

USDA Forest Service Botany in the News

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Hosts Invasive Plant Workshop



This past spring the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) of Baraga Co. in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) hosted a [nonnative invasive plant \(NNIP\) workshop](#). Members of several Upper Peninsula tribes attended, as were students from the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa College. Sponsored by the [Zaagki Wings and Seeds Project](#), the class totaled approximately 25 participants and was conducted at the Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa College.

The workshop focused on the increasing number of non-native invasive plants of Northern Michigan and Northwest Wisconsin that are now radically transforming the region's ecosystems. Strategies were explored for controlling and limiting their impact. The information conveyed included key identifying characteristics; control options; ecological issues; life history; etc. US Forest Service

plant specimens from the Hiawatha National Forest herbarium collection were available at the workshop.

Approximately 40 among the most invasive and persistent nonnative plant species found in Michigan's Upper Peninsula were selected for study. For a list of the NNIP that were considered at the workshop please see the list for the Ottawa National Forest at [Nonnative Invasive Species \(NNIS\) PLANTS US Forest Service Eastern Region - Early Detection Rapid Response \(EDRR\) or Control 10/17/2013 - 1/2/2014](#) (PDF, 1.1 MB).

Those NNIP identified as [Early Detection Rapid Response \(EDRR\)](#) plants were also discussed. The [Midwest Invasive Plant Network website](#) provides excellent and detailed information about EDRR. Information on this website was shared and discussed at the workshop. Another important line of defense after prevention, EDRR is a critical component in the control of NNIP. When new invasive species infestations are detected, a rapid and coordinated containment and eradication response can reduce environmental and economic impacts. This results in lower cost and less resource damage than implementing a long-term control program after the species is established. Early



Students looking at an invasive species specimen at the workshop.

detection of new infestations requires vigilance and monitoring of the treated area and surrounding ecosystem. The development of partnerships improves ERDD detection capabilities through the collaborative and coordinated efforts.

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is very interested, focused on the control of NNIP within their lands, and is a member of the Keweenaw Invasive Species Management Area (KISMA). The goal of KISMA (a Cooperative Weed Management Area) is to facilitate cooperation and education among federal, state, tribal, local groups and landowners in prevention and management of invasive species across land ownership boundaries. KISMA covers Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga Counties as well as Ottawa National Forest. The Eastern Region of the Forest Service greatly values their partnership with KBIC in behest of the control of NNIP.



Students at the workshop.