**2022**

**Invasive Species**

Annual Work Plan

**SLELO - PRISM**

**Final**



*The St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) serves as one of eight partnerships across New York State, whose mission is to protect the region from the negative impacts of invasive species. SLELO’s 2020 work plan aligns with the PRISM’s Strategic Plan and outlines ongoing activities and projects in which SLELO staff and partners are involved. Though prepared at the onset of the calendar year, actions may be adapted based on needs/opportunities identified throughout the course of the year.*

# Strategic Plan Goals

This work plan incorporates seven strategic goals identified by our partners which align with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s services agreement and which bring continuity across New York’s PRISM network to include. The WP is somewhat fluid in that we practice Adaptive Management depending on what we learn throughout the season but does keep us on-task.

1. **PREVENTION** – Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM’s Priority Conservation Areas.
2. **EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE** – Conduct early detection in all Priority Conservation Areas on a two-year rotation and strategically respond to low abundance introductions.
3. **COOPERATION** – Facilitate partner meetings and opportunities for sharing resources, including funding, personnel, equipment, information, and expertise and collaborate on projects utilizing staff and volunteers.
4. **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT** – Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research.
5. **CONTROL:** Control invasives using three basic levels of control; SUPPRESSION – Reduce the density, area or boundary of established infestations. Containment/Exclusion – Contain established infestations to prevent invasive species from spreading and/or to exclude their encroachment into Priority Conservation Areas. Eradication- to eliminate a species when and where achievable.
6. **RESTORATION** – Develop and implement effective ecological restoration methods by promoting native species for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.
7. **EDUCATION** – Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues.
8. **INNOVATION** - Develop and implement innovative technologies that help us to better understand, visualize, alleviate or manage invasive species and their impacts or that serve to strengthen ecosystem function and/or processes.

# Special Initiatives

**Pledge-To-Protect Marketing Initiative:** Partners of the PRISM will be developing a *Pledge-To-Protect* education and outreach marketing initiative designed to educate the public on the benefits of protecting our lands and waters from the effects of invasive species and to gain a commitment to take action to protect these places by taking a pledge.

**Aquatic Restoration Initiative** : In 2022, we will be implementing Phase III of the Aquatic Restoration Initiative. This may include invasive species suppression and critical habitat restoration of Sandy Creek, South Sandy Creek, and Deer Creek near their confluences with Lake Ontario.

**Urban Forest Sustainability:** This effort is to encourage cities in the SLELO region to include a climate adaptability and forest pest resiliency component into their existing or proposed Street Tree and Community Preparedness Plans to protect and manage healthy street trees for posterity.

**Watercraft Inspection Steward Program**: SLELO PRISM will continue with expanded WISP program to include 20 high-use boat launches, from as far north as Massena and south to Rome. In 2022 we hope to increase stewards from 10 to 12 stewards rotating between sites.

**Environmental DNA**: In 2022, SLELO PRISM will continue to conduct innovative environmental DNA sampling to improve our aquatic early detection work both in Lake Ontario and inland waters. Eight species including native and invasive aquatic plants and animals will be this year’s focus.

**Black River Trail** – A Feasibility Study has been completed and a referral has been made to NY Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for implementation.

**Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Initiative**: An effort to improve resilience of Eastern Lake Ontario dune systems. A referral has been made to the ELO Dunes Coalition for implementation.

