

DNR eDigest

Editor: [Diane Brinson](#), (608) 266-5215

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The Bureau of Education and Information's goal is to publish "The E-Digest" bi-weekly on paydays. The bureau will publish additional issues, as needed. Contact "E-Digest" editor Diane.Brinson@wisconsin.gov or at 608/266-5215 to submit stories, story ideas and photos that communicate internally the department's work, policies and issues that matter to DNR employees.

September 2, 2009

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DNR has new tool for invasive species work in NR 40

By: *Kelly Kearns, Bureau of Endangered Resources*

Extensive public and DNR staff review have resulted in a new comprehensive invasive species rule designed to be reasonable, feasible and effective. Beginning September 1, [NR 40](#) will educate the public on preventive measures to control the spread of invasives.



The Yellow Star Thistle is an invasive species in Wisconsin.

WDNR Photo

Potentially, many DNR employees from different programs could be involved with implementation of this rule. Because of this, the department is developing guidance documents, reporting forms and other protocols to assist staff carrying out the department's responsibilities under this rule. These tools will be developed over the next several months and will be available on an NR 40 Intranet site that will be created soon. Until that time, details about NR 40 can be found on the Internet site.

If you have questions before these tools are available, contact the following staff about their areas of expertise pertaining to NR 40. Click on the name to email the person.

- [Pete Flaherty](#), legal council, Bureau of Legal Services, (608) 266-8254
- [Tom Boos](#), terrestrial plants, Bureau of Forest Sciences, (608) 266-9276
- [Kelly Kearns](#), terrestrial plants, Bureau of Endangered Resources, (608) 267-5066
- [Bill Horns](#), fish, Bureau of Fisheries Management, (608) 266-8782
- [Jane Cummings-Carlson](#), forest pests and terrestrial invertebrates, Bureau of Forest Sciences, (608) 275-3273
- [Jen Hauxwell](#), aquatic plants, Bureau of Science Services, (608) 221-6373
- [Tom Van Haren](#), law enforcement, Bureau of Law Enforcement, (608) 266-3244
- [Martye Griffin](#), aquatic invasives, Bureau of Watershed Management, (608) 266-0842
- [Scott Loomans](#), wildlife, Bureau of Wildlife Management, (608) 267-2452

There will be training opportunities for staff over the next year. Watch for summaries of the rule and frequently asked questions on "[NR 40 Wisconsin's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule](#)." There also is a media kit "[Wisconsin's New Invasive Species Rule](#)" on the Internet that has general information about this new rule.

The rule focuses on education and creating public awareness of what species to avoid transporting, planting or using in some way. The rule stresses the importance of not transferring plants, animals or water from one water body to another. NR 40 classifies invasive plants, animals and plant disease-causing organisms into two categories: "prohibited" and "restricted." Prohibited species are those that aren't yet found in the state or are known to exist in only in a few locations. When found, these species should be reported immediately so prompt action can be taken to control them and prevent their spread. Report prohibited species occurrences to the contact people listed above. Although restricted species already are widespread, NR 40 will help minimize their movement and further spread. It also includes preventive measures, primarily to slow the spread of aquatic invasives. The new rule doesn't cover disease organisms of fish or wildlife, but it does complement the fish [Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia \(VHS\)](#) rules.

Footnote: *Kelly Kearns is the plant conservation program manager in the Bureau of Endangered Resources.*


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More information on this topic: **Editor:** [Diane Brinson](#), (608) 266-5215

Questions or comments about Intranet Website: [DNR Webmaster](#)

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