

Aldo Leopold Native Seed Orchard

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

The Aldo Leopold Native Seed Orchard was established in 2007 to serve as a future seed collection site for the Lake Superior Clayplain. The first two years consisted of plowing, tilling and seeding winter rye and chemical spray applications to eliminate reed canary grass and other non-native species. Weed barrier was installed in 2009 to smother remaining non-native vegetation in preparation for planting.

The first planting of over 1,000 native plants in 2009 was successful with a 95% survival rate. A dry summer prompted hand watering twice weekly to maintain plant health. Due to drought conditions, 4,000 plants were over-wintered at a local nursery and were planted in the summer of 2010 by U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife YCC Crews. A solar powered fence was installed to protect native plantings from deer browse.

Once established, this orchard will produce over 100 lbs. of seed annually for ecosystem restoration projects. Additionally, Visitor Center staff use the orchard as a teaching platform for Earth Partnership for Schools experiential education programming.

Certified Master Gardeners provide assistance with maintenance such as weeding, mulching and watering.



Figure 4. U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service YCC crews planted 4,000 native grasses, sedges and wildflowers. Figure 5. A hard days work!



Figure 1. Great Lakes Earth Partnership for Schools Teacher Institute July 2010. Figure 2. YCC crew members weed and prepare soil for planting. Figure 3. Weed barrier allows easy access for tours, programs and maintenance.



Year Awarded: 2010

Project Completion: August 2010

Report Number: 2

Expenditures (through 8/2010): YCC Salaries: \$5,014
FS seasonal employees: \$3,135

Partners/Contractors/Coop: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Youth Conservation Corps, Ashland/Bayfield County Master Gardener Association, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, Wildflower Woods Nursery, Leaning Pine Nursery, and Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department

Contact Person & phone number: Susan B. Nelson (715) 685-9983 and Matt Bushman (715) 373-2667



Susan B. Nelson
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
29270 County Highway G
Ashland, WI 54806