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

Special Note

The partners of the SLELO PRISM have identified 24 Priority Conservation Areas on which we conduct early detection surveillance on a two year rotation. This report is to be considered as an addendum to the field reports from 2013 and 2015. The previous reports are attached to the end of this report.

2017 Field Survey
Addendum to
Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area

Figure 1: Panoramic view of Fish Creek WMA. Photo taken by Alicia Wood.

SLELO-PRISM Early Detection Surveillance
June 15-16 & 26, 2017

Report prepared by Bryna Daykin and Alicia Wood, 6/28/2017

Survey Methods and Observations

The Fish Creek Wildlife Management area was surveyed in June of 2017 by the SLELO Early Detection Team (**Figure 1**). The survey involved examining highly probable areas (HPAs) for both invasive terrestrial and aquatic species. To determine which aquatic species were present at HPAs, the rake toss method was used. For this, a double sided rake was tossed off both sides of the canoe to collect aquatic vegetation. The vegetation attached to the rake was identified and determined to be invasive or native. Visual observations were used for both aquatic and terrestrial surveying to find and identify invasive species at the HPAs. The location of each HPA was marked using a handheld Garmin GPSmap 60CSx.

No Prevention "Watch-list" species were found in the 2017 survey.

The six HPAs examined in 2013 and 2015 were resurveyed, along with four new parking areas which were deemed to be HPAs (**Table 1; Table 2; Figure 2**). For the 2017 aquatic survey, points 131 and 133 from the 2013 field report were removed as they did not appear to be HPAs. From the 2015 terrestrial field survey, waypoints 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 75, 76, and 80 were not HPAs and as such were excluded from the 2017 survey.

The following target-list[1] species were found during the field survey: purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*). In addition to these, the invasive species coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) was found (**Table 1**).

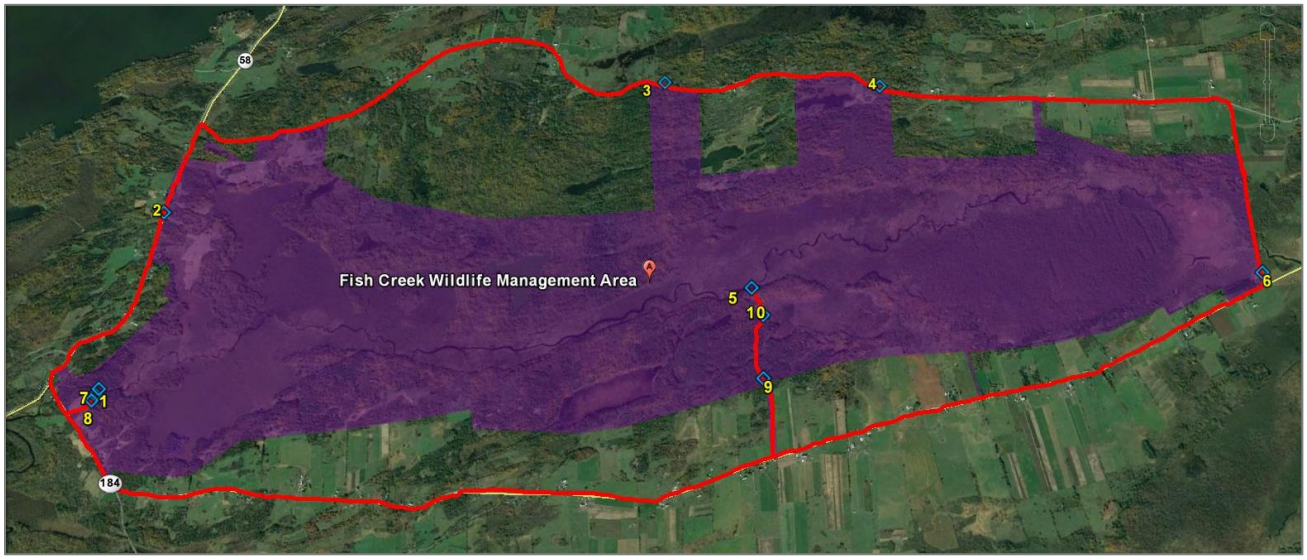

Figure 2: Survey Rout of the HPAs for Fish Creek WMA. The red line indicates the driving rout taken to get to each HPA. Note that both terrestrial and aquatic surveys were done at HPAs 1 and 5.

