

BAD RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT INVASIVE SPECIES INSPECTIONS

A GUIDANCE FOR CONTRACTORS CONCERNING VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

A Short Background on Invasive Species

Invasive species are plants, animals, fungi, and pathogens that can disrupt and cause damage to ecosystems and regions where they are introduced. Some of these species are very harmful and can result in threats to human health and millions of dollars in damage to local economies. In 2014 the USDA estimated that invasive species cause \$30 billion dollars in economic impact annually. (For example, some of the damage caused by zebra and quagga mussels infestations in the Great Lakes include impacts to sport fishing, commercial fishing, and disruption of water intakes for municipalities.) Treating established populations of invasive species is both expensive and time intensive, for these reasons the best management for invasives is to slow their spread and hopefully reduce the possibility of introduction into new areas.

Specific Concerns on the Bad River Reservation

There are already invasive species within the boundaries of the Reservation, but there are also many species in the surrounding landscape that haven't reached the Reservation yet. For this reason, and the ones stated above, the Bad River Natural Resources Department has adopted a standard condition for projects needing permits that equipment that will be used off-road at a project site will need to be cleaned (and inspected) before it can be used within the Reservation. Also, at certain locations we may require equipment to be cleaned before it leaves the site because we know that location is infested with an invasive of critical concern.

The Tribe is specifically concerned with the following species:

- buckthorn (glossy and common) †
- cattail (narrow-leaf and hybrid) †
- curly-leaf pondweed
- Eurasian water-milfoil
- European swamp thistle †
- garlic mustard †§
- **giant hogweed** (human health hazard)
- giant reed grass †
- honeysuckles (European and Asian) †
- Japanese barberry †§
- Japanese knotweed †
- leafy spurge
- purple loosestrife †
- reed canary grass †
- winged pigweed †
- **wild parsnip*** †§ (human health hazard)

Some of these species have been found on the Reservation (†), while others have not. Efforts are being made to eradicate species with small populations that have not been long-established with the Reservation (§). This list is subject to change at anytime as new threats are identified.



Giant hogweed (left) and wild parsnip (right) are two invasive species in northern Wisconsin that can cause severe blistering if they come in contact with bare skin. Photos courtesy of Wisconsin State Herbarium, UW-Madison.

Equipment Needing Inspections

In general, vehicles and equipment have to be inspected when:

- the equipment is being transported onto the Reservation from off-Reservation
- the equipment is being moved from an area with a known infestation of garlic mustard, giant reed grass (Phragmites), Japanese barberry, wild parsnip, or any other species the Tribe is trying to eradicate or a known human health hazard

Equipment and vehicles that must be inspected include those that are used off-road, for example:

- ATVs, UTVs, argos, etc.
- backhoes, excavators, etc.
- bull dozers, skid steers, loaders, etc.
- tractors, trenchers, etc.
- directional bore equipment, well drilling equipment
- cranes, lifts, etc.
- timber fiber matting and other types of temporary water crossing structures
- sheet piling used for coffer dams

Dump trucks, pickups, trailers, and other equipment that remains primarily on roads or driveways does not need to be inspected.

Possible alternatives for needing an inspection are discussed in more detail on the other side of this sheet.

Inspections can be scheduled by calling the BRNRD Invasive Species Coordinator at 715-979-1071.



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How to Clean Equipment for an Inspection

Before coming to the Reservation, equipment should be cleaned for inspection. Usually cleaning entails washing the equipment to remove all vegetation (e.g., dead grass, seed heads, twigs) and dirt (e.g., mud, gravel, sand, etc.). Oftentimes, washing with a power washer is the most effective way of removing dirt, but sometimes it is necessary to hand remove vegetation that has gotten wedged into tight spaces or twisted around axles or tracks.



Seed pods and flower heads trapped around an ATV engine (left); after they were removed (right) the equipment passed the inspection.



