Analysis of ForestConnect Webinar

Deer, Interfering Vegetation, and Factors to Guide the Treatment of the Green Lie, by Dr. Peter Smallidge April 16, 2025

2025-04-28

[webinar archived at] <https://youtu.be/XPZTAeAldIA>

Summary of Webinar Metrics

Metric

Impact

Number Registered

245

Participants > 20 minutes

237

Number of Survey Respondents

133

Total Forested Acres (> 20 minutes)

21,984,538

Total Forested Acres (Qualtrics respondents)

1,588,333

Agency or Institution (% participants)

9

Educator (% participants)

4

Forester (% participants)

38

Grazier or Farmer (% participants)

0

Logger/Forest Practitioner (% participants)

2

Maple Producer (% participants)

0

NGO (% participants)

4

Natural Resources Specialist (% participants)

6

Other (% participants)

7

Woodland Owner (% participants)

31

Number of States/Provinces

29

# Respondents Intending Actions

99

% Respondents Intending Actions

74

% Respondents with > Moderate Change in Awareness

70

% Respondents with > Moderate Change in Knowledge

56

Total Mileage Equivalent for Travel to a Comparable Seminar

10,207

Estimate of Money to be Earned, Saved or Spent

$34,730

Number of CEU Requests

117

General Comments by Survey Respondents

Perspective

General Comments

Agency or institution

Thanks for yet another very informative (and timely) webinar!

Agency or institution

Peter is a skilled presenter.

Agency or institution

Good information and good presentation

Agency or institution

I think he echoed the views of my local foresters and biologists well.

Agency or institution

Thank you.

Educator

very good - like the info / ideas about HOW to tackle invasive plants.

Educator

Good work

Educator

N/A

Educator

Alway enjoy Pete’s webinars

Forester

Excellent presentation. Thank you!

Forester

Great presentation

Forester

Thanks for all the info

Forester

the program was thorough and informative

Forester

This is a great webinar for thought provoking discussion

Forester

Great clear presentation as always Peter!!

Forester

Knowledgeable and interesting.

Forester

excellent

Forester

Nicely presented.

Forester

Well done, nicely organized, great efforts, appreciated

Forester

I enjoyed the great presentation even though I already had high initial knowledge on the subject

Forester

Reduce examples of treatment of beech as undesirable species

Forester

It was an excellent presentation

Forester

Excellent presentation

Forester

great presentation and enjoyed the exercise at the end.

Forester

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Forester

Great Presentation

Forester

Very well presented

Forester

Great presentation

Forester

Clear and concise on the topic

Forester

n/a

Forester

The presenter was knowledgeablw and made an interesting presentation.

Forester

Great job!

Forester

Very nice job.

Forester

Great as always!

Forester

Good session informed options for brush control

Forester

Excellent presentation.

Forester

nice presentation

Logger / Forest practitioner

good speaker, held my interest

Logger / Forest practitioner

Good speaker, good presentation

NGO

Great presentation, very useful to have synthesis of the latest research on forest regen in NYS

Natural resources specialist

There was a lot of discussion about removing beech trees, some context as to why would have been beneficial

Natural resources specialist

Good presentation.

Natural resources specialist

He is always on point and topical.

Natural resources specialist

presentation very informative

Other (please indicate)

Informative, presentation great.

Other (please indicate)

Great presentation, very informative

Other (please indicate)

Excellent. Loved the participant interaction.

Other (please indicate)

Great, tangible presentation. Much appreciated

Other (please indicate)

Great presentation, very informative

Other (please indicate)

Great presentation, very informative

Other (please indicate)

During the Webinar i asked if the link of Deer resistant plants could be shared.

Woodland owner

Great as usual

Woodland owner

Photos greatly help focus key ideas pointed out during illustration. FVM Matrix was very helpful. Great Presentation!

Woodland owner

Excellent overview, especially liked the FVM matrix

Woodland owner

Thank you.

Woodland owner

Thank you for the clear presentation of evidence & considerarion of audience comments.

Woodland owner

excellent knowledge of subject and practical solutions - and pitfalls.

Woodland owner

It would be helpful to near a simple, less scientific summary of each part of the presentation before moving on tp a new topi.

Woodland owner

Very good reinforcement of good practices

Woodland owner

Peter is great, he cannot retire.

Woodland owner

He gives all sides of solutions.

