



Great Smoky Mountains National Park www.nps.gov/grsm

Stewardship

The following centennial proposal is certified as eligible for Centennial Challenge funding consideration in fiscal year 2008. Funding for the Centennial Challenge requires legislation.

Save Our Hemlocks

Location: Tennessee-North Carolina

Partner(s): Friends of the Smokies, Great Smoky Mountains Association

Partner Website: www.friendsofthesmokies.org; www.smokiesstore.org

Total Cost: \$600,000

Proposal # 137473

Summary: The park would like to expand efforts to control the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), a non-native insect that is highly invasive and destructive. The park has treated HWA more aggressively than neighboring states, private and federal agencies and control efforts have dominated the park's priorities in recent years due to the extensive old growth and hemlock dominated forests growing in the park. Methods to reduce the impact of the HWA include chemical and insecticidal treatments and release of biocontrols. The hope is that with time, biocontrols (i.e., predatory beetles of HWA) will show sufficient results so that chemical treatments can eventually be phased out. The park's strategy also addresses providing a safe experience for visitors, preservation of genetic resources for future restoration projects, the establishment of conservation areas relatively free of HWA and education of the general public about these threats.

For more information contact:

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Hemlock trees are sprayed with insecticidal soap to kill hemlock woolly adelgids.