Areas where dirt may be missed when washing include up in wheel wells and around mufflers (left). The ATV on the right has been properly cleaned.

Some commonly missed locations that should be checked prior to having the Invasive Species Coordinator complete an inspection:

- tires and rims, including the inner sides
- up in the fender/wheel wells
- top of axles
- next to the shock absorbers
- tracks of the machine and track rollers

If the inspection uncovers an area that has not been adequately cleaned on a piece of equipment, there are two options:

- lay a tarp or other sort of catchment material under the equipment, clean dirty area, dispose of debris in the trash, and ask for another inspection; this works well if dirt and other debris is dry and can easily be removed by hand with brushes or scrapers
- return to off-Reservation facility and clean equipment there using a power washer, or another method, before returning to the Reservation for second inspection

Bad River Natural Resources Department

Invasive Species Inspection Record

Project: _____

Main Contractor: _____

Main Contractor Contact Information: _____

Contractor Given Map of Known Populations of Concern along Project Route? Yes No Company Given Inspection Packet? Yes No

Company	Date & Time		Equipment Inspected	Inspected by	Location	Type of Inspection ¹	Pass/Fail	Photos? (Y/N)
	Contacted	Inspected						
Example Company LLC	10/12/2015 1:00	10/12/2015 1:30	Backhoe	LS	Casino	Initial	Fail	Y

Inspection Comments: Equipment failed inspection due to large amount of soil still in bucket and mud and vegetation stuck in tracks. Equipment was still trailered and will need to return to facility for more cleaning prior to being unloaded on Reservation. Company to contact for re-inspection on 10/13/16.

Company	Date & Time		Equipment Inspected	Inspected by	Location	Type of Inspection ¹	Pass/Fail	Photos? (Y/N)
	Contacted	Inspected						

Inspection Comments: _____

Company	Date & Time		Equipment Inspected	Inspected by	Location	Type of Inspection ¹	Pass/Fail	Photos? (Y/N)
	Contacted	Inspected						

Inspection Comments: _____

Company	Date & Time		Equipment Inspected	Inspected by	Location	Type of Inspection ¹	Pass/Fail	Photos? (Y/N)
	Contacted	Inspected						

Inspection Comments: _____

1 - Initial inspection of equipment coming on Reservation for the first time; Reinspection of equipment previously failing inspection; Special inspection of equipment either used in an area with known invasives of concern; Other inspection, the details of which should be in the comments.

This is the Invasive Species Inspection Record form that is filled out for each inspection. This helps the BRNRD track problem areas on machinery and other information.

Self-Inspection Alternative

If a company consistently passes inspections conducted by the Invasive Species Coordinator, upon request, the BRNRD may allow them to complete self-inspections. The company would be required to have one or two employees trained by BRNRD to do the inspections, complete the associated forms, and turn them into the BRNRD.

Self-inspections would allow a company to fulfill permit conditions for access to the Reservation without needing to schedule an inspection with BRNRD staff. However, if any follow-up by BRNRD staff indicates equipment has not been cleaned properly, the access would be considered in violation of permit conditions and the designated penalties would apply.

Additional Resources for more information about invasive species, best management practices, and other cleaning standards.

- BRNRD Invasive Species Inspections Supplemental Standards *Request by email.*
- Bad River Reservation Invasive Species Management Plan for Aquatic and Terrestrial Plants (BRNRD 2015) *Request by email.*
- WisDOT Invasive Species <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/real-estate/roadsides/invasivespecies.aspx>
- WisDOT Highway Maintenance Manual Chapter 07, Section 01 <http://wisconsin.gov/Documents/doing-bus/local-gov/hwy-mnt/mntc-manual/chapter07/07-01-01.pdf>
- Invasive Species Best Management Practices for Transportation and Utility Rights-of-Way www.wisconsinforestry.org/files/invasiveBMPs/ROW-Manual.pdf
- Wisconsin Regulations on Noxious Weeds <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/66/1V/0407>