds (50 point accuracy clinical)
- Jim McAdory, Tim Pauls & Mitzi Reed – Hunter Ed Instructors

4:00 pm: Return to DNR for Evaluation & Workshop Dialogue

4:30 pm: Adjourn Day 3; Return to Hotel

Friday, August 8, 2024: Travel Day

