

Aldo Leopold Native Plant Demonstration Program

(FY-07) Accomplishments

A 2/3-acre seed orchard was established in 2007 and was plowed, tilled and seeded with winter rye to eliminate the reed canarygrass and other non-natives. An oat cover crop will be planted in spring 2008 followed by native forbs, grasses, and sedges. Once we have established native plant materials, this orchard will serve as a future seed collection site for the Lake Superior Clayplain. A 7' electric deer fence is in place to protect the native plantings.

We had little success with our winter rye planting around the 9 wetlands on the Aldo Leopold Land Stewardship site. Migrating waterfowl consumption coupled with an unseasonably dry spring resulted in 15% germination. In addition, native plantings also had a 20% survival rate in and around several wetlands due to the unusually hot and drought conditions. Plantings will continue in 2008 in an effort to establish native tree, shrub, forbs and grass species around these wetlands.

Partners providing native plant materials for this site include Northland College and Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute.

Invasive species treatments on this site will continue with 25.7 gross acres and 5.4 net acres treated this year. Primary species were buckthorn, honeysuckle, bull thistle, Canada thistle, reed canarygrass, and tansy.



Hemlock seedling by newly established ephemeral wetland.

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: 2007

Report number: 1 of 3

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$14,700
- Expend: \$2,300
- Remaining: \$10,800
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Partners/Contractors/Coop: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Natural Resource Conservation Service; Northwood's Cooperative Weed Management; Northland College and Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, UW-Extension

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Winter rye sprouting in Aldo Leopold Native Seed Orchard at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, Wisconsin.



**Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forest**

Northern Great Lakes
Visitor Center
29270 County Highway G
Ashland, WI 54806