



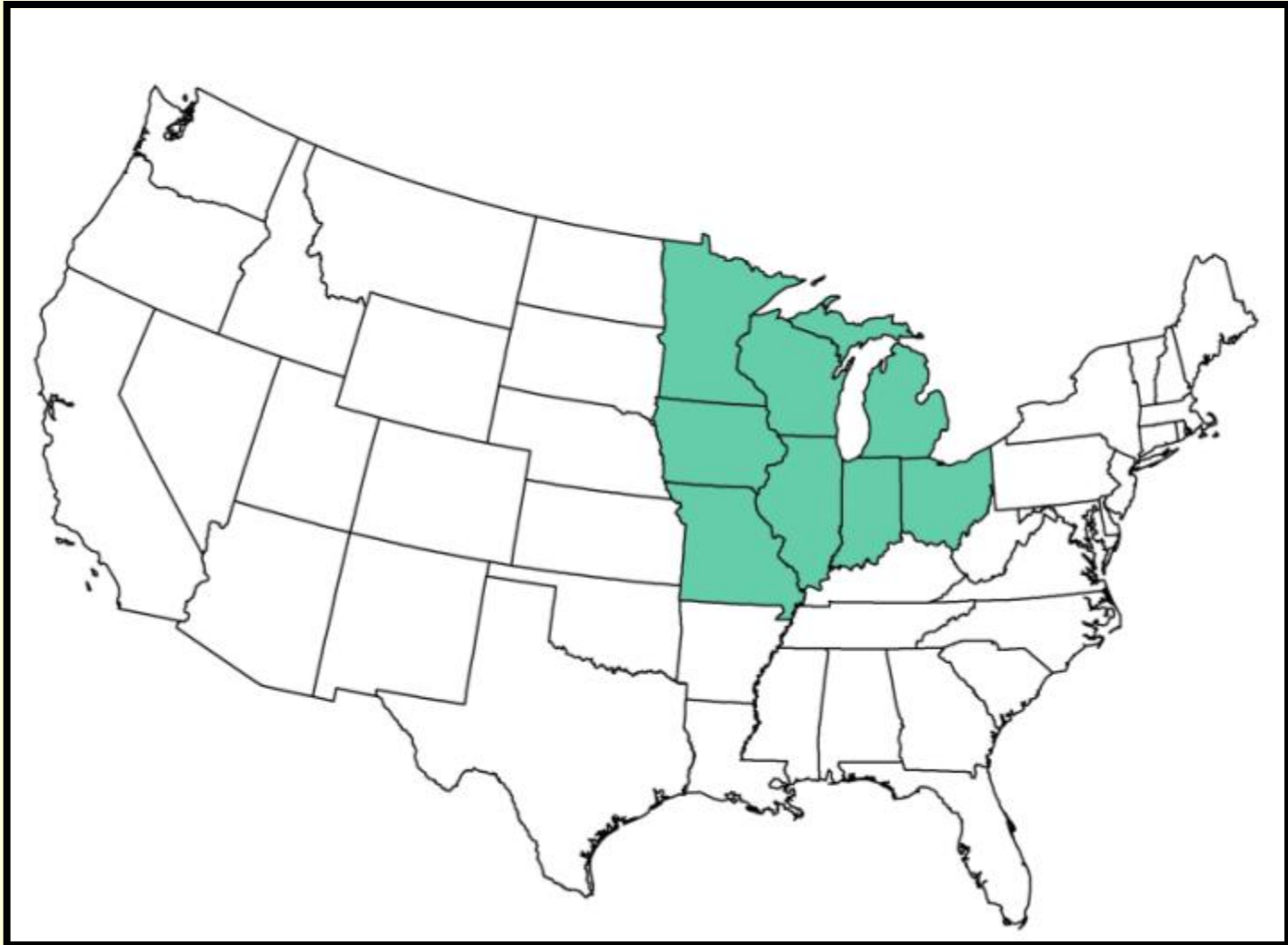
Introduction to Cooperative Weed Management Areas

What are they, what can they do for me, and how do I get one started?

Kate Howe
Midwest Invasive Plant Network
Purdue University



The mission of the Midwest Invasive Plant Network is to reduce the impact of invasive plants in the Midwest.



What does MIPN do?

- * Facilitates collaboration and information exchange among organizations
- * Works to improve prevention, early detection, education, and research on invasive plants at a regional level



Overview

- ❖ What is a Cooperative Weed Management Area?
- ❖ Why form a CWMA?
- ❖ CWMA's in the West
- ❖ The development of CWMA's in the East
- ❖ How to organize a CWMA
- ❖ Other resources

What is a CWMA?

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) are local organizations that facilitate collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries for more effective invasive plant management.

6 basic characteristics of a CWMA

1. Operate within a defined, local geographic area
2. Involve a broad cross-section of landowners and natural resource managers
3. Led by a steering committee
4. Long-term commitment to cooperation (e.g. MOU)
5. Have a comprehensive plan for invasive plant management
6. Facilitate cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries

