The Exmoor Non-Native Invasive Species Project

Local Action Group Workshop
Field Studies Centre
Preston Montford
29 January 2020

Holly Moser and Charlotte Thomas
ENNIS Project Officers
Exmoor National Park Authority
Ambition for wildlife is:

Exmoor is richer in wildlife. Habitats are in good condition, connected, and support a greater abundance of species.

4 key strategies:
1. More, bigger, better and joined up habitats.
2. Control invasive species: the spread of non-native invasive plant and animal species is being controlled and populations are reducing, such that native species can re-establish
3. monitoring the state of wildlife.
4. getting more people involved to help us monitor wildlife & improve habitats.
Water Environment Grant bid

- Learnt outcome end of February 2019 – offered grant of £184,675 which covers 100% of cost of project, including a 2-year Project Officer.
- In May 2019 appointed new Project Officers (job share): Holly Moser and Charlotte Thomas.
- Part of Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).
- Funding is jointly provided through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Defra.
Aim of project

• Continue to control the spread of invasive non-native species on Exmoor.
• Trial innovative approaches to control INNS.
• Engage volunteers and local community in tackling non-native invasives and to raise awareness of the issues.
Continue the annual treatment of Japanese and Himalayan knotweed across the National Park working at a catchment scale with around 300 landowners.

2019:
- 1181 known knotweed sites in Exmoor National Park
- 868 of these could be treated by ENNIS using glyphosate
- 667 sites with permission to be treated (with glyphosate) and monitored.

**Timing:** Sept/October  
**Equipment:** knapsacks fitted with Drifbeta nozzles and extendable lances when necessary  
**Herbicides/adjuvants:** Glyphosate and Topfilm or Solar  
**Results:** reduction in vigour
Treat skunk cabbage (& other localised but significant invasives such as fringecups) at an early stage of infestation in the National Park before they become a major threat.
Trial organic methods to control knotweed and montbretia using innovative approaches.
Work with volunteers and local communities to control Himalayan balsam within our trial site on the River Barle.

Fancy getting your hands dirty! Help us clear our trial site of Himalayan balsam

Fortnightly Himalayan balsam bashing sessions to be held next Spring/Summer!
Work with volunteers and local communities to carry out feasibility studies of the ENNIS invasive plants across the National Park.
Continue the ground-breaking work to trial the control of signal crayfish on the River Barle & carry out further feasibility studies on the Little Exe, Haddeo and Lyn
3 main outputs:

1. Treat annually over 70% of the known 868 knotweed sites (that ENNIS can treat using glyphosate), manage 80% of Himalayan balsam on a trial area of the River Barle SSSI using a volunteer approach and treat 80% of known skunk cabbage sites within Exmoor NP by 2021.

2. Trial innovative methods of control for knotweed and montbretia on organic land and signal crayfish sterilisation.

3. Complete a feasibility study of the presence of skunk cabbage, Himalayan balsam and Montbretia across the National Park, and of signal crayfish on the Little Exe, Haddeo and Lyn.
ENNIS Project Team

Ali Hawkins, Holly Moser, Charlotte Thomas, Pat Watts-Mabbott

ennis@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

01398 322259

Visit Our Website http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/Whats-Special/exmoor-non-native-invasive-species-ennis