

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) Meeting

Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Donut Discussion

Topic: Chequamegon-Nicolet Forest Service forestry equipment cleaning policies

- Cleaning protocols are written into USFS contracts (for approx. 10 years)
 - Overall compliance with contractors
 - Difficulties
 - Complaints – contractors are sub-contracting - the subcontractors are getting hit with the increase costs to wash equipment, but it isn't included in the original bid (~\$250/wash and can end up for larger contractors \$4,000-\$5,000/year)
 - Winter – equipment needs to sit for a day to warm up before they can wash (high pressure water or air)
 - Loggers do not need to clean equipment at sites that have no known invasives
 - Tighter cleaning regulations that state BMPs
- State Best Management Practices (BMP)
 - Out for public comments this summer
 - First state to develop BMPs for logging practices
- “Master Loggers”
 - Certification training includes invasive species (Gigi LaBudde)
 - Sustainable forests (state, county, etc) are required to follow available BMPs
- Kettle Moraine
 - Using logging practices to control invasives (treat buckthorn before the site is logged and retreat after logging is completed to exhaust the seed bank)
- What can the NCWMA do?
 - All organizations should follow guidelines (lead by example)
 - Education with an emphasis on long term (regeneration) & treating current infestations
 - Potential to look into grants to fund another cleaning station
 - Valhalla will have an ATV cleaning station next summer (voluntary)
 - Brule River State Forest will have a cleaning station next summer

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Meeting Notes

Business meeting:

Darienne McNamara (USFWS), Tom Cogger (NRCS), Mark Morey (Town of Washburn), Carmen Chapin (NPS), Miles Falck (GLIFWC), Matt Bushman (USFS - Washburn), Stefania Strzalkowska (Bayfield Cnty AIS), Colleen Matula (WDNR) and Dara Olson (GLIFWC).

• *Summer Schedule*

- May 9th & 10th (& potentially one day the following week) - Garlic Mustard
 - Michele Wheeler, Bad River Watershed Association, is coordinating this event
 - Getting partners together – including Bad River & a school group from Mellen
 - Drafting a letter to send out to potential partners
 - ½ on private land & ½ on state land
 - Follow-up monitoring with school group (?)
 - Break into crews: inventory crew (railroad grade), manual (and potentially chemical control crew) and a DNR fire crew.
 - Copper Falls State Park – will provide a site to gather, refreshments, transportation (if needed) and park staff to help treat.
- June 2nd – 5th - *Galerucella* beetle collection days
 - Site monitoring for collection days will be on May 27th – 30th and everyone is welcome to join Miles and check out some of GLIFWC's release/collection sites.
- June 20th & 21st - Knotweed Knock Out
 - Bayfield Regional Conservancy (Kathleen Russell) – unable to help out, but will send a notice out to members
 - Hope to get support from the Bayfield DNR
- July 10th – Madeline Island Wilderness Society Meeting (Carmen will be giving a presentation on invasive species)
- July 12th – Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve buckthorn control day
- August 22nd – Whittlesey Creek Field Day
- September 12th – 13th – Leafy spurge control on Maple Hill

• *Farmer's Market Booth*

- Meeting is in April (Carmen will set-up registration)

• *Volunteer Incentives – participation in work days & give-outs at the Farmer's Market*

- Something that will not end up in the trash
- Two items: low cost (Farmer's Market & events) and something for more active volunteers (and for sale)
- Ideas:
 - Packets of native seed – will follow up with Chequamegon NF, SIGO & Becky Brown
 - Tote bags with NCWMA logo – give out to active volunteers and have for sale at Farmer's Market
 - Bottle openers (\$1), water bottle (\$6), drawstring back pack (\$3), small pocket knife (\$3), leather gloves (\$5-6)

• *IPAW Feedback*

- NCWMA will contribute articles to the newsletter
- Very interested in liability insurance
 - Should have for community events

- Also need a volunteer agreement form (Upper Chippewa CWMA has a hold harmless agreement and GLIFWC gets land owners signatures for Maple Hill leafy spurge work)
 - Tom will look into the NCWMA working under the NRCS policy
- *Fiscal Administration*
 - NCWMA grants will need to add in a overhead percentage for Bayfield County LWCD grant administration – they are looking into what the percentage will be & Stefania will follow-up at the next meeting
 - Would IPAW charge an overhead % for administering grants?
- *WI Coastal Management Plan*
 - Michele Wheeler, Bad River Watershed Association will be filling the coordinator position
 - All work done on the grant must be on public land
- *WDNR AIS grant*
 - Ranking grants – initially DNR thought the grant would duplicate SWIMS database, but after clarification the grant is back in the running and will re-rank
 - Lots of grant applicants this cycle
 - Awards should be around April 1st
- *PTI grant*
 - Nothing yet – awards on May 16th
- *Sister CWMA's*
 - Vilas County is starting up a CWMA
 - Ted Ritter (Invasive Species Coordinator for Vilas County– previously the AIS coordinator & now AIS and terrestrial invasives coordinator) is leading the efforts with Marjy from USFS
 - Potentially would include Vilas and Oneida Counties
 - Invite sister CWMA's to this summer's field days
- *Bay Area Farm & Garden Show*
 - Early April
 - Bayfield County LWCD will have a booth
 - Stefania will have the NCWMA poster up
 - Please send Stefania any NCWMA distribution materials for the event
- *Town of Washburn - Annual Meeting*
 - April - Mark will encourage participation at NCWMA events especially the leafy spurge days
- *Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Department Management Plan*
 - NCWMA is invited to be a member of the committee
 - Materials for input will be forward through the email distribution list
 - If any individual agency would like to be on the committee, please contact Tom Fratt
- *Logo*
 - Dorothy completed the leafy spurge in the work glove for the middle of the logo – THANKS, Dorothy!
 - The logo will be brought to Heart Graphics & put together (color and black & white versions) and added to brochure for print
- *Douglas & Iron Counties*
 - Host a NCWMA meeting in the fall?
- *National Cooperative Weed Management Areas Conference (April 15 – 17, Reno, NV)*
 - Dara has been chosen as the WI representative to attend the conference
 - NCWMA one-minute presentation
 - Highlight leafy spurge on Maple Hill project
 - NCWMA display with the poster & brochures
 - If there are specific questions you would like asked of CWMA's throughout the country or other information brought back, please email Dara

- *Minnesota Invasive Species Conference – Acting Locally to Protect Our Legendary Lands & Waters*
 - October 26-28, 2008 in Duluth, MN (<http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/Invasives.htm>)
 - Abstracts due May 1st

Upcoming Events:

April 22nd: Next NCWMA Mtg – business mtg at 10am. & donut discussion at 9am: share/compare field data collection, methods, software, equipment, etc. (please bring your data collection & mapping tools)

May 9th & 10th: Garlic Mustard control days in the Bad River watershed

May 20th: NCWMA mtg – business mtg at 10 am. & donut discussion at 9 am: working with volunteer groups (volunteer agreement)

June 2nd – 5th: *Galerucella* beetle collection days

June 20th & 21st: Knotweed Knock Out in Bayfield

July 10th: Madeline Island Wilderness Society Meeting

July 12th: Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve buckthorn control day

August 22nd: CWMA field day hosted at Whittlesey Creek NWR

Sept 12 – 13: Maple Hill leafy spurge control days

TBD: Spotted knapweed educational day at Valhalla

*** Please email Carmen (Carmen.Chapin@nps.gov) hours to be used as match for WI Coastal Mngmt grant (non-state or fed hours) for the past month if you were unable to attend the meeting ***