

## Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Iron County Forestry Department, Hurley

Thursday, December 04, 2008

### Donut Discussion

Topic: increase participation with Iron County groups and Highway/ROW workshops.

- Iron County Organizations
  - Master Gardeners (local chapter) would be a good group to tap into – start a work day in the county
- County/Highway Workshops (Invasive species workshops for town and county work crews):
  - State is working on BMPs (Best Management Practices) for ROWs (Right-of-ways) and will be developing educational materials for local workshops.
    - Once BMPs have been completed, all certified forests must comply (county, state, national)
    - ROW BMPs have not been started – too long to wait until ed materials are developed
  - Iron County has some funding to put on a workshop
    - Pilot workshop this year and assess/track usefulness to folks out in the field over the summer to improve/adjust workshops to be most effective
  - Resources/hand-outs at workshops:
    - Look at what other groups are doing
    - Distribution maps for known invasive species occurrences – use to choose target species
    - Message: this is what you need to do
      - Make requests feasible – shake/knock/sweep off boom after large infestations – decrease spread
      - Report infestations – with hopes in the future for potential treatment (Ashland County currently does some treatment)
      - Separate Forestry/Highway departments – different target message & audience
    - ID guides, local contact card (tape to the back of ID guide), phenology chart, mounted specimens of critical species to post at the main office, seed mix sources – native or non-native non-invasive alternatives (~ex: Deer Creek, Ashland)
  - Developed contacts/resources:
    - SE CWMA, Jill Hapner (Washington County) – conducted prior local workshops
    - Town Associations (meet monthly, one representative each town - statewide) – already developed presentation on invasives
    - Federal Highways started BMPs – Carmen has contact
    - MN Hwy Department (NE MN) – presented at MN Invasive Species conference in Duluth
    - Mark Morey, Town of Washburn – good contact on how to get participation – help with the workshop? Better buy-in?
    - Keith Sowl – Madeline Island, Town of LaPointe, Town Supervisor
    - WDNR forestry/wildlife invasives days (Colleen)
      - Focused on: ID, methods of control, legal (NR 40), why they should care, field portion with identification and control demonstration
  - Workshop Timing
    - Plan for mid/late April so if we receive the NFWF grant that it could fill part of the requirements
    - Mid/late May – more species out for a better field portion/hands on with identification

## Business Meeting

Present: Heather Palmquist (Iron County Conservation Dept), Carmen Chapin (NPS, GL EPMT), Jo Vairus (Iron County Forester, Iron County Conservation Dept), Stefania Stralzkowska (Bayfield County), MaryJo Gingras (Iron County Conservation Dept), Miles Falck (GLIFWC), Naomi (Bad River Natural Resources Department), Colleen Matula (DNR), Ian Schackleford (Ottawa National Forest), Steven Spickerman (Cheq.Nicolet NF) and Dara Olson (GLIFWC).

- Wisconsin Coastal Management Plan Grant
  - Purchased: 100 pairs of work gloves, \$50 REI gift certificate for Darienne (thank you for all of her work with the NCWMA)
  - \$395.69 left over – will purchase 100 MIPN ID pocket guides (\$3 per guide for pre-orders) for workshops and \$75 membership with IPAW
- Transition
  - Carmen is no longer able to work with the NCWMA as part of her job
  - NPS network only concerned with number of acres treated by the EPMT
  - Need a replacement to be the leader/organizer
    - Steven will talk with Matt about taking over that role – might be a perfect fit as the National Forests are trying to get CWMA's started throughout their land base area
- Grant Applications
  - NRF of WI, C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant
    - Isaiah completed the grant application for incentives to community groups (sportsmen's, schools, scouts, etc.), focusing on Prentice Park – sending in before he goes on furlough
  - ArcelorMittal Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Program Grant
    - Stefania and Dara completed the grant application to fund a half time coordinator (18 months), county-wide workshops (4) and town workshops (16), field days for two years (10), demo site signs (4) and some equipment – total of \$35,000 with 50% grant requirement
    - Notification date: April 15<sup>th</sup>

## Round Robin

- Stefania, Bayfield County
  - Contacted the Boy Scouts local organizer/leader about potential work with the county and NCWMA (invasive species badge) – has not received a response
  - Working on the WCMP grant's completion report – will determine what we need and what has already been completed (Michele's CD) and send an email to the distribution list of needs.
  - Press release to local media to thank the AIS volunteers in the county for all their work and dedication this past season and will be sending individual appreciation letters to lake associations and local towns.
- Ian, Ottawa NF
  - Controlling the Iron County giant hogweed sites on a volunteer basis – potential for the NCWMA & partners to take over with monitoring and treatment
    - Three sites total in Wisconsin (most sites in Ironwood being treated)
    - Treatment once per year
    - Potential to get the local Master Gardeners chapter involved (Lynn)
  - New sighting of garlic mustard in Ironwood – sent out a press release to the local paper
- Naomi, Bad River Natural Resources Dept.
  - Working on the AIS plant management plan – WCMP grant – request for GLIFWC to review
  - Holding a terrestrial invasives workshop this winter/spring – BIA may request assistance from NCWMA members
- Carmen, NPS
  - Isaiah wrote the incentives grant – contacted the City of Ashland (Alyssa) for potential involvement (Prentice Park)
  - Isaiah may be able to attend some of the NCWMA meetings

- Julie Van Stappen will try to keep up to date with the NCWMA, but may be too busy to attend meetings or be actively involved
- Dara, GLIFWC
  - Took a new position at GLIFWC as the GIS/Database specialist – will be decreasing the amount of time available to work with the NCWMA – invasives will only be a small part of the position.
  - Still plan on trying to make the meetings – will continue to help out with the summer work days on a volunteer basis
- Heather, Iron County Conservation Department
  - Developing boat landing signs (interpretive sign with photos) for the county – please email her any examples of signs that are effective – will stay with the national SAH campaign for steps of action
- Steven, Chequamegon Nicolet NF
  - Invasives crew is completed – met goal of 600 acres
  - Next year the goal has been increased to 900 acres with no increased budget
- Miles, GLIFWC
  - Completing annual reports, working on the database transition to Open Source software
  - Invasive Species Advisory Council (ISAC) meeting in Baltimore this fall
    - Biofuels – rush to develop alternatives
      - *Arundo* already planted in the Everglades
      - Cellulosic – switch grass/hybrid poplar – even native species will be genetically modified
      - Department of Energy is not part of ISAC
    - ISAC made recommendations in the past, but does not seem to be effective – struggling with the role of ISAC and how to accomplish goals
    - Plan to raise awareness of ISAC with the new administration and invite the Department of Energy to be involved
- Colleen, WDNR
  - State Forest invasive species strategies will be completed by this January for each forest. Areas in the plans include: 1) inventory, 2) education and awareness, 3) treatment and control and 4) monitoring.
  - Budgets are looking very minimal
  - Garlic mustard biocontrol was planned for release in the southern part of the state – will follow-up to see the status of the releases.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center.** The donut discussion will begin at 9a.m. and the business meeting at 10 a.m. Donut discussion topic will cover a combination of topics including: WEEB grant, highway workshops follow-up and developing the work calendar for the 2009 NCWMA field season.