Upper and Lower Lakes Wildlife Management Area

SLELO-PRISM Early Detection Surveillance

June 17 and July 26, 2013

Figure 1: Panoramic view of Lower Lake

Report prepared by Mike McHale and Logan West, 7/30/2013

Introduction and Background

Upper and Lower Lake Wildlife Management Area is a 8,757 acre area located between the Grasse River and the Oswegatchie River three miles west of the village of Canton in St. Lawrence County, New York (Figures 2 & 3). Water control structures ensure the availability of water for migratory birds, for dependent birds that use the area for nesting, and they provide habitat for wetland furbearers. There is both shallow and deep water within the wetlands, and outside of the wetlands there are forested areas spread out among brush and open meadows. The forested areas contain numerous softwood and hardwood species that are managed through commercial cutting that allow the 600 acres of meadows and grasslands to be maintained. "The objective is (to) maintain a habitat that benefits a variety of game and non-game wildlife species".[1]

Figure 2: Location of Upper and Lower Lake WMA

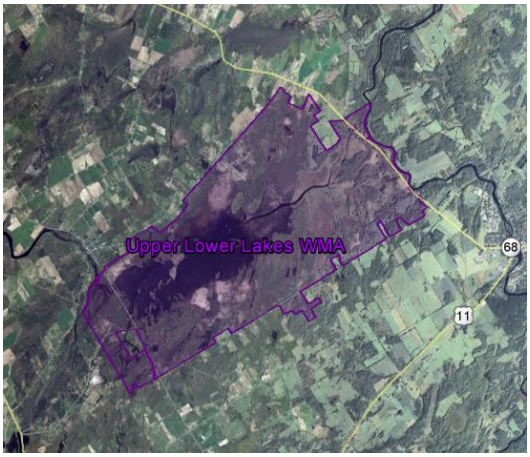

Figure 3: Upper and Lower Lake WMA boundary

[1] Resource: Department of Environmental Conservation, found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9325.html

Survey Methods and Objectives

Seasonal crew members visited Upper & Lower Lakes WMA to establish and conduct Early Detection/Rapid Response Surveillance of invasive species in what the crew deemed as High Probability Areas (HPA's). HPA's are areas where human activities or site conditions increase the probability that invasive species will be detected and/or become established. Previous to visiting the WMA, a map featuring 24 HPA's was created by the SLELO-PRISM coordinator (Figure 4).

