



Effects of terrestrial transport corridors and associated landscape context on invasion by forest plants

Samuel F. Ward · Benjamin S. Taylor · Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil ·
Kurt H. Riitters · Songlin Fei

Received: 8 August 2019 / Accepted: 29 June 2020
© Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2020

Abstract The construction, use, and maintenance of terrestrial transport corridors [roads and railroads (TTCs)] facilitate the spread of invasive plants, but the distances at which plants typically spread away from TTCs, and how that process is mediated by landscape context, is not well understood. We compiled data on the number of invasive plant species per $\sim 672 \text{ m}^2$ plot (= invasive richness) from 44,000 + forest inventory plots in the eastern USA. Using a generalized linear model framework, we investigated how invasive richness is influenced by distance from the nearest TTC, surrounding land use type, and ecological province. Invasive richness in forests decreased as distance from the nearest TTC increased. Directly adjacent to TTCs, there were an

estimated 1.4 ± 0.01 SE invasive plant species per plot compared to 0.8 ± 0.01 and 0.2 ± 0.01 species at 1 and 3 km, respectively, away from the nearest TTC. Invasive richness was highest on plots associated with a combination of agriculture/development (2.1 ± 0.03 species per plot) and in the Midwest Broadleaf Forest province (2.1 ± 0.06). Our macro-scale analysis also demonstrated that rates of decay in invasive richness away from TTCs were mediated by the types of land use and ecological provinces within which plots were located. The influences of TTCs and associated activities (e.g., construction, travel) on invasive plant richness were widespread across forests of the eastern USA, but the relative importance of TTCs for facilitating spread appears to be highly context dependent.

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-020-02308-3>) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

S. F. Ward · B. S. Taylor · S. Fei (✉)
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue
University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA
e-mail: sfei@purdue.edu

K.-A. Dixon Hamil
Department of Economics, University of the West Indies,
Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica

K. H. Riitters
USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station,
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, USA

Keywords Ecological province · Forest · Invasive plants · Land use · Macroscale · Road ecology

Introduction

Forests provide a multitude of ecosystem services, sequestering carbon (Bonan 2008), improving water quality (Fiquepron et al. 2013), and regulating local and regional climates (Bonan 2008). Invasive plants pose significant threats to forest ecosystem functioning (Martin et al. 2009; Pejchar and Mooney 2009; Fei

et al. 2014) by driving changes in native plant community composition (Hejda et al. 2009), nutrient cycling (Ehrenfeld 2003; Vilà et al. 2011), hydrology (Ehrenfeld 2010), and fire regimes (Brooks et al. 2004). Investigating how different landscape features (e.g., roads and railroads) and landscape contexts (e.g., land use types) mediate the spread of invasive plants could help elucidate underlying drivers of invasions and indicate areas currently most at risk from invasive plant impacts.

Roads and railroads (henceforth terrestrial transport corridors; TTCs) are extremely common landscape features that cause a multitude of ecological impacts (Forman and Alexander 1998; Forman and Deblinger 2000; Trombulak and Frissell 2000) and serve as conduits for the spread of invasive plants (Tyser and Worley 1992; Parendes and Jones 2000; Gelbard and Belnap 2003; Christen and Matlack 2006, 2009; Flory and Clay 2006; Dimitrakopoulos et al. 2017; Skultety and Matthews 2017). The construction of TTCs results in habitat fragmentation that increases edge habitat (Ibisch et al. 2016), a location in which invasive plants often invade before spreading into adjacent forests (Saunders et al. 1991; Yates et al. 2004; Fei et al. 2008). Habitats directly adjacent to TTCs are also associated with high frequencies of disturbance from maintenance (e.g., mowing and thinning) and mineral deposition (e.g., salt application), both of which can increase the likelihood of invasion (Johnston and Johnston 2004; Mortensen et al. 2009; Barbosa et al. 2010). Indeed, grading can spread invasive propagules along the sides of rural TTCs (Rauschert et al. 2017). Long-distance dispersal of invasive plants can occur by travel via TTCs (Schmidt 1989; Watkins et al. 2003), for example, through seeds hitchhiking on vehicles (Rew et al. 2018).

In addition to TTCs, landscape context is an important driver of plant invasion dynamics (Vilà and Pujadas 2001; Lundgren et al. 2004; Pauchard and Alaback 2004). Areas with higher human activity are often associated with greater abundances of invasive plants (Catford et al. 2011; Riitters et al. 2018) and both contemporary and historical land use type can influence patterns of invasion (Csecserits et al. 2016; Holmes and Matlack 2019). For example, in the southern Appalachians, landscapes with a history of agricultural use had higher non-native plant abundance (Kuhman et al. 2011) whereas increased forest cover was associated with decreased abundance of

non-native plants (Kuhman et al. 2010). Agriculture and development can disturb adjacent forests, impacting biodiversity and soil quality (Compton and Boone 2000; Stoate et al. 2001; Dupouey et al. 2002), which in turn might also influence invasibility. Regional level factors (e.g., climatic variables) have also been linked to landscape-scale patterns of plant invasions (Pino et al. 2005; Bradley et al. 2010; Iannone et al. 2015). Indeed, the incidence (presence/absence) of invasive plants on plots across the eastern USA varied among different ecoregions (Riitters et al. 2018), which are determined in part by unique climatic regimes and other biotic and abiotic factors.

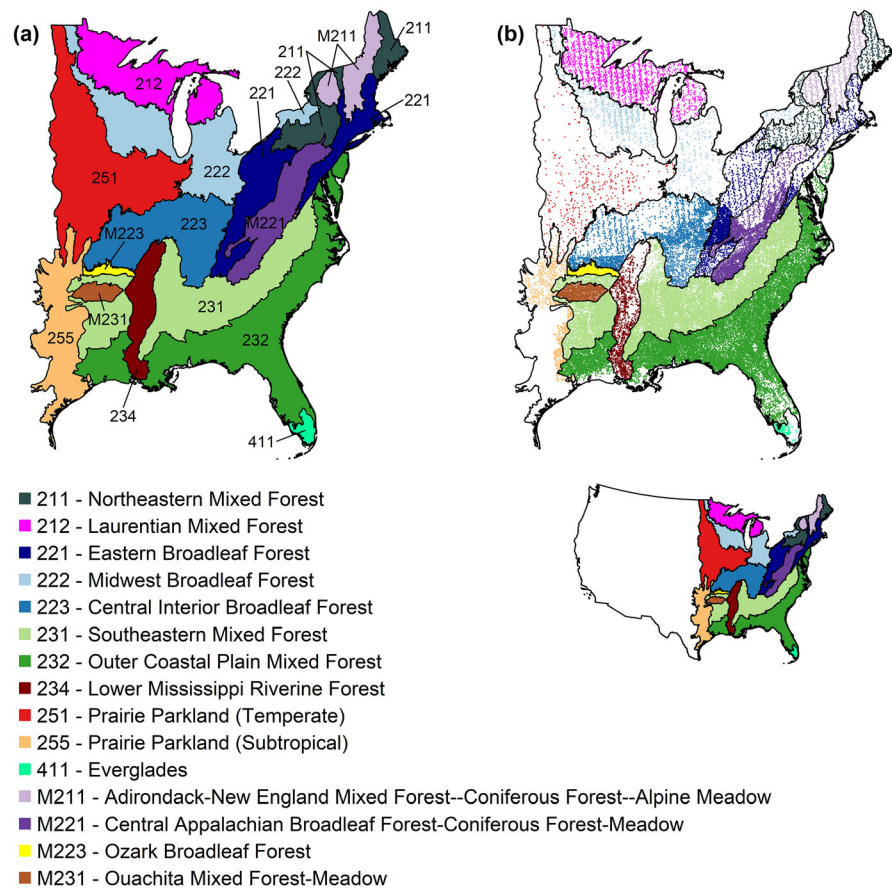
Several studies have focused on the roles of TTCs in invasions at smaller spatial scales (e.g., within counties or national parks and/or within 100 m of TTCs) and/or considered a limited number of plant species. It is less understood, however, if TTCs interact with landscape context to influence the spread of invasive plants at local (i.e., surrounding land use) and/or regional (i.e., ecological province) scales. There is also a dearth of studies investigating how local and regional level processes simultaneously influence invasion under a macroscale context. Here, we intended to quantify the effects of TTCs on plant invasions across forests of the eastern USA. Moreover, we investigated how land use type and ecological province, representing local and regional scale processes, respectively, interact with TTCs to mediate plant invasions.

