



Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

## Come help us determine the effectiveness of training citizen scientists to monitoring invasive plants!

### What?

An experiment designed to evaluate the effectiveness of three training approaches: (1) in-person, (2) online web pages, and (3) online multimedia presentations. To do this, we need your help and participation! We need 100 volunteers to take online tutorials and then be tested in the field about invasive species knowledge, GPS use, monitoring protocols, species identification, and use of our website ([www.citsci.org](http://www.citsci.org)). We need another 100 volunteers to participate in our in-person training and then be tested in the field about these same subjects. Our goal is to ensure that all volunteer participants, whether trained online or in-person, leaves with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to become successful citizen scientists. **Food will be provided!**

### How?

We would greatly appreciate your participation in any way you can; there are **three ways to help**:

- (1) **Join our in-person group** Saturday, July 11, 2009 at Colorado State University (CSU) and then demonstrate your newly acquired skills in the field at the CSU Environmental Learning Center (ELC) Sunday, July 12, 2009!
- (2) **Join our online group** and study tutorials at your home on your personal computer between July 5 and July 10, 2009 and then demonstrate your newly acquired skills Saturday, July 11, 2009 at the ELC. You will receive one of two versions of the tutorials: (1) traditional web pages, and (2) multimedia presentations. Having taken part in the online training, you will be tested in GPS use, plot set up, percent cover estimation, and species identification. For this option, your weekend commitment is only one day!
- (3) **Join our control group** and complete our questionnaire to help us determine what people who have not taken training already know about these topics.

### Where?

The study will be held at Colorado State University (CSU) and the Environmental Learning Center (ELC).

### When?

The study will be held at Colorado July 11-12. Rain dates are July 18-19. For those being trained in person, training will be at the CSU Lory Student Center Saturday July 11 between 7:00 am and 4:30 pm. Your field test will be Sunday July 12 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm at the ELC. For those being trained online, training will be online and self paced between July 4 and July 10 and your field test will be July 11 between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

If you have any questions or comments about this study, please ask! My work phone number is 970-491-0410 and my home phone number is 970-267-0834; or you can email me ([newmang@nrel.colostate.edu](mailto:newmang@nrel.colostate.edu)). Please register by filling out our very short online form at: <http://tinyurl.com/ColoradoInvasivePlantEvent>.

Thank you very much for your help with this important research.

Sincerely, Greg Newman (CSU/NREL Research Associate and Graduate Student)