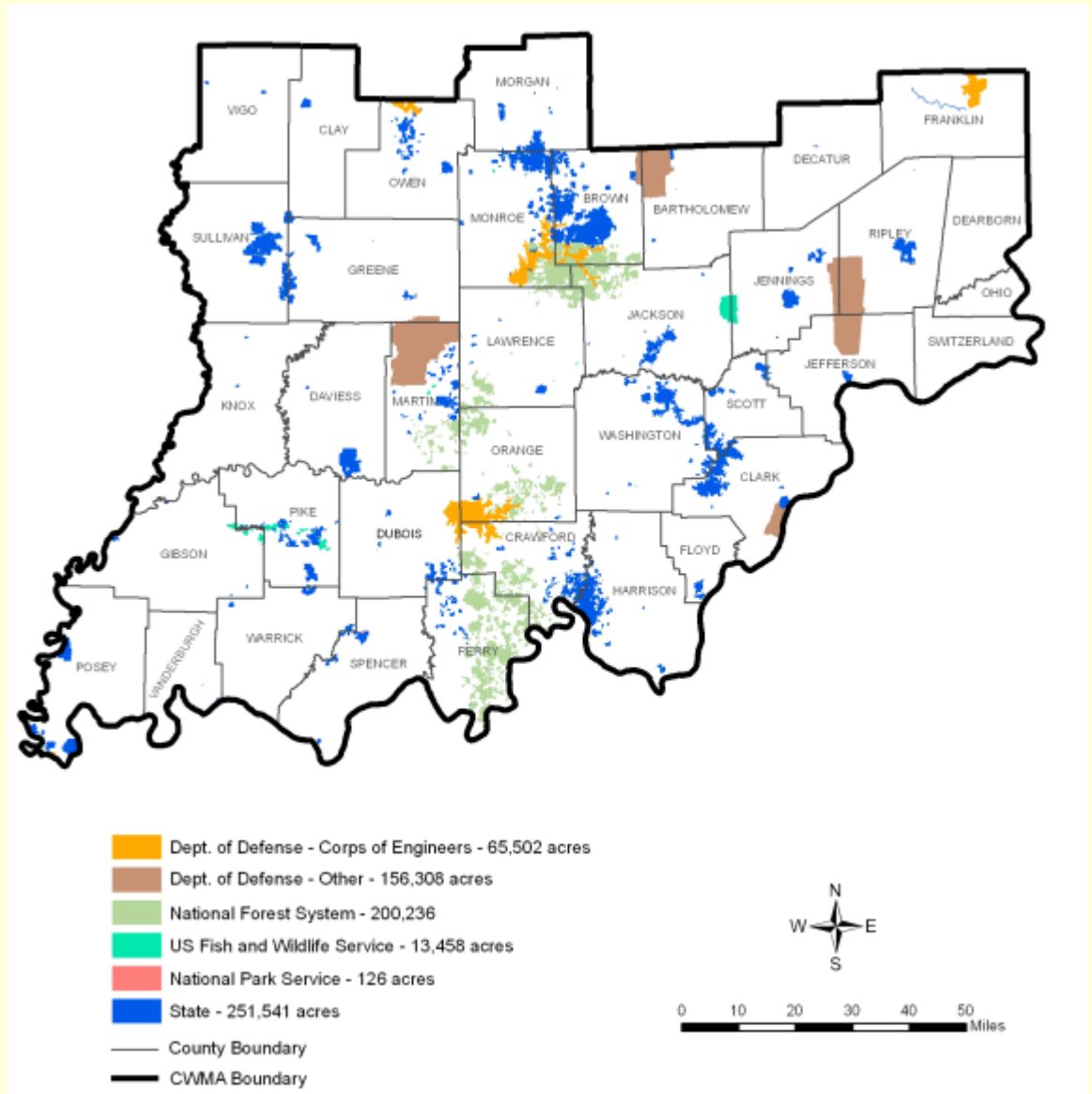
There is no official certification of CWMAAs.

Having all 6 characteristics of a CWMAA:

- helps ensure the long-term viability of your organization
- demonstrates commitment to potential funders

Benefits of a CWMA

- They cross boundaries



Benefits of a CWMA

- They allow partners to share and leverage limited resources.



Benefits of a CWMA

- CWMAAs are highly visible.



Benefits of a CWMA

- They raise awareness of invasive species.



Benefits of a CWMA

- They provide an early detection and rapid response network.