Materials and methods

Study region

The eastern United States is the most populated and TTC-dense portion of the USA (Heilman et al. 2002), highly invaded by non-native plants (Iannone et al. 2015; Oswalt et al. 2015), and, as a result, a potentially informative area for quantifying effects of TTCs on invasion. Thirty-seven states were examined in this study, which included the eastern parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota and all states eastward (Fig. 1a). Our study area encompassed 15 ecological provinces, including several mixed deciduous (e.g., beech-birch-maple forest) and coniferous forests in the upper Midwest and southeast, oak-hickory forests of the

Fig. 1 Maps displaying **a** ecological provinces and **b** plot locations, indicated by circles that merge together and appear as solid colors in areas with high densities of plots, across the eastern United States



Midwest, and subtropical moist hardwood forests at the most southern latitudes. Climatic regimes ranged from the humid temperate to the humid tropical domains, spanning areas with long and severe winters and a short growing season to typically frost-free areas with > 1200 mm of rainfall per annum. Elevations ranged from 0 to 2000 m.

Invasive plant data

The USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program (www.fia.fs.fed.us) divides the USA into hexagons ~ 2400 ha in size each with at least one permanent plot placed at random on forested land (Bechtold and Patterson 2005). Plots within a hexagon are assigned to one of five panels that are typically sampled on a rotating basis every ~ 5 –7 years in the eastern USA. Since 2001, the forest

inventory program has surveyed invasive plant occurrence across the eastern USA within each FIA plot (Oswalt et al. 2015). The FIA defines an invasive plant as an exotic plant species of any form likely to cause environmental or economic harm (Ries et al. 2004). We acquired data describing the occurrence of each invasive plant in the FIA database (see Oswalt et al. 2015 and citations therein) across 44,404 FIA plots in the eastern USA (Fig. 1b). Each FIA plot consists of four circular subplots (7.3 m in radius, ~ 168 m²) on which invasive plants were surveyed. Thus, for simplicity, we refer to the number of invasive plant species across the four sampled subplots (= species per 168 m² $\times$ 4, or species per 672 m²) as “invasive richness” or “invasive species per plot”. Each plot was only represented once in the data. Plot data came from the most recent sampling period in the database on the date of extraction (6 July

2012) and plots could have been sampled anytime between 2001 and 2011, providing a snapshot of invasive richness.

TTC and landscape context data

Data for TTCs, which included roads and railways of any size, were obtained from the US Census Bureau's Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) line database (USCB 2016). We included all TTCs in our analysis, but note that different types (e.g., paved vs. unpaved) can be associated with disparate influences on invasion (Joly et al. 2011). Railways might also have unique effects, but are known to facilitate invasion (Hansen and Cleverger 2005) and thus were also included. The Euclidean distances to the nearest TTC from the center of each FIA plot were measured using ArcGIS (ESRI 2016).

We use the phrase “landscape context” to refer to the land use types and ecological provinces within which plots were located. Land use types and ecological provinces covered vastly different spatial scales and thus we refer to their influences as local and regional scale effects, respectively. We evaluated local-level effects on plant invasion using land use classifications from the 2006 National Land Cover Database (NLCD), which has a spatial resolution of 0.09 ha (Fry et al. 2011; USGS 2014; Riitters et al. 2018). We measured land use types surrounding each plot within 590×590 ha square (3481 km^2) neighborhoods and classified each square following the exact approach of Riitters et al. (2018): $< 10\%$ agriculture and $< 10\%$ development (= “natural land”), $> 10\%$ agriculture (= “agriculture”), $> 10\%$ development (= “development”), $> 10\%$ agriculture and $> 10\%$ development (“agriculture/development”). Note that in the 2006 NLCD database, development was comprised of four subclasses (Open Space, Low Intensity, Medium Intensity, and High Intensity) and agriculture was comprised of two subclasses (Pasture/Hay, Cultivated Crops). We included all subclasses within land use types in our analysis but did not distinguish among subclass variations with each land use type.

To describe regional scale landscape context, we grouped each FIA plot into one of 15 ecological provinces (Fig. 1). Each province comprised an area of 12,889 to $789,232 \text{ km}^2$ with distinct physical and

biological components having similar productive capabilities, responses to disturbances, and potentials for resource management (Bailey 1995; McNab et al. 2007). Inclusion of ecological provinces in our analyses can also help account for potential latent variables that may vary by region (e.g., disturbance history or sampling intensity).

Statistical analysis

We quantified the effects of distance (km) from the nearest TTC, land use, and ecological province on number of invasive plant species per plot through a three-step process, building a series of generalized linear models (Table 1). For all models, we used a negative binomial (vs. Poisson) regression framework to model counts of invasive plants and account for overdispersion; a log link function was used in each model. For the first step, we fit three models evaluating the effect of each variable individually on invasive richness. For the second step, we fit two models evaluating the effects of interactions between distance from TTC and either land use or ecological province on invasive richness. For the third step, we fit a full model evaluating the effects of distance from TTC, land use, ecological province, and interactions between distance from TTC and each landscape context predictor (i.e., distance from TTC $\times$ land use, distance from TTC $\times$ ecological province) on invasive richness. We reduced this full model using backwards selection by removing interaction terms first, and if applicable, main effects for variables with $P > 0.05$ (statistical significance throughout was defined using $\alpha = 0.05$). We included all main effects for variables when they also appeared as part of an interaction term. Fitting interactions in steps two and three resulted in a unique slope, which we also refer to as decay rate(s), relating invasive richness to distance from the nearest TTC for each level of land use type or ecological province.

We conducted pairwise comparisons of mean invasive richness (models evaluating landscape context variables only) and decay rates in richness (models evaluating interactions of TTCs with landscape context variables) between levels of our landscape context variables using Tukey's HSD (honestly significant difference) tests. We conducted these comparisons via the *emmeans* package in R (Lenth 2020), using the *emtrends* function to compare decay

Table 1 Summary of models developed to estimate invasive plant richness as a function of distance (km) from the nearest terrestrial transport corridor (“DIST”), land use type (“LU”), and/or ecological province (“EP”)

No.	Predictors	FM ^a	MeanPW ^b	SlopePW ^b
1	<i>DIST</i>	F2		
2	<i>LU</i>	T2	TS1.2	
3	<i>EP</i>	T3	TS1.3	
4	<i>DIST</i> + <i>LU</i> + <i>DIST</i> × <i>LU</i>	F3a; T4		F3b; TS1.4
5	<i>DIST</i> + <i>EP</i> + <i>DIST</i> × <i>EP</i>	F4a; T5		F4b; TS1.5
6	<i>DIST</i> + <i>LU</i> + <i>EP</i> + <i>DIST</i> × <i>LU</i> + <i>DIST</i> × <i>EP</i>	F5; T6		F6; TS1.6a,b

Each model was a negative binomial regression fit using a log link function

^aFM: Summary statistics for full models are reported in the indicated figure (F) or table (T)

^bMeanPW or SlopePW: Pairwise comparisons of means (Models 2–3) or slopes (Models 4–6), respectively, between each level of a categorical predictor were conducted using Tukey’s HSD tests and are provided in the indicated figure (F) or table (T). Numbers preceded by an “S” are in supplementary material (e.g., Table S1.2 is the second table of Online Resource 1)

rates. In comparing decay rates in our full model, rates within each land use type were averaged across ecological provinces, and vice versa. In some instances in the results, we report findings from Tukey’s HSD tests as an absolute, minimum value (e.g., all $|Z| > x$). In such instances, we have provided the smallest Z-value estimated when comparing the mean richness or decay rate for a specified level (e.g., “agriculture/development”) to all other levels (e.g., “natural land”, “agriculture”, and “development”) on a pairwise basis, rather than reporting all comparisons. However, all pairwise comparisons between means and slopes for each model, including Z-values, are provided in Online Resource 1. Table 1 provides a key of where each model and the associated pairwise comparisons are presented in the main text and/or supplemental materials. All analyses were completed using R (R Core Team 2020), and estimates of invasive richness are provided as average number of invasive plant species per plot $\pm$ SE. Data supporting the results are available from the Purdue University Research Repository (PURR; <https://doi.org/10.4231/fv6t-nq34>).

