



Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area

Working Together to Protect Northern Wisconsin from Invasive Species



2018 Annual Report

The Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA or Northwoods CWMA) was formed in 2005 and is a collaborative group of state, county, and federal agencies, tribes, municipalities, community organizations, non-profits and individuals who have come together to combat invasive species in northern Wisconsin (Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland, and Iron Counties). This report summarizes the accomplishments of the NCWMA during 2018. This was the first year that Ramona Shackleford was the NCWMA Coordinator as she was hired in November 2017.

Education and Prevention

Three NCWMA newsletters were developed during the year which were distributed at events and to the NCWMA e-mail list. The newsletters are also available on the website. During the NCWMA meeting in September, partners decided to change the frequency of newsletters from quarterly to semi-annual. Therefore, no fall newsletter was created. The NCWMA purchased a new booth display board and developed a new display that was taken to festivals and fairs. Ramona Shackleford took the booth to ten events throughout the year including four Invasive Species ID Days at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (NGLVC), the Bayfield and Ashland County Fairs, Junefest in Mercer, Bayfield in Bloom, the Native Plant Sale in Bayfield, National Public Lands Day at the NGLVC (Figure 1), and Bayfield Apple Festival (Figure 2). The NCWMA website was visited over 14,500 times over the last year. This was a slight increase from 2017; however, the duration per visit and the number of pages visited per session increased significantly. The website was redesigned in November to include more information on local sites of invasive plant species.

The NCWMA developed a poster for the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) that summarized the work the NCWMA has been doing to treat knotweed species. Informational e-mails were sent out 22 times. The NCWMA began using MailChimp for sending out e-mails to the e-mail list which has 219 subscribers. The NCWMA created 42 Facebook posts and 5 Facebook events. Ramona Shackleford made eleven presentations, of which six included a Powerpoint presentation. The most notable presentation was part of a two-day workshop: "Identifying, Treating and Reporting Invasive Terrestrial Plants" for Fe University in Mercer, Wisconsin.

The NCWMA had six partner meetings and two steering committee meetings during 2018. Ramona also attended two Bayfield County Conservation Committee Meetings and two Ashland County Conservation Committee Meetings, along with meetings of the Bayfield County AIS Program. Ramona attended the annual meeting in March of Wisconsin's Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) and CWMA's. In addition, she attended UMISC and the Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium which were both in October.



Figure 1: Volunteers help plant native plants by the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center during National Public Lands Day in September.

Early Detection and Rapid Response

The NCWMA began using KoBo Toolbox to collect and consolidate invasive species data. KoBo Toolbox is a free data gathering software that allows organizations to design data forms on mobile devices to collect data in the field. Miles Falck of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) gave a presentation on how KoBo Toolbox works and can be used for data collection in April. This data collection tool allows multiple partners to share data as it is collected. The information can be pooled together to give a better picture of the spread of invasive species throughout the NCWMA and allows partners to begin treatments as soon as new infestations are identified. The NCWMA and partners used KoBo Toolbox to record invasive species locations and herbicide treatments.

The NCWMA continues to provide a toolshed for the public to check out tools for treating invasive species. Damages to the toolshed from the weather were repaired in August. Donated items from the National Park Service were added to the toolshed. Ramona Shackleford responded to about ten inquiries from the public of sightings of potentially invasive species. Two new sites of garlic mustard in Superior and one new site in Ashland were discovered by surveys. Eighteen new sites of knotweed were documented in the NCWMA region.

Portable Boat Wash: The U.S. Forest Service funds the NCWMA to operate a portable boat wash with a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)-Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Boat Wash Grant. A seasonal worker asked boaters if they could wash off boats for them prior to entering and leaving boat landings to decrease the transfer of aquatic invasive species. The NCWMA had difficulties hiring a seasonal worker. Andy Teal, the AIS Coordinator in Bayfield County, assisted in hiring a seasonal worker who worked the boat wash five days in September. The seasonal worker contacted twenty-six boaters and washed four boats. Ramona Shackleford plans to actively recruit one or two seasonal employees to run the boat wash more often in 2019.

