Invasive Plants

Why form a cooperative?

Joining together to combat an environmental problem

What is a Weed Cooperative?

Otherwise known as Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

• Local weed management organization
• Led by a steering committee
• Formally organized under agreement
• Facilitates cooperation and coordination
• Network across all jurisdictional boundaries

A CWMA is a Formal Agreement between parties that can be a long-term strategy for a long-term problem.
Executive Order 13112

Each Federal agency whose actions may affect the status of invasive species shall...

• (i) prevent the introduction of invasive species;
• (ii) detect and respond rapidly to and control populations of such species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner;
• (iii) monitor invasive species populations accurately and reliably;
• (iv) provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded;
• (v) conduct research on invasive species and develop technologies to prevent introduction and provide for environmentally sound control of invasive species;
• (vi) promote public education on invasive species and the means to address them.

Federal agencies shall pursue the duties set forth in this section in consultation with the Invasive Species Council, consistent with the Invasive Species Management Plan and in cooperation with stakeholders.

CWMAs out West

2002: 16 WMAs in 14 States
CWMAs in the East

Names for Invasive Species Partnerships

- CWMA: Cooperative Weed Management Area
- CWPMA: Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area
- WMA: Weed Management Area
- WPA: Weed Prevention Areas
- PRISM: Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (New York)
- CISMA: Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (Florida)
One tool for tackling the troublemakers:
Form an Invasive Species Cooperative!

- Often are multi-county
- Potential partners...
  - land conservation
  - forest industry
  - DNR
  - RC&D
  - recreation groups
  - utilities
  - nurseries/greenhouses
  - sportsmen & ATV groups
  - tribes
  - US Forest Service
  - lake associations
  - private citizens
  - garden clubs
  - landowners
  - road commissions
  - schools & universities
What do CWMAs do?

* Prevention

Boot Brush Stations

Clean boats, Clean Waters

What do CWMAs do?

*Education – Awareness
What do CWMA's do?

Early Detection – Rapid Response

CWMA's coordinate efforts to find and eliminate small infestations of plants like garlic mustard, so they don't become like this extreme infestation shown at right.
What can YOU do?

Band together to combat the invasives problem

Public Work Days
How to organize a Weed Cooperative

1. Choose an initial leader or champion

2. Establish geographic boundaries

3. Identify potential partners and begin building support

Organizing a Cooperative

4. Determine common goals

5. Choose a CWMA fiscal manager
   - One way is to utilize a Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) as the fiscal manager

6. Hold a public meeting, and invite all partners

7. Establish a Steering Committee
Organizing a Cooperative

8. Select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson

9. Develop a “Memorandum of Understanding” or a formal “Agreement”

10. Develop a plan and decide what to do each year

11. Add committees as needed

Officers help in organization but the cooperative is actually run by committee.

Organizing a Cooperative

12. Toot your horn! Get media attention.
Eastern UP CWMA

Resource Management

Western UP Cooperative Weed and Pest Management

Currently we are focused on aquatic invasive species. Our area of interest is Gogebic and Iron Counties and the Ottawa National Forest.

Ownership is federal, township, county, and private. We are fortunate that our focal ecosystem is still mostly free of invasive species, and our goals is to control what is already here, and to prevent further spread into our area. By cooperating together, we can share resources and expertise across ownership and political boundaries to more efficiently manage invasive species.

Our Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWMA) covers 2.9 million acres, and includes over 700 lakes, and 100 public boat access points. Almost all of our lakes are still healthy and diverse, but are under increasing threat from newly-arrived aquatic invasive species. European watermilfoil is documented in 13 lakes.
2006

- 119 signs ($1,493.45)
- 6,000 cards for $1,000
- Donated $2,166.67 to Duck, Ice, and Runkle lakes to help pay for their EW milfoil treatments.

2007

- 7,500 double-sided tri-fold brochures for $500
2008

• $3000 for EW milfoil treatments in Duck and Chicagon Lakes.
• $200 for Long Lake Association for Japanese barberry control

2009

• 10,000 CBCW brochures for $500
• Received $2,250 Boat US Foundation Grant
2010

- GLRI funds for AIS education & prevention with portable boat washers
  $17,300 for Watersmeet Lake Guards
  $9,680 for Lake Gogebic Improvement Association
  $19,680 for Iron County Conservation District
  $6,210 for 45 boat launch AIS signs
- $9000 for Long Lake & Thousand Island Lake for Japanese barberry control
- CBCW brochures: 9,897 copies for $500
For more information...

- Midwest Invasive Plant Network
  [www.mipn.org](http://www.mipn.org)
- Ian Shackleford
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**Steps**

1. Choose an initial leader or champion
2. Establish geographic boundaries
3. Identify potential partners and begin building support
4. Determine common goals
5. Choose a CWMA fiscal manager
6. Hold a public meeting, and invite all partners
7. Establish a Steering Committee
8. Select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson
9. Develop a “Memorandum of Understanding” or a formal “Agreement”
10. Develop a strategic plan
11. Develop an annual operating plan
12. Add committees as needed
13. Implement plans