

Invasive Plant Posse

Helping the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge fight invasive plant species

What is the Invasive Plant Posse?

The Plant Posse is a group of staff and volunteers dedicated to finding and mapping invasive plants on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Learn more about volunteering at:

<http://www.fws.gov/invasives/volunteerstrainingmodule/index.html>

What are invasive plants?

Invasive plants are plants which grow quickly and aggressively, spreading and displacing other plants. Invasives are usually introduced by people either accidentally or on purpose, into a region far from their native habitat.

Join the
Invasive
Plant Posse

What we need:

Invasive plants have been introduced to almost every part of the Refuge. Knowing the extent of invasion is the first step in properly eliminating these aggressive invaders.

Why we need your help:

Mapping invasive plant species is a big job, but it pays off. Good maps provide Refuge managers the right information for making decisions in monitoring, control or eradication of invasive species.



Invasive plant: Wild Parsnip

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What can you do to help?

You can easily join the Plant Posse by going out on the refuge to look for an invasive plant infestation.

Once you find an invasive plant:

- take a picture of it on your digital camera
- mark it as a waypoint on your Global Positioning System (GPS)
- send the refuge a message on the Friends of the Refuge Headwaters facebook page or to UpperMississippiRiver@fws.gov. Include the coordinates along with the picture.

GPS and digital cameras are available at the refuge office: 51 East 4th Street Room 203, Winona, MN 55987

Resources for identifying invasive plant species are available at our office or at the MN DNR or WI DNR invasive plant web sites.

MN DNR: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/index.html>

WI DNR: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/plants.asp>

Invasive Plant Posse Geocache Event

Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m. - noon at McNally Landing.

Take a walk with a refuge Biologist to learn about invasive plants and how to use a GPS.

What to bring: GPS, your digital camera, bug spray, and clothes that can facilitate walking through the woods (long pants and sleeves provide the most protection).

Learn to identify invasive plant species such as Leafy Spurge, Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Crown Vetch and Dame's Rocket and proper hand pulling techniques that help prevent the spread of invasive plants. Plastic bags, gloves, ivy block and sunscreen will be available. Free lunch and Invasive Plant Field Guide will be provided for those who register for the event.

Register by calling 507-454-7351 or e-mail UpperMississippiRiver@fws.gov. Registration ends July 31.

Stop the
Invaders!



Invasive plant:
Cow Vetch