Benefits of a CWMA

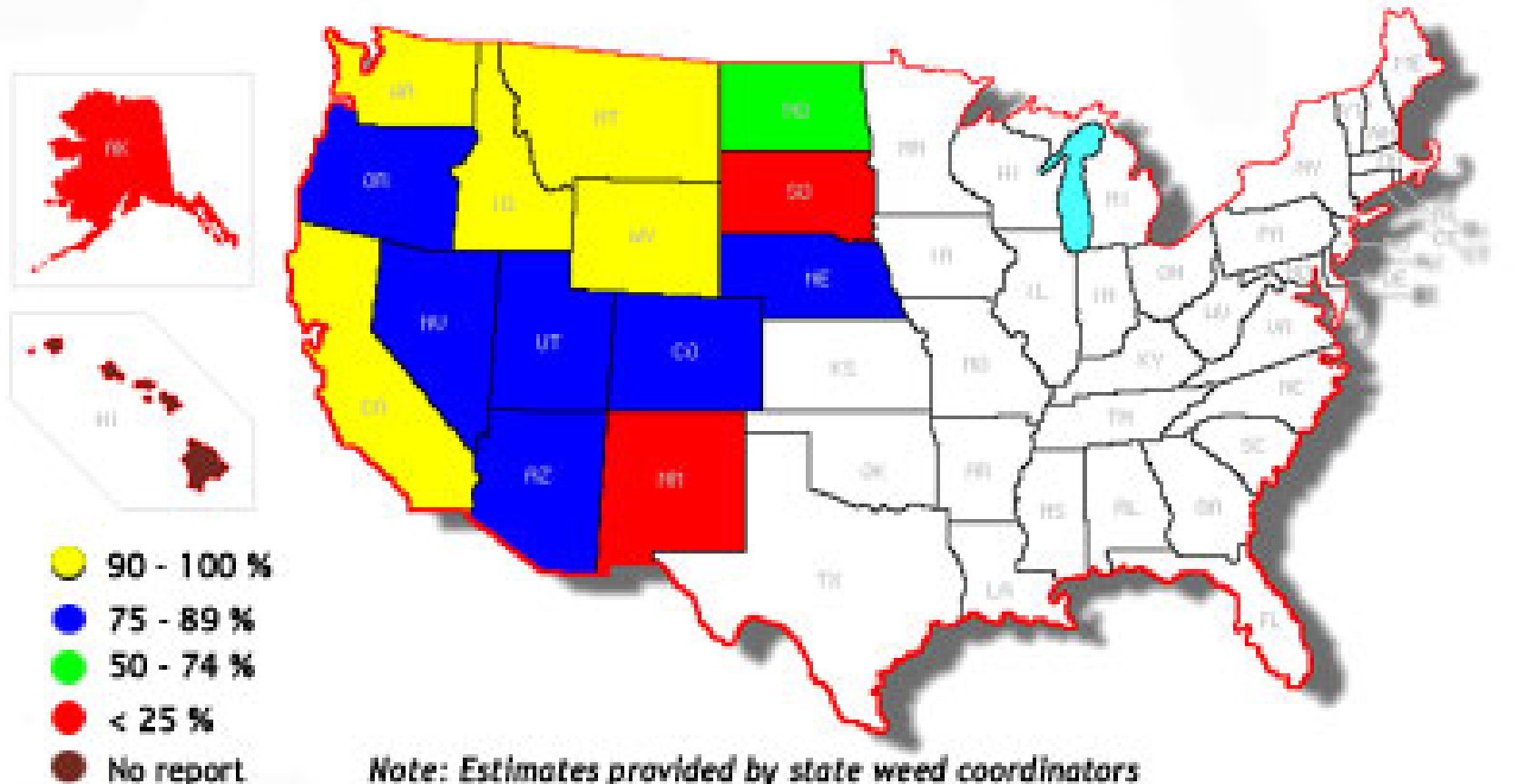
- They can help secure funding for invasive plant projects.

Examples:

- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Pulling Together Initiative
- USFS State & Private Forestry
- USFWS
- State funds
- Private foundations

Cooperative Weed Management Areas in the West

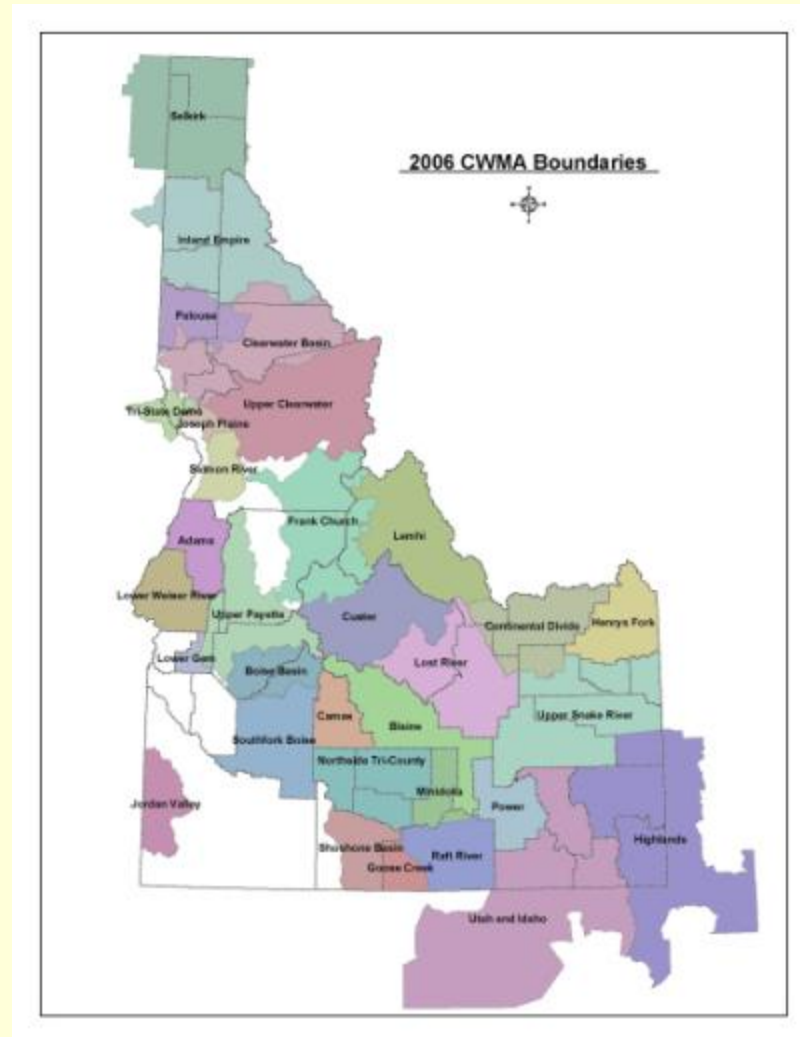
Coverage by CWMAs and/or county weed districts in the West, 2005



Highlights of Accomplishments for California Weed Management Areas, 2001-2004

- The eradication of 2,015 populations of high priority weed infestations;
- The treatment of more than 128,421 acres of high priority weed infestations;
- The receipt of \$7,025,187 in matching funds from outside grant funding and the contribution of in-kind donations and services by WMAs valuing \$9,109,946;
- The distribution of \$5.6 million to 45 WMAs covering 57 counties;
- The development of new local partnerships between public agencies, private landowners, agriculturalists and conservationists, with outreach programs reaching 88,803 people; and
- Attendance by 6,781 people at regular weed management meetings throughout the state.

