

## Emergency Federal Funding for Managing Wavyleaf Basketgrass

Please ask your Senators and Representatives to appropriate \$1,000,000 a year for 5 years to Maryland and \$1,000,000 a year to Virginia as emergency Federal funding to detect and treat Asiatic Wavyleaf Basketgrass. This is the best approach we have to save an estimated 20% of the natural environment in 1/4th of the United States. It is spreading very rapidly covering most of our woodland habitats like astroturf, replacing almost all the other plants. It is far worse than Japanese Stiltgrass and forms a dense carpet of hundreds of acres after 5-10 years if not controlled. So far it is only found in Maryland and Virginia so we still have a chance. Potential sources of funding include stimulus money, green job money, authorization for 2010-2014 for invasive prevention and treatment related to the Endangered Species Act, and co-sponsoring and modifying the 4/1 matching funds 100th Meridian Invasive Species bill to include Eastern States with additional appropriations for urgent issues such as Wavyleaf Basketgrass.

### Supporting Organizations Include:

- Adkins Arboretum
- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Ancestral Knowledge
- Appalachian Cherokee Nation
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Community & Environmental Defense Services
- Earth Charter
- Earth Sangha
- Endangered Species Coalition
- Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
- Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway
- Herring Run Watershed Association
- Invasive Plant Control Inc.
- Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club.
- Maryland Conservation Council, Inc.
- Maryland Native Plant Society
- Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council
- National Wildlife Federation
- Patuxent Riverkeeper
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
- Southern Maryland Audubon Society, Inc.
- Straughan Environmental Services, Inc.
- Student Conservation Association
- The Wilderness Society
- Virginia Native Plant Society
- Washington Quaker Workcamps and William Penn House



Wavyleaf Basketgrass is the worst invasive plant threat in the United States from the Carolinas to Maine and west to the Midwestern states based on the damage done by Japanese Stiltgrass. Fortunately, Wavyleaf Basketgrass can still be eradicated and doing so may be the biggest “bang for the buck” employment of environmental funding at this time. Although Japanese Stiltgrass has been controlled in the immediate vicinity of many Federal and State listed endangered and threatened species, the introduction of an even worse invasive plant species in their habitats and ecosystems would be a major unnecessary burden to impose. It makes more sense to spend federal dollars under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act at the source of the problem rather than later in the immediate vicinity of these species. Another practical option would be to continue funding successful green jobs work such as that done by the Student Conservation Association on detection and control of non-native invasive plants to include Wavyleaf Basketgrass.

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