Results

Invasive plant richness ($\ln(x)$ -transformed) on forested plots decreased nonlinearly as distance (km) from TTC increased (Fig. 2; slope = -0.62 ± 0.02 , $Z = -35.20$, $P < 0.0001$). According to our model of invasive richness as a function of distance from TTC

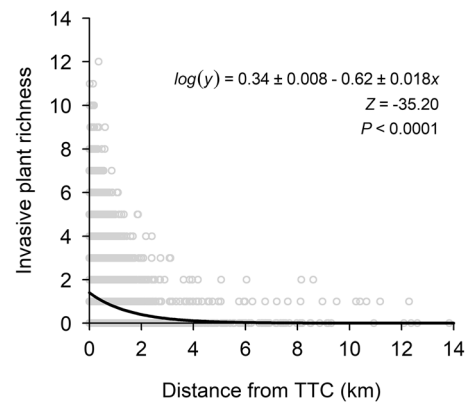


Fig. 2 Invasive plant richness as a function of distance (km) from terrestrial transport corridor (TTC) (Model 1 in Table 1; each point indicates a plot). Invasive plant data are from USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis plots across the eastern USA. Model summary statistics in panel pertain to the slope coefficient for distance

(i.e., without adjusting for local or regional scale influences), there were 1.4 ± 0.01 species per plot directly adjacent to TTCs compared to 0.8 ± 0.01 and 0.2 ± 0.01 species at 1 and 3 km away, respectively, from the nearest TTC.

The local level landscape surrounding each plot significantly influenced invasive richness (Table 2; $\chi^2_3 = 4629.74$, $P < 0.0001$). Areas associated with human activities typically had higher invasive richness: forested plots associated with agriculture/development had 2.1 ± 0.03 invasive species per plot, more than any other land use type (Tukey’s HSD: all $|Z| > 13.22$, $P < 0.0001$). Plots associated with

Table 2 Summary statistics from a negative binomial regression with a log link function predicting invasive richness as a function of land use ($\chi^2_3 = 4629.74$, $P < 0.0001$; Model 2 in Table 1)

Covariate	Coefficient	SE	Z	P	HSD ^a
Intercept: Natural land	− 0.29	0.01	− 32.70	< 0.0001	a
Agriculture	0.65	0.01	54.13	< 0.0001	b
Development	0.69	0.02	31.58	< 0.0001	b
Agriculture/Development	1.03	0.02	54.46	< 0.0001	c

For example, the mean number of invasive plant species per forest plot associated with agriculture was ~ 1.4 ($= e^{-0.29+0.65}$)

^aResults from a Tukey's HSD test. Different letters indicate statistically different groupings. Complete summary statistics are provided in Table S1.2 of Online resource 1

development had 1.5 ± 0.03 invasive species per plot and plots associated with agriculture had 1.4 ± 0.01 species per plot, which were statistically equivalent (Tukey's HSD: $Z = -1.98$, $P = 0.20$). There were 0.7 ± 0.01 invasive species per plot associated with natural land, significantly lower than all other land use types (Tukey's HSD: all $|Z| > 31.57$, $P < 0.0001$). For pairwise comparisons between all land use types, see Table S1.2 in Online Resource 1.

Invasive richness also varied significantly across ecological provinces (Table 3; $\chi^2_{14} = 5843.42$,

$P < 0.0001$). Provinces with the highest invasive richness were the Midwest Broadleaf Forest province (Province 222), which had 2.1 ± 0.06 invasive species per plot, and the Eastern Broadleaf Forest province (Province 221), which had 1.9 ± 0.04 invasive species per plot. These estimates were statistically equivalent (Tukey's HSD: $Z = -2.95$, $P = 0.17$) but significantly higher than all other provinces (Tukey's HSD: all $|Z| > 5.46$, $P < 0.0001$) when each was compared to all other provinces on a pairwise basis. The Adirondack-New England Mixed Forest—

Table 3 Summary statistics from a negative binomial regression with a log link function predicting invasive richness as a function of ecological province ($\chi^2_{14} = 5843.42$, $P < 0.0001$; Model 3 in Table 1)

Covariate	Coefficient	SE	Z	P	HSD ^a
Intercept: Northeastern Mixed Forest (211)	− 0.21	0.04	− 4.60	< 0.0001	de
Laurentian Mixed Forest (212)	− 0.71	0.06	− 12.15	< 0.0001	b
Eastern Broadleaf Forest (221)	0.84	0.05	17.14	< .0001	i
Midwest Broadleaf Forest (222)	0.94	0.05	17.60	< 0.0001	i
Central Interior Broadleaf Forest (223)	0.69	0.05	14.43	< 0.0001	h
Southeastern Mixed Forest (231)	0.63	0.05	13.78	< 0.0001	gh
Outer Coastal Plain Mixed Forest (232)	0.02	0.05	0.48	0.63	e
Lower Mississippi Riverine Forest (234)	0.01	0.06	0.13	0.90	e
Prairie Parkland-Temperate (251)	0.50	0.07	7.34	< 0.0001	g
Prairie Parkland-Subtropical (255)	− 0.23	0.06	− 3.48	0.0005	c
Everglades (411)	− 0.38	0.13	− 2.99	0.0028	bcde
Adirondack-New England Mixed Forest (M211)	− 1.31	0.10	− 13.53	< 0.0001	a
Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest (M221)	0.26	0.05	5.19	< 0.0001	f
Ozark Broadleaf Forest (M223)	− 0.68	0.08	− 8.20	< 0.0001	b
Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow (M231)	− 0.19	0.06	− 3.13	0.0018	cd

For example, the mean number of invasive plant species per plot in province 212 was ~ 0.4 ($= e^{-0.21 - 0.71}$)

^aResults from a Tukey's HSD test. Different letters indicate statistically different groupings. Complete summary statistics are provided in Table S1.3 of Online resource 1

Coniferous Forest—Alpine Meadow province (Province M211) had the lowest invasive richness (0.2 ± 0.03) compared with all other provinces (Tukey's HSD: all $|Z| > 5.64$, $P < 0.0001$). For pairwise comparisons between all ecological provinces, see Table S1.3 in Online Resource 1.

The second step of our analysis provided insight into how landscape context mediated the effects of TTCs on invasive richness. We found that land use influenced the rate at which invasive richness decayed with distance from TTC (Table 4, Fig. 3a; distance from TTC $\times$ land use: $\chi^2_3 = 39.73$, $P < 0.0001$). Despite that plots associated with agriculture/development had higher mean invasive richness than all other land use types (Table 2), invasive richness decayed at similar rates to plots associated with agriculture and agriculture/development (Fig. 3b; Tukey's HSD: $Z = -1.00$, $P = 0.75$). Forested plots associated with development were associated with the most rapid decay in invasive richness compared to all other land use types (Tukey's HSD: all $|Z| > 3.99$, $P < 0.0005$). For example, at 10 m away from the nearest TTC, plots associated with natural land had an estimated 0.9 species compared to 1.7 species on plots associated with development. At 500 m away, plots associated with natural land had an estimated 0.7 species whereas plots associated with development had 1.0 species. For pairwise comparisons between decay rates to plots

associated with different land use types, see Fig. 3b and Table S1.4 in Online Resource 1.

There was also significant variation in decay rates of invasive richness among the 15 ecological provinces (Table 5, Fig. 4a; distance from TTC $\times$ ecological province: $\chi^2_{14} = 394.60$, $P < 0.0001$). The Adirondack-New England Mixed Forest-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow (M211) had the fastest rates of decay whereas the Lower Mississippi Riverine Forest (234) had the slowest (Fig. 4b). Decay rates for these provinces, while significantly different from one another (Tukey's HSD: $Z = 5.68$, $P < 0.0001$), were statistically equivalent to some other provinces; that is, these provinces represented the fastest and slowest decay rates we estimated, but other provinces had statistically similar high or low estimates when conducting pairwise comparisons (Fig. 4b). For example, plots in provinces M211 and 234 were estimated to have 0.5 and 0.9 species, respectively, 10 m away from the nearest TTC compared with 0.2 and 0.8 species, respectively, 500 m away from the nearest TTC. For pairwise comparisons between decay rates within ecological provinces, see Fig. 4b and Table S1.5 in Online Resource 1.

