SLELO PRISM Partners Share These Goals:

PREVENTION

Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

COOPERATION

Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment and information.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring and research.

CONTROL

Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:

ERADICATION - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.

CONTAINMENT - Reduce the spread of established infestations.

SUPPRESSION - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

RESTORATION

Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

SLELO PRISM

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SLELO PRISM

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

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What You Should Know About

Phragmites

(*Phragmites australis*)

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"Teaming up to stop the spread of invasive species"

What is *Phragmites*?

Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) also known as common reed, is an invasive perennial grass and is thought to be one of the most widespread plants on Earth. It is believed to have originated from the Middle East, and is sometimes hard to distinguish from the native *Phragmites* species (*Phragmites australis subsp. Americanus).* Invasive *Phragmites australis* out-competes native vegetation, reduces biodiversity and alters the habitats and hydrology of wetland regions. It also increases the potential for natural fires to occur. Below are pictures that illustrate how dense invasive *Phragmites australis* populations can become.

Steps You Can take to Stop the Spread of Phragmites:

Phragmites australis is on the New York State Prohibited & Regulated Invasive Plants list; you can stop its' spread by not buying or selling this invasive plant.

Control & Management

Physical control: Maintain or plant native vegetation that competes with *Phragmites* such as: Jesuit's bark (*Iva frutescens*), groundsel-tree (*Braccharis halimifolia*), and black rush (*Juncus roemerianus*). Controlled burns are also effective under the right conditions, as well as water level manipulation. Hand pulling isn't a feasible control method due to the expansive and tough root and rhizome network associated with the plant.

Mechanical Control: repeated mowing can produce short-term results; breaking stems in high-water years has also shown to control large portions of *Phragmites* colonies. However, these methods require repeated application as broken plant fragments can generate a new plant.

Chemical Control: Chemical applications are best applied in late summer or early fall **after the plant has flowered**. Multiple years of treatment may be necessary to eradicate surviving rhizomes. It is important to follow specific herbicide control guidelines as per label.

Phragmites Identification:

Leaves/Sheath/Stem: **Leaves** are dark blueish-green and are long and strap-like with narrow pointed edges. They are alternately dispersed along the plant stem. The **leaf sheath** is located at the lower part of the stem and typically is wrapped tightly around the culm (stem). **Stems** are slightly ridged with a rougher texture than the native variety and are green in color. Unlike native common reed, invasive *Phragmites* has few to no fungal spots on its' stem.

Flowers: Form large bushy purple to golden brown plumes that grow to 1-2 feet in length and drape to one side. **Flowers bloom in late July and August.** Seeds are grayish and are covered with silky hairs.

Non-native

Native