

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Meeting Notes

Donut discussion: 2008 field season work plan & equipment for the community tool shed (WCMP) – will continue at next month's donut discussion.

- WCMP Work Days; target audience; audiences
 - May: Invasive shrubs – Ashland city trail; Native Plant Societies & Northland students
 - June: Knotweed - Bayfield; NPS & local businesses
 - July: Spotted knapweed – trailhead?; ATV users
 - August: leafy spurge – Washburn/Maple Hill area; land owners & town maintenance crews
- Potential Additional Days:
 - April/May: garlic mustard – Bad River/Copper Falls SP
 - May: buckthorn – Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve

Business meeting:

Miles Falck (GLIFWC), Charles Ray (Living Forest Cooperative), Darienne McNamara (USFWS), Stefania Strzalkowska (Bayfield Cnty AIS), Michele Wheeler (Bad River Watershed Association), Mark Eggleston (WDNR – Big Bay State Park), Steven Spickerman (USFS), Tom Cogger (NRCS), Mark Morey (Town of Washburn) and Dara Olson (GLIFWC).

- *New NCWMA member – Living Forest Cooperative*
 - Northwestern Wisconsin - forestry management – work with private landowners, TNC and open to work on public land
 - Two licensed herbicide applicators on staff – keep an eye out for invasive species– not all staff is trained, but there is always someone on the every job that knows invasive species identification
 - Some work with invasive species – conducted trainings for private landowners on invasive species (including one last spring in cooperation with NCWMA)
 - How the NCWMA may help: stay up to date on invasive species information & management options/expertise & potential to open up work opportunities
- *National Invasive Species Awareness Week*
 - Feb 24th – March 1st
 - Lack of representation from the Midwest
 - Corresponds with Superior Days – Bayfield County representatives will be present to support an AIS illegal to transport statute
 - Also need terrestrial invasive species (TIS) emphasized – very little funding for TIS management vs AIS
 - More information will be up on the NCWMA website
- *WDNR AIS Grant*
 - Total budget: \$100,000 (25% match)
 - Grant would fund an EDRR community reporting system utilizing www.glifwc-maps.org:
 - Public would have the ability to zoom and plot the invasive species location on the background maps (including current AIS database) – by clicking on the map (at a predefined scale) an invasive species form would pop up to enter information including species, contact information (required), other habitat/species information and upload images.
 - Focus on AIS (due to grant), but ability to expand to include TIS
 - May need to register – prevent bogus reports or hacking into the site

- Ability to subscribe (by area, species or both) to an email notice that would automatically notify you when something is reported – actual location report would be sent as an attachment to the email
- Reports would be sent out as a blind CC – ability to respond to everyone on the distribution list – coordinate follow-up effort and management.
- Reported locations would be displayed with other data on the website, but color coded to identify sites that were verified or not and the response status.
- www.glifwc-maps.org is changing to open source software – this will allow the ability to share technology (no registration fees) especially for organizations with minimal budgets.
- Concern about the capacity to respond
 - At monthly meetings – double check reports and the response status
 - Develop a separate website to list sites that have not been verified and sites that have been verified, but there has been no response.
- Low on Match
 - Additional \$5,000 from USFS
 - Server, office space and computers will be used as match
- Stefania is bringing the resolution to the Bayfield County board tonight
- Contacts: Miles (primary) & Stefania (secondary)
- *NCWMA website*
 - Capacity to increase what is currently up on the website
 - Match tracking forms
 - Employment opportunities
 - More photos & links – please send photos & relevant links
 - Email other ideas to Dara
 - Opportunity for someone to keep the website up to date – **any volunteers?**
- *Integrating Invasive Plant Species Data in the Midwest Workshop*
 - Midwest representation - common solution for region wide data sharing
 - Overview of current local, regional, national and global databases
 - NIISS database – ability to submit data directly to the website and free forms to download for your personal data recorder/GPS unit – inexpensive system for volunteers.
 - Colorado State University (CSU) & National Institute on Invasive Species Science (NIISS) have developed a protocol to facilitate database linkage – in the testing stage
 - GLIFWC is looking into linking to other local, regional, national and global databases & helping with the tests
- *Upper Chippewa CWMA*
 - Submits timed phenology articles during growing season
 - NCWMA could tie in with work days – invasive species article on monthly focus species & use to publicize event
 - Demo sites in each county (four county area) – Steven will follow up with Ann to see what is all at the demo sites
 - NCWMA - Invasive Free Zone, garlic mustard in Copper Falls – need more involvement from Douglas (Brule River State Forest?) & Iron (Mary Jo Gingras?) Counties
- *Big Bay State Park/Madeline Island*
 - Isolated purple loosestrife plants – not enough to support a *Galerucella* beetle population; want to control before it spreads into a nearby marsh
 - Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve is very interested in working with the NCWMA – good show of folks at their events
 - Idea to do have two buckthorn control events this summer and join up the city creek trail/Northland & the Wilderness Preserve – get both groups to help each other out
- *Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA)*
 - Mission to continue & expand role to get folks involved and information out to them

