

Hiawatha National Forest

2014 Invasive Species Accomplishments

On the West Zone (WZ) rapid response to new invaders was initiated again with critical help from the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA). CUPCWMA assisted HNF staff with removing barberry, houndstongue, wild parsnip and black swallowwort at Peninsula Point and Stonington monarch openings. They also assisted removal of spotted knapweed, thistle and phragmites at Sandtown and Indian Point, and purple loosestrife from Crooked, Thunder and Au Train Lakes. CUPCWMA helped with removal of thistle from Big Island Lake wilderness and with planting native aquatic plants in areas where EWM biocontrol efforts have opened gaps within infestations at Steuben Lake. The Forest administered contracts for treatment of hound's tongue at Peninsula Point, thistle from Stonington areas and treatment of stock piles of gravel at FS gravel pits. Manual removal of garlic mustard, St. Johnswort, spotted knapweed, and non-native thistles continued on the WZ with the help of volunteers, CUPCWMA and Superior Watershed Partnership Great Lakes Coastal crew. NNIP were also treated along roadsides by HNF staff. Following NNIP removal, native species were transplanted or seeded to attract pollinators to restored landscapes. NNIP outreach occurred in conjunction with CUPCWMA and focused on NNIS of concern, such as zebra mussels, phragmites and garlic mustard. Volunteers donated 176 hours in 2014.



Figure 1. CUPCWMA crew helping FS staff remove & establish black swallowwort monitoring stations at Peninsula Point.

Invasive plant management on the East Zone (EZ) of the HNF included monitoring and follow-up treatment for a large Scotch pine removal project, habitat improvement for T&E, early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to new invaders, and continued collaboration with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (EUPCWMA). The HNF's dune ecosystem was monitored for Scotch pine regeneration as part of the 2014 NNIP program, following initial removal of this species in 2013 from 300 acres adjacent

to the Lake Michigan shoreline. The effort resulted in follow-up treatment on 60 acres, benefitting T&E, including Pitcher's thistle, Houghton's goldenrod, and piping plover. Habitat for these species was also improved with help from the EUPCWMA and volunteers by removal of spotted knapweed, white sweet clover, etc. from the Lake Michigan dune system for the 5th consecutive year. The 3rd Annual "Round Island Rendezvous" accomplished removal of NNIP from 10 acres of designated Wilderness Area (Figure 2) that supports protection of federal threatened dwarf lake iris.



Figure 2. 3rd Annual Round Island Rendezvous participant removes non-native, invasive honeysuckle during the event.

EDRR efforts included hand removal of garlic mustard at the EZ's first known infestation of the species on St. Martin Point. The program began the "Purge the Spurge" campaign to map and treat leafy spurge, still considered an EDRR species in the eastern UP, and supported the EUPCWMA network for field-checking reports of potential new invaders. Additional projects included continued treatment of NNIP in all EZ gravel pits (80 acres) and hand removal of aquatic NNIP.

Fund code	Funding	Acres	Sites/Comments
NFVW	\$104,000	140	26/main program also funded monitoring, outreach, planning, etc.
NFRW,NFXF, NFXN, SSCC, CWKV, CMRD, NFWF		314	55/also funded outreach, inventory, NEPA, etc.

Partners/Cooperators: Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (EUPCWMA), Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA), USFS-Northern Research, HNF Native Plant Program Volunteers, Grand Island Association, Grand Island Marathon, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP), Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac Conservation District (CLMCD)



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