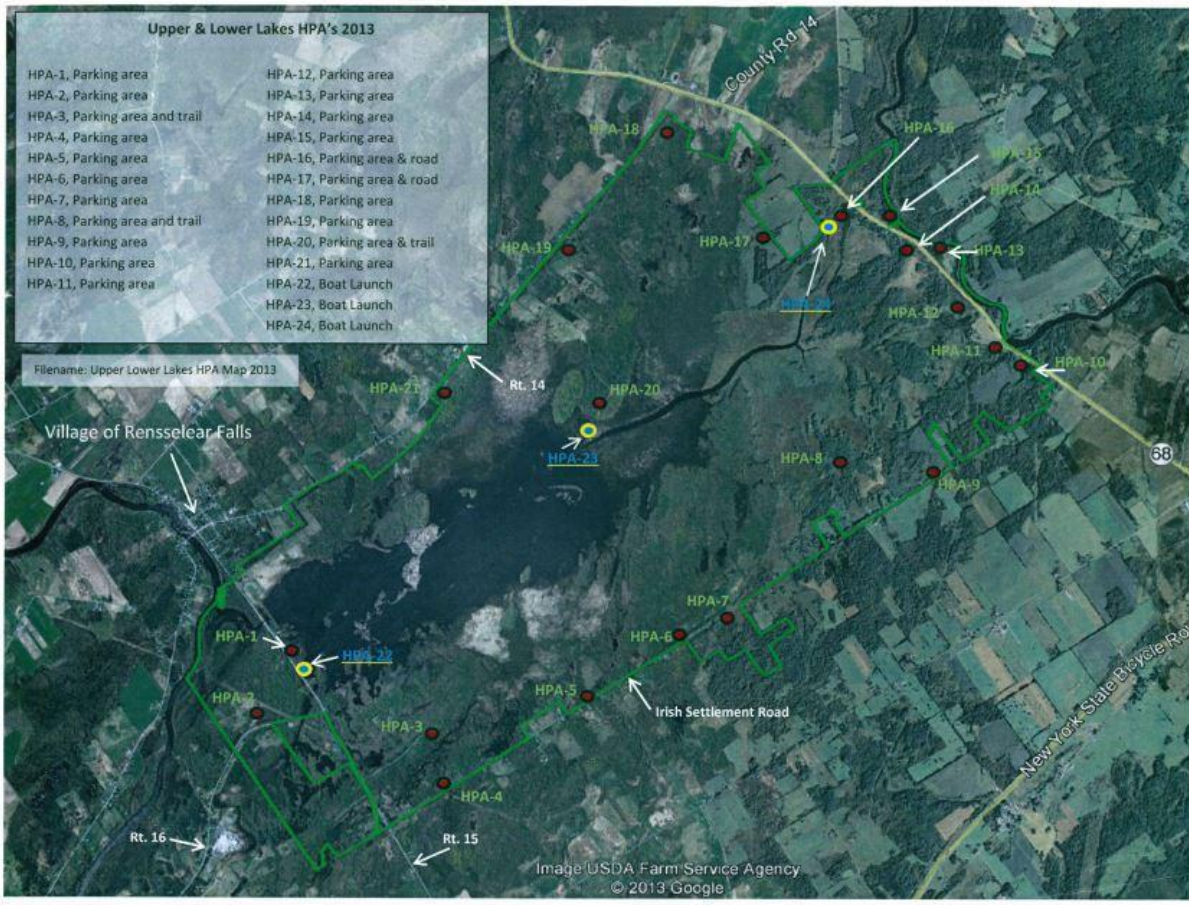

Figure 4: Upper and Lower Lake preliminary HPA map

A terrestrial examination of the HPA's was conducted, and visual observations along the roadsides that border the WMA were recorded (Figure 5: red track). The crew utilized a handheld Garmin GPSMAP* 62 to track the travel route and record waypoints. Where water access is available and the site fits into the HPA survey strategy, rake tosses were conducted from shore to sample the aquatic plant community.

Observations

Crew members spent two days in the field surveying the area, which is shown by the red track in Figure 5. Once in the field, the HPA map was re-evaluated adjusting the HPA locations according to site conditions. Three of the locations included water access; these sites were noted as both terrestrial and aquatic HPAs (Table 1).

