



Vilas County Land & Water Conservation

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Gina Owens,
Regional forester
USDA Forest Service
Eastern Region
626 E. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee WI 53202

December 7, 2020

Dear Ms. Owens,

The Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department (VCLWCD) is an MOU cosigner to the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasive Partnership (WHIP) Co-operative Invasive Species Management Area. As such we support WHIP's invasives species management activities in Vilas County. The Vilas County Resource Management Plan Goals that WHIP activities support are: Goal 1 *Increase the publics' level of natural resource knowledge and stewardship*; Goal 2 *Protect aquatic and, terrestrial environments from non-point source pollution*; and Goal 3 *Protect aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland ecosystems from invasive species*.

WHIP, in partnership with the Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, is applying for a grant from the FY 2021 GLRI Cooperative Weed Management Areas Program Area. The focus of the grant proposal is "Confirming and Managing High Priority Invasive Plants in the Wisconsin Headwaters of Lakes Michigan and Lake Superior". In Vilas County, 97.5 square miles of our land base are part of watersheds that drain to Lake Superior and Lake Michigan.

Funding from this grant will build upon WHIP's inventory and control of invasive species scheduled for 2021 by implementing more control of invasive species and post-control restoration of the managed habitat in 2022. These activities are necessary to help the treated area resist future invasion.

Our department will commit 80 hours of staff time (\$1760.00) to assist with Terrestrial Invasive Species inventory and control activities within the communities that lie within Great Lakes watersheds.

Thank you for your serious consideration of WHIP's Confirming and Managing High Priority Invasive Plants in the Wisconsin Headwaters of Lakes Michigan and Lake Superior grant proposal.

Respectfully,

Quita Sheehan, Conservation Specialist
Vilas County Land & Water Conservation Department