



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Seney National Wildlife Refuge

1674 Refuge Entrance Rd.

Seney, MI 49883

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VEHICLE WASHDOWN GUIDELINES

Limiting the establishment of invasive plants is a priority for refuge management per the 2009 *Comprehensive Conservation Plan*. Roads and vehicles are major factors in the spread of invasive plants. Access behind locked gates is deemed a privilege and usually requires a *Special Use Permit*. Through inventory data and exchanges with other colleagues, the refuge is generally aware of those invasive plants found at the refuge and on nearby lands.

The following are guidelines for the washdown of all vehicles using refuge roads other than the Wildlife Drive and the Fishing Loop (Unit 1). The goal of these guidelines is to reduce the likelihood of invasive plants becoming established at the refuge; our objectives include removing seeds and soils from vehicles before they enter the refuge. In most instances, these guidelines will be a part of a *Special Use Permit* or an addendum to the same. Oversight for making sure all heavy equipment coming to the refuge is clean is the responsibility of the program associated with that heavy equipment.

1. **Any** vehicle that has been off of paved roads in the eastern U.P. counties of Alger, Delta, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac, and Chippewa or any vehicle coming from **anywhere** else is expected to be thoroughly washed (inside and out) prior to arrival at Seney.
2. If the above is not practical, a washdown facility has been established directly adjacent to fuel tanks at the shop area. A small shed attached to the backside of the fuel house contains a vacuum, and a water hose is located nearby. This facility is available at any time, day or night.
3. Vehicles must be sprayed (only) with water on the exterior and have their interior vacuumed before going behind locked gates.
4. Consideration should be given to thoroughly washing around the vehicle wheel wells and vacuuming the inside floor mats, etc. The engine compartment is **NOT** to be washed due to oils and other materials that could be freed; the use of any soap is likewise not allowed. The washdown is meant to function as a physical treatment for seed removal.
5. The entire exterior washdown should take between 15 and 30 minutes and should remove the vast majority of visible soil, etc. The vacuuming should take another 15 minutes or so.
6. This procedure need not be done daily, but should be done to meet the requirements of #1, above.

Any questions can be directed to your refuge contact person.