Old Farm Field Restoration – Grand Island NRA
Hiawatha National Forest

FY 2008 Accomplishments

Ojibwa elder Delores LeVeque blesses the site Life of Lake Superior youth transplant 4,000 native wildflowers.

During the summer of 2008 Hiawatha National Forest botanical staff and volunteers began a five year native plant restoration project on Grand Island National Recreation Area at the "Duffy Homestead" also called "old farm field". The focus is to re-introduce native plants back into the landscape and provide habitat for pollinator species such as monarch butterflies.

At one time the old farm field was more than 40 acres in size; however, over time trees have grown in and have gradually occupied most of this cultural site. Today the field is less than 5 acres in size and current vegetation occupying the site is dominated by invasive non-native plants.

After treating with herbicide the area was prepared for seeding and planting clumps of native wildflowers raised at the Forest greenhouse located in Marquette, Michigan. Because native plant restoration work occurs in phases, only a small portion of the opening was treated and transplanted with native species this year. Phase 1 restoration focused in the southeastern corner of the opening where nearly 7,500 native plants were planted. The first plantings were done as part of the Life of Lake Superior's Grand Island experience program. More than 100 people of all ages participated during this event. On July 21st the second planting occurred with 45 youth volunteers from Alger Parks and Recreation Day Kamp. Final plantings was accomplished by youth and adults associated with Superior Watershed Partnership, Grand Island Association, The Nature Conservancy, Moosewood Nature Center and HNF native plant program volunteers on July 24th and 31st.

Equipment and supplies for this project were funded through the Northern Research division of the U.S. Forest Service.

Transportation cost for the Life of Lake Superior Grand Island experience was funded with a grant awarded by Alger Regional Community Foundation.

This project is a wonderful example of community spirit and volunteerism.

West Unit Summer botanist Dan McConnell teaching youth about pollinator species at the old farm field.

Project Awarded: $22,500
Contracts awarded for greenhouse & planting: $15,748
Seed Purchase: $2,500
Interpretive Signs: $2,000
Supplies: $1,352
Ferry Transportation: $900

Partners:
USFS Northern Research Station
MSU Extension – Life of Lake Superior
MSU Extension – Master Gardeners
Grand Island Association
The Nature Conservancy
Moosewood Nature Center
Alger Parks and Rec Day Kamp
HNF Native Plant Program volunteers

Contact: Deb Le Blanc
(906) 387-2512
dleblanc01@fs.fed.us

Hiawatha National Forest
Munising RD
400 East Munising Ave.
Munising, Michigan 49862