Our goal is to increase coverage by CWMAs in the East.



Examples of CWMAAs in the East

- 1) Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (NY)
- 2) Northwoods CWMA (WI)



CWMAs in the East

Long Island Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA)

- Formed in 2001
- Along with Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, has served as a model for the development of 6 additional Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) in New York



LISMA Accomplishments

Year 1:

- Wrote a strategic plan
- Prepared and categorized a list of invasive plant species
- Started Weed Watchers program



LISMA Accomplishments

Year 2:

- Assisted in drafting legislation for Invasive Species Task Force for NY
- Mapped weeds in 800-acre Pine Barrens Core Preserve
- NYS Landscape and Nursery Association adopted St. Louis Codes of Conduct
- Wipe out Weeds poster contest in elementary schools
- Early Detection/Rapid Response carried out on sites of giant hogweed, black swallow-wort, mile-a-minute vine, and others
- Researched herbicides for use against black swallow-wort

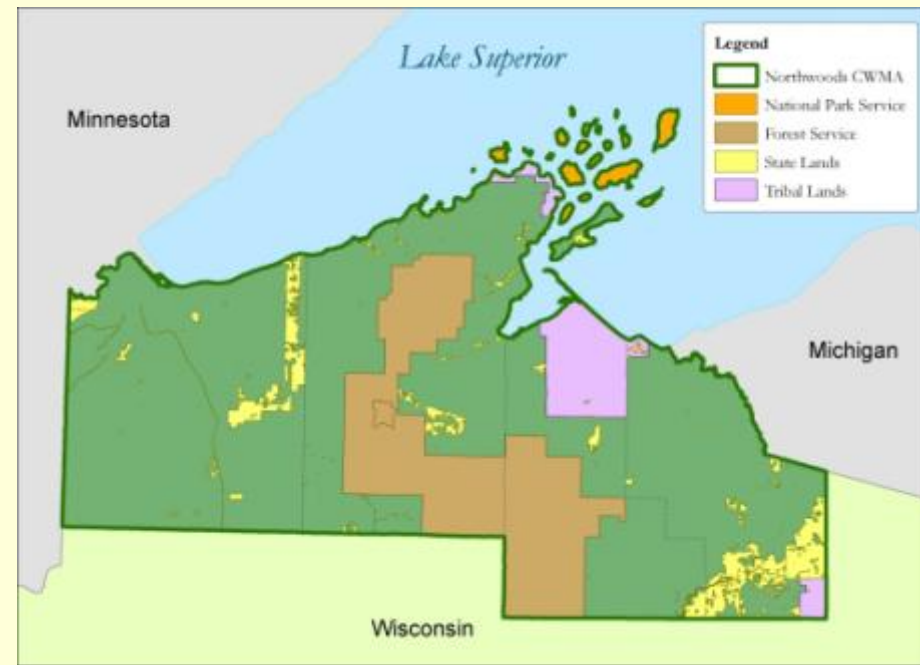
LISMA Partners

- **National Park Service**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory**
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service**
- **NY State Department of Transportation**
- **NY Department of Environmental Conservation**
- **NY Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation**
- **City of New York Parks & Recreation**
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County**
- **Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation**
- **Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums**
- **Suffolk County Community College**
- **Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center**
- **Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association**
- **Long Island Central Pine Barrens Commission**
- **Open Space Preservation Trust**
- **Brooklyn Botanic Garden**
- **The Nature Conservancy**

CWMAs in the East

Northwoods CWMA (WI)

- Started as the Northwoods Weed Initiative, working on a grant for leafy spurge control
- Formed a CWMA to formalize the partnership and work on more projects
- Located in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron Counties in far northern WI



Northwoods CWMA (WI)



Primary Objectives:

- To prevent new invaders from taking hold in the area
- To control new invasive species
- To contain and manage existing populations that have already become established

Northwoods CWMA (WI)

Partners

- **Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission**
- **Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest**
- **National Park Service**
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service**
- **Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas Co. Land Cons. District**
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **University of Wisconsin Extension**
- **Wisconsin DNR**
- **Bad River Chippewa Band**

Accomplishments

- **Prevention:**

- Scheduled roadside mowing activities to prevent spread of leafy spurge

- **Mapping and monitoring:**

- Inventoried and mapped local invasive plant populations

- **Education:**

- Developed "Homeowner's Guide to Japanese Knotweed Control"

