

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation GRANT APPLICATION proposal ID of 6750

Applicant Information

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Organization:	City of Ironwood
Organization Type:	State or local government
Organization Street Address:	213 S. Marquette Street
City, State, Zip and Country:	Ironwood, MI 49938 United States
Organization's Congressional District:	Michigan 1st District
Organization's Internet Address:	www.cityofironwood.org

Project Officer (Title, First, MI, Last, Suffix):		Pat L Merrill			
Phone - Extension:	906-932-5050 Ext 126	Fax:	906-932-5745	Email:	merrillp@cityof ironwood.org
Financial Officer (Title, First, MI, Last, Suffix):					
Phone - Extension:		Fax:		Email:	

Tax ID#:		Fiscal Year End (MM/DD):	
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PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	Giant Hogweed Control Project				
Location(s) of Project:	Gogebic County, Michigan, and Iron County, Wisconsin.				
Project Congressional District(s):	Michigan District 1 and Wisconsin District 7				
Dates:	Project Start Date(MM/DD/YYYY):	05/01/2005	Project End Date(MM/DD/YYYY):	12/31/2006	
Application Submission Date(MM/DD/YYYY):		11/19/2004			

Budget Information**PROJECT BUDGET**

Please provide a Budget for this Project, in the format below.

The proposed Budget must be in compliance with OMB circulars that apply to the Applicant's organization and type of Project(please see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/> for more information). No part of the budget may include general administrative overhead; NFWF provides funding for specific Project related costs only.

FUNDING INFORMATION -- in U.S. dollars

Line-Item	Requested NFWF Funds	Matching Funds	Non-Matching Funds
Salaries and Benefits:	\$5,000	\$20,100	\$0
Explanation:	The \$5,000 of NFWF funds would be used by the City of Ironwood to cover the salary and benefits for 20 days of the Ironwood Community Development Director over two years for administration of the grant and the hogweed control contract (\$250 per day x 20 days = \$5000). The \$20,200 of matching salary is from all the project partners that will be covering hogweed inventory, education, monitoring, and specialist input on control. See attached budget for additional information.		
Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Explanation:			
Other:	\$18,000	\$4,086	\$0
Explanation:	\$18,000 requested from NFWF includes: \$15,000 for contract herbicide treatments of Giant hogweed infestations over two years, \$2,000 for materials and supplies, and \$1,000 for printing. The \$4,086 matching from project partners includes \$1586 for travel from MDA, \$500 for services from the University of Wisconsin Herbarium, \$1000 in services from Ironwood Township (hogweed disposal), and \$1000 in services from the Michigan Invasive Plant Council (web site creation and technical review). See attached budget for details.		
Totals	\$23,000	\$24,186	\$0

Sources of Matching Funds

-	Source:	Amount:	Status:
-	Wisconsin DNR	\$ 5,000	Applied for
-	Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture	\$ 2,500	Applied for
-	Gogebic County Conservation District	\$ 1,000	Applied for
-	Ironwood Township	\$ 1,000	Applied for
-	Gogebic County Extension	\$ 500	Applied for
-	University of Wisconsin-Madison	\$ 500	Applied for
-	Iron County Extension	\$ 500	Applied for
-	Michigan Dept. of Agriculture	\$ 8,586	Received
-	City of Ironwood	\$ 3,600	Received

-	Michigan Invasive Plant Council	\$ 1,000	Received
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Sources of Non-matching Funds			
-	Source:	Amount:	Status:
-	Ottawa National Forest	\$ 2,000	Applied for

Narrative Information

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Please provide a comprehensive narrative to describe your project. This section enables applicants to provide an expanded and complete description of the proposed project so that the Foundation may fully assess conservation merits, scientific underpinnings, and operational feasibility.

Summary:

Provide a concise project summary that describes location, species/habitat to benefit, and conservation methods (limited to 200 characters).

Gogebic Co. (MI) and Iron Co. (WI) contain the only known sites of Giant Hogweed in Wisc. and the Upper Peninsula of Mich. Integrated pest management would eradicate this weed from the two counties.

Objectives:

Describe the conservation need addressed by your project and its location (by states and counties). Indicate the urgency and the relative beneficial impact to the identified conservation need (limited to 4,000 characters).

Ironwood, Michigan is the center of an infestation of the federal noxious weed, giant hogweed. Giant hogweed is a public health hazard due to the severe allergic reactions caused by the plant sap. First discovered in 2001, there are now approximately 18 known sites in the Upper Peninsula. Fourteen of these are in the City of Ironwood; all are in Gogebic County, and one is within the boundary of the Ottawa National Forest. Another four sites are known to occur in neighboring Iron County, Wisconsin, the only known sites in the State. Public education by Gogebic County Extension, the City of Ironwood, and the Ottawa National Forest has led to some homeowners controlling their own infestations. Other sites are in public rights-of-way, or the owner lacks the means to safely treat the infestations.

