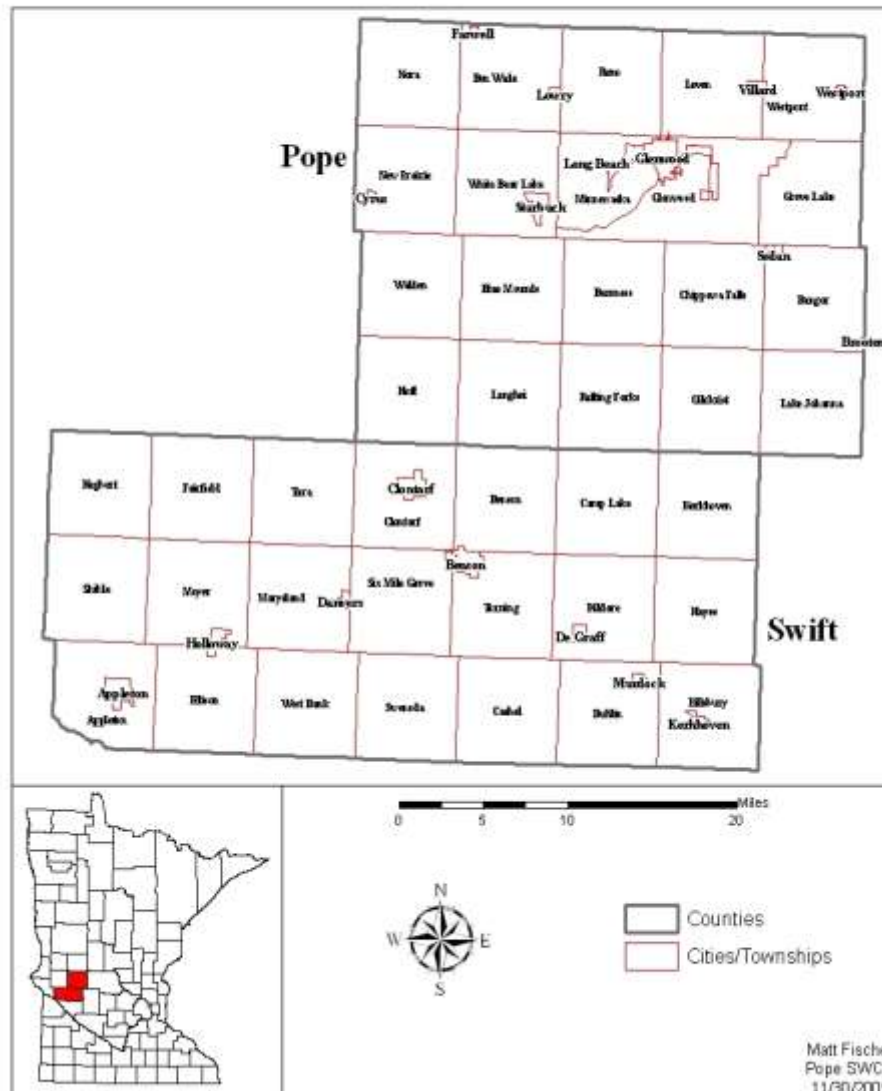


COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS

CWMA's may use different approaches and have different projects, however, they all benefit from the formal partnership provided by a CWMA.

POPE and SWIFT COUNTIES

Pope-Swift Cooperative Weed Management Area Project



WHAT IS A CWMA?

A LOCAL ORGANIZATION THAT
INTEGRATES INVASIVE PLANT
MANAGEMENT RESOURCES ACROSS
JURISTIONAL LINES IN ORDER TO
BENEFIT ENTIRE COMMUNITIES.

WHY HAVE A CWMA?