Woodland owner

These Forest Connect webinars are always valuable and there is no better source for private landowners like me..

Woodland owner

Very well done presentation.

Woodland owner

Very good presentation

Woodland owner

Great presentation

Woodland owner

The webinar was very general and a high-level overview of the subject matter

Woodland owner

Excellent; will rewatch the recording

Woodland owner

No specific comments. Presentation was good as usual.

Woodland owner

Enjoyed the pace and the content presented. Struggled a little bit with the graphs until they were explained. There was a lot of data in those graphs.

Woodland owner

well organized and interesting

Woodland owner

charming

Woodland owner

Informative. Very professional. Always learn something.

Woodland owner

thanks for the knowledge you share, this adds to my arsenal of tools or just gives me confidence i’m going down the right path

Woodland owner

I try to plant by mid-April. I use tree shelters for the red oak I’m promoting. It’s worked for 25 years. I try to do 2-3 acres of TSI in December to create winter browse for deer, promote good tree growth and downed trees do provide sites for future natural seedlings to grow.

Woodland owner

PETER IS VERY KNOWLEDGABLE

Woodland owner

Lived the preaentation of scenerios.

Woodland owner

Peter is well informed. He kept the presentation flowing and interesting and

Woodland owner

I already was aware of all the information presented

Woodland owner

The information provided was relevant to my goals of sustainable forestry/ wildlife/ habitat enhancement and future grazier.as a woodlot

Actions Intended by Survey Respondents as a Result of the Webinar

Perspective

Intended Action

Agency or institution

I will share this information with my Agency’s Private Lands Management Biologists.

Agency or institution

I plan in continuing to try to develop managements to address deer impacts to forests

Agency or institution

Try to educate participants better on invasive management

Agency or institution

For me personally in my sugar woods I think I need to utilize chemical treatment of beech whips. For my producers I work with convincing them green leaves on honey suckle and buckthorn are not good habitat.

Agency or institution

Identifying forested areas that have the most prevalence of interfering vegetation.

Agency or institution

Continue reading to learn more about the topic.

Educator

comment to NHFG — too slow to educate broader public and alter rules too slowly - survey shows little public awareness.

Educator

Educate others

Educator

Increase biodiversity.

Educator

control unwanted vegetation

Educator

Place the links to the four referenced documents on a page I can distribute at SOT Chapter meetings and at MFO visits.

Educator

As a Master Gardener, Share this information with people that have questions

Forester

keep sratching my head

Forester

n/a

Forester

Pass information on to landowners I work with.

Forester

Install deer exclusion fencing in a forested area

Forester

continue to address vegetation impact of forests

Forester

look for deer impacts prior to forest management planning

Forester

serious comment-I will have to learn a lot more about woods a few years after we have used them to control undesirable vegetation. Specifically, I need to be more aware of what was present before, right after goats were done, and then, say, 2-3 years later. We may be changing to a worse vegetation species to control and not know iabout it until much later when it is too late.

Forester

Deer Exclusion Fencing Trial

Forester

Do a more complete analysis of the invasive issues on my woodlot. Last year I sadly put Newfane, Vermont on the EAB map as when we logged last winter I stripped the bark off some 4”-8” upper limbs and sure enough under the bark was the telltale “S” shaped curved minings in the cambial layer… However neither of these two infested trees had shown any “blonding.” Each year during all 4 seasons, I examined my 3 big ash (now down to the last one- 23”dbh, with 4 perfect 10 or 11’ veneer bolts

Forester

Continue to selectively spray herbicides to control herbicides

Forester

Would like to try a Fecon treatment.

Forester

Iâ€™ll try some modest experiments in silviculture to see what works for me.

Forester

We have a contract with EQIP for 87 acres of understory “brush management”, involving chemical treatment of striped maple, hophornbeam, and beech. The webinar clarified that without protecting desirable regeneration from deer browsing this treatment may be useless, so I will look (again) for a way to finance and implement fencing, tree tubes, or some other method of protecting regeneration from deer browse.

Forester

advise flame weeding where herbicide is not desired or permitted.

Forester

encourage more hunting and invasive species management in Maryland

Forester

Add some deer management policies in some forest management plans and contemplate some vegetation management procedures.