The proposal will establish a Weed Management Area covering Gogebic County, Michigan, and Iron County, Wisconsin. Total area covered is approximately 1,250,000 acres. Most of the known infestations are at private homes in the vicinity of Ironwood, Michigan, and Hurley, Wisconsin. Iron County contains all the known sites in Wisconsin, and Gogebic County contains all the known sites in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The project would establish a Weed Management Area Steering Committee.

Members would include staff from the following organizations

City of Ironwood
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
Michigan State University Extension-Gogebic County
University of Wisconsin Extension-Iron County
Gogebic County Conservation District
USDA APHIS Michigan
USDA APHIS Wisconsin
Ottawa National Forest.
The Nature Conservancy, Michigan

All partner groups have agreed to contribute staff time for Giant hogweed education, monitoring, coordination, reporting, and technical guidance. The missing piece has been money to pay for treatments where the property owner is unable to safely treat the hogweed on their own. Meeting this need is the principle request of this proposal.

Giant hogweed is listed as a Federal noxious weed and it is illegal to bring it into the United States or move it across state lines. It is known to occur in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington and there have been reported infestations in Maine and Washington, DC. Giant hogweed is a threat to wetland and disturbed areas ? preferring moist conditions. Giant hogweed can be found along roadsides and woodland edges as well as empty lots, and is especially troublesome along streambanks where it crowds out native vegetation, leading to soil erosion. It can quickly dominate an area when the conditions are right.

Giant hogweed can be a problem for humans who come into contact with it. The sap from giant hogweed, which contains furocoumarins, which can cause phytophotodermatitis, a severe reaction from exposure to the sun after coming into contact with the sap. This causes burns and blisters to appear two to three days after exposure. Contact with the eyes can cause temporary and possibly permanent blindness. Since the plant is huge, people are attracted by its novelty and, unaware of the danger, plant it and share starts with other gardeners. Children are attracted by its size and the hollow stems which they pick for telescopes or pea shooters.

Other agencies have also been contacted and also will be invited to join in the partnership. These include the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Invasive Plant Council, and Gogebic County Parks & Forestry.

Methodology:

Describe how the project will be carried out. Include methods and timelines for all phases of the project. Discuss the qualifications of your organization to complete the project (limited to 4,000 characters).

The project will involve integrated weed management for the education, detection, and eradication of Giant Hogweed.

Education: Press releases and informational handouts alerting the public to the potential threat of giant hogweed invasion will be distributed in both states, coordinated by the WDNR, MDA, and Ottawa National Forest. Local public education will be conducted by Gogebic County Extension, Gogebic County Conservation District, and Iron County Extension. The Pennsylvania APHIS Giant Hogweed brochure would be modified to include local Michigan and Wisconsin information and phone numbers, and new copies printed (MDA, ONF, WDA, WDNR, APHIS). This and other local hogweed information will be posted to the web.

Surveys: Prior public education has resulted in numerous sites being reported to Gogebic County Extension. These reports were then divided among staff from Gogebic County Extension, APHIS, MDA, and ONF, for site visits, verification, and documentation. This process would continue, but with additional groups participating (Gogebic Conservation District, Wisconsin DNR). Data collected will include number of hogweed plants, area infested, address, location details, date, GPS coordinates, surveyor, and habitat details. Partner agencies will also increase awareness of Giant Hogweed, and note sites encountered during other project work.

Treatments: The bulk of the grant would pay for staff or contractors to treat Giant hogweed infestations. Partner agencies will combine expertise and consult with other sources to develop contract specifications including treatment methods, herbicides, concentrations, and timing. Treatment of some sites would include repeated cutting and mowing. All herbicides application would utilize licensed herbicide applicators. As the grant period covers two growing seasons, it is anticipated that treatment would be conducted in 2005 and 2006, along with the cutting and bagging of seed-bearing umbels. The goal of this project is to eradicate giant hogweed before it dominates locations where it is currently found and spreads to other areas in the respective states.

Partners in this project include several botanists and invasive species specialists, as well as groups specializing in education (e.g. the Extension Service). The City of Ironwood Blight Officer would address infestations on City rights-of-way and work with private homeowners. Staff at some of the partnering agencies have assisted in initial reconnaissance of the hogweed infestation and are qualified to identify the plant and advise homeowners on its eradication.

Final Product:

Describe, in concrete terms, the expected deliverables and accomplishments of the proposed project. Include quantitative estimates of habitat area affected, number of species benefited, number of people engaged, etc (limited to 4,000 characters).