- ▣ Raise Awareness
- ▣ Reduce Risk
- ▣ Education
- ▣ Coordinate efforts and resources
- ▣ Prioritize issues
- ▣ Reduce economic losses
- ▣ Increase diversity of native plants and wildlife
- ▣ Secure funding

HOW TO START A CWMA

GATHER SUPPORT AND PARTNERS

- ▣ Pope County Commissioners request for assistance with invasive species control
- ▣ Identify Lead Agency
- ▣ Seek partners; private landowners, local residents, county, state, federal, RC & D, media
- ▣ Public meeting

WHO WILL COORDINATE THE EFFORT

- ▣ Identify a Lead Agency and Fiscal Agent
- ▣ Coordinate Partner Activities
- ▣ Generate a Mission Statement
- ▣ Develop Strategic Plan that includes action items and timeline for implementation
- ▣ Identify funding opportunities-grants, in kind contributions, partnerships

HOW WILL YOUR CWMA OPERATE

- ▣ Memorandum of Understanding or Memorandum of Agreement
 - Identifies partners' responsibilities
 - Establishes authority
 - Define purpose
 - List items of agreement
 - Describe land area covered under the agreement
 - Details how the CWMA will run
 - Minimize bureaucracy
 - Share workers, equipment & supplies

POPE SWIFT CWMA

Our Mission Statement

The mission... is to reduce the environmental and economic treats posed by invasive plants to the grasslands of Pope and Swift counties, through education, documentation (mapping), treatment and monitoring, and where necessary re-seeding with native vegetation. In this way, we are “working on the weeds of tomorrow, today!”

OUR GOALS

Protect the grasslands of Pope and Swift counties by decreasing the impacts of invasive plants by:

- ▣ Building partnerships
- ▣ Raising awareness of the invasive species problem
- ▣ Managing existing invasive species populations
- ▣ Preventing the spread of invasive species
- ▣ Identifying new invasive species
- ▣ Sharing resources with local citizens, landowners and organizations across jurisdictional boundaries

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

- ▣ MNDOT
- ▣ Pope and Swift County Highway Department
- ▣ Swift Parks and Drainage Department
- ▣ Pope County Land & Resource Management Department
- ▣ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▣ The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Chapter
- ▣ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources-Glenwood and La qui Parle offices
- ▣ U.S.D.A. - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-Pope and Swift Counties
- ▣ Farm Service Agency (FSA)-Pope and Swift Counties
- ▣ Farm Service Agency (FSA)-Swift County
- ▣ Pope and Swift County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- ▣ Pope County Master Gardeners
- ▣ Media

RAISE AWARENESS

▣ Education

- Public meetings to train people to identify invasive species
- 'Weeds Don't Wait, Don't Hesitate' campaign
- Weed Watcher's website: www.weedwatchers.org
- Invasive Species identification booklet highlighting target species
- Weekly Weed of the Week newspaper article during the growing season
- Quarterly Pope SWCD quarterly newspaper article

MANAGE EXISTING INVASIVE SPECIES

- ▣ Identify invasive species that pose the largest treat to human and animal health, the environment and the economy in your target area
- ▣ Map invasive species using GPS technology
- ▣ Access control techniques
- ▣ Develop and implement weed management plan
- ▣ Provide cost share assistance to land owners

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

- ▣ Be a good neighbor
- ▣ Prescribe treatment options
- ▣ Monitor treatment sites and adjust as needed
- ▣ Provide continuing education
- ▣ Expand program to surrounding areas

EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

- ▣ Early Detection = Early Response=Containment or Irradication
- ▣ Conduct training sessions to form a Weed Watchers network
- ▣ Identify & prioritize invasive species/infestations
- ▣ Assess control techniques
- ▣ Develop and implement invasive species management plan
- ▣ Share information & resources among partners for treatments

IDENTIFY NEW INVASIVE SPECIES

- ▣ While checking identified sites, are there new species in their place
- ▣ Talk with partners; do they see anything new or what are their partner agencies noticing in their sites
- ▣ Prescribe treatment and monitor

SHARE RESOURCES

- ▣ Rapid Response Network-the more people watching for invasive species the sooner they are identified, treated, contained, or irradiated
- ▣ Provide cost share for infestations of invasive species
- ▣ Monitor for success or failure
- ▣ Adjust action plan annually
- ▣ Adjust goals annually
- ▣ Check implementation timeline annually