

Hiawatha National Forest

2013 Invasive Species Accomplishments

The Hiawatha National Forest (HNF) continued a progressive non-native invasive species program in 2013. On the West Zone, rapid response to new invaders was initiated with help from the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA). CUPCWMA assisted HNF staff with removing wild parsnip and black swallowwort at Peninsula Point, Phragmites at Indian Point, and purple loosestrife from Crooked Lake. CUPCWMA also helped release a native biocontrol weevil to treat EWM infestations in Steuben Lake. The Forest administered contracts for treatment of hound's tongue at Peninsula Point, gravel pits, and Dukes Experimental Forest roadsides. Removal of non-native invasive plants (NNIP) garlic mustard, St. Johnswort, spotted knapweed, and non-native thistles continued on the West Unit with the help of volunteers who donated 294 hours for manual removal of NNIP from prominent places such as Grand Island NRA. NNIP were treated along Forest roadsides by HNF staff. Following NNIP removal, native species were transplanted to attract pollinators to restored landscapes (Figure 1). This method of control and restoration occurred at Sandtown, Grand Island NRA, Stonington monarch openings, Indian Point, road closures, and log landings. NNIP outreach occurred in conjunction with CUPCWMA and Hiawatha Interpretive Association internship program. Outreach focused on non-native problems including beech bark disease, zebra mussels, phragmites and garlic mustard.



Figure 1. After the YCC crew removed invasive St. Johnswort, North Star Academy students transplanted common milkweed and black-eyed Susan into the Stonington monarch butterfly openings.

Invasive plant treatment projects on the East Zone of the HNF focused on habitat improvement for threatened and endangered species, coordination with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (EUPCWMA), expansion of the HNF's Stewardship Contracting program, and enhancement of popular visitor destinations. The "Round

Island Rendezvous" continued in 2013, with the help of several volunteers, to remove NNIP from 10 acres of designated Wilderness Area that supports dwarf lake iris (federal threatened). Habitat for piping plover (federal endangered) and Pitcher's thistle (federal threatened) was improved in partnership with the EUPCWMA for the 4th consecutive year by hand-pulling NNIP along Great Lakes shorelines (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Volunteers remove NNIP along Lake Michigan shoreline.

Scotch pine was cut along 6 ½ miles of the Lake Michigan dune ecosystem, accounting for 100+ acres, through an integrated resource timber contract known as Stewardship. Using retained Stewardship funding, the HNF applied herbicide treatment to NNIP in all East unit gravel pits, totaling 80 acres, to prevent spread of NNIP in gravel used for road maintenance projects. Boot cleaning brushes and informational signs were installed on HNF land by the North Country Trail Association at 20+ locations along the trail to reduce the spread of NNIP seed from hiking boots. Several acres were rid of spotted knapweed and other NNIP around Pt. Iroquois Lighthouse, the HNF's most visited location.

Fund code	Funding	Acres	Sites/Comments
NFVW	\$104,000	126	32/main program also funded monitoring, outreach, planning, etc.
NFMG,NFXF, SSCC, CWKV, CMRD, NFWF		252	21/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



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