

**COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA PROPOSAL**  
*October, 2005*

**PURPOSE:**

In order to reduce the economic and environmental impacts of invasive plants, federal, state, local, & tribal agencies along with municipalities, various organizations, and special interest groups across the United States have joined forces to form Cooperative Weed Management Associations (CWMA). The Northwoods Weed Initiative hereby seeks to be recognized, with its community partners, as the Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Association (NCWMA). As such, the NCWMA will increase the impact of the current Northwoods Weed Initiative, facilitate funding opportunities, and join the ranks of CWMA's forming across the country.

(Refer to Appendix A for current and past projects of the Northwoods Weed Initiative.)

**LOCATION:**

The area encompassing the NCWMA will include Bayfield, Ashland, Douglas, and Iron counties in the state of Wisconsin. These four counties also coincide with the Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron Land Conservation Department service area.

**GOALS:**

1. Coordinate activity and pool resources among agencies, municipalities, tribes, organizations, and special interest groups.
2. Continue control efforts and prevent the spread of leafy spurge.
3. Continue control efforts and prevent the spread of purple loosestrife.
4. Raise public awareness of current and potential invasive plant species.
5. Develop a weed management plan for the NCWMA.
  - a. Inventory and map existing invasive plant populations.
  - b. Prioritize current threats as well as the impacts of future invaders.
  - c. Develop species specific treatment protocols.
  - d. Prioritize management efforts.
6. Obtain funding to meet project needs.

**ORGANIZATIONAL COMPONENTS:**

It is suggested that the NCWMA operate through a board of directors (group of partners) and a steering committee. The NWCMA will produce a list of responsibilities by and to the parties, a strategic plan, and an annual operating plan. The NWCMA will also produce an annual report listing fiscal information and project successes.

It is suggested that the NCWMA establish fiscal capabilities through the ABDI Land Conservation Department.

**ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS:**

**Federal**

National Park Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
USDA Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Regional**

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior  
The Nature Conservancy

**State**

University of Wisconsin - Extension

**Local**

Northland College  
Private Citizens  
Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute  
Town of Washburn  
Washburn High School

**INVITED PARTICIPANTS:**

**Federal**

US Geological Service

**Regional**

Tribes

**State**

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

**Local**

ABDI Land Conservation Department (serving the four counties)  
Cities of Ashland, Bayfield, Washburn  
Northern Native Plantscapes  
Private Citizens  
Towns

**CURRENT FUNDING:**

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Noxious Weed Program)

National Park Service

Town of Washburn

US Environmental Protection Agency (Glenpo)

US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA Forest Service

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

University of Wisconsin – Extension