Trails at Risk from Invasive Species

INVASIVE SPECIES are taking over our parks and natural areas making it difficult to enjoy nature.

You can play a critical role in slowing the spread of invasive species.

WHAT MOTORIZED VEHICLE USERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INVASIVES

- Invasive species are nonnative plants, animals, and diseases that can cause harm to the economy, environment, and human health.
- Invasive plants tend to reproduce and grow quickly making trails impassable. They affect wildlife shelter and food sources by reducing native plant populations which also leads to soil erosion.
- Invasive insects and diseases can kill trees.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MOTORIZED VEHICLE USERS?

- Invasive plant seeds, insects, and diseases can be moved on equipment, such as mud on tires or seeds with burs on clothes and shoes.
- Concerns about spreading invasive species may endanger access to lands and trails in the future.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Learn to recognize invasive species.
- Wear clothing and footwear that do not attract seeds.
- Inspect and clean hair, clothing, shoes, and gear before and after recreating.
- Clean your equipment before and after use.
- Properly dispose of soil, seeds, or plant parts from cleaning.
- Minimize soil disturbance; stay on designated trails, roads, and other developed areas.
- Avoid areas that are infested with invasive species; “When in doubt, stay out!”

For more information on this and other recreational user groups (Anglers, Animal-Based, Bicyclists, Hikers, Hunters), visit the Recreation Best Management Practices at: http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/