

Dear Friend,

We invite you to participate in an informational meeting of the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Association on November 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center to learn about our association and efforts to prevent the spread of invasive plants in our region. As you are aware, many species of non-native invasive plants such as leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, and Eurasian watermilfoil are spreading rapidly in our region. These invasive plants are species that have been introduced to North America and lack the natural controls to keep their populations in check. Explosive population growth by many of these plants can cause serious ecological and economic harm to public and private lands.

Why are invasive plants a major concern for all of us?

- As of 1996, the costs for the control of invasive species (including both plants and animals) in the United States was estimated at \$137 billion per year and growing.
- Invasive plants directly affect forestry, agriculture, subsistence hunting and fishing, and many outdoor recreational pursuits.
- Local towns and counties are legally responsible for the control of some invasive plants on town and county property and along roadways, which act as a major conduit for invasive plants.
- Infestations of invasive plants have depressed private property values in some areas.
- Invasive plants have disrupted the delicate balance of natural ecosystems in some areas by changing environmental conditions or by changing natural processes.

How do we stop invasive plants and protect our ecosystem?

Across the United States, state and federal agencies, tribes, local governments, and private landowners are joining forces to battle invasive species. In northern Wisconsin, formation of the **Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Association (NCWMA)** (formerly known as the Northwoods Weed Initiative) is being proposed to help reduce the economic and environmental impact of invasive plants in our region. This association will stretch across the northern tier of Wisconsin, including Ashland, Bayfield, Iron, and Douglas counties. Your participation in this association will help to curb the spread of invasive plants.

What are the benefits and goals of the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Association?

- **Strategic planning**
 - ♦ Development of a weed management plan will provide a foundation for informed decision making and consensus-building.
- **Prevention of new infestations**
 - ♦ Raising public awareness will prevent new introductions and slow the spread of established infestations.
- **Encourage efficient use of scarce resources**
 - ♦ Coordination of activities and sharing available resources will reduce duplication of effort and provide resources to those who have the will but lack the means.
- **Fundraising for invasive plant management**
 - ♦ Leveraging pooled resources will enhance the success of competitive grant opportunities.

Who are the current participants in the Northwood's Cooperative Weed Management Association?

- ◆ Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
- ◆ Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- ◆ National Park Service
- ◆ The Nature Conservancy
- ◆ Town of Washburn
- ◆ Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute
- ◆ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ◆ USDA Forest Service
- ◆ USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ US EPA
- ◆ UW-Extension
- ◆ Washburn High School – Ecology Club

How can I learn more about the Northwood's Cooperative Weed Management Association?

Northwood's Cooperative Weed Management Association invites you to attend the informational meeting on **November 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** to learn more about the association. Please mark your calendar for this important first step of the newly formed Northwood's Cooperative Weed Management Association.

Come join with us to stop the spread of invasive plants in our region!!!

With regards,
Northwoods Weed Initiative

For further information on Northwood's Cooperative Weed Management Association, please contact:

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