The proposed project would treat approximately 20-40 known sites of giant hogweed. Although the sites tend to be small (0.1 to 1 acre), these sites

include all currently known sites in Wisconsin and all currently known sites in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Rapid response and treating the sites now will prevent them from spreading and invading natural areas, as they have been known to do elsewhere in the United States. Treating the sites will also help prevent injuries, especially to children, from the plant's sap.

Public education by partner agencies would increase awareness of the human health hazards posed by Giant hogweed. Education will also likely lead to more sites being reported, and will encourage able homeowners to safely eradicate their own infestations.

While this project focuses on giant hogweed, there are other non-native invasive species in the area. Contacts made and networks set up for hogweed control will benefit future projects addressing other exotics.

Evaluation:

Describe how you will measure both short- and long-term success. Include specific measurements of project effectiveness, cause-and-effect response, and accomplishment of stated objectives. Describe how evaluative findings will contribute to adaptive improvement of this, or future, conservation efforts (limited to 4,000 characters).

Overall project success will be measured by a decrease in the number of sites of giant hogweed and a decrease in the area infested at these sites. The initial, shorter term, goal is to prevent colonization of new sites. This is measured by direct comparison of the number of sites in 2005 and 2006 with the number mapped during initial efforts in 2004. A secondary, longer term goal is to eradicate existing sites. Success is measured here as smaller acreage infested or fewer number of stems, depending on the site (at smaller infestations it is feasible to count stems).

Success of treatment methods will also be monitored. We will keep track of the types of herbicide used, application method, rates and timing, and the effect on the giant hogweed plants. Manual treatments will likewise be monitored, to determine the best way to eradicate infestations in the local area. We will be able to advise homeowners on the treatment options for their yard, and let them know what others have experienced. Since weed control is an evolving science, the information we gain on how to treat hogweed may be important for others battling this same weed elsewhere in the country. Partner agencies such as the Ottawa NF, Departments of Natural Resources, and APHIS have wide networks on which to disseminate (and obtain) treatment information. Useful results can be presented to the Michigan Invasive Plant Council and the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin.

Success of the education campaign is harder to measure. One indicator of success will be the number of calls received from people who believe they have seen the plant, who were not previously alerted to this hazard. A second measure of success of the education campaign will be the non-presentation of hogweed dermatitis symptoms at local clinics.

Context:
 Indicate if the proposed project is an independent effort or an integral element of a larger, or multi-year, programmatic effort. If part of a larger effort, describe how this project will contribute to the ultimate goal. If this project is a continuation of a past Foundation-funded program, report on accomplishments to date (limited to 4,000 characters).

This project will be a multi-year, multi-agency endeavor. It will be the first coordinated effort in the northern Michigan-Wisconsin border area to address a non-native invasive plant. We believe most of the giant hogweed sites can be identified and treated within the two-season time span of this proposal. MDA, WDA, ONF, WDNR, and APHIS will continue to monitor eradication sites. Partner groups will plan for treatments after two years, as necessary.

Implementation Information

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Foundation organizes projects into phases, or groups of activities accomplished in a specific time period to achieve a project's objectives, to facilitate monitoring and ensure the timely release of Foundation funds. Projects typically consist of one to four phases that are defined by observable milestones in the project timeline. Each phase has its own budget, including associated matching funds and a scope of work identifying activities and measurable results.

Please provide a breakdown of your project by phase in the format below. When developing phases, consider imminent project expenses and the timing of project activities (points where project success can be measured). Please note, the final phase of the project is usually paid in arrears.

Project Phase 1: (Write a brief Scope of Work for the phase):	Preliminary work on hogweed education and inventory was completed in 2004. Goegbic County Extension, Michigan Department of Agriculture, USDA APHIS and the Ottawa National Forest worked together to raise awareness and map hogweed in the two counties. After a front-page color article of giant hogweed was published in the local newspaper, many people contacted Conuty Extension with reports of sites. Extension, MDA, APHIS, and ONF staff followed up on every report. There are currently 22 known hogweed sites within the project area. Some sites were treated by homeowners or volunteers in 2004, but funds for treatment of other sites were unavailable.	Budget Category	NFWF Funds
		Salaries & Benefits:	0
		Equipment:	0
		Other:	0
Anticipated Expenditures of Matching Contributions for Phase 1:	8,000	TOTAL:	0

Project Phase 2: (Write a brief Scope of Work for the phase):	May 15 to December 31, 2005. Partner groups will contribute their in-kind services for hogweed education, inventory, and specialist input, as in Phase 1. NFWF would cover costs for contract hogweed treatments (\$8,000), supplies (\$2,000), printing (\$1,000), and 10 days of time for Ironwood staff (\$2,500)	Budget Category	NFWF Funds
		Salaries & Benefits:	2,500
		Equipment:	0