- Taught public seminars on treatment of buckthorn and honeysuckle

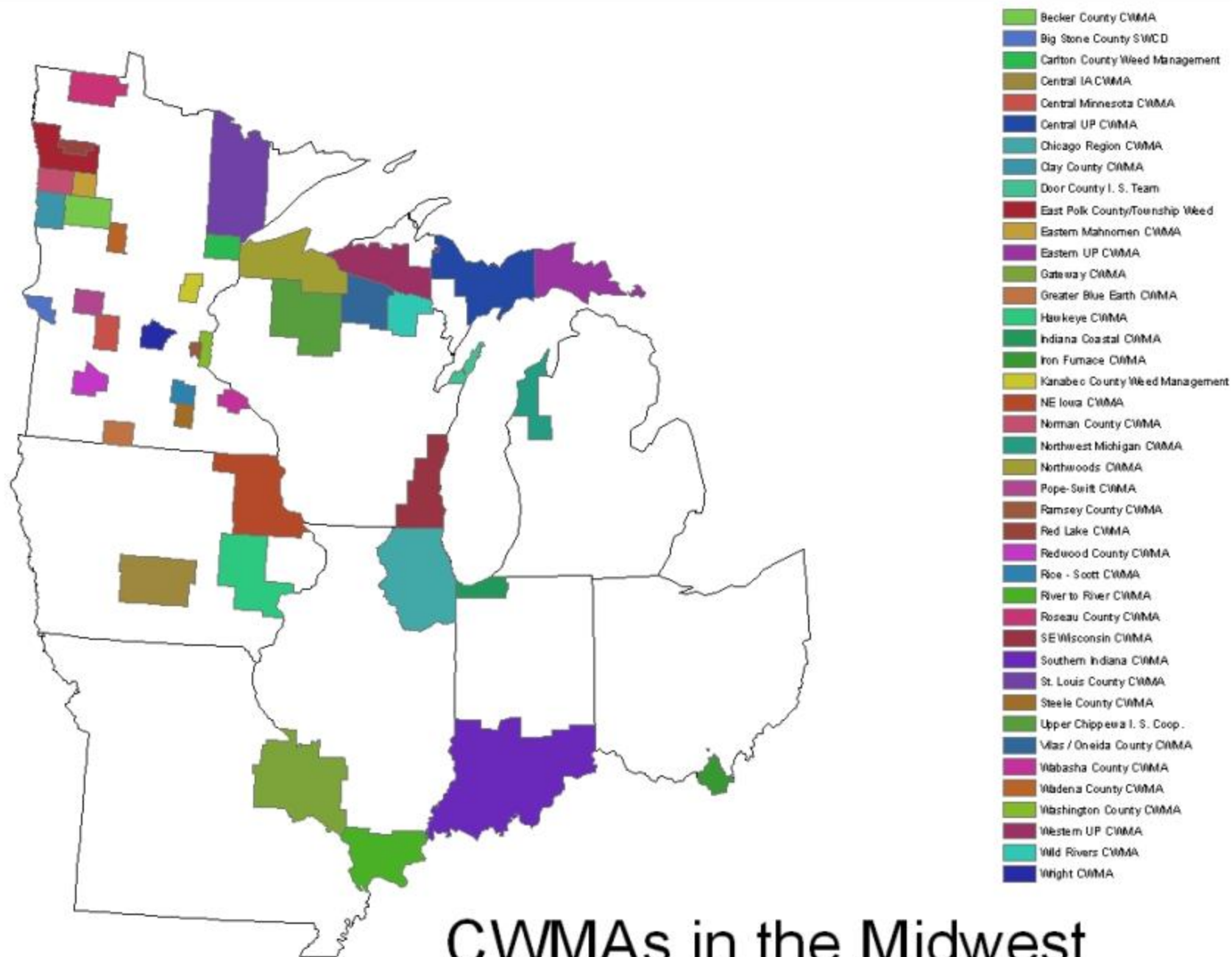
- Developed curriculum for K-12 classes on invasive plants

- Created PowerPoint presentations to educate local policy makers about invasive plant issues

- **Control and management:**

- Cooperative control efforts for Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife, and other species





CWMAs in the Midwest

National CWMA map



www.invasiveplantcenters.org

Organizing a CWMA

1. Identify a leader or champion

- Find someone who is excited about cooperative weed management to lead the group as it forms
- Good communicator
- Ability to motivate others
- Goals of the CWMA must be their first priority



The CWMA champion may be a short-term role, leading only until the steering committee is in place.