The third step of our analysis—fitting a single, full model with interactions between each landscape context variable and distance from the nearest TTC—demonstrated that the effect of TTCs on plant invasions was influenced by local scale effects from

Table 4 Summary statistics from a negative binomial regression with a log link function predicting invasive richness as a function of distance (km) from nearest TTC, land use, and distance from TTC $\times$ land use (Model 4 from Table 1)

Covariate	Estimate	SE	Z	P
Intercept (Natural land)	− 0.15	0.01	− 12.09	< 0.0001
<i>DIST</i> ($\chi^2_1 = 378.65$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance from nearest TTC	− 0.36	0.02	− 17.30	< 0.0001
<i>LU</i> ($\chi^2_3 = 2106.74$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Agriculture	0.65	0.02	38.26	< 0.0001
Development	0.71	0.03	22.97	< 0.0001
Agriculture/Development	0.95	0.03	33.61	< 0.0001
<i>DIST</i> $\times$ <i>LU</i> ($\chi^2_3 = 39.73$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance $\times$ Agriculture	− 0.14	0.04	− 3.75	0.0002
Distance $\times$ Development	− 0.75	0.14	− 5.29	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ Agriculture/Development	− 0.02	0.12	− 0.14	0.89

For example, invasive richness at one km away from the nearest TTC in forest plots associated with agricultural land was ~ 1.0 ($= e^{-0.15 + 0.65 + (-0.36 - 0.14) \times 1 \text{ km}}$). Fit model is displayed graphically in Fig. 3a and pairwise comparisons of slopes within each level of land use type are provided in Fig. 3b

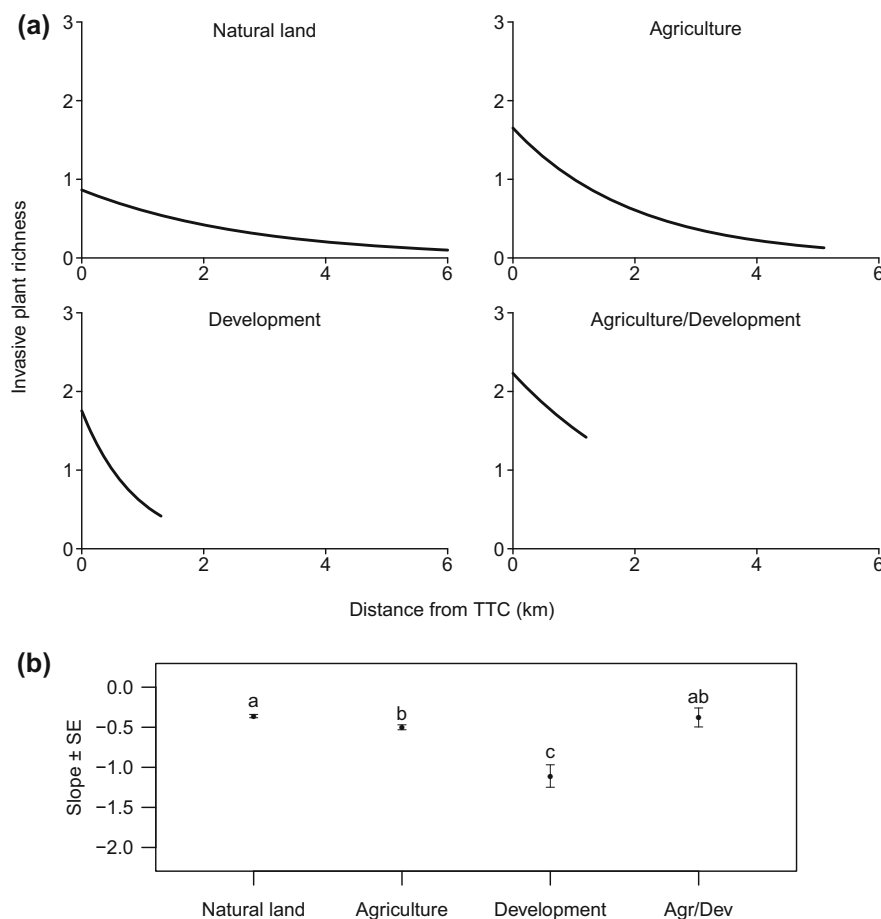


Fig. 3 **a** Invasive plant richness as a function of the interaction of distance from terrestrial transport corridor (TTC) with land use ($\chi^2_3 = 39.73$, $P < 0.0001$; Table 4). Presented with truncated axes and without point clouds, enabling display of the variability among land use types. Lines are only drawn to the distance of the farthest plot within a land use category. For plots

with full axes and data points, see Fig. S2.1 in Online Resource 2. Invasive plant data are from USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis plots across the eastern USA. **b** Results from Tukey's HSD test comparing slopes presented in panel (a) by land use type. Z-values and pairwise comparisons are provided in Table S1.4 of Online Resource 1

land use type (distance from TTC $\times$ land use: $\chi^2_3 = 53.00$, $P < 0.0001$) as well as regional scale effects from ecological provinces (distance from TTC $\times$ ecological province: $\chi^2_{14} = 326.03$, $P < 0.0001$) (Table 6, Fig. 5). Pairwise comparisons of slopes between land use types and ecological provinces in our full model (Fig. 6) yielded similar conclusions to models considering the interactions of each landscape context variable and distance from TTCs separately (i.e., Models 4 and 5 from Table 1). For example, plots associated with natural land and development in M211 were estimated to have 0.4 and 0.7 species, respectively, 10 m away from the nearest TTC compared with 0.2 species on both land use types

at 500 m away from the nearest TTC. In province 234, plots associated with natural land and development were estimated to have 0.6 and 1.1 species, respectively, 10 m away from the nearest TTC compared with 0.6 and 0.8 species, respectively, at 500 m away from the nearest TTC.

Some minor differences in pairwise comparisons between ecological provinces were detected, however (Fig. 6b). For example, Province 251 had the slowest decay rates according to Model 6 whereas according to Model 4 Province 234 had the slowest; both provinces exhibited statistically equivalent decay rates to each other in both models (Tukey's HSD: $|Z| < 0.60$, $P > 0.99$). Tukey's HSD tests using the full model

Table 5 Summary statistics from a negative binomial regression with a log link function predicting invasive richness as a function of distance (km) from nearest TTC, ecological province, and distance from TTC $\times$ ecological province (Model 5 from Table 1)

Covariate	Estimate	SE	Z	P
Intercept (211)	0.27	0.06	4.20	< 0.0001
<i>DIST</i> ($\chi^2_{11} = 97.29$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance from nearest TTC	− 1.50	0.17	− 8.65	< 0.0001
<i>EP</i> ($\chi^2_{14} = 2739.30$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Laurentian Mixed Forest, (212)	− 0.86	0.08	− 10.47	< 0.0001
Eastern Broadleaf Forest, (221)	0.65	0.07	9.10	< 0.0001
Midwest Broadleaf Forest, (222)	0.64	0.08	8.09	< 0.0001
Central Interior Broadleaf Forest, (223)	0.38	0.07	5.40	< 0.0001
Southeastern Mixed Forest, (231)	0.29	0.07	4.45	< 0.0001
Outer Coastal Plain Mixed Forest, (232)	− 0.35	0.07	− 5.26	< 0.0001
Lower Mississippi Riverine Forest, (234)	− 0.39	0.08	− 5.09	< 0.0001
Prairie Parkland-Temperate, (251)	0.09	0.10	0.87	0.38
Prairie Parkland-Sub-Tropical, (255)	− 0.46	0.10	− 4.86	< 0.0001
Everglades, (411)	− 0.68	0.16	− 4.19	< 0.0001
Adirondack-New England Mixed Forest, (M211)	− 1.02	0.14	− 7.49	< 0.0001
Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest, (M221)	0.15	0.07	2.09	0.0363
Ozark Broadleaf Forest, (M223)	− 0.81	0.13	− 6.45	< 0.0001
Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow, (M231)	− 0.36	0.09	− 4.08	< 0.0001
<i>DIST</i> $\times$ <i>EP</i> ($\chi^2_{14} = 394.60$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance $\times$ 212	0.78	0.20	3.97	0.0001
Distance $\times$ 221	0.31	0.20	1.60	0.11
Distance $\times$ 222	0.86	0.22	3.98	0.0001
Distance $\times$ 223	0.95	0.19	5.12	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 231	1.01	0.18	5.70	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 232	1.18	0.18	6.68	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 234	1.37	0.18	7.75	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 251	1.25	0.28	4.42	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 255	0.76	0.24	3.11	0.0019
Distance $\times$ 411	1.27	0.21	5.93	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ M211	− 0.29	0.34	− 0.87	0.39
Distance $\times$ M221	0.12	0.19	0.61	0.54
Distance $\times$ M223	0.53	0.30	1.78	0.08
Distance $\times$ M231	0.54	0.22	2.43	0.0152