All waterbodies within the Fish Creek wildlife management area (WMA) were observed to contain frogbit (**Table 2**), as noted in the 2013 field report. Purple loosestrife was found only in a small patch at HPA 5, which was removed by hand. Unlike the 2015 survey, the 2017 survey did not find purple loosestrife at HPA 1. Wild parsnip was found at HPAs 2, 4-8, across the road from HPA 9, and in between HPAs 9 and 10. Common buckthorn was found at HPAs 2, 7, and 8. Coltsfoot was found in small patches at HPA 1 and 3, and was handpicked. Glossy buckthorn was found in dense patches at HPAs 5, 9, and 10. Common frogbit was found in dense patches at HPA 1 and 5. Swallow-wort, which was not found in previous field surveys of Fish Creek WMA, was found at HPA 1, 7, and 8 (**Figure 3**). **Swallow-wort plants found were removed by**

[1] Target list species are those species which are established in the SLELO Region and are of lesser priority.

hand by the early detection team (**Table 3; Figure 6**), though some of the smaller/younger plants may have been more difficult to detect. This site should be re-evaluated in the near future to determine if the population was fully eradicated from the area.



Figure 3: Swallow-wort found in HPAs 1, 7, and 8. Photos taken by Alicia Wood & Bryna Daykin.

Table 1: Descriptions, coordinates, and invasive species sightings at each HPA at Fish Creek WMA. New HPAs sampled only in 2017 are highlighted in yellow.

HPA	Habitat Description	Latitude	Longitude	Species
1	Pope Mills Handicap Trail & Canoe Launch	44.48608	-75.57615	CF, BSW
2	Rt. 58 Parking Area	44.49898	-75.58290	CB, WP
3	Bishop Road Parking Area	44.52877	-75.54670	CF
4	Lake Road West Parking Area	44.53765	-75.52670	WP
5	Parking Area, Trail & Canoe Launch	44.51833	-75.52640	GB, PL, WP
6	Factory Rd. Intersection Parking Area	44.54022	-75.48260	WP
7	Pope Mills Parking Area	44.48517	-75.57594	CB, WP, BSW
8	Pope Mills Additional Parking Area	44.48563	-75.57600	CB, WP, BSW
9	Parking Area	44.51302	-75.52040	GB
10	Parking Area	44.51704	75.52389	GB

Key: PL = Purple Loosestrife, CF = Coltsfoot, CB = Common Buckthorn, GB = Glossy Buckthorn, WP = Wild Parsnip, BSW = Black Swallow-wort

Table 2: Descriptions, coordinates, and invasive species sightings at aquatic HPAs at Fish Creek WMA. HPA 1 was previously labeled "point 130", and HPA 2 was previously labeled "point 132" by the 2013 field survey team. For clarification purposes these were relabeled based on the HPA they were located within.

HPA	Habitat Description	Latitude	Longitude	Throw	Depth (ft)	# Spp.	# Inv.	Inv. Type	Notes
1	Canoe Launch Near Handicap Trail	44.48608	-75.57615	1	3.5	5	1	Frogbit	Visual: Frogbit
				2		5	1	Frogbit	
5	Canoe Launch Near Parking Area	44.51833	-75.52640	1	2	7	1	Frogbit	Visual: Frogbit
				2		8	1	Frogbit	

Japanese knotweed was found in a dense patch along the border of Fish Creek WMA (**Figure 4-5**), as observed in the 2013 and 2015 field surveys. This patch was found along Bishop Road/West Lake Road (N 44.53766°, W 75.52922°).

