Evolution of Land Management Co-ops in NW IL.

Steve Barg
Executive Director
Jo Daviess Conservation Fnd.
NW Illinois Prescribed Fire Co-op
Who

- Cooperatively managed by:
  - Galena Territory Association
  - The Northern Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts
  - Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
What

- Formed 20 years ago
- Consists of conservation org land managers and 30 volunteer crew members
- Conduct Rx Burning on conservation org lands, and volunteer crew member lands
How

- Solicit volunteers from local community
  - Core group of volunteers that come back every year
  - Friends groups
  - Mostly 65 years and older
  - Volunteers have to ACTIVELY participate in burning for one year before their own property becomes eligible to burn.
Managing organizations provide training
- Burn School once a year (three hours)
  - Abbreviated S-130, S-190 courses
- Required in order to participate as a crew member
Landowners have to complete a Prescribed Burn Plan

- Follows Illinois IDNR Prescribed Burn Plan format
- Managers assist with technical knowledge
- Lays out actions the landowners have to complete before day of burn (firebreaks, sensitive structures, etc.)
Equipment
Equipment

- Three managing agencies pool resources and share equipment
- Nomex and PPE, back pack sprayers, hand tools, radios
- Tanker vehicles
  - NIPE – two atvs with 50 gallon pumper
  - JDCF – 250 gallon slide in pumper unit
    - UTV with 50 gallon pumper
Mop Up
Looking to the Future

- Attract more volunteers to build capacity
- Find new grants to pay for equipment
- Start hosting S-130, S-190 training courses for local students and community members
Strike Team
15 Natural Areas in 6 Counties
Invasive Species Strike Team

- Control exotic invasive species on a landscape level in 6 NW Illinois counties
- Work primarily in state natural areas, land and water reserves, nature preserves, JDCF lands, as well as adjacent properties
- Map invasive species using STRIKE program
- Provide early detection and rapid response of new infestations
- Treat invasive species using integrated control tactics
- Prepare annual report of Strike Team activities
Work Priorities

Priorities are based on the following factors:
- Severity of threat to high-quality natural areas and rare species
- Extent of infestation
- Probability of successful control and potential for restoration
- Park/preserve commitment to follow-up monitoring and treatment
Strike Team Procedures

- **Work Orders**
  - DNR Natural Heritage
  - JDCF
Acreage Treated Per Species

- Bush honeysuckle
- Multiflora rose
- Garlic mustard
- Buckthorn
- Canada thistle
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Black locust
- Japanese hops
- Sweet clover
- Crown vetch
- Common teasel
- Japanese knotweed
Pre Treatment

Mississippi Palisades State Park: Sentinel Nature Preserve

Legend
- Weeds
  - Gleaeck Buckthorn
  - Multiflora Rose
  - Bush Honeysuckle
  - Garlic Mustard
- Property Boundary

Post Treatment

Mississippi Palisades State Park: Sentinel Nature Preserve

Legend
- Method
  - Hand Pulling
  - Chemical
- Property Boundary

Northwest Illinois Strike Team
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2012 Aerial Imagery
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**March 18, 2016**
Total Acres Treated Year 1

- Chemical: 360.92 Acres
- Mechanical: 148.84 Acres
- Prescribed Fire: 148.24 Acres
- Total: 658.00 Acres
Time Allocation Per Area

- Buehler Preserve
- Casper Bluff LWR
- Keough Effigy Mound LWR
- Sentinel NP
- Wapello LWR
- Gateway Park
- Mississippi Palisades State Park
- Apple River Canyon State Park
- Portage Property
- Castle Rock State Park
- Eagle's Nest LWR
- Hanover Bluff NP
- Schumacher Teaching Forest
- Horseshoe Mound
- Lowden Miller State Forest

Man Hours

0 50 100 150 200 250
Time Allocation in Work Categories
Early Detection, Rapid Response

Example:
Japanese Knotweed
- New Infestations Reported
- Infestations are quickly mapped and treated
Public Outreach
NW IL Cooperative Weed Management Area
Cooperative Weed Management Areas, or CWMAs, are partnerships of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals, and other interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a specific area.

CWMAs may have different names in different parts of the country, for example, Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs), Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA), or Invasive Species Teams or Partnerships.

What is a CWMA?
Why Form a CWMA?

- Stewardship/Management Staff at conservation agencies
  - Staff is limited
  - Often rely heavily on volunteer labor
- NW IL Invasive Species Strike Team
  - Founded in 2013
  - Over 1500 acres managed
- NW IL Burn Co-op
  - Founded in mid 90s
  - Over 250 burns conducted
- For-profit land management contractors
NW IL CWMA Model

- Strike Team (JDCF and IDNR)
- Burn Coop (JDCF, GTA, & NIPE)
- Governmental Partners
- Nonprofit Partners
- Funding Sources
- Volunteers & Private Landowners
Next Steps?

Organization and Capacity Building
- Form an action committee who will work over the next 12 months to establish the CWMA.
- Adopt a 5-year strategic plan
- Partners ratify a memorandum of understanding (governing document for the CWMA)

Education and Awareness
- Outreach and education workshops
Next Steps?

Implementation of Cooperative Stewardship Efforts

- Seek additional funding
- Continue Strike Team after the expiration of the current grant in spring 2017
- Expand the capacity of the burn coop.
Evolution of Land Management Co-ops in NW IL.

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