		Other:	11,000
Anticipated Expenditures of Matching Contributions for Phase 2:	10,500	TOTAL:	13,500
Project Phase 3: (Write a brief Scope of Work for the phase):	January 1 to December 31, 2006. Partner groups will contribute their in-kind services for hogweed education, inventory, and specialist input, as in Phases 1 & 2. NFWF would cover costs for continued contract hogweed treatments (\$8,000) and 10 days of time for Ironwood staff (\$2,500).	Budget Category	NFWF Funds
		Salaries & Benefits:	2,500
		Equipment:	0
		Other:	8,000
Anticipated Expenditures of Matching Contributions for Phase 3:	10,500	TOTAL:	10,500

Organizational Information

Organizational Information	
Project staff and their qualifications.	<p>Pat Merrill (City of Ironwood). Ironwood Community Development Director. Works with partner groups to accomplish projects in service for the City of Ironwood.</p> <p>Ironwood Blight Officer. Currently vacant. Will work with homeowners on control of hogweed infestations.</p> <p>Ian Shackelford (Ottawa National Forest). Botanist. Six years' experience as a botanist and ecologist with the US Forest Service. First discovered Giant hogweed in the State of Michigan in 2002. ONF Noxious Weed Coordinator. Bachelor and Master degrees in botany.</p> <p>Susan Trull. Forest Botanist for the Ottawa National Forest.</p> <p>David Eagan (Wisconsin DNR). Coordinator, Wisconsin Invasive Plants Reporting & Prevention Project</p> <p>Dennis Robinson (Michigan Department of Agriculture). Agriculture Inspector. Responsible for noxious weeds in the Upper Peninsula.</p> <p>Jane Winkler (Michigan Dept. of Agriculture). Pesticide & Plant Pest Management Division.</p> <p>Joyce Price (Michigan State University Gogebic County Extension). Office manager for MSU Extension. Gogebic County Master Gardner coordinator. Has worked for MSU Extension for 8.5 years. Masters degree in educational administration. Led hogweed education and tracking efforts in 2004.</p> <p>Kelly Kearns (Wisconsin DNR). Plant Conservation Program Manager</p> <p>Richard Estola (Ironwood Township). Township Supervisor. Provided hogweed disposal services in 2003.</p> <p>Sandy Lahtinen (Gogebic County Conservation District). Office manager.</p> <p>Will Andresen (Iron County Extension). Community Resource Development Agent, Iron County UW-Extension. 2.5 years in current position. BS in</p>

	<p>Biophysical Systems, MA in Geography with a Specialization in Planning; 20 years of experience in natural resource protection activities and community planning and development; extensive grant writing and grant administration experience in a full-range of community development and natural resource protection projects and programs in Michigan and Wisconsin. Lynn Adams. Horticulture and Youth Assistant. 3 years in current position. Certified Master Gardener. Conducts education with an emphasis on plants that are invasive to our area and of danger to humans and animals. Elizabeth Rice. Michigan Invasive Plant Council Secretary. Dr. Doug Pearsall. Vice Chair, Michigan Invasive Plant Council. The Nature Conservancy, Michigan.</p>
<p>Organization's mission and goals (not applicable for federal government applicants).</p>	<p>The City of Ironwood has a population of approximately 6300 and serves as a regional economic center for the western Upper Peninsula and northeastern Wisconsin. The city government provides standard municipal services such as public safety, water, sanitation, public works, housing commission, business licensing, and city facilities. Giant hogweed is of concern to the city because of public safety and city ordinances concerning unkempt vegetation and noxious weeds.</p> <p>The Giant Hogweed Weed Management Area partnership has the simple goal of eradicating giant hogweed from the two counties. As stated elsewhere, these include all currently known sites in the State of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Another goal is to increase cooperation among member organizations on education and management of invasive plants in general.</p>
<p>Organization's Board of Directors and/or Trustees (not applicable for federal government applicants).</p>	<p>Current Ironwood City Commissioners are James Peterson (Mayor), Anita Zak, Joseph Cayer Jr., Clifford D. Koivisto, and Thomas Yelich.</p>
<p>Statement of any legal actions by your organization in which a state or federal land management agency is a party, which are pending, are anticipated, or were completed within the past year (not applicable for federal, state, or local government applicants).</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Attachment Information

<p>Attached File Name</p>
<p>Ironwood PTI budget.doc weed_management_area_map.jpg Ironwood_pti_supplemental.doc</p>

Menu