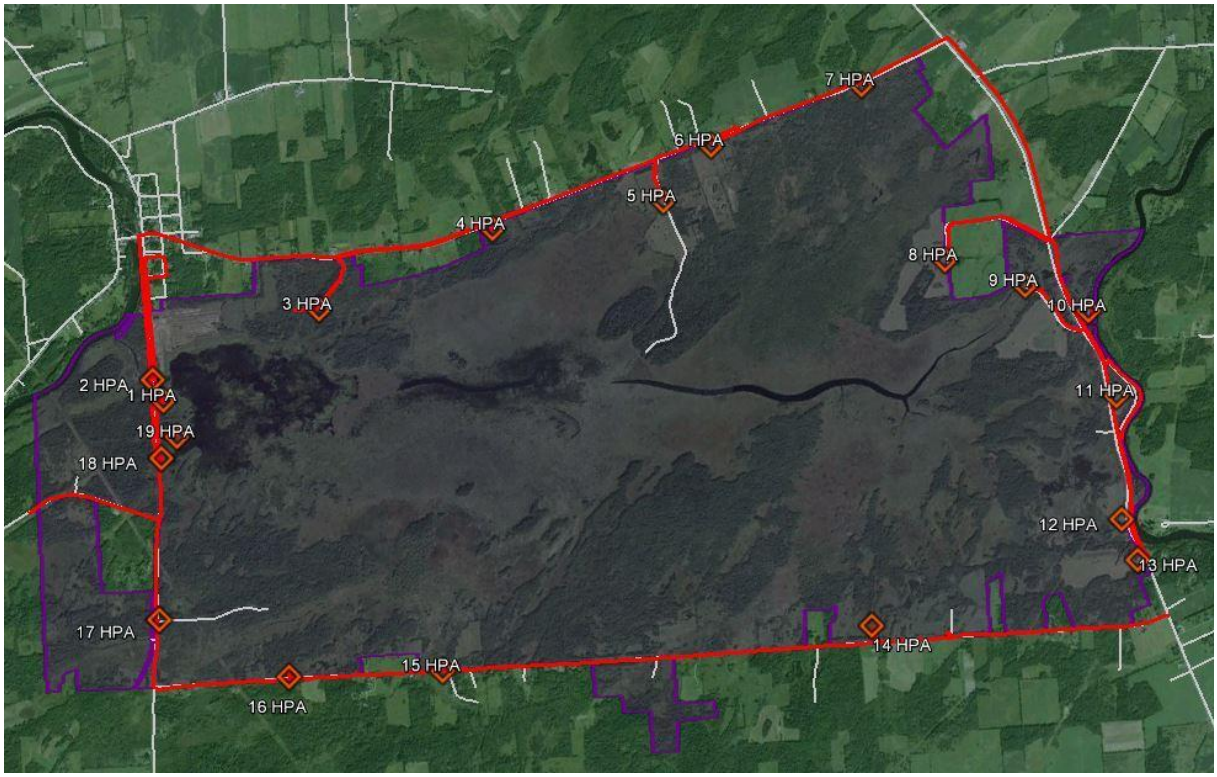

Figure 5: HPA map adjusted for site conditions

Table 1: HPA location, land use, and type

HPA	Lat	Long	Land Use	HPA-Type
HPA 1	44.57962	-75.3092	Bird Watching area	Terrestrial
HPA 2	44.58061	-75.3113	Fishing access	Terrestrial & Aquatic
HPA 3	44.59178	-75.2995	Indian Creek Nature Center Parking area access	Terrestrial
HPA 4	44.60389	-75.2875	East trailhead and parking area for Indian Creek Nature Center	Terrestrial
HPA 5	44.61236	-75.2729	DEC gated road	Terrestrial
HPA 6	44.61794	-75.2714	Field access road pull-off	Terrestrial
HPA 7	44.62782	-75.2605	Unmaintained dirt track road	Terrestrial
HPA 8	44.6193	-75.2431	Parking area	Terrestrial
HPA 9	44.6207	-75.2341	Car top boat launch	Terrestrial & Aquatic
HPA 10	44.62145	-75.2268	Boat launch ramp and parking area	Terrestrial
HPA 11	44.6168	-75.2195	Wetland with ring road	Terrestrial
HPA 12	44.60873	-75.2124	Parking area	Terrestrial
HPA 13	44.60661	-75.2087	Field access road pull-off	Terrestrial
HPA 14	44.59194	-75.2302	DEC gated road	Terrestrial
HPA 15	44.57233	-75.2682	Power line road pull-off	Terrestrial
HPA 16	44.56601	-75.2823	DEC gated road	Terrestrial
HPA 17	44.56479	-75.2977	DEC gated road	Terrestrial
HPA 18	44.57569	-75.3062	Parking area for bird santuary	Terrestrial & Aquatic
HPA 19	44.57772	-75.3059	Handicap trail access to bird blind	Terrestrial

The assessment of both the aquatic and terrestrial HPA's and roadsides of the Upper and Lower Lakes WMA concluded that there were no 'Prevention "Watch List" Species' found in the area. Japanese Knotweed (*Lythrum salicaria*) and phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), both listed as a 'Target Management Species,' were observed in the WMA. The Japanese knotweed was located in five separate patches, and phragmites was found in two patches (Figure: 8).

