**Week 6- Goal 2- Slow the Spread of Invasive and Non-Native Nuisance Species**

**Conservation Corner**

***Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Al Murray, Land&Water Resources Technician at 715-478-3893 or by e-mail at*** [***lcc@co.forest.wi.us***](mailto:lcc@co.forest.wi.us)***.***

**Forest County Land and Water Resource Management Plan (LWRMP) Goal 2**: Slow the Spread of Invasive and Non-native Nuisance Species

Invasive species are present in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in Forest County. Invasive species have a huge impact upon the aquatic or terrestrial ecosystems that they invade, often taking the place of natural species and ruining the entire ecosystem.

Aquatic invasive species are present in many lakes across the county and include Eurasian Water Milfoil, spiny waterflea and zebra mussel to name a few. To see a listing by lake go to the DNR Water Data Viewer at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/> Your local lake association is also a good resource for individual lakes. Making sure boat are cleaned of weeds, debris, and water are a primary way to keep invasive species from moving to additional lakes. Clean boats before leaving the boat landing each time, take advantage of boat washing stations when available.

Terrestrial invasive species are less frequent here in the north than they are in southern Wisconsin, but we still have populations and risks for spreading into our area. Many populations are located near developments and within towns where they pose a risk for expansion through human movement. The best way to prevent movement of these species is to know how to identify them. A good source is found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives> You can also prevent the spread by making sure trucks, equipment, ATV’s, and snowmobiles are cleaned before you move them from place to place. Many populations are established by movement of seeds and this can happen year round.

LWRMP objectives under this category are to assist organizations and landowners in mapping and control of known populations. Assisting in locating cost share programs for removal of known populations. Participation in local and regional groups that monitor and remove invasive species and maintain and improving educational levels for invasive species. This article meets portions of the LWRMP goals.

Look for future installments to explain additional goals and objectives of the LWRMP. To view the **Forest County Land and Water Resource Management Plan** please go to [www.co.forest.wi.gov](http://www.co.forest.wi.gov), click the departments tab, then click “Land Conservation”, a link to the LWRMP is on our website.

One additional note to the readers of this article. Conservation groups are important partners in all conservation activities. If you are concerned with conservation of our resources please consider joining a group or association to participate in management activities and fundraising.. Lake associations, hunting groups, and fishing groups provide a great benefit to all. On this note, the Northwoods Chapter of the Ruffed Grouse Society will have its annual banquet in Crandon on March 24th and the Northwood Trout Unlimited Banquet is scheduled for April 28th in Rhinelander. You can google these and other groups for more information.