



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### [Chippewa Flowage Invasive Species Education and Management Project](#)

The Chippewa Flowage Invasive Species Education and Management Project is a collaborative effort of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College (LCOOCC), LCO Conservation Department, Sawyer County UW-Extension and other local agencies. The three main aspects of this project, Research, Education, and Outreach, are all guided by the Chippewa Flowage Invasive Species Education and Management Steering Committee.

The Project focuses primarily on two aquatic invasive species found in the Chippewa Flowage: Eurasian Watermilfoil and Purple Loosestrife. A spatially intensive survey was done on the Chippewa Flowage, 15,300 acres, to show the distribution of these two invasive species. Point-intercept methods were used to show the distribution of eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, and native submersed aquatic plants. Points were established on a 150X150 meter grid using a Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. At each point, aquatic plant distribution, plant abundance, water clarity, water depth, and substrate data were collected. In addition to the point-intercept survey, volunteers and staff performed shoreline surveys to map the distribution of purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, on shorelines, islands, and floating bogs. Using GIS technology, Global Positioning System (GPS), and traditional field research numerous maps have been created showing aquatic plant distribution, plant abundance, water clarity, water depth, and substrate. Agencies, organizations, and property owners associations are utilizing these maps and data for the development of management plans and control strategies. Besides field research the project also held a massive education/outreach campaign in collaboration with local conservation agencies and the county-wide lakes forum to inform resource users of the negative impacts of invasive species and how to prevent their spread from lake to lake.

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