

Land Access at Risk from Invasive Species

INVASIVE SPECIES are taking over our public and private lands making it difficult to hunt, trap, and simply enjoy the outdoors, as well as damaging valuable wildlife habitat.

Hunters and trappers can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

WHAT HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Invasive plants tend to reproduce and grow quickly making trails impassable. They affect wildlife shelter and food sources by reducing native plant populations which also leads to soil erosion.
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS?

- Invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases can be moved on equipment, such as mud on tires or seeds with burs on clothes and shoes.
- Concerns about spreading invasive species may endanger access to lands and trails in the future.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Learn to recognize invasive species.
- Be aware of seeds that stick to your clothing and shoes.
- Inspect and clean hair, clothing, shoes, gear, and pets before and after recreating.
- Clean your equipment before and after use.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, or plant parts from cleaning.
- Stay on designated trails, roads, and other developed areas.
- Avoid areas that are infested with invasive species; "When in doubt, stay out!"
- Educate others how to limit the spread of invasive species.
- Volunteer to help control invasive species.

For more information on this and other recreational user groups (Anglers, Bicyclists, Hikers, Motorized Vehicle Users), visit the Recreation Best Management Practices at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>