Seasonal crews accomplished 381 acres of non-native invasive plant treatments across the Superior NF in 2013 with approximately 88% treatment effectiveness. Priority treatment areas included the Pagami Creek Fire burned area, where 29 acres of invasive plants were hand pulled, and Artist Point, a highly visited spot on the Lake Superior shoreline where 2 acres of tansy were sprayed in conjunction with the Cook County Invasives Team. Additionally, the Superior NF completed the Final EIS for the BWCAW Non-native Invasive Plant Management Project, which provides for treating invasive plants in the BWCAW using a combination of herbicides and pulling.

Aquatic Invasive Species: Forest staff participated in several AIS education events for kids including RiverQuest and Lake Superior Day. Forest staff, Lake County SWCD, and the 1854 Treaty Authority conducted a minimum tool analysis for rusty crayfish trapping in the BWCAW and tested these methods for removing rusty crayfish to slow the spread in the upper Kawishiwi watershed at natural “pinch points” in the wilderness. Other accomplishments by our partners include operation of a boatwashing station and surveys for rusty crayfish conducted by the 1854 Treaty Authority.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects: GLRI funding used to partner with MN SeaGrant for AIS education. GLRI funding to the Cook County Invasives Team was used for:

- Weed pulls at Cook County High School, Gunflint Trail, Grand Marais.
- Invasive species education at events in Cook County.
- Over 1400 hours of NNIP control

Fund Code  | Funding  | Acres  | Comments
--- | --- | --- | ---
SPFH | $390,750 | 26,050 | Gypsy Moth treatments
NFVW | $146,000 | 365 | Main program; 7 seasonals
NFWF | $5,000 | 16 | Purple loosestrife treatments
NFXF | $31,000 | 56 | GLRI projects
Partner | $5,000 | 23 | Cook County mowing, 1854 Treaty Authority

Gypsy Moth: 2013 was the last year for implementation of the Slow-the-Spread program in Lake and Cook Counties. Two blocks totaling over 26,000 acres were treated with mating disruption pheromones on the Superior NF.

Earthworms: Approximately 4000 acres involving 2000 sample points were inventoried for presence/absence of earthworms in 2013.

Volunteers removing spotted knapweed in Grand Marais. (Photo: A. Edgerton)