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| **Lead Person /Team** | **Description of Activity** | **Location / Date** | **Notes =Completed**  **= Needs help**  **= Cancelled** | **Goal** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Early Detection Team**  Terrestrial & Aquatic Coordinators | Conduct early detection surveillance for all SLELO PRISM  **Tier 1 and Tier 2 species** (terrestrial and aquatic). | Taken from Spreadsheet Target is 2-year Rotation |  | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | Black Lake | Need Wend ’t fishin boat | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | Black Pond |  | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | Oneida Lake |  | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | Salmon River Estuary |  | Early Detection |
|  |  | Chaumont Bay |  | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | El’Dorado Preserve |  | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | Deer Creek WMA |  | Early Detection |
| “ | “ | Chaumont Barrens |  | Early Detection |
| “ | Alternate Sites for preliminary surveys (time-permitting)   * Muskelunge Creek - *priority* * Fish Creek – Oneida - *priority* * Rome Sand Plains * Salmon River Reservoir * Oswego River 3-rivers Section Only * Rainbow Shores * Selkirk Fen * Sandy Pond * Silver Lake Fen * Perch River WMA * Happy Valley WMA | *For possible inclusion as a formal PCA in future after initial assessments are done to qualify these areas as PCA’s.* |  | Early Detection |
| “ | Conduct intensive forest pest surveillance for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid | Multiple Locations including Tug Hill and near water | December – March | Early Detection |
| “ | Plant native seed at control sites as requested by control team | Multiple locations | As requested, | Early Detection |
| “ | Utilize underwater ROV video surveillance | as needed |  | Early Detection |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rapid Response & Control**  Terrestrial Coordinator & Contractor | Control of Giant Hogweed at multiple sites using multiple techniques. | All sites | Coord. With State DEC GHW Program | Control |
| Millers Turf | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow wort | Chaumont Barrens | *Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request* | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of swallow-wort & knotweed | Deer Creek |  | Control |
| **“** | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort, phragmites, | Eldorado - Black Pond | *Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request* | Control |
| **“** | Be aware of Phragmites on north spit of Sandy Pond – David Kline | Sandy Pond | Dave Kline Managing | n/a |
|  | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort | Fish Creek WMA |  | Control |
| **“** | Chemical/manual Treatment of Swallow-wort, yellow iris | Lakeview WMA | Coord. with DEC | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual Treatment of Swallow-wort | Black River Bay Boat Launch DEXTER MARSH |  | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort | Mud Bay Boat Launch |  | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort, bittersweet knotweed, phragmites | Upper/Lower Lakes WMA’s |  | Control |
| “ | Chemical treatment of Swallow-wort control on Couch Easement | Three Mile Creek OBI- Couch Easement | *Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request* | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort | Carleton Island/ tentative | Coord. with TILT | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort | Three Mile Bay WMA |  | Control |
|  | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort | Three Mile Creek |  | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow wort | Limerick Cedars Psrv | *Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request* | Control |
| “ | Chemical/manual treatment of Phragmites | Little John WMA. | Ck w Bonnie Pardon DEC | Control |
| **“** | Chemical Treatment Oriental Bittersweet & knotweed | Oneida Lake PCA | See Robert Smith | Control |
| “ | Chemical Treatment Swallow-wort | Point Peninsula | “ | Control |
| “ | Chemical Treatment Phragmites -knotweed, swallowwort | Tug Hill ISPZ | Need permission from DEC | Control |
| “ | Treat other priority early detections as needed as determined by SLELO | Priority Areas |  | Control |
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| **Terrestrial Coordinator Special Projects** | Implement Final Year of Urban Forest Sustainability Program |  |  |  |
|  | Obtain & liberate biological controls for EAB and swallowwort | As many as possible |  | Control |
|  | Coordinate ecological restoration/multiple techniques |  |  | Restoration |
|  | Implement restoration effort on Carleton Island | Carleton Island | As appropriate | Restoration |
|  | Implement restoration effort on Grenadier Island | Grenadier Island | As appropriate | Restoration |
|  | Implement restoration efforts on Grindstone Island | Grindstone Island | As appropriate | Restoration |
|  | Identify restoration efforts on treatment sites as needed. |  | As appropriate | Restoration |
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| **Aquatic Coordinator Special Projects** | Coordinate Watercraft Inspection Steward Program- WISP |  |  | Prevention |
|  | Implement Inland eDNA Project |  |  | Early Detection |
|  | Implement Phase III Aquatic Restoration Initiative (monitoring & restoration) | Sandy, South Sandy and Deer Creek(s) |  | Restoration |
|  | Utilize Submersible ROV as needed |  |  | Early Detection |
|  | Implement Whetstone Reservoir I.S.P.Z | tentative | Coord. W Parks Dept. | Innovation |
|  | Develop and install Whetstone ISPZ Interpretive sign. | tentative | Fossil graphics | Prevention |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Educator/Outreach** | Continue to enhance Pledge to Protect Marketing Initiatives, P2P Newsletter, list-serves, virtual tool boxes, etc |  |  | E&O |
| “ | Participate in PRISM E&O initiatives, E&O Committee and NYISAW |  |  | E&O |
| “ | Expand and Implement Eastern Lake Ontario Swallow-wort Collaborative - ELOSC | Transferred from Terrestrial Coordinator Column |  | E&O |
| “ | Coordinate six Education Committee meetings | e/o month |  | E&O |
| **“** | Begin writing a white paper on E&O Metrics |  | Time permitting | E&O |
| “ | Assist with iMap Training Events (iMap) |  |  | E&O |
| **“** | Promote the SLF Spotters Program (on the ground if COVID permitted; enhance social media outreach for program if no brochures can be distributed). |  | 2021 | Early Detection |
| **“** | Promote Invasive Species Awareness Week | June 6 to June 13 |  | E&O |
| **“** | Assist with the coordination of Guffin Bay water chestnut survey to local volunteers or ED Committee | July |  | E&O |
| “ | Assist with water chestnut pulls and volunteers | July? | Pending social distancing requirements | Control |
| **“** | Activate and Coordinate all **volunteer surveillance networks** | EAB, HWA, Fanwort, Tench, Spotted Lanternfly |  | Cooperation |
| **“** | Collaborate with Robert/Brittney on potential sparse populations of our management target species that volunteers could assist hand removals. (Swallow-wort, other?) |  |  | Cooperation |
| **“** | Coordinate, prepare and disseminate quarterly newsletter | n/a | Coord. w Ed. Comm. | E & O |
| **“** | Attend events w SLELO display/exhibit mtls. Provide PowerPoint presentations as requested and make available for partner use. |  |  | Cooperation |
| “ | SLELO Exhibit at Salmon River Fish Hatchery for National Hunting & Fishing Day Open House. Coordinate with volunteers |  | Work with Mary Ripka | Cooperation |
| “ | Local Government Conference Display – Tug Hill Commission | Watertown |  | E & O |
| “ | Local Government Conference Display – Potsdam | Potsdam |  | E & O |
| “ | Assist with other education committee initiatives including the development and dissemination of educational mtls |  | As needed | E & O |
| “ | Begin preparing for the **2023 ELO Symposium** | Autumn |  | E & O |
| “ | Facilitate and implement species specific workshops as needed, requested or as deemed appropriate by the E&O Committee | PRISM wide | virtual | E & O |
| “ | Strategize and implement marketing initiatives as needed on various platforms: SLELