IRON COUNTY—In an effort to prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers, the Iron Conservation District is providing free boat washing to the public as part of the Clean Boats Clean Waters program made possible through funding administered by the USDA Forest Service by a grant provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

__PUBLIC__The portable pressurized boat washer is towed behind a vehicle and set up at lakes in Iron County during the week and weekends throughout the summer and into fall. There is no formal schedule of boat washing locations. If you would like to see the boat washer visit a lake you frequent, please contact the Iron Conservation District at (906) 875-3765.

The boat washer staff also provides educational handouts regarding aquatic invasive species and the best way to stop their spread. Organisms of concern in Iron County include: Eurasian watermilfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, rusty crayfish, zebra mussel and the yellow perch parasite.

Before leaving a lake remove all water, plants, mud and anything else that might harbor invasive hitchhikers. Following these simple steps will help to ensure that the lakes and waterways remain healthy for your recreational activities.

The Ottawa National Forest, of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture is a partner with Conservation Districts in efforts to raise awareness about invasive species. This work is supported by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

If you would like more information regarding invasive species, Clean Boats Clean Waters, or other Conservation activities please contact the Iron Conservation District at (906) 875-3765. A website providing additional information regarding the Clean Boats program and information about Michigan waters is Michigan Sea Grant, found at www.miseagrant.umich.edu/cbcw/index.html .