

New Cooperative Group Tackles Invasive Species Management in Four County Area

For many years, small scale and independent efforts to control invasive species in northeastern Wisconsin have been undertaken by dedicated individuals and organizations. Recognizing the need for partners to share and leverage limited resources and work collaboratively to reduce and manage invasive species, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP) offered to be a fiscal agent for a new group. In July, 2013, the Lakeshore Invasive Species Management Area (LISMA) was formed.

LISMA is a broad based coalition that promotes effective management of invasive plant and animal species throughout the 4-county region of Fond du Lac, Calumet, Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties in Wisconsin. The mission of LISMA is to educate the public and protect biodiversity and ecological function throughout this region. Through LISMA we will be able to cross boundaries and build community awareness and participation, thereby encouraging and improving control efforts.

In October, 2013 LISMA hired a part-time coordinator, Jennifer Powell, to carry out projects and events in support of its mission. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, where she double majored in Biology and Environmental Science. Before becoming the coordinator for LISMA she held various positions with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources over a span of 6 years. Her most recent position was as an Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and Outreach Specialist out of the Green Bay office, where she fine tuned her invasive species knowledge and coordination skills.

LISMA is well on its way. On November 12, 2013, nearly 60 partners came together for the first LISMA Partners Forum. At the meeting, Jim Kettler, executive director of LNRP, stressed that partnership can mean many things to many people and that we would like to find a way to involve anyone who would like to assist LISMA in its mission. As LISMA moves forward into 2014, a 5 year strategic plan is being developed, which will help form its 2014 goals and courses of action. LISMA welcomes new partners. If you are interested in being a part of LISMA, contact Jennifer at 920-793-4007 or jenniferp@lisma.net.

Initial funding for LISMA came from the Wisconsin Private Forest Grant Program. Additional funding sources will have to be found to support LISMA and fund invasive species control, but we are confident that our strong partnerships will build a solid base of support.