Inventory

A large infestation of garlic mustard in Ashland was surveyed by partners in early May (Figure 3). Partners decided that this site needed a special grant in order to treat it due to its size and location. This site was not treated in 2018. Surveys of garlic mustard were done at the newly discovered Bay City Creek site and a site in the town of Montreal. Ramona Shackleford took plant inventory data within plots at the garlic mustard site along the Montreal River in Hurley and along the Bad River in Mellen. Knotweed species are often planted in people's yards and can be easily seen from the street. Ramona Shackleford visited 110 sites of knotweed including eighteen newly documented sites of knotweed in the region and recorded information on their size, proximity to water, and proximity to forests. This information was used in the poster for UMISC. It will also be used in treatment planning. In addition, Ramona added 27 sites to the documented locations in the NCWMA records from the GLIFWC records.



Figure 2: Ramona Shackleford at the NCWMA booth during Bayfield Apple Festival in October.



Figure 3: NCWMA partners survey garlic mustard in Ashland in May. Partners include: Robert Liebermann (U.S. Forest Service), Brittany Goudos-Weisbecker (Ashland County), Steve Garske (GLIFWC), Caitlyn Hoenig (U.S. Forest Service), Ramona Shackleford, and Sara Hudson (City of Ashland).

Control and Management

In January, the NCWMA Project Planning Meeting brought together partners from the region and helped plan and coordinate invasive species treatments. Ramona Shackleford became certified to treat invasive species with herbicides after taking the Right-of-Way and Natural Areas Pesticide Applicator Test in March. Ramona focused her treatment work on organizing events to hand-pull garlic mustard and treating knotweed species with herbicide. In addition, she assisted NCWMA partners with digging up teasel near Port Wing, completing surveys of *Galerucella* biocontrol beetles on purple loosestrife (Figure 8a), spraying wild parsnip with partners in Iron County (Figure 8b), and surveying known sites of giant hogweed with partners in Iron County. (One giant hogweed plant was found and treated).

Garlic Mustard: Hand-pulling garlic mustard before it goes to seed is an effective method of control. Ramona Shackleford worked with partners and volunteers to organize garlic mustard hand-pulling events at six different sites. The NCWMA promoted five days of hand-pulling work (May 14th to May 18th) along the Bad River in the Mellen area. Members of the Bad River Tribe, GLIFWC, Northland College's Spring Flora class, the Superior Rivers Watershed Association, and the Boys and Girls Club of Odanah participated in hand-pulling (Figure 4 and 5). The NCWMA and partners hand-pulled garlic mustard during four events (May 15th, May 22nd, June 7, and June 11) along the Montreal River in Hurley (Figure 6). Many organizations assisted in these hand pulling-events including the Hurley School's 8th grade, the Ottawa National Forest, GLIFWC, the Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department, and Master Gardeners. This population includes 18 acres in Wisconsin and 22 acres in Michigan. (The Michigan plants were treated by the Gogebic County Conservation Department in Michigan). The NCWMA also assisted in organizing a hand-pulling event at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Washburn (Figure 7, May 11th and May 18th), along a bike trail in Ashland (May 23), in the compost area of Bayfield (June 12 and 14), as well as a hand-pull event in Superior (June 1st).



Figure 4: Students from the Mashkisiibi Girls and Boys Club helped pull garlic mustard along the Bad River.



Figure 5: Garlic mustard hand-pull with Northland College Students (May 17th) in Mellen.



Figure 7: Garlic mustard hand-pull at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Washburn (May 11th).



Figure 6: Garlic mustard hand-pull along the Montreal River with the Hurley 8th Grade, GLIFWC, Ottawa National Forest, and Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department (May 15th).



Figure 8: a. *Galerucella* biocontrol beetles chew on purple loosestrife during a *Galerucella* survey in the spring (top left). b. Zach Wilson (Iron County) and Jose Estrada (GLIFWC) treat wild parsnip (top right). c. Andy Teal treats Japanese knotweed in Washburn (lower left). c. Colleen Matula treats giant knotweed near Bayfield (lower right).

