

## Community

### **Bad River Watershed Assoc. and Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area receive grant awards**

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Two local organizations, Bad River Watershed Association (BRWA) and Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area (NCWMA) each received funding from the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program to help restore and enhance the environmental integrity of the region.

BRWA will develop a Watershed Action Plan for the Marengo River basin. "There are a lot of groups, agencies and programs that work to maintain water quality," says Executive Director Michele Wheeler. "In this project we'll coordinate watershed improvement and land-use planning activities among local citizens, governments and natural resource agencies, so that existing resources are used more efficiently."

As a citizen's group, BRWA works to make sure local people have a voice in guiding efforts to conserve, restore, or remediate valued land and water resources. Founded in 2002, BRWA has focused on water quality monitoring and culvert inventory and replacements. (Visit <http://www.badriverwatershed.org>) This project will expand their role in working on natural resource issues in the area. "The Action Plan produced in this project will identify what needs to be done, who's going to do it, and how it be paid for," says Wheeler. "That way we'll determine what's slipping through the cracks, and work with local partners to make sure that essential activities identified by the community get implemented."

NCWMA / Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department and partners will provide education, technical expertise, resources and tools to local communities, municipalities and land owners to help them prevent and control invasive species in the Lake Superior watershed.

Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area is a partnership of federal and state agencies, local municipalities, tribes, non-profit groups, lake associations, and individuals concerned about and actively managing invasive species in the four northern counties of Wisconsin that border Lake Superior-Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron Counties. The cooperative pools together existing resources and expertise and works across administrative boundaries. This grant award allows the NCWMA to continue educating the public on invasive species and how to control them, and allows the education to reach municipalities and county road crews in preventing and controlling the spread of roadside invasives. Visit <http://www.northwoodscwma.org/>

Their projects are two of 26 projects selected by the Sustain Our Great Lakes Program this year. The Program is designed to address the habitat and ecosystem restoration goals developed through the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The regional collaboration, created by a presidential executive order, is a wide-ranging, public-private cooperative effort to design and implement a strategy for the restoration, protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes.

For more information on the "Sustain Our Great Lakes" program including applicant eligibility, eligible projects, and submission requirements visit [www.nfwf.org/greatlakes](http://www.nfwf.org/greatlakes). For more information on the BRWA Watershed Action Plan, contact Michele Wheeler at 682-2003. For more information on the NCWMA, contact Matt Bushman, Botanist, Washburn Ranger District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest at (715) 373-2667.