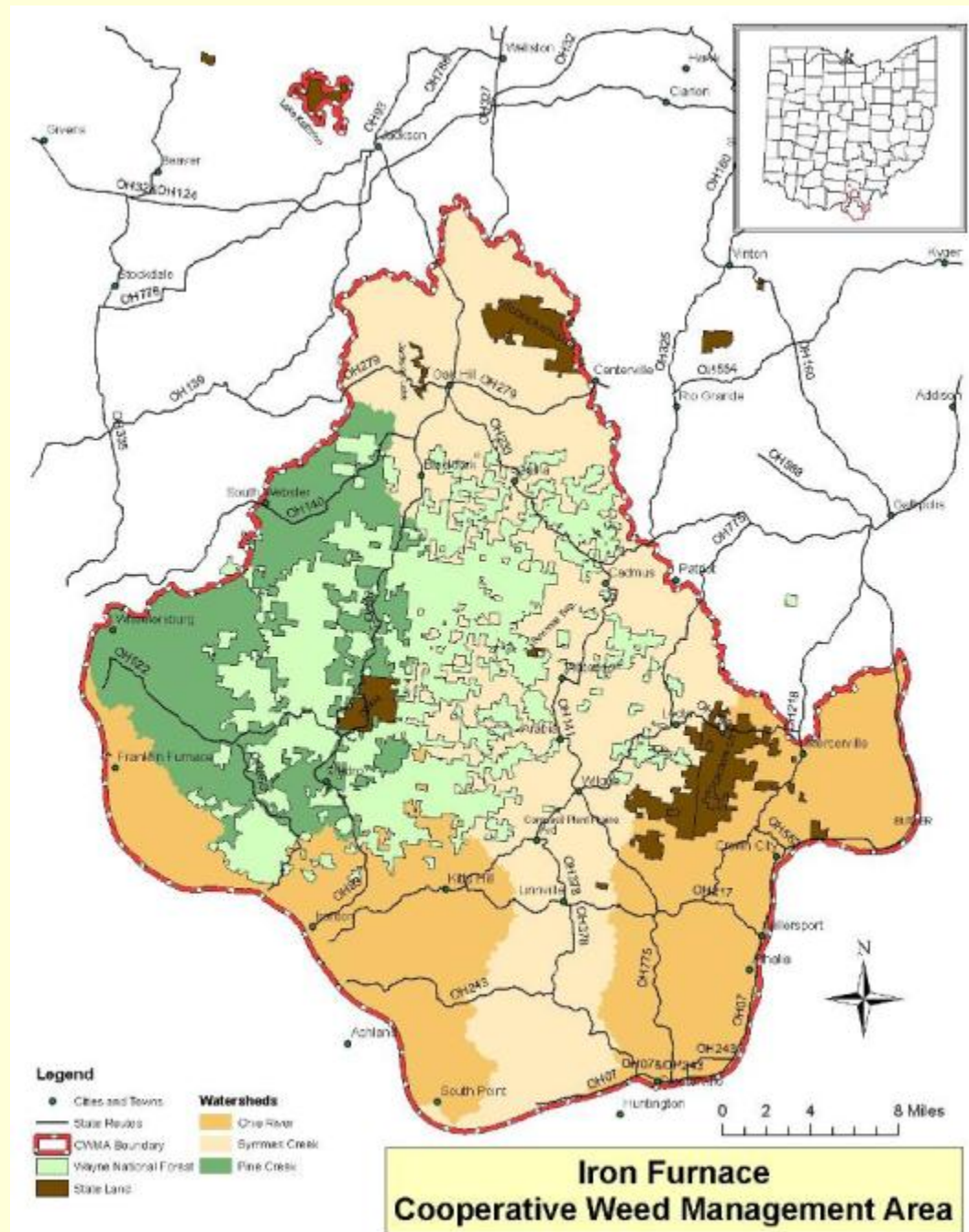
Organizing a CWMA

2. Establish geographic boundaries

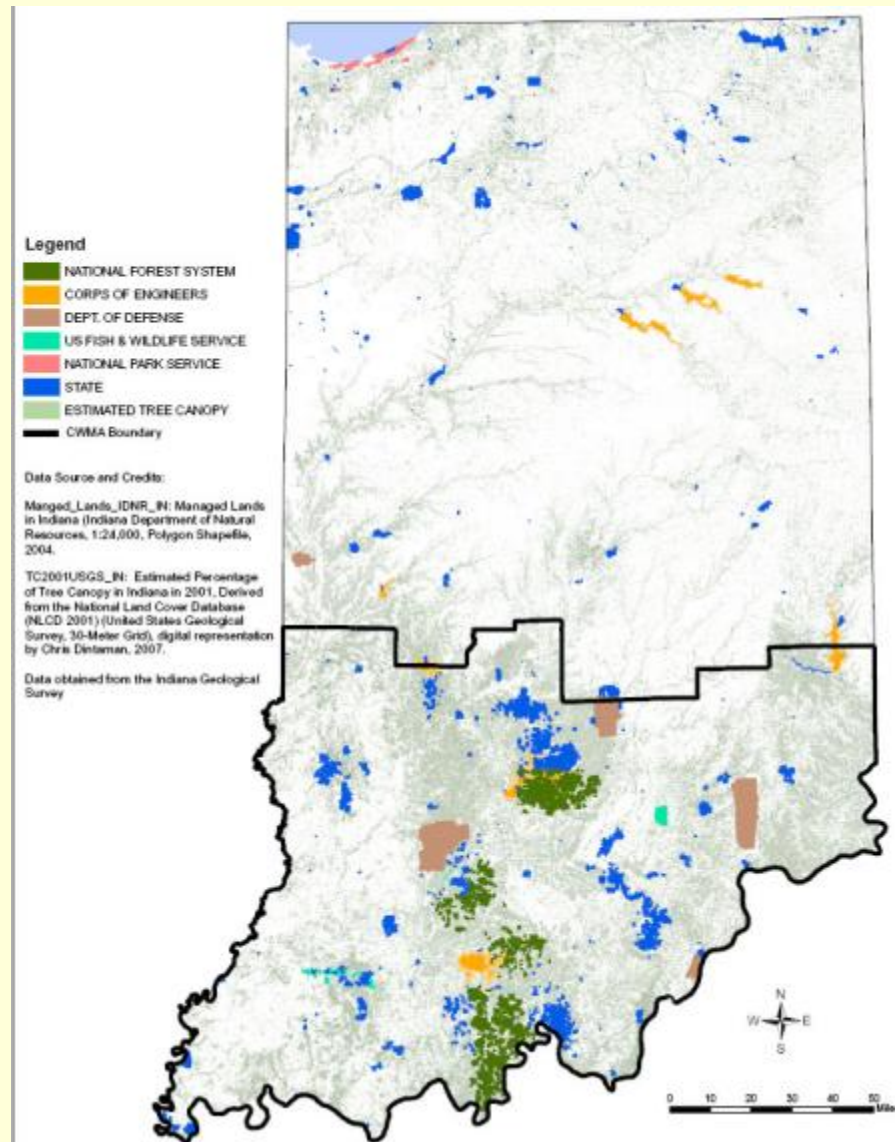
- Political boundaries, e.g. one or several counties
- Ecological boundaries, e.g. watersheds
- Consider organizing a large CWMA into smaller subunits such as basins, watersheds, or management zones