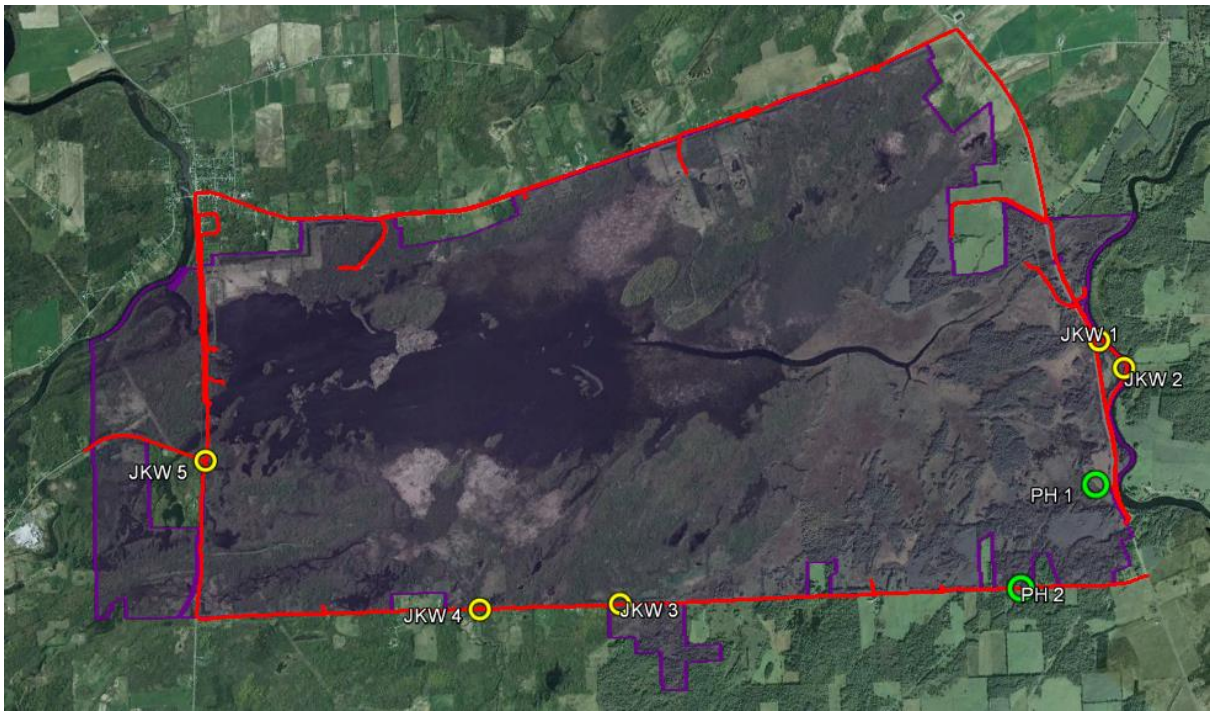

Figure 6: Locations of invasive discovered at Upper Lower lakes WMA

Table 2: Data and coordinates of invasives found in Upper and Lower Lakes WMA

Point	Latitude	Longitude	Notes
JKW 1	44.61856	-75.2219	Approximately 124 ft of JKW along western part of road
JKW 2	44.61771	-75.2178	Approximately 75 ft of JKW along western part of road
JKW 3	44.57929	-75.2534	JKW on northern side of road
JKW 4	44.57284	-75.267	JKW found in 6 patches the largest around 80 x 30 ft
JKW 5	44.57145	-75.3031	JKW on northern side of road
PH 1	44.60825	-75.2135	Large patch of PH 200 yards from road on fields edge, also north along western side of the road
PH 2	44.5977	-75.2147	PH found on northern part of road

*Key to abbreviations used in Table 2: JKW – Japanese Knotweed, PH - Phragmites