

## UPPER YTHAN INVASIVES PROJECT - NOTES FOR YPV MEETING IN OCTOBER 2014.

### Estimated Final Costs for 2014

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Costs at end of June 2014                              | £2962.53 |
| Add 5 litres Roundup, approximately £60.00             | £60.00   |
| Add 3 coveralls  | £29.97   |
| Add mileage approximately 220 miles@£0.45              | £266.60  |
| Jim Mann say 4 hrs                                     | £75.00   |
| David Brown PA6AW course + test. Approximately £270.00 | £270.00  |
| Estimate of final cost for 2014                        | £3664.10 |

Assuming the existing funds can be carried over to 2015 we will have £6300.00 - £3664.10 = **£2635.90 available for use going forward.**

### The Way Forward.

- The proposed Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) via the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts to the River Ythan Trust for this type of work will not be available until mid 2016 (originally supposed to be 2015) and of course the HLF application may fail.
- We would struggle to repeat the work we carried out in 2014 with the funding available, let alone tackle the remainder of the Ythan.
- Jim Mann is now in full time employment, but has indicated that he would be prepared to work next year at weekends – provided we had all SEPA agreements in place by late April 2015, the work on the upper Ythan could probably be carried out.
- **We urgently have to consider where to find additional funding.** Currently there is no source via Scottish Natural Heritage (now with overall responsibility for these matters) however the Agri - Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) is believed to be likely to have some funding for “environmental schemes”. No detailed information will be available until early 2015, let alone how funding may be accessed, and by whom

### Lessons Learned.

- We were too slow in the beginning of 2014 to take decisive action and contact SEPA for the pesticide authorisation.
- We need to decide quickly if we are to make an application for the whole river, or just re-treat the upper Ythan. We still have not yet approached the tenants/landowners from Fyvie to Gight, of those on the Tarty Burn.
- Late application of spraying Giant Hogweed results in greater usage of Roundup than otherwise would have been the case – we need to commence spraying late April/early May.

- Small stands of Japanese Knotweed have been treated fairly easily, however for the two large stands on the upper Ythan an alternative approach is required – they are just too dense for effective spraying.
- An alternative is to use untrained volunteers to clear the dead stems in late winter (January/February), allow the plants to grow, cut the new plants down in September, and fill the short stems with a Roundup solution. Apart from being the most effective means of control, we can involve the YPV more fully in a “hands on” basis.

Alec Paterson. 19/10/2014.