

416 Fire Weed Mapping Project: Volunteer Information

Why is weed mapping important?

During the summer of 2018, the 416 fire burned around 55,000 acres of land in the San Juan National Forest. The 416 fire was a significant disturbance in the area and left the environment fragile. Now that the burn area is open for recreation, the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is concerned about invasive weed species and their impact. Invasive (non-native) weed species can harm the ecosystem by competing with native plants for resources. Native plants are important for ecosystem health and for the recovery of the burn area. MSI is partnering with the Forest Service to provide our USFS weed managers the data they need to better protect and preserve this area so that the community can continue to enjoy it.

How does weed mapping work?

Use iNaturalist, a free app & website, to log observations. As a volunteer, you need to:

1. Download the iNaturalist app to your smartphone
2. Create an account
3. Search for the project called "416 Fire Weed Mapping" and join the project
4. You can also join the project online here: www.inaturalist.org/projects/416-fire-weed-mapping
5. To record observations, you will open the iNaturalist app and take a photo of the weeds you are observing with your smartphone. The app will record the GPS location of the observation and will also help you to identify the species. If the GPS location is not recorded, be sure your location services are on and allowing sharing with iNaturalist.
6. The main species we are concerned with are:

