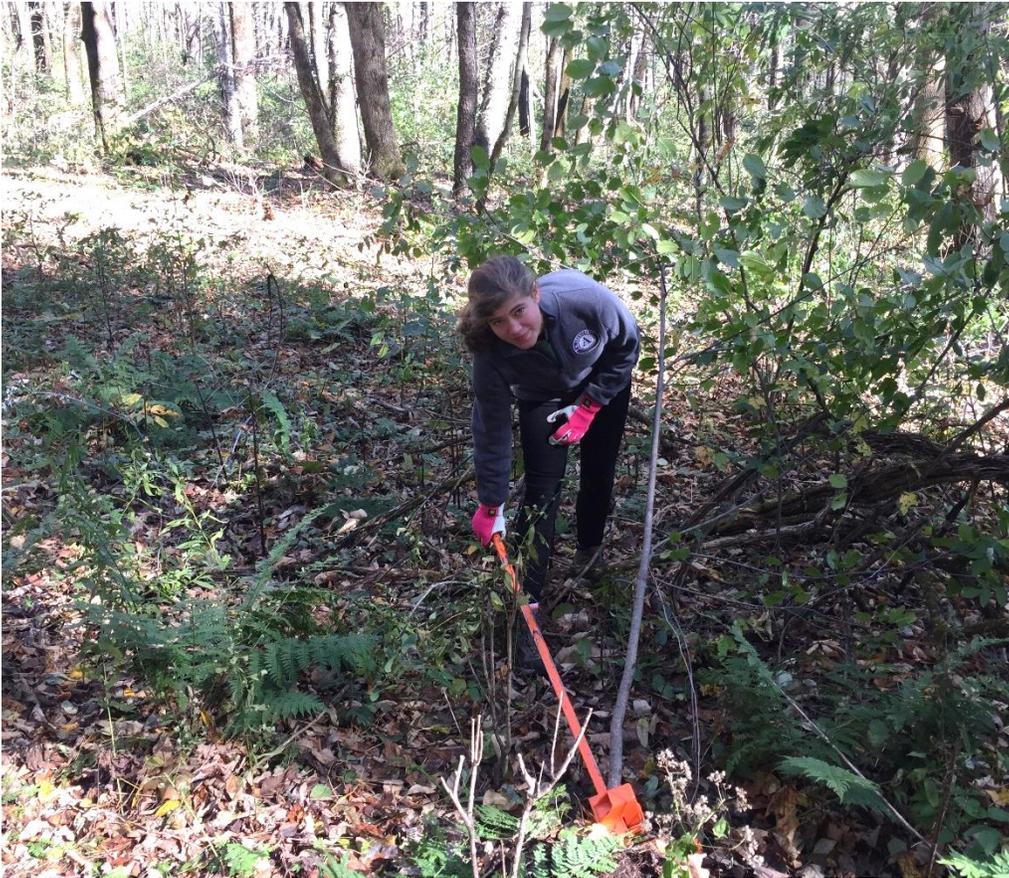


## ELANA FELDMAN – BATTENKILL WATERSHED HABITAT STEWARD



Elana Feldman is serving as the Battenkill Watershed Habitat Steward at the Battenkill Watershed Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) this year. This past week she took advantage of a Cornell Cooperative Extension conference called Agriculture, Food & Environmental systems In-service where she learned a great deal about management of invasive species. Elana was also able to network with people in the invasive species field, which was the perfect opportunity because one of her focuses for service is to bring CISMAs to more Vermont counties. Currently, there are only a handful of CISMAs in the state, therefore, Elana is putting her efforts towards creating a plan for more counties to adopt the practice. This plan would be a very valuable tool for all counties in Vermont to utilize in order to combat the threat of invasive species to our natural ecology. Apart from that, Elana has been involved in some herbicide treatment of invasive plants such as burning bush, buckthorn, honey suckle, bittersweet, and barberry. Herbicide treatment involves pruning the tops of the bush, and then applying herbicide to the newly snipped portions. Although Elana is currently only pruning the tops of the plants, this winter she is undertaking a certificate for herbicide application, so that she can be involved in the whole process. Another field task she has participated in was a planting of buffer strips along a river bank on a private property in Arlington. The project involved planting tree seedlings between a hayfield and the river in order to mitigate erosion and the arrival of invasive plants. Elana has also been taking advantage of serving in a large office by shadowing each of her colleagues to learn more about their jobs in the organization. Keep taking advantage of those wonderful opportunities, Elana!