



# Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Grant Program

## What are CWMA's?

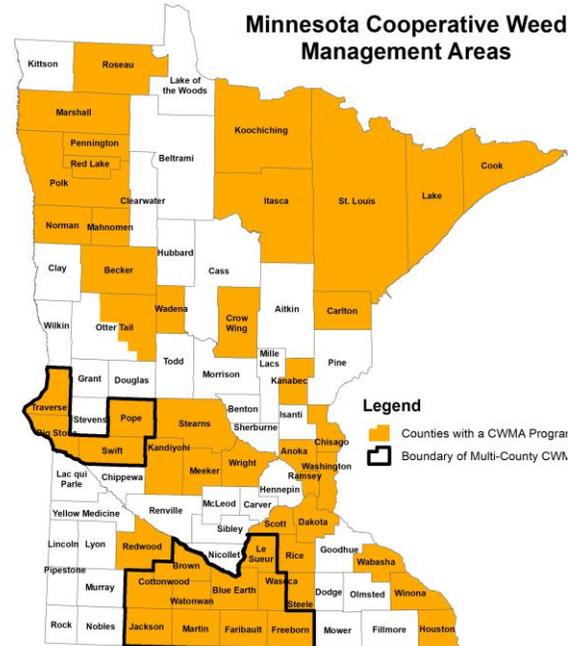
A CWMA is a local organization established to share invasive species management resources across jurisdictional boundaries to achieve widespread invasive species prevention and control. The goal of BWSR's CWMA Grant Program is to establish strong and sustainable CWMA's across Minnesota.

## How the grant program works

Grants are funded through the state's Erosion Control and Water Management Program, also known as the State Cost-Share Program. Local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) are eligible to apply. Other organizations may consider applying in partnership with SWCDs to help develop and run a CWMA.

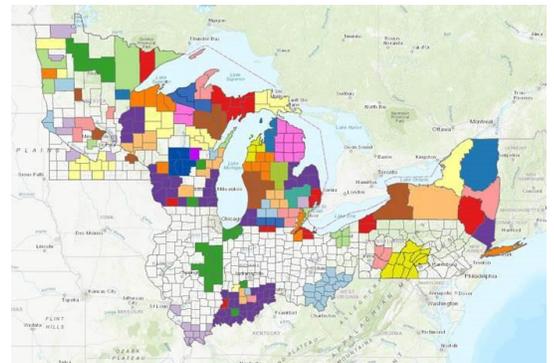
## Why CWMA's are needed across Minnesota

- They provide effective weed mapping, education, outreach and management leading to the control of emerging and established invasive species.
- They work effectively across geographic and ownership boundaries.
- They help prevent significant ecological and economic losses from invasive species



## CWMA history, funding and current status

CWMA's started in western states to manage grazing lands. Clay County had the first Minnesota CWMA, acting as a model for the BWSR program that started in 2008. Minnesota CWMA's cover 43 counties, making the state on-par with other Midwest states. The FY 2020-2021 legislative appropriation was \$200,000. Future funding sources will be needed to develop new groups and sustain existing groups.



Midwest CWMA's (Midwest Invasive Plant Network, 2020)



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# How CWMA's address weed issues across Minnesota

## Becker CWMA



Marsha Watland of Becker CWMA meeting with landowners

**Focus:** Emerging weed threats; crown vetch, common tansy, spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, wild parsnip.

**Started:** 2006 with a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant

**Mapping:** Conducted baseline GIS mapping of all invasive weeds in the country.

**Management Action:** Combined manual, biological and cultural treatments for target species across the country.

**Strength of Program:** Through mapping, partnering with the County Highway Department, establishment of a gravel pit certification program and developing a landowner cost-share program, they have achieved effective control of weeds in the county.

## Wright CWMA



Wild Parsnip

**Focus:** Wild Parsnip control (a significant agricultural, ecological, and human health threat), now adding other species.

**Started:** 2008 with BWSR Funding.

**Mapping:** GIS Mapping of parsnip locations across county.

**Management Action:** Worked with over 100 landowners and treated 11,000 acres.

**Strength of Program:** Partnership with County Hwy. Dept., Townships and Landowners to halt the spread of an emerging weed threat.

## Wabasha CWMA



Terri Peters of Wabasha CWMA monitoring invasive species

**Focus:** Addressing emerging weed threats from Japanese knotweed and Japanese barberry, as well as common buckthorn and invasive honeysuckle shrubs.

**Started:** 2008 with BWSR Funding, developed own cost-share program.

**Mapping:** GIS Mapping of 1000 acres of invasive species populations.

**Management Action:** Over 150 acres have been treated for removal of invasive species in important habitat areas.

**Strength of Program:** Effective control of emerging weed threats. Focus on protecting intact plant communities and re-seeding native vegetation after removal.