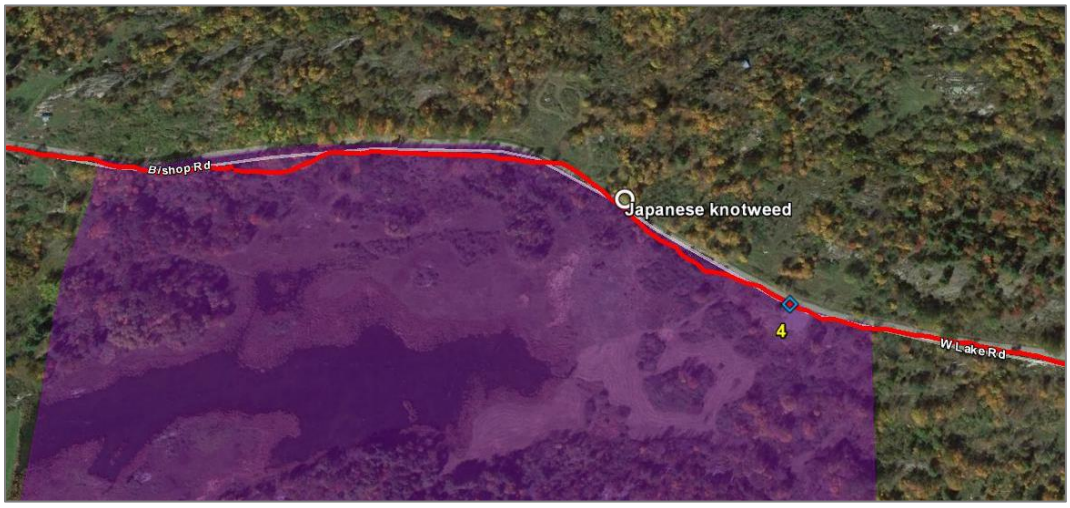

Figure 4: Japanese knotweed found along the border of Fish Creek WMA.

Figure 5: Japanese knotweed along Bishop Road/West Lake Road. Photo taken by Alicia Wood.

Table 3: Coordinates of Swallow-wort (BSW) found at HPAs 1 and 7-8.

Waypoint	Latitude	Longitude
SW1	44.48540	-75.57587
SW2	44.48511	-75.57581
SW3	44.48545	-75.57626
SW4	44.48555	-75.57632
SW5	44.48569	-75.57619
SW6	44.48573	-75.57595
SW7	44.48600	-75.57589

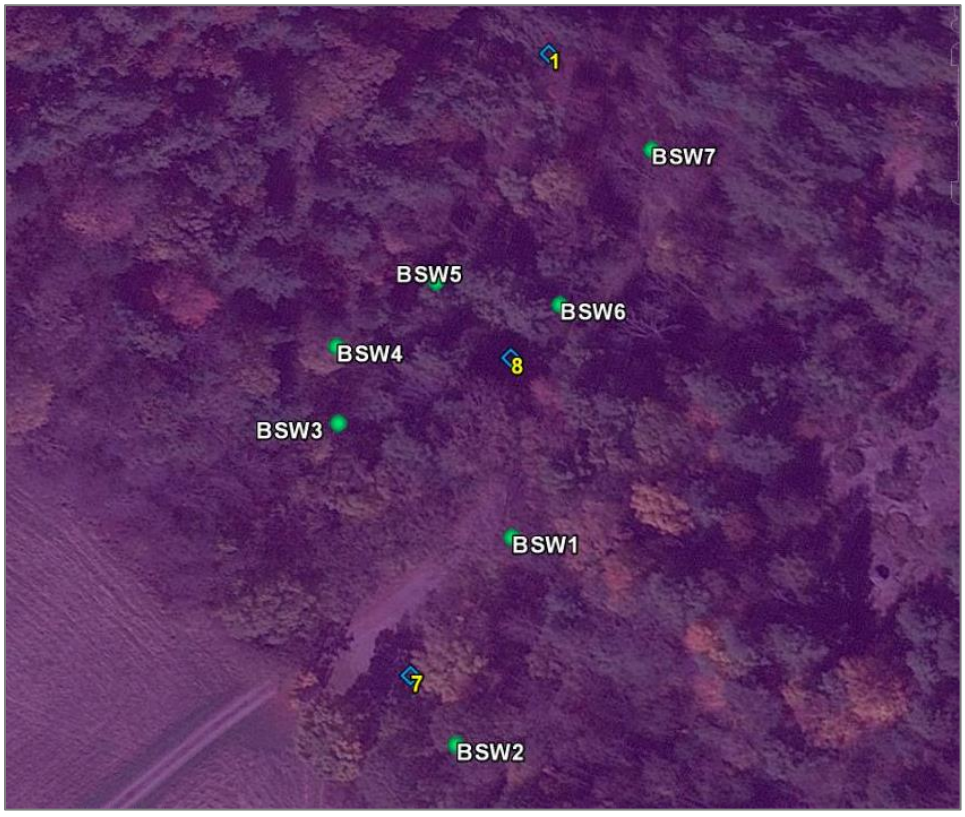

Figure 6: Swallow-wort plants found within HPAs 1 and 7-8.