

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland

Tuesday, January 12, 2010 10:00 am

***Present:** Heather Palmquist (Iron Co), Colleen Matula (DNR), Darienne McNamara (NCWMA Coordinator), Jane Swenson (Delta and Iron River Area Lakes Associations), Dara Olson (GLIFWC), Miles Falck (GLIFWC), Steve Garske (GLIFWC), Stefania Strzalkowska (Bayfield County L&WCD), Isaiah Messerly (NPS), Matt Bushman (USFS)*

- **Donut Discussion - Invasive Species Habitat Suitability Modeling**

- Miles and Steve (GLIFWC) working on developing habitat suitability models for invasive species; using data from the NCWMA area, then applying it beyond that area
- model accuracy varies by species at this point, working on refining the model
- interested in feedback on how the data could be applied or utilized - consider: the NCWMA has a wealth of distribution data (far more than most other areas), so how can we use this to our advantage? what kinds of information do we need? who else should we provide with information (i.e. local decision-makers, public, etc)?

- **Control Techniques workshop** - Rick Schulte and Lee Shambeau, professional contractors who treat invasive species in the tri-state area, will be presenting the latest information on control methods (mostly herbicide, although Colleen will add info about alternatives) at the SOEI at Northland College on March 10 from 8:30am-2pm - bring your questions, and don't forget to RSVP!

- **Municipal Workshops -**

- Hwy Commissioners from Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, Iron, Washburn, and Lincoln counties provided input on agenda topics, locations, and dates
- based on input from Hwy Commissioners, looking like 4 half-day workshops in April/May
- agenda will include plant ID, NR40 & BMP's, impacts of invasives, control techniques, and discussion
- we got a big helping hand from the WI Towns Assoc, who provided contacts for all town supervisors and is handing out a flyer at their district meetings prior to the workshops
- thanks to Isaiah for lots of help with the prep for these workshops!

- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative -**

- Chequamegon Bay Area Partnership (larger group encompassing three counties and many agencies/organizations) - one large proposal was submitted under the invasive species category to fund three roving crews that would treat invasives all summer, two boat landing interns, and two AIS inventory interns; proposal was for approx \$1M; expect to hear back in March

- USFS - expect to receive these funds any day now, funds will be used to extend Coordinator position; had planned to use portion of funds to treat gravel pits, but would need an add'l \$6-7K match (USFS can't pay for 100% of contracted labor under their Partnership Agrmt's); total funds equal \$50K, but closer to \$42K after USFS and Bayfield Co overhead is taken out

- **North County Trail Association**

- Aug 5-6 the National NCTA Meeting will be held in Ashland; Carmen has agreed to accompany some of their sessions to provide info on invasives, she is looking for another volunteer from the NCWMA (Stephen Spickerman was volunteered since the NCT is in his backyard - thanks Steve!); the NCWMA should have a booth at the meeting
- Tana Turonie from Mellen is part of the local chapter and interested in having a work day on invasives with the NCTA chapter; Miles pointed out that another local chapter to the east of Mellen could be invited as well

- **Mellen**

- Tana Turonie from Mellen recently spoke to the City of Mellen at a public meeting regarding invasive species, getting invasives on their radar
- suggested a display and info kit at the Mellen Library (Isaiah and Carmen have been discussing similar displays in local libraries for Inv Species Awareness Month in June)
- *please bring all your invasive species brochures, handouts, and flyers to the next meeting so we can prepare an informational kit for the library - Colleen will deliver it after the March meeting*

- **Landowner Handout** - Isaiah is creating a handout for landowners who have invasives and would like to get rid of them; gives info on the NCWMA tool shed, local contractors, cost-share programs, etc.; Darienne and Isaiah working on final draft, expect to be done in March

- **Summer Work Days**

- April 17: Buckthorn in ravine at Northland College, partnering with SOEI
- May 21/22: Garlic Mustard in Mellen, hand-pulling and weed torch, partner with NCTA local chapters, Friends of Copper Falls State Park, Bad River Watershed Assoc
- May 23: Cheq Bay Birding & Nature Festival, invasive species workshop from 9:00-11:45am, cutting buckthorn and honeysuckle at the Visitor Center and Wildlife Refuge
- June __: Little Turtle Flambeau Flowage? partner with DNR? Heather will check with DNR
- July? ideas: lakefront trail or corridor in Ashland, knotweed in Washburn, others?
- Aug 10 Purple loosestrife in Turtle Flambeau Flowage, backpack spraying, partner with Iron Co Conservation Dept and WDNR, use canoes, DNR will provide lunches
- Sept __: Leafy spurge site - begin restoration?

• **Round Robin:**

- **Matt** contract for knapweed control in barrens, partnership agreement for GLRI
- **Colleen** not doing much with invasives right now
- **Heather** busy with the native plant sale for Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties; meeting with lake groups in prep for the upcoming field season; possibly going to be updating their website and starting a newsletter, invasive species would be featured in both
- **Jane** working with Iron River Area Lakes Assoc and Delta Lakes Assoc's who may be interested in joining the NCWMA
- **Isaiah** just finished interviews for crew members for summer, helping Darienne with ROW workshop planning and landowner handout, gathering info on aquatic herbicide permitting for MN, WI, MI, and IN (in prep for field season)
- **Steve** habitat modeling
- **Stefania** working on lake association/group round tables, similar to CWMA Symposium but for lake groups, scheduled to occur in April; working on items in AIS Strategic Plan
- **Dara** not doing much with invasives right now

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010

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9am Donut Discussion: TBD

10am Business Meeting