



## Invasive Plant Management in the Apostle Islands

### How We Manage Invasives

- ◆ **To conserve wildlife habitat, maintain cultural landscapes, and preserve the pristine ecosystems throughout the Apostle Islands, we need to manage invasive plants**
- ◆ Invasive plants thrive in disturbed ecosystems, so we conduct surveys throughout the summer at lighthouses, historic sites, campsites, ranger stations, trails, and other areas that are used by many visitors
- ◆ We use GPS units to map the locations of current populations
  - ◆ Information such as species, population density, date of assessment, and GPS coordinates are recorded
- ◆ Spraying herbicides, pulling individual plants, and cutting with brush saws are different methods of treating invasive plants
- ◆ Areas that have been treated for invasives are re-visited each summer to assess if the management efforts were effective



Mapping spotted knapweed near a ranger station



Tansy infestation on hillside at Raspberry Lighthouse

### Major Findings

- ◆ **Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), Crown Vetch (*Securigera varia*), Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*), and Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*) are the main species of concern**
- ◆ Due to successful preventative management, the majority of our invasive populations are contained to visitor use areas and have not invaded the forest
- ◆ **Only 3% of the Apostle Islands have invasive species**
- ◆ Sites with high visitor use and large maintenance projects appear to have greater infestations than other areas from seeds transferred by shoes or construction equipment

### Management Implications

- ◆ **Although we can never eradicate invasives, we do our best to control the populations and maintain healthy native plant populations to preserve the original ecosystems within the Apostle Islands**
- ◆ If we don't manage invasives, these species can outcompete native plants on the islands, which would reduce overall biodiversity and wildlife habitat quality
- ◆ To prevent the spread of invasive plants, we will continue to monitor and treat invasive plant species
- ◆ Apostle Islands will continue to educate visitors about invasive plants & the threats they pose to Apostle Islands
- ◆ **WHAT CAN YOU DO? Look out for invasive species and report them to park staff & use boot brush stations to clean dirt and seeds off your shoes!** →



Boot brush at an Invasive Species information station