Iron Furnace CWMA

- Southern Ohio:
Lawrence county and
parts of Scioto, Jackson
and Gallia counties
- Includes:
 - Wayne National Forest,
Ironton District
 - Dean State Forest
 - Cooper Hollow Wildlife
Management Area
 - Crown City Wildlife
Management Area
 - Lake Katherine State
Nature Preserve
 - And a lot of private land



Southern Indiana CWMA



Organizing a CWMA

3. Identify potential partners and begin building support

- Participation from each major land management entity within the boundaries of the CWMA is critical
- Involve the following entities if they are available in your CWMA area:
 - County Weed Supervisors
 - Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds)
 - Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- Convey the importance to potential partners of using cooperative efforts to address shared problems

Organizing a CWMA

4. Determine common goals

- Different individuals or groups in your area may have different reasons for concerns about invasive plants
- A CWMA may form around the common desire to control:
 - a specific species such as garlic mustard
 - a group of invaders such as woody invaders of forests
 - a common concern such as early detection of new invaders



Find at least one common concern and focus on it to initiate a CWMA.

Organizing a CWMA

5. Select a name

- Geography:

Southern Indiana CWMA

Ramsey County CWMA

Iron Furnace CWMA

Northwoods CWMA

Hawkeye CWMA



Organizing a CWMA

5. Select a name

- Focus:

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)

Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Mgmt (PRISM)

Invasive Plant Partnership/Program/Team

Organizing a CWMA

6. Choose a CWMA fiscal manager

- Need to establish fiscal capabilities to receive grants
- Need a federal tax ID number
- Possibly enlist a county or a Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) as the fiscal manager



Organizing a CWMA

7. Hold a public meeting

- Invite all partners
- Invite all major landowners and stakeholders within your established boundaries
- Increase participation and support for your CWMA

A successful CWMA includes many agencies and individuals all working towards a common goal.

Organizing a CWMA

8. Establish a steering committee

- Sets priorities
- Provides direction
- Establishes operating procedures
- Locates opportunities
- Furthers the common goals of the CWMA



Organizing a CWMA

9. Select officers

- Ensure that all committee members have opportunities to participate
- Delegate responsibility for project accountability
- Should be in position for a minimum of two years

The selection of officers for the CWMA should not be as important as overall steering committee activity. The goal is to move from leadership by one person to leadership by the entire steering committee.

Organizing a CWMA

10. Develop an agreement (MOU or MOA)

- Identify the partners and their responsibilities
- Establish the legal authorities under which the agreement is made
- Define the purpose
- List items of agreement and responsibilities of each partner
- Describe land area covered under the agreement

The Northwoods CWMA Steering Committee after signing their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).



Organizing a CWMA

10. Develop an agreement (continued)

Items of agreement should also specify organizational components including:

- The group of partners
- Steering committee (size and structure)
- Strategic plan
- Annual operating plan
- Reports

The purpose of an agreement is to facilitate cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries and eliminate administrative barriers.

Organizing a CWMA

10. Develop an agreement (continued)

Develop Hold Harmless Agreement

- Forms for landowners or agencies to sign to allow others to come on to their property to do control work
- Workers, partners and landowners are “held harmless” in case of any problems arising
- Allows sharing of workers, equipment, supplies

Organizing a CWMA

11. Develop a strategic management plan

Clearly define CWMA objectives and priorities in a plan, including:

- An accurate map of the CWMA
- An inventory and a map of known priority invasive plant infestations
- Determine management responsibilities including the establishment of management areas or zones
- Establish criteria for prioritization of invasive plant management activities
- Identify control techniques and resources available to your CWMA

Organizing a CWMA

12. Develop an annual operating plan

- Annual projects
- Expected in-kind contributions
- Necessary funding
- Personnel needed
- Serves as basis for outside grant requests

Identifies annual priorities and associated work projects.

Organizing a CWMA

13. Establish and utilize committees

- Increase participation by partners and citizens that are not on the steering committee
- Broaden the base of ownership inside the community
- Perform tasks that will give more time for the steering committee to devote toward coordination and administrative duties.

Organizing a CWMA

13. Establish and utilize committees (continued)

Standing committees:

- Long term
- Work on issues like education, control, monitoring, etc.

***Ad hoc* committees:**

- Temporary
- Focus on specific projects



Organizing a CWMA

14. Consider hiring a CWMA Coordinator.



Organizing a CWMA

15. Implement plans

Education

Support and promote
Invasive Species Awareness
events at the federal, state,
and local levels



Organizing a CWMA

Examples of Education Projects:

- Teach a weed identification class for land owners and land managers
- Develop educational materials on invasive species
- Create posters or calendars

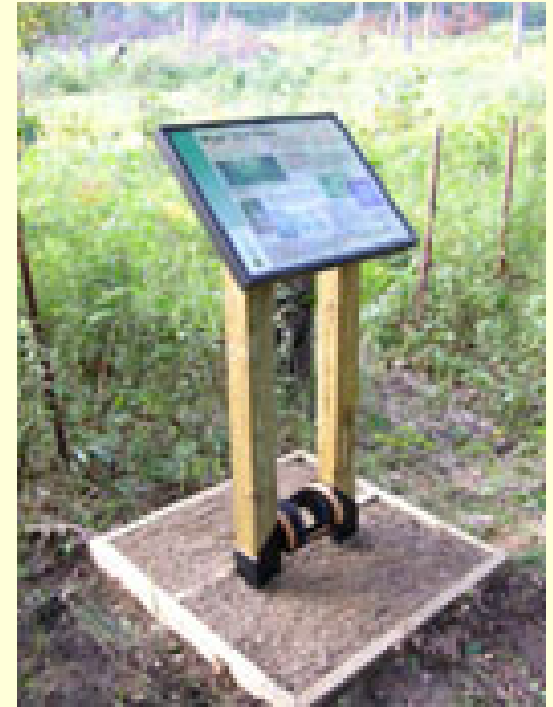


Organizing a CWMA

15. Implement plans (continued)

Prevention

- Boot brush stations – placed at entry points to natural areas
- Invasive plant trade-in program
- Prevention management zones (implement BMPs, e.g. equipment washing)