Forester

Improve my client woodlands checklist review

Forester

discuss long term impact of deer browse with landowners

Forester

No action contemplated

Forester

Working on plans that will work better to handle the interference

Forester

assist in landowner course design for invasive species management in green lie scenarios

Forester

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Forester

Integrated vegetation management

Forester

pay attention to estimated deer densities

Forester

Look into different control methods not chemicals

Forester

Continue to try to educate landowners about the impacts deer and invasive plants have on our forested landscape.

Forester

Invasive plants control

Forester

continue to stress the importance of interfering vegetation

Forester

I am now retired, so probably no specific actions

Forester

Forest regeneration planning will be part of our management plans

Forester

I would like to try a Fecon mower.

Forester

work harder on invasives

Forester

Integrate what I learn from the webinar when dealing with private property.

Forester

Kill more invasive.

Forester

Promote slash fences.

Forester

incorporate material in lessons

Forester

herbaceous and woody plant control with propane torch

Logger / Forest practitioner

slash walls

Logger / Forest practitioner

Slash wall

NGO

deer fencing

Natural resources specialist

Some of techniques will help in my restoration projects

Natural resources specialist

Explore the accesibility and cost of a forestry mulcher

Natural resources specialist

N/A

Natural resources specialist

Incorporate concepts into restoration plans

Natural resources specialist

Continue with fern management

Natural resources specialist

beech control

Natural resources specialist

Conduct more research.

Other (please indicate)

Better educate the community on the significant damage of over deer population.

Other (please indicate)

discuss with Wilson Tuscarora Park some ideas. As park was eminent domained in 60s large area was green ash, EAB damage.

Other (please indicate)

In discussion

Other (please indicate)

Be more aware of native interfering vegetation when I see forests

Other (please indicate)

Provide community outreach about deer impacts on city forests and incorporate the “Green Lie” into discussion

Other (please indicate)

In discussion

Other (please indicate)

I now have a better understanding of the importance of the slash walls the park had built and the effect of the deer with the understory.

Other (please indicate)

In discussion

Other (please indicate)

Deer Management is a very big issue in our area so learning new strategies is always good

Woodland owner

become more frustrated! Shoot more deer.

Woodland owner

Address next woodlot cutting

Woodland owner

Designate fern heavy area to eradicate via fencing and planting non invasive buses and trees

Woodland owner

Try to employ broadcast mechanical method first, in order to eliminate invasive thorn bushes in small part of land. Reluctant to use herbicides.

Woodland owner

Increase selective removal of invasives in my relatively small woodlot; barberry, multiflora, bittersweet, especially; stiltgrass on borders

Woodland owner

Attend RIFCO’s 5 year slash wall review.

Woodland owner

I won’t plant any trees until I can build deer exclusion areas!

Woodland owner

More effectively control invasives

Woodland owner

Evaluate several woodlots for the potential benefit of change.

Woodland owner

Try to get rid of Hayscented ferns by excluding deer.

Woodland owner

plant and protect higher grade trees with fencing which I do now when planting trees on our property.

Woodland owner

I have reached out to a DEC forester for a review and prescription for the various stands on the property. I will be going out and pulling honeysuckle along the paths this month while putting a more comprehensive plan together.

Woodland owner

kill ferns and plant protected trees. Can’t do much to control deer, regrettably.

Woodland owner

Learn more about using slash walls for deer exclusion on my land

Woodland owner

more intensively consider deer exclosure fencing for an area of our forest

Woodland owner

investigate flame weeding buckthorn

Woodland owner

Treat invasive plants with herbicides

Woodland owner

increase use of herbicide

Woodland owner

Will continue to discuss with my forester ways to manage for invasives and deer.

Woodland owner

Go after buckthorn

Woodland owner

Significant invasive and interfering vegetation control efforts this year, but those were already planned.

Woodland owner

Target Multi Flora Rosa while itâ€™s still minimal.

Woodland owner

install several fenced test plots to guage deer impacts

Woodland owner

occlusion methods for buckthorn

Woodland owner

Continue planting and protecting individual trees

Woodland owner

dig and pull plants plus brush hog where I can with invasive plants and more serious eliminating more does

Woodland owner

Some tree planting in forest clearings

Woodland owner

LOOK INTO FENCING

Woodland owner

I want to go through my wood throughly this year and identify any potential invasives and formulate a good plan for their removal

Woodland owner

Set up protective perimeter for new trees

Woodland owner

I have already contacted my local NRCS to update my forestry management plan and apply for technical assistance related to habitat/ stewardship goals on my property.