For example, invasive richness at one km away from the nearest TTC in forest plots in province 212 was ~ 0.3 ($= e^{0.27 - 0.86 + (-1.50 + 0.78) \times 1 \text{ km}}$). Fit model is displayed graphically in Fig. 4a and pairwise comparisons of slopes within each level of ecological province are provided in Fig. 4b

(Model 6) indicated that decay rates in Province 212 were no longer significantly slower than those in Province 221 ($Z = 1.63$, $P = 0.95$) as they were when conducting such tests using Model 4 ($Z = 3.61$, $P = 0.0241$). Among other minor changes, Province 255 had significantly faster rates than Province M211

according to Tukey's HSD tests when using Model 6 ($Z = 3.43$, $P = 0.0437$), whereas these provinces had statistically equivalent decay rates according to Tukey's HSD tests using Model 4 ($Z = 3.11$, $P = 0.11$), which did not adjust for land use types. For pairwise comparisons between decay rates within

land use types and ecological provinces in the full model, see Fig. 6 as well as Table S1.6a and Table S1.6b, respectively, in Online Resource 1.

Discussion

Terrestrial transport corridors promote the spread of invasive plants and increase propagule pressure for adjacent forests (Gelbard and Belnap 2003). By linking forest inventory data from across the eastern USA with TTC, land use, and ecological province data, we found that invasive plant richness was highest on plots nearest to TTCs regardless of landscape context (Fig. 5). At local scales, plots associated with agriculture and/or development had higher invasive richness than those associated with natural land (Table 2), while at regional scales, invasive richness varied significantly between ecological provinces (Table 3). Decay rates in invasive richness were also influenced by land use and ecological province (Figs. 5, 6), with invasive richness declining fastest on plots associated with development (Figs. 3, 6a). Thus, our study indicated that TTCs have facilitated the invasion of forests across the eastern USA, but that the role of TTCs is highly context dependent (Figs. 5, 6).

Invasive richness was highest on plots nearest to TTCs across land use types (Fig. 3) and ecological provinces (Fig. 4). Across all plots, invasive richness declined from ~ 1.4 invasive species per plot adjacent to TTCs to ~ 1.3 species at 100 m ($\sim 6\%$ decline) and 0.8 species at 1 km ($\sim 50\%$ decline) (Fig. 2). This percent change in richness with distance from the nearest TTC, although not directly comparable due to differences in sampling and focal ecosystems, was similar to other reports. For example, invasive richness in grasslands ranged from ~ 0.5 – 2.5 to ~ 0.2 – 0.4 species per 10 m^2 at 10 and 100 m, respectively, away from TTCs (Barbosa et al. 2010). In mountainous regions of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, invasive richness was ~ 2 and ~ 1 species per 20 m^2 at 1 and 150 m, respectively, away from TTCs, while also declining significantly with increases in elevation (Pollnac et al. 2012). However, rates of decay are often nonlinear (Fig. 5), further complicating comparisons. No significant decay, at least up to 45 m (furthest distance studied) has also been reported (Craig et al. 2010). Indeed, several site-

and ecosystem-level factors, in addition to land use types and ecological provinces, mediate spread away from TTCs and likely drive the wide range of invasive richness and estimates therein.

Variability in decay rates across landscape contexts (Figs. 5, 6) is potentially indicative of biotic resistance. Disturbances adjacent to TTCs facilitate invasion (Angold 1997; Forman and Alexander 1998; Gelbard and Belnap 2003; Watkins et al. 2003), whereas decreased light (Brothers and Spingarn 1992), competition (Parendes and Jones 2000), and/or structure and composition of biotic communities (Harper et al. 2005; Flory and Clay 2009) may inhibit spread into forests. The structure of the forest edge, such as the incidence of thinning, can also impact flux of species into forest interiors (Cadenasso and Pickett 2001). Several of these factors likely vary within and between land use types and ecological provinces. However, plots in some areas may not have been invaded owing to spatial heterogeneity in invasion history. That is, plots in the northeast might have been more invaded as a result of their long associations with human activity rather than being attributable to forest invasibility (Theoharides and Dukes 2007; Lodge et al. 2016). Availability of suitable habitat—independent of biotic resistance—could also explain patterns of invasive richness, given that plots associated with development were also associated with the fastest rates of decay (Figs. 3, 6a). These plots likely (1) had less forested area nearby and (2) were confined to areas near TTCs (i.e., developed areas require spatially proximate roads for access), potentially accelerating decay.

We evaluated land use type and ecological province as two aspects of landscape context, but several others remain. Smaller scale variation in landscape features such as fragmentation, traffic volume, and/or type of TTC, may drive rates of decay in invasive richness but were not accounted for in our macroscale analysis. Specific categories of land use within agriculture (e.g., grazing vs. grain production) and development (e.g., commercial vs. residential) likely have unique influences on plant invasion dynamics but were beyond the scope of our study. We also analyzed community level responses, but TTCs and/or landscape context likely have disparate effects on the invasion dynamics of different plant species (González-Moreno et al. 2013). Indeed, species traits can mediate invasion dynamics (Vallet et al. 2010; Nunez-Mir et al. 2019).

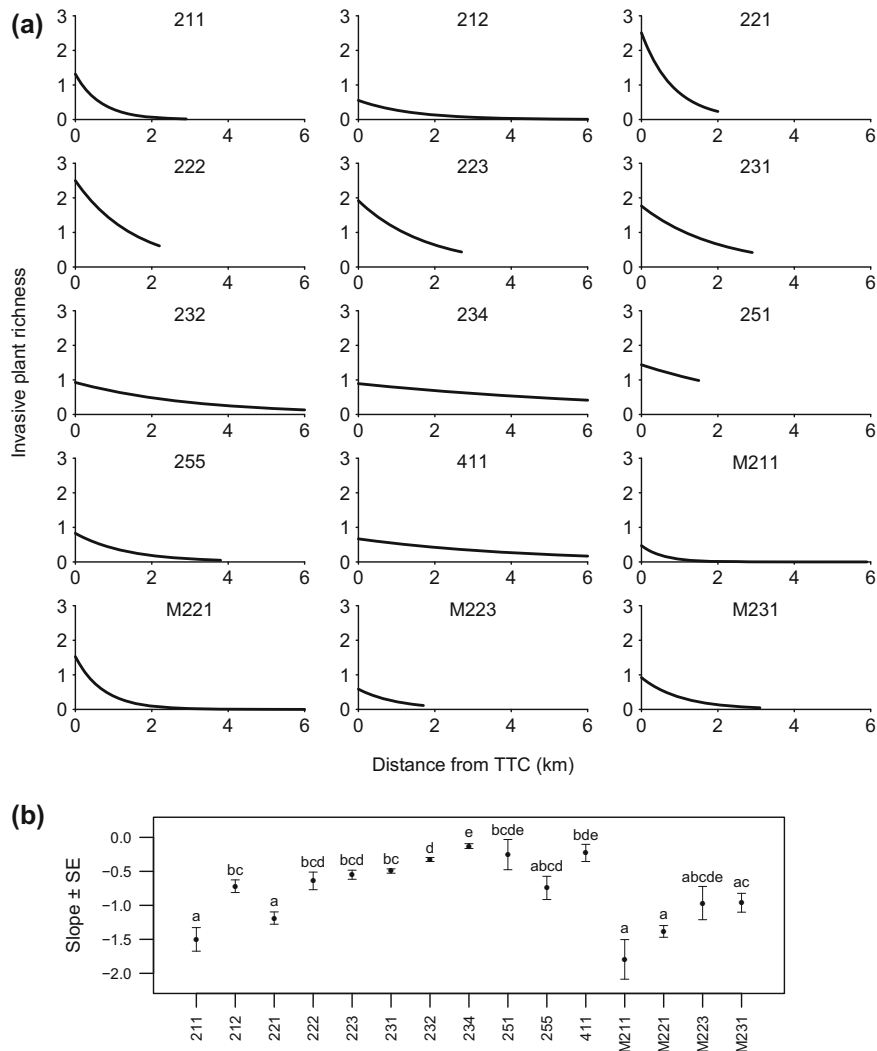


Fig. 4 **a** Invasive plant richness as a function of the interaction of distance from terrestrial transport corridor (TTC) with ecological province ($\chi^2_{14} = 394.60$, $P < 0.0001$; Table 5). Codes for ecological provinces are provided in Fig. 1. Presented with truncated axes and without point clouds, enabling display of the variability among ecological provinces. Lines are only drawn to the distance of the farthest plot within an ecological

province. For plots with full axes and data points, see Fig. S2.2 in Online Resource 2. Invasive plant data are from USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis plots across the eastern USA. **b** Results from Tukey's HSD test comparing slopes presented in panel (a) by ecological province. Z-values and pairwise comparisons are provided in Table S1.5 of Online Resource 1