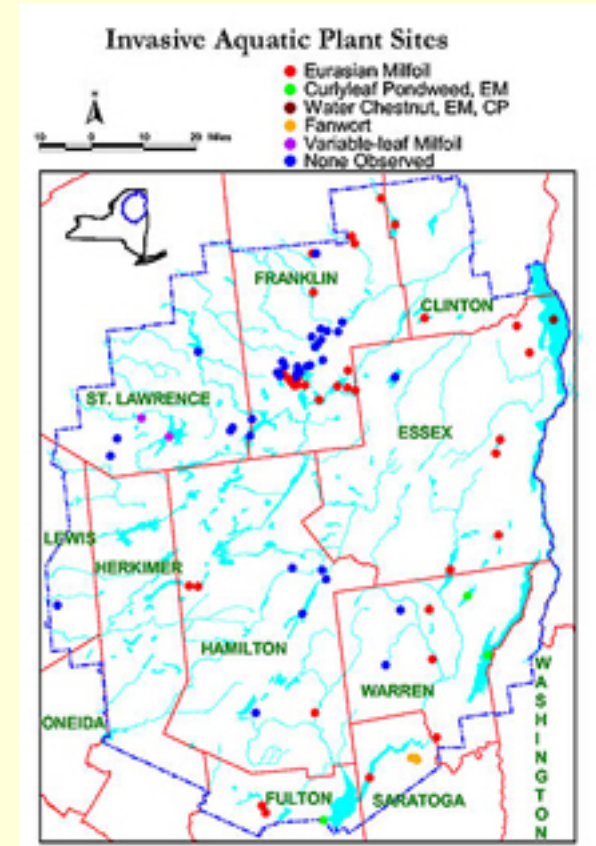


Organizing a CWMA

15. Implement plans (cont.)

Early Detection

- Weed Watchers Training
- Rapid Responders Team



Adirondack Park
Invasive Plant Program

Organizing a CWMA

15. Implement plans (continued)

Control Efforts

- Volunteer invasive plant control day
- Invasive species control crew



Organizing a CWMA

15. Implement plans (continued)

Monitoring

- **Monitoring your group's actions and their results is important in order to make sure you are meeting your objectives.**
- **Make sure that any project has a monitoring component so you can show how you have successfully accomplished your goals to your partners, donors, and grantors.**

Organizing a CWMA

16. Celebrate success and get media attention

- Utilize media and newsletters to broadcast accomplishments
- Hold an annual meeting of partners, participants, volunteers, and interested members of the public
- Prepare and distribute an annual report
- Give awards to key partners, volunteers, and elected officials



Summary

- **CWMAs facilitate cooperation and empower local citizens.**
- **CWMAs harness creativity and bring new energy to invasive plant management efforts.**

A CWMA can benefit any community – it heightens awareness, increases knowledge, and strengthens relationships.


CWMA Resources on the MIPN website (www.mipn.org)





MIPN (Midwest Invasive Plant Network) Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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 **MIPN.org**
Midwest Invasive Plant Network

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Annual Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) Meeting

December 10 - 11, 2008

(Held in conjunction with the North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS) Conference, December 8 - 11)

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana

Registration for the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) annual meeting and symposium is now open! Registration for the 2-day MIPN symposium is \$75 before Nov. 15. After Nov. 15, the rate increases to \$85.

[Click here for more information](#)

Prevention

Early Detection & Rapid Response

MIPN EDRR Contacts


Control & Management

CWMA Resources

PowerPoint presentations, with audio, now available from The National Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Conference that was held in

Focus On

Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)



Frequently Used Resources:

New - AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest flyer

- Download the PDF
- Report sightings of plants described in the flyer - [Instructions](#)
- Need large quantities of the flyer for distribution? [Click here](#)

New - MIPN Weed Management Planning PowerPoint Presentation

Center for Invasive Plant Management

www.weedcenter.org

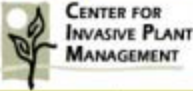
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Cooperative Weed Management Areas

["How to" Resources](#) | [State Programs](#) | [CIPM Grants](#) | [CWMAs Nationally](#)

"People-Powered Projects": The National Cooperative Weed Management Area Conference held April 15-17, 2008, in Reno, NV.

[Conference Presentations](#)

A Cooperative Weed Management Area is a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies; tribes; individuals; and various interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area.

- CWMAs occupy a defined geographic area with a common geography, weed problem, community, climate, political boundary, or land use.
- The majority of landowners and natural resource managers in the area are involved or represented.
- CWMAs are headed by a steering committee.
- CWMAs are committed to cooperation.
- CWMAs operate under a comprehensive plan that addresses the management or prevention of one or more noxious weeds or invasive plants.

CWMAs are an important element of the overall weed management effort in the West, as shown on the map below:

Coverage by CWMAs and/or county weed districts in the West, 2005

