

NCWMA RAC Project 2011-12

Providing local road crews with training and information
to effectively implement roadside invasive species BMPs

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Project Basics

FUNDING: Chequamegon National Forest – Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Title II grant funding - \$45,330

TIMELINE: Spring 2011 through Fall 2012

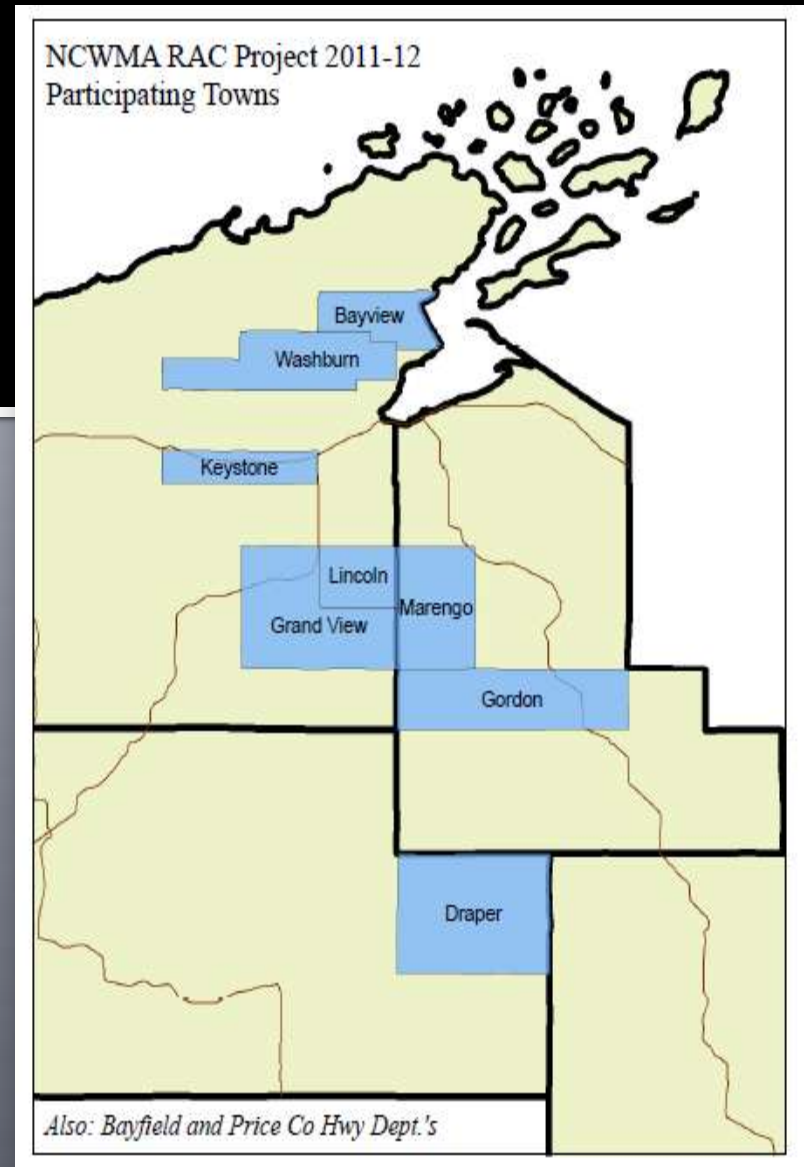
PARTNERS:

- Northwoods CWMA: Project Coordination
- SOEI/Northland College: internship administration
- Municipalities: adjacent to Chequamegon N.F.
- Bayfield County LWCD: grant administration
- USFS: funding contact

Project Basics

PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES:

- Had to be adjacent to or include Chequamegon National Forest (due to RAC Title II funding)



Project Components



RIGHT-OF-WAY WORKSHOPS:

Invasive species management, impacts, ID and BMPs

- 2010 Workshops
 - 110 counties, 40 municipalities, 102 total participants
 - positive responses, but requested more info and training
- 2011 Workshops
 - lower turnout (about half) but new municipalities and participants
 - recruited municipalities for participation in the project in 2011



Project Components

INVENTORY

- 8 townships and 2 counties
 - Townships: ALL town roads (avg. 89 miles/town) plus coarse survey of gravel pits in some townships
 - Counties: 130 miles of county highways in each county
- On foot (drove slowly on quiet forest roads with very few invasives)
- 970+ miles surveyed– here to Chicago *and back!*
- 9043 individual plant populations recorded
- 23 species of emergent and terrestrial invasive plants recorded



Project Components

TRAINING

- 1) Meet with road crew at garage.
- 2) Drive their roads to see invasive plants within their jurisdiction.
- 3) Talk about how to ID each species.
- 4) Conduct treatment *with road crews*.
- 5) Discuss treatment protocol, equipment, considerations, etc.