The effects of TTCs on plant invasions can be confounded with other landscape characteristics, such as human population density and associated land development (Riitters et al. 2018). Here, abundances of land use types likely differed across ecological provinces, suggesting that these categorical predictors were not entirely independent. Such correlations

among predictors could have influenced some model coefficients and associated test statistics. However, results from models with one or both landscape context variables were highly consistent—having similar signs and effect sizes (Figs. 3b, 4b vs. Figure 6a, b, respectively)—and thus we do not believe this potential issue impacted conclusions.

Table 6 Summary statistics from a negative binomial regression with a log link function predicting invasive richness as a function of distance (km) from nearest TTC, land use, ecological province, distance from TTC $\times$ land use, and distance from TTC $\times$ ecological province (Model 6 from Table 1)

Covariate	Estimate	SE	Z	P
Intercept (Natural land, 211)	− 0.10	0.06	− 1.52	0.13
$DIST$ ($\chi^2_1 = 67.11$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance from nearest TTC	− 1.25	0.17	− 7.26	< 0.0001
LU ($\chi^2_3 = 1713.44$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Agriculture	0.57	0.02	34.55	< 0.0001
Development	0.65	0.03	22.11	< 0.0001
Agriculture/Development	0.81	0.03	30.12	< 0.0001
EP ($\chi^2_{14} = 2204.97$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Laurentian Mixed Forest (212)	− 0.74	0.08	− 9.15	< 0.0001
Eastern Broadleaf Forest (221)	0.54	0.07	7.82	< 0.0001
Midwest Broadleaf Forest (222)	0.40	0.08	5.17	< 0.0001
Central Interior Broadleaf Forest (223)	0.24	0.07	3.49	0.0005
Southeastern Mixed Forest (231)	0.22	0.06	3.32	0.0009
Outer Coastal Plain Mixed Forest (232)	− 0.36	0.07	− 5.50	< 0.0001
Lower Mississippi Riverine Forest (234)	− 0.44	0.07	− 5.93	< 0.0001
Prairie Parkland-Temperate (251)	− 0.15	0.10	− 1.51	0.13
Prairie Parkland-Sub-Tropical (255)	− 0.60	0.09	− 6.45	< 0.0001
Everglades (411)	− 0.60	0.16	− 3.90	0.0001
Adirondack-New England Mixed Forest (M211)	− 0.83	0.14	− 6.12	< 0.0001
Central Appalachian Broadleaf Forest (M221)	0.14	0.07	1.99	0.0470
Ozark Broadleaf Forest (M223)	− 0.84	0.12	− 6.80	< 0.0001
Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow (M231)	− 0.22	0.09	− 2.62	0.0087
$DIST \times LU$ ($\chi^2_3 = 53.00$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance $\times$ Agriculture	− 0.19	0.04	− 5.07	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ Development	− 0.75	0.13	− 5.56	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ Agriculture/Development	− 0.03	0.11	− 0.23	0.82
$DIST \times EP$ ($\chi^2_{14} = 326.04$, $P < 0.0001$)				
Distance $\times$ 212	0.68	0.19	3.52	0.0004
Distance $\times$ 221	0.48	0.19	2.48	0.0131
Distance $\times$ 222	0.91	0.21	4.27	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 223	0.98	0.18	5.35	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 231	1.07	0.17	6.12	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 232	1.13	0.17	6.48	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 234	1.21	0.17	6.94	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 251	1.26	0.27	4.59	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ 255	0.74	0.24	3.08	0.0021
Distance $\times$ 411	1.13	0.21	5.46	< 0.0001
Distance $\times$ M211	− 0.40	0.33	− 1.21	0.23
Distance $\times$ M221	0.24	0.19	1.27	0.21
Distance $\times$ M223	0.57	0.30	1.92	0.05
Distance $\times$ M231	0.44	0.22	2.00	0.0460

For example, invasive richness at one km away from the nearest TTC in forest plots associated with agriculture and located in province 212 was ~ 0.4 ($= e^{-0.10 + 0.57 - 0.74 + (-1.25 - 0.19 + 0.68) \times 1 \text{ km}}$). Fit model is displayed graphically in Fig. 5 and pairwise comparisons of slopes within each level of land use type and ecological province are provided in Fig. 6

