

Terrestrial Invasive Species

The citizens of Northwest Wisconsin request:

- **That the Department of Natural Resources continue discussions regarding the expense to landowners and government entities of all of the cost of eradication or clean up of terrestrial invasive species.**

Regulations are being written administratively about the illegal transportation of terrestrial invasive species through the Governors Council on Forestry, and have initiated the process for the development of Best Management Practices for Invasive Species in Wisconsin. There are four tracks involved in this process: Forestry, recreation, urban and rights-of-way. The farthest along in these tracks is the Forestry BMP's which have now gone out for public comment.

The alarming part of this discussion is the expectation that a landowner or government entity could be held liable for all cost of eradication or cleanup when there seems to be no clear cut way to eradicate the species or to clean up an area infested with the invasive species. There should more discussion on these processes and also maybe to realize that eradication is impossible or improbable because the expense is prohibitive.

Counties and towns have some of the same concerns. How do we clean the vehicles so that seeds or plants are not transported from one area to another? And if it does not happen to a certain degree of certainty that no species are transported, what are the consequences, and who has control or authority to enforce? Also, another problem is who will be trained to identify species that are controlled.

Another big issue is how much control we give the WiDNR. They will be given authority to close areas for public access, which could include private lands. Some of these powers may be too broad.

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