

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 16, 2022 Rowena Zimmermann Blue Ridge PRISM (434) 760-4880 rowena@blueridgeprism.org

BLUE RIDGE PRISM MEETS \$20,000 VEE CHALLENGE GRANT The Virginia Environmental Endowment awards a \$20,000 grant to Blue Ridge PRISM.

Charlottesville, Virginia: Blue Ridge PRISM announced that it has met a \$20,000 matching challenge from the Virginia Environmental Endowment (VEE), resulting in a combined grant and fundraising total of more than \$40,000.

"We are grateful for the support from VEE and its faith in Blue Ridge PRISM's mission," says Rod Walker, President of Blue Ridge PRISM. "We're looking forward to doing more good work toward reducing the impact of invasive plants in Virginia."

"We raised the matching funds primarily from individual donations," says Beth Mizell, Program Director at Blue Ridge PRISM. "This support from the community is vital and VEE has been a wonderful environmental partner."

The funding will be used to build landowner education for landscape-scale conservation, focusing on education and outreach about invasive species in a series of workshops and webinars.

Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) is the first Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) headquartered in Virginia and is a volunteerdriven organization dedicated to reducing the negative impact of invasive plants in the Blue Ridge area of Virginia. It is a 501(c)(3) public charity.