



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Eastern Regional Office/
Northeastern Area State and
Private Forestry
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/R9

News Release



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Forest Service approves nearly \$400k in invasive plant grants to improve water quality

MILWAUKEE, WI (January 29, 2016) – The U.S. Forest Service recently approved \$375,049 in restoration grant funding for 10 projects across six Midwest and Northeast states. The grant selections are part of the U.S Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Grant Initiative, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. GLRI serves to reduce invasive plant impacts and help restore impaired watersheds and water quality. The Great Lakes make up 90% of the fresh water supply in the United States and provide fresh drinking water to tens of millions of Americans. Managing invasive species within the Great Lakes basin can increase watershed stability and reduce runoff, and ultimately result in increased water quality for all users.

In all, 16 projects across seven states competed for the GLRI grant funding. All of the competing projects were required to provide 20 percent or more of matching grant funding.

After a two-week competitive review, the Forest Service awarded 10 projects across six states for funding. The grants ranged from one to two years long.

The six states with awarded projects included: Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania. Three projects from Michigan and two projects from Wisconsin received funding. The remaining four selected states were awarded one project each. Projects will take place on lands of various ownership, and will include activities on the Superior, Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, and Chequamegon-Niclolet National Forests.

The selected projects required a total of \$161,004 from award recipients in matching funds and/or volunteer time.

Here is a tally of selected projects and their amounts rounded up to the nearest dollar:

- [Lake County Soil and Conservation District \(Minnesota\): \\$40,000](#)
- [Huron Pines \(Michigan\): \\$40,000](#)
- [Marquette County Conservation District \(Michigan\): \\$32,802](#)
- [Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area \(Wisconsin\): \\$40,000](#)

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- [Grand Traverse Conservation District \(Michigan\): \\$38,700](#)
- [Indiana Cooperative Coastal Weed Management Area: \\$32,883](#)
- [Hobart and William Smith Colleges \(New York\): \\$40,000](#)
- [Southeast Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, Inc.: \\$32,214](#)
- [West Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area: \\$39,991](#)
- [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy: \\$38,460](#)

The Forest Service Eastern Region and Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry took part in the review process and selected the competitive grants. Project proposals can come from state, private, federal and/or tribal lands.

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes 20 states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17 national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/R9. The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry collaborates with states, federal agencies, tribes, landowners and other partners to protect, conserve, and manage forests and community trees across the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern states and the District of Columbia. Its staff provides leadership, technical support, sound science and financial assistance to help ensure that our forests and trees continue to provide clean water, forest products, wildlife habitat, recreation and other benefits for present and future generations.

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit www.fs.fed.us.

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