

Partnership receives grant

MARQUETTE — The Superior Watershed Partnership has received a \$25,000 grant to remove invasive species in the Hiawatha National Forest.

The grant, from the National Forest Foundation will be administered in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The grant will be used to conduct invasive inventory, mapping and eradication in the Hiawatha's Rock River and Big Island Lake wilderness areas. The project will be done this spring and summer.

The Superior Watershed Partnership is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the rivers and watersheds of the Upper Peninsula. The mission of the Superior Watershed Partnership is to protect and improve the natural

resources of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on a watershed basis; by promoting responsible individual and community actions that ensure a sustainable environment, encourage a sustainable economy and help improve quality of life.

"Through this private/public partnership, we have the opportunity to increase our efforts to protect these sensitive lands in the Hiawatha National Forest," said Carl Lindquist from the partnership.

Forest Service officials said they are excited about the opportunity to get a jump on non-native, invasive species within two of its congressionally designated Wildernesses.

"We're also excited about this opportunity to make

Rock River Canyon Wilderness our first 'invasive-free zone, especially since it will involve gathering baseline invasives information in such a biologically significant area," Hiawatha botanist Terry Miller said.

The National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program awards grants to non-profit organizations that perform on-the-ground conservation work to benefit national forests and grasslands. Projects funded fall within one of four focus areas: community-based forestry, wildlife habitat improvement, watershed restoration or recreation.

As a matching awards program, recipients are required to raise non-federal dollars to match funds provided by the foundation.

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