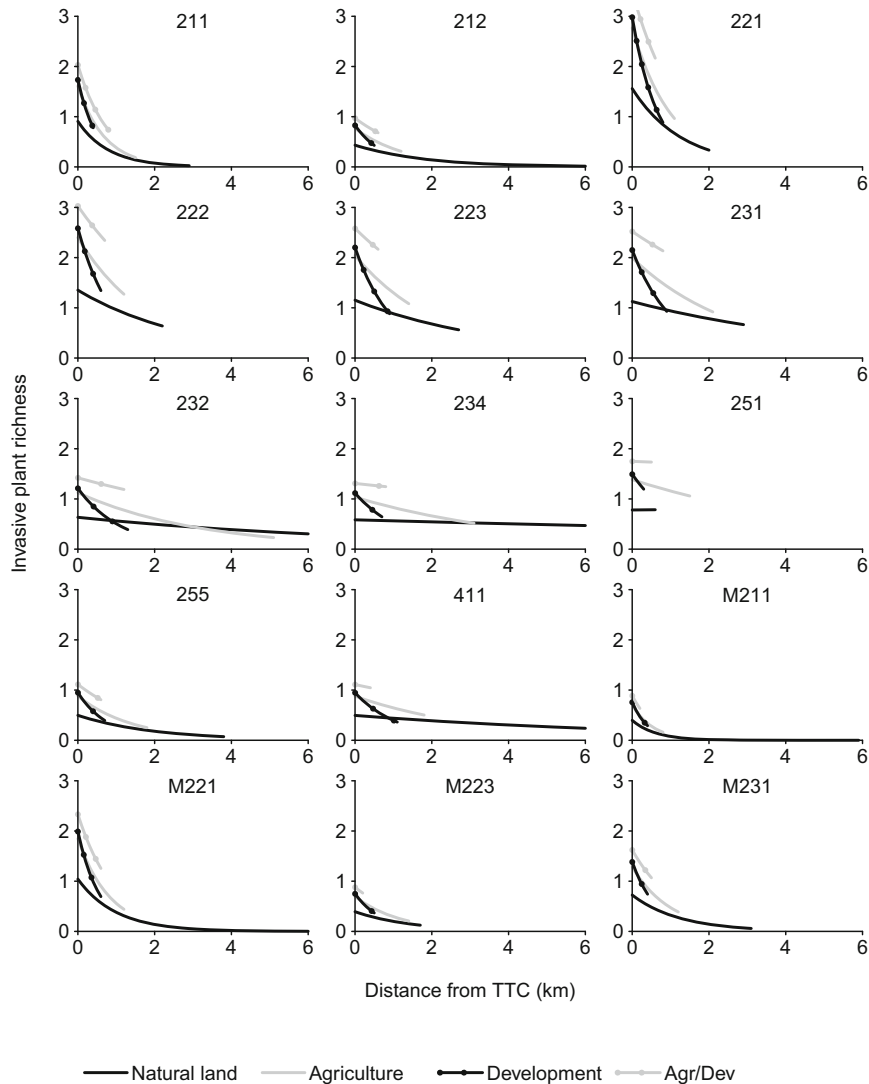


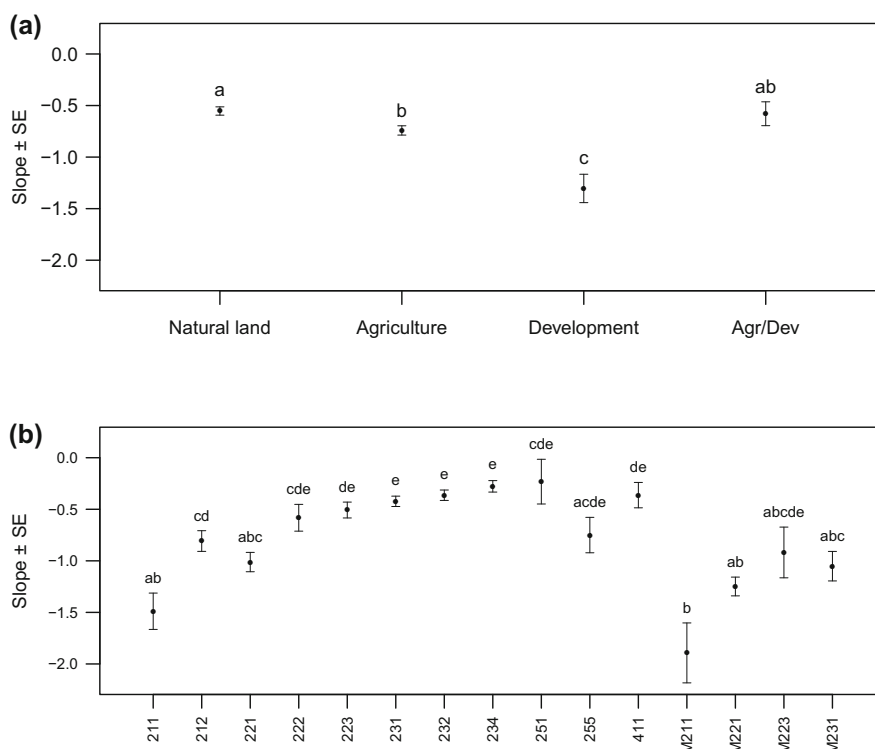
Fig. 5 Invasive plant richness as a function of distance from terrestrial transport corridor (TTC), the interaction of distance from TTC with land use ($\chi^2_3 = 53.00$, $P < 0.0001$), and the interaction of distance from TTC with ecological province ($\chi^2_{14} = 326.03$, $P < 0.0001$). All lines come from a single model (Table 6). Codes for ecological provinces are provided in Fig. 1. Presented with truncated axes and without point clouds, enabling

display of the variability among land use $\times$ ecological province combinations. Lines are only drawn to the distance of the farthest plot within a land use $\times$ ecological province combination. For plots with full axes and data points, see Fig. S2.3 Online Resource 2. Invasive plant data are from USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis plots across the eastern USA

We also note that different TTC types (e.g., paved vs. unpaved) can have unique effects on plant invasions (Joly et al. 2011), and analyses with specific TTC categories could potentially unveil disparate effects of such features across our study area. The importance of different types of TTCs can be species-dependent (Lowry et al. 2020), and our approach cannot stand in

for more targeted analyses on invasion dynamics of a single species. Nonetheless, landscape-scale analyses conducted here elucidated the role of TTCs in increasing invasive plant richness across a large geographic area and highlighted the importance of landscape context.

Fig. 6 Results from Tukey's HSD test comparing slopes presented in Fig. 5 by **a** land use type and **b** ecological province. Z-values and pairwise comparisons are provided in Table S1.6a and S1.6b of Online Resource 1



Acknowledgements We thank the many Forest Inventory and Analysis employees who collected and compiled data analyzed in this study. We also thank two anonymous reviewers and the handling editor for many insightful comments and suggestions that helped improve the manuscript. This research was supported by National Science Foundation Macrosystems Biology Grant 1638702 and the USDA Forest Service.

References

- Angold PG (1997) The impact of a road upon adjacent heathland vegetation: effects on plant species composition. *J Appl Ecol* 34:409–417
- Bailey RG (1995) Descriptions of the ecoregions of the United States. USDA Forest Service
- Barbosa NPU, Fernandes WW, Carneiro MAA, Júnior LAC (2010) Distribution of non-native invasive species and soil properties in proximity to paved roads and unpaved roads in a quartzitic mountainous grassland of southeastern Brazil (rupestrian fields). *Biol Invasions* 12:3745–3755
- Bechtold W, Patterson P (2005) The enhanced Forest Inventory and Analysis program—national sampling design and estimation procedures. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report
- Bonan GB (2008) Forests and climate change: forcings, feedbacks, and the climate benefits of forests. *Science* 320:1444–1449
- Bradley BA, Blumenthal DM, Wilcove DS, Ziska LH (2010) Predicting plant invasions in an era of global change. *Trends Ecol Evol* 25:310–318
- Brooks ML, D’Antonio CM, Richardson DM et al (2004) Effects of invasive alien plants on fire regimes. *Bioscience* 54:677–688
- Brothers TS, Spingarn A (1992) Fragmentation and alien plant invasion of central Indiana old-growth forests. *Conserv Biol* 6:91–100
- Cadenasso ML, Pickett STA (2001) Effect of edge structure on the flux of species into forest interiors. *Conserv Biol* 15:91–97
- Catford JA, Vesk PA, White MD, Wintle BA (2011) Hotspots of plant invasion predicted by propagule pressure and ecosystem characteristics. *Divers Distrib* 17:1099–1110
- Christen D, Matlack G (2006) The role of roadsides in plant invasions: a demographic approach. *Conserv Biol* 20:385–391
- Christen DC, Matlack GR (2009) The habitat and conduit functions of roads in the spread of three invasive plant species. *Biol Invasions* 11:453–465
- Compton JE, Boone RD (2000) Long-term impacts of agriculture on soil carbon and nitrogen in New England forests. *Ecology* 81:2314–2330
- Craig DJ, Craig JE, Abella SR, Vanier CH (2010) Factors affecting exotic annual plant cover and richness along roadsides in the eastern Mojave Desert, USA. *J Arid Environ* 74:702–707
- Csecserits A, Botta-Dukát Z, Kröel-Dulay G et al (2016) Tree plantations are hot-spots of plant invasion in a landscape

