

Chippewa National Forest

2014 Invasive Species Accomplishments

The Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service as lead agencies entered into a Chief's Joint Landscape Restoration Partnership Project consisting of a broad partnership consortium of many local and state agencies, and nongovernmental organizations for restoration efforts in the Upper Mississippi River Headwaters area. As part of the Joint Chief's funding, the Chippewa National Forest established a participating agreement with the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) to conduct a more comprehensive non-native invasive species (NNIS) program on the Forest.

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Partnership

Through the new partnership, work crews expanded NNIS treatments to include new control work on common buckthorn, common tansy, wild parsnip, leafy spurge, and Siberian pea shrub. Other tasks involved conducting prevention programs at local schools, churches, and campgrounds.

Increased emphasis on garlic mustard infestations

In 2014, the Chippewa National Forest increased its effort to control an isolated area of garlic mustard near the south shore of Leech Lake. Workers from the Conservation Corps Minnesota Americorps began hand-pulling plants in May. Later, Forest Service personnel and workers from the newly formed "weed crew" with the LLBO, did follow-up pulling of plants throughout the year to provide more effective control at this high priority treatment site.



Hand-pulling garlic mustard in the Leech Lake Area

Biocontrol Control of Spotted Knapweed

In 2014, Forest Service staff collected seedhead weevils from two populations in gravel pits, and then released the insects to provide control of knapweed on 29 scattered roadside sites/infestations across the Forest.

- Released approximately 1630+ knapweed seedhead weevils

Other Program Highlights

- Cooperator on the Strategic Plan for Itasca Co Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
- Coordinated inventory/control work on spotted knapweed with the Ten Lake Township Weed Control, and the Itasca County Land Department
- We continued our collaboration with the Itasca Waters Legacy Partnership (IWLP) to perform surveys and control actions on purple loosestrife sites. The work involved collecting 64,194 beetles and relocating them to past release sites or new areas, including locales on the Forest.

Estimated Acres of Invasive Species Controlled - 2014

Biocontrol – 139 ac, Hand pulling – 129 ac

Fund Code	Funding	Acres	Comments
CWFS	\$694		Garlic mustard control
NFWF	\$6,000		NNIS plant control and management
FNVW	\$9,000		NNIS plant control and management
NFVW	\$47,196	268	NNIS plant control and management
Total	\$62,890	268 ac	

Partners/Cooperators: Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Division of Resource Management, Conservation Corps Minnesota Americorps, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Itasca Waters Legacy Partnership, Itasca Co Cooperative Inv Spp Mgmt Area (IC CISMA), Ten Lake Township Weed Control, Itasca County Land Department and volunteers.



Chippewa National Forest

200 Ash Avenue NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Contact: Kirk W. Larson, Forest Botanist
218-335-8666