Knotweed: Ramona assisted in treating 43 sites of Japanese, giant and Bohemian knotweed with Vanquish during eight field days. In June and July she and Andy Teal notified landowners of treatment plans and obtained permission to treat a number of sites. Ramona also organized treatment records and made maps of sites. She assisted Zach Wilson (Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department) in treating two sites and visiting nine other sites in Iron County. She assisted Colleen Matula of the DNR along with two other DNR employees to treat a large site in Douglas County. She also worked with Andy Teal and Colleen Matula to treat sites in Bayfield County including Iron River (5), Washburn (10), Bayfield (14), Herbster (5) and Cornucopia (4).

Grant Funding

In the beginning of 2018, total NCWMA funds were nearly \$41,000. The U.S. Forest Service's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) - Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Grant had a balance of \$27,170 in the beginning of the year, with \$2,770 of that funding for managing the Forest Service's portable boat wash. The NCWMA also had a Wisconsin DNR's Weed Management Area-Private Forest Grant (WMA-PFG) for \$13,710 that was awarded in November 2017. In January, the NCWMA applied for another GLRI-CWMA grant. The grant application for \$40,000 was fully funded in July. Additional funds through this grant program (\$14,864.22) were acquired to manage the Forest Service's boat wash. A second WMA-PFG through the Wisconsin DNR was awarded in July for \$12,127. After summing the balance from 2017 (\$41,000) with the new funds acquired during 2018 (\$67,000), the total funds available during 2018 were nearly \$108,000 (Table 1, Page 5).

Expenses for the year totaled over \$44,300. The primary expense was the salary for the NCWMA Coordinator. In 2018, the position was full-time for eight months and part-time (30 hours per week) for four months. Other expenses included travel, salary for the seasonal boat washer, rent for the NCWMA office, website costs, printing, pesticides, a booth display board, and food for volunteers (Table 1, Page 5). At the end of 2018, the NCWMA had a balance of about \$63,700. The GLRI-CWMA grant funding period ends on September 30, 2019 and the WMA-PFG grant from 2017 ends June 30, 2019. Therefore, nearly \$51,600 of the current funding must be spent by October 2019. This gives a great opportunity to improve invasive species treatments in 2019. With much of the grant funding ending, however, new funding must be acquired by October 2019.



Table 1: Northwoods CWMA 2018 Budget

	2018 Start Balance	Additional 2018 Funding	2018 Expenses	2018 End Balance
U.S. Forest Service GLRI- CWMA Grant	\$24,404.20	\$40,000.00	\$34,782.92	\$29,621.28
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Boat Washer Grant	\$2,769.82	\$14,864.22	\$1,117.59	\$16,614.62
DNR Weed Management Area-Private Forest Grant WMA18-0001 (ends 2019)	\$13,710.00	0	\$7,757.65	\$5,952.35
DNR Weed Management Area-Private Forest Grant (WMA19-0002) (ends 2020)	0	\$12,127.00	\$659.97	\$11,467.03
Total	\$40,884.02	\$66,991.22	\$44,318.13	\$63,655.28

Expenses of the NCWMA program during 2018 include:

- The NCWMA coordinator's salary (\$37,366.14)
- Salary for boat washer work (\$659.37)
- Rent for NCWMA office in Bayfield County LWCD (\$3,600)
- Mileage and lodging (\$1,850.32)
- Website fee and printing (\$243.91)
- Supplies including pesticides and booth display board (\$405.85)
- Food for volunteers (\$95.39)

Please note: The NCWMA coordinator is employed by Premier Solutions. Bayfield County remains the fiscal agent for the NCWMA.



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PARTNERS

Ashland County Land and Water Conservation Dept.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Dept.

The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter

Douglas County Land and Water Conservation Dept.

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Iron County Land and Water Conservation Dept.

USDA Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge

National Park Service Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

U.S. Geological Survey Great Lakes Science Center

National Park Service St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Visit our website: www.northwoodscwma.org