- with heterogeneous land-use. *Agric Ecosyst Environ* 226:88–98
- Dimitrakopoulos PG, Koukoulas S, Galanidis A et al (2017) Factors shaping alien plant species richness spatial patterns across Natura 2000 Special Areas of Conservation of Greece. *Sci Total Environ* 601–602:461–468
- Dupouey JL, Dambrine E, Laffite JD, Moares C (2002) Irreversible impact of past land use on forest soils and biodiversity. *Ecology* 83:2978–2984
- Ehrenfeld JG (2003) Effects of exotic plant invasions on soil nutrient cycling processes. *Ecosystems* 6:503–523
- Ehrenfeld JG (2010) Ecosystem consequences of biological invasions. *Annu Rev Ecol Evol Syst* 41:59–80
- ESRI (2016) ArcGIS Desktop: release 10. Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands
- Fei S, Kong N, Stinger J, Bowker D (2008) Invasion pattern of exotic plants in forest ecosystems. In: Ravinder K, Jose S, Singh H, Batish D (eds) *Invasive plants and forest ecosystems*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, pp 59–70
- Fei S, Phillips J, Shouse M (2014) Biogeomorphic impacts of invasive species. *Annu Rev Ecol Evol Syst* 45:69–87
- Fiquepron J, Garcia S, Stenger A (2013) Land use impact on water quality: valuing forest services in terms of the water supply sector. *J Environ Manage* 126:113–121
- Flory SL, Clay K (2006) Invasive shrub distribution varies with distance to roads and stand age in eastern deciduous forests in Indiana, USA. *Plant Ecol* 184:131–141
- Flory SL, Clay K (2009) Effects of roads and forest successional age on experimental plant invasions. *Biol Conserv* 142:2531–2537
- Forman RTT, Alexander LE (1998) Roads and their major ecological effects. *Annu Rev Ecol Syst* 29:207–231
- Forman RTT, Deblinger RD (2000) The ecological road-effect zone of a Massachusetts (U.S.A.) suburban highway. *Conserv Biol* 14:36–46
- Fry JA, Xian G, Jin S et al (2011) Completion of the 2006 National Land Cover Database for the conterminous United States. *Photogramm Eng Remote Sensing* 77:858–863
- Gelbard JL, Belnap J (2003) Roads as conduits for exotic plant invasions in a semiarid landscape. *Conserv Biol* 17:420–432
- González-Moreno P, Pino J, Gassó N, Vilà M (2013) Landscape context modulates alien plant invasion in Mediterranean forest edges. *Biol Invasions* 15:547–557
- Hansen MJ, Clevenger AP (2005) The influence of disturbance and habitat on the presence of non-native plant species along transport corridors. *Biol Conserv* 125:249–259
- Harper KA, Macdonald SE, Burton PJ et al (2005) Edge influence on forest structure and composition in fragmented landscapes. *Conserv Biol* 19:768–782
- Heilman GE, Strittholt JR, Slosser NC, Dellasala DA (2002) Forest fragmentation of the conterminous United States: assessing forest intactness through road density and spatial characteristics. *Bioscience* 52:411–422
- Hejda M, Pyšek P, Jarošík V (2009) Impact of invasive plants on the species richness, diversity and composition of invaded communities. *J Ecol* 97:393–403
- Holmes MA, Matlack GR (2019) Non-native plant species show a legacy of agricultural history in second-growth forests of southeastern Ohio. *Biol Invasions* 21:3063–3076
- Iannone BV, Oswalt CM, Liebhold AM et al (2015) Region-specific patterns and drivers of macroscale forest plant invasions. *Divers Distrib* 21:1181–1192
- Ibisch PL, Hoffmann MT, Kreft S et al (2016) A global map of roadless areas and their conservation status. *Science* 354:1423–1427
- Johnston FM, Johnston SW (2004) Impacts of road disturbance on soil properties and on exotic plant occurrence in sub-alpine areas of the Australian Alps, Arctic. *Antarct Alp Res* 36:201–207
- Joly M, Bertrand P, Gbangou RY et al (2011) Paving the way for invasive species: road type and the spread of common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*). *Environ Manage* 48:514–522
- Kuhman TR, Pearson SM, Turner MG (2010) Effects of land-use history and the contemporary landscape on non-native plant invasion at local and regional scales in the forest-dominated southern Appalachians. *Landsc Ecol* 25:1433–1445
- Kuhman TR, Pearson SM, Turner MG (2011) Agricultural land-use history increases non-native plant invasion in a southern Appalachian forest a century after abandonment. *Can J For Res* 41:920–929
- Lenth R (2020) emmeans: estimated marginal means, aka least-squares means. R package version 1.4.7. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=emmeans>
- Lodge DM, Simonin PW, Burgiel SW et al (2016) Risk analysis and bioeconomics of invasive species to inform policy and management. *Annu Rev Environ Resour* 41:453–488
- Lowry BJ, Lowry JH, Jarvis KJ et al (2020) Spatial patterns of presence, abundance, and richness of invasive woody plants in relation to urbanization in a tropical island setting. *Urban For Urban Green* 48:126516
- Lundgren MR, Small CJ, Dreyer GD (2004) Influence of land use and site characteristics on invasive plant abundance in the Quinebaug Highlands of southern New England. *Northeast Nat* 11:313–332
- Martin PH, Canham CD, Marks PL (2009) Why forests appear resistant to exotic plant invasions: intentional introductions, stand dynamics, and the role of shade tolerance. *Front Ecol Environ* 7:142–149
- McNab WH, Cleland DT, Freeouf JA, et al (2007) Description of ecological subregions: Sections of the conterminous United States [CD-ROM]. Gen. Tech. Report WO-76B. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, pp 1–80.
- Mortensen DA, Rauschert ESJ, Nord AN, Jones BP (2009) Forest roads facilitate the spread of invasive plants. *Invasive Plant Sci Manag* 2:191–199
- Nunez-Mir GC, Guo Q, Rejmánek M et al (2019) Predicting invasiveness of exotic woody species using a traits-based framework. *Ecology* 100:1–11
- Oswalt CM, Fei S, Guo Q et al (2015) A subcontinental view of forest plant invasions. *NeoBiota* 24:49–54
- Parendes LA, Jones JA (2000) Role of light availability and dispersal in exotic plant invasion along roads and streams in the H.J. Andrews experimental forest, Oregon. *Conserv Biol* 14:64–75
- Pauchard A, Alaback PB (2004) Influence of elevation, land use, and landscape context on patterns of alien plant invasions

- along roadsides in protected areas of south-central Chile. *Conserv Biol* 18:238–248
- Pejchar L, Mooney HA (2009) Invasive species, ecosystem services and human well-being. *Trends Ecol Evol* 24:497–504
- Pino J, Font X, Carbó J et al (2005) Large-scale correlates of alien plant invasion in Catalonia (NE of Spain). *Biol Conserv* 122:339–350
- Pollnac F, Seipel T, Repath C, Rew LJ (2012) Plant invasion at landscape and local scales along roadways in the mountainous region of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. *Biol Invasions* 14:1753–1763
- Rauschert ESJ, Mortensen DA, Bloser SM (2017) Human-mediated dispersal via rural road maintenance can move invasive propagules. *Biol Invasions* 19:2047–2058
- Rew LJ, Brummer TJ, Pollnac FW et al (2018) Hitching a ride: seed accrual rates on different types of vehicles. *J Environ Manage* 206:547–555
- Ries P, Dix ME, Lelmini M, Thomas D (2004) National strategy and implementation plan for invasive species management. United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington, D.C.
- Riitters KH, Potter K, Iannone BV et al (2018) Landscape correlates of forest plant invasions: a high-resolution analysis across the eastern United States. *Divers Distrib* 24:274–284
- Saunders DA, Hobbs RJ, Margules CR (1991) Biological consequences of ecosystem fragmentation: a review. *Conserv Biol* 5:18–32
- Schmidt W (1989) Plant dispersal by motor cars. *Vegetatio* 80:147–152
- Skultety D, Matthews JW (2017) Urbanization and roads drive non-native plant invasion in the Chicago Metropolitan region. *Biol Invasions* 19:2553–2566
- Stoate C, Boatman ND, Borralho RJ et al (2001) Ecological impacts of arable intensification in Europe. *J Environ Manage* 63:337–365
- R Core Team (2020) R: a language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. <https://www.R-project.org/>
- Theoharides KA, Dukes JS (2007) Plant invasion across space and time: factors affecting nonindigenous species success during four stages of invasion. *New Phytol* 176:256–273
- Trombulak SC, Frissell CA (2000) Review of ecological effects of roads on terrestrial and aquatic communities. *Conserv Biol* 14:18–30
- Tyser RW, Worley CA (1992) Alien flora in grasslands adjacent to road and trail corridors in Glacier National Park, Montana (U.S.A.). *Conserv Biol* 6:253–262
- USCB (2016) TIGER/Line shapefiles. U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division, Spatial Data Collection and Products Branch, Washington DC. <http://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/data/tiger.html>
- USGS (2014) NLCD 2006 land cover, 2011th edn. Geological Survey, Sioux Falls
- Vallet J, Beaujouan V, Python J et al (2010) The effects of urban or rural landscape context and distance from the edge on native woodland plant communities. *Biodivers Conserv* 19:3375–3392
- Vilà M, Pujadas J (2001) Land-use and socio-economic correlates of plant invasions in European and North African countries. *Biol Conserv* 100:397–401
- Vilà M, Espinar JL, Hejda M et al (2011) Ecological impacts of invasive alien plants: a meta-analysis of their effects on species, communities and ecosystems. *Ecol Lett* 14:702–708
- Watkins RZ, Chen J, Pickens J, Brososke KD (2003) Effects of forest roads on understory plants in a managed hardwood landscape. *Conserv Biol* 17:411–419
- Yates ED, Levia DF, Williams CL (2004) Recruitment of three non-native invasive plants into a fragmented forest in southern Illinois. *For Ecol Manage* 190:119–130

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.