- BRWA is interested in becoming a member of the NCWMA – their focus is local, on the ground work – interested in being a part of the garlic mustard work day near Copper Falls SP
- Recently put together a Addendum to their volunteer manuals highlighting ten target invasive species including current distribution maps
- Michele Wheeler is currently working ½ time for BRWA
 - Potential to work together as coordinator for the NCWMA's WCMP grant events coordinator – grant has been distributed to BRWA board members
- BRWA Newsletter goes out to over 600 households – publicize events & submit invasive species articles
- Recently completed their Strategic Plan
- *Crossroads newsletter – WI Transportation Information Center*
 - Mark shared a previous publication that included an article on rapid response regarding wild parsnip in ROWs
 - Newsletter goes out to municipality staff – potential to submit an article on the community reporting system
 - MN DOT has a weed staff person for each county and crews that survey for invasives species and conduct treatment
- *Bayfield County Work Release Program*
 - Bayfield County community service – coordinator: Brenda Spurlock (715-373-6194)
 - Potential support for work days – Stefania will follow-up with Brenda

Round Robin:

- *GLIFWC*
 - Pooling 2007 invasive species data – if you have any data to contribute, please email Dara
 - Invasive Species Habitat Risk Analysis - almost completed their species database (shade tolerance, wetness value, etc.) to link with land cover & soil data to query potential range and overlay known distribution data – can be used as a tool to prioritize management efforts
 - Applying for a WDNR AIS grant to continue AIS survey work
- *Chequamegon Nicolet NF (CNNF)*
 - Hiring a three person crew for the W side of the forest – this year focusing on terrestrial invasives on trail systems –hiking parts of the North Country & Ice Age Trails
 - Attended a herbicide training with chemical representatives for new herbicides coming out
- *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*
 - WI Tribal Conservation Advisory Committee (advisors to NRCS) – reworking their cost share structure for invasive species control work
 - Currently out of date to actual costs & all control work is at the same rate (terrestrial vs. aquatic)
 - Pooling data to back up cost share structure
 - Could use real data on actual costs of projects
- *Town of Washburn*
 - Purchasing a new computer and creating a webpage for the town
 - Links to the County culvert inventory & comprehensive plan
 - Also would like to link to the NCWMA website and invasive species information
- *Bayfield County*
 - Approved AIS Strategic Plan – Stefania will be sending it out in February for comments
 - Can be used as a template for other organizations
- *Whittlesey Creek NWR*
 - Applying for a WDNR AIS grant to raise *Galerucella* beetles
 - Working on a burn plan for the refuge – need for long term management & controlling reed canary grass – if approved, hope to start near the end of summer

- Re-doing aerial images of the refuge at a good resolution near spring to see the potential to pick out honeysuckle and buckthorn

Upcoming Events:

Feb 15: Bayfield County Lakes Consortium meeting – meeting to discuss & share what organizations are doing in the Bayfield County area regarding surface waters

Feb 19: Next NCWMA Mtg – business mtg at 10am. & donut discussion at 9am: develop the 2008 field season work plan and look into purchasing equipment for the community tool shed from the WI Coastal Management grant.

Feb 24 – March 1: Invasive Species Awareness Week

*** Please send Carmen any hours to be used as match for WI Coastal Management grant (non-state or fed hours) for the past month (Dec.19-Jan.29) if you were unable to attend the meeting ***