



PROPOSAL FOR A NEW COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA FOR HOUGHTON, KEWEENAW, AND BARAGA COUNTIES

The US Forest Service and the Upper Peninsula Resources Conservation & Development Council invite anyone interested in invasive plants in Houghton, Keweenaw, or Baraga Counties to come to a meeting **March 14, 2011**, at the Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center in Houghton, to discuss the creation of a new Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) for our area.

AGENDA:

- Introductions
- Overview of known invasive plants in our area.
- RRIP-IT-UP in our three counties.
- What is a Cooperative Weed Management Area?
- What can we do with GLRI funds?
- Group discussion
- Next steps



The Keweenaw Peninsula and Baraga County have some of the most intact and healthy native plant communities in Michigan. Non-native invasive plants such as garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, and glossy buckthorn are still rather uncommon. By working together and raising awareness, we could find and control new infestations while they are still small, and keep our Counties from being over-run by aggressive non-native plants.

In November 2009 Congress passed and the President signed the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#) (GLRI). The initiative seeks to address the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes. Invasive species are one of the five focus areas of the GLRI. In 2011, the US Forest Service hopes to receive GLRI funds for the creation of a new cooperative weed management area covering Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties. This is the only remaining area in the [Upper Peninsula](#) without a CWMA.

A [Cooperative Weed Management Area](#) (CWMA) is a local organization that provides a mechanism for sharing invasive plant management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to achieve widespread invasive plant prevention and control. The proposed new CWMA would be 1.6 million acres and include 402 miles of Lake Superior Shoreline and over 90 inland lakes greater than 40 acres. In 2010, similar funding was used to hire administrators for the Central UP CWMA and Eastern UP CWMA.

The goal of a new CWMA would be to increase communication and collaboration among people and organizations interested in prevention and control of invasive species. The funds could support public education (presentations, news releases, printing), mapping and reporting invasive plant sites in [MISIN](#), and arranging for treatment of priority infestations.

Public Meeting:

Monday, March 14, 2011, 1:00 to 4:00 PM (ET)
Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center Community Room
600 E. Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI 49931

For more information, please contact Ian Shackleford,
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