Project Components

TREATMENT

- Conducted with road crews during training
- 40 hours (minimum) of treatment by each participating municipality, total of 400 hours including spraying, mowing, and hand-cutting
- Estimate total of 50 acres treated

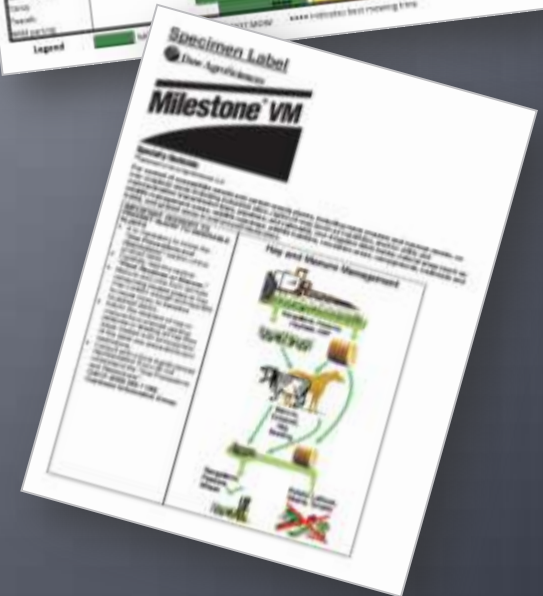
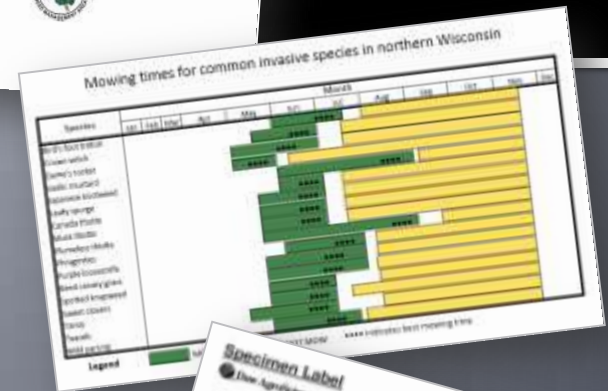
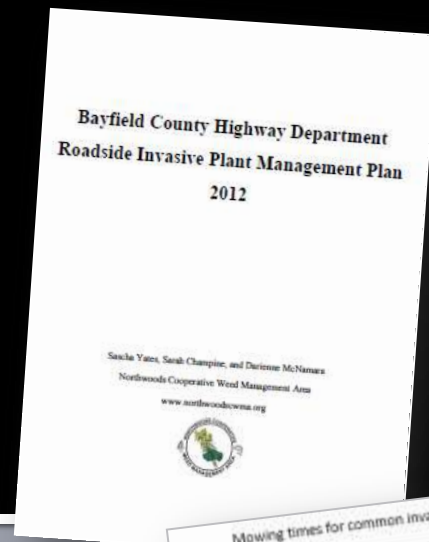


Project Components

MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Species, priorities, and trouble spots unique to each town
- Management recommendations with specific instructions
- Appendices with useful resources

...ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE in 2012



Observations

Gravel Pits: private vs. municipal

Mowing: more the better (min. of twice)

Infestation Severity: more residents/visitors

Species Occurrences:

- Japanese knotweed in Marengo
- Dalmatian toadflax in Bayview
- Wild parsnip becoming more widespread?
- Black locust becoming more widespread?
- Usual suspects



Observations

Road crews were eager to help and do the right thing, just pressed for time (weather events) and need guidance.

Resident had concerns about herbicide use. This was alleviated by providing honest, thorough information each time they had questions (which was often!). Important to acknowledge their concerns and address them honestly.

Lots of layers of administration. Worked out alright, but complicated matters (Bayfield Co, USFS, SOEI/Northland College, NCWMA...).

Looking forward...

BMP's implemented?

NCWMA providing technical assistance?

Improved roadside invasive plant management?