

Midwest Region

A workshop on rare plant species inventory, research, and monitoring needs in Midwest Region parks, held Feb. 2-3 at the U/WI Madison Arboretum, provided an overview of endangered species programs in the region, prepared a priority list of inventory and research proposals for rare plants in parks, and discussed approaches to monitoring these species. Participants representing a mix of NPS personnel and regional academicians, were asked to comment on a draft list of rare plant inventory/monitoring projects. A draft 3-year plan is being developed and will be presented to the parks.

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Supt. Jerry Banta and Ecologist Bob Brander of Apostle Islands NL, have formed a Western Lake Superior Natural Resource Cooperative to address eco-region level natural resource issues. Seven cooperating federal and state agencies and higher education institutions will address the following areas over the next 3 to 5 years: biological diversity, resource supply/recreation demand, and Lake Superior quality. The Midwest Regional Office is issuing a challenge grant to participating groups to study toxics in Lake Superior.

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Scientists monitoring the wolf population at Isle Royale NP counted 15 animals during the annual winter monitoring – an increase over the 11 counted last year, according to Rolf Peterson of Mich/Tech U, who conducted the count. Resource Management Specialist Robert Krumenaker reported three new pups with an adult pair at the east end of the wilderness island; another wolf, which may be a pup, was reported with a wolf pair at the west end of the island. The population now consists of three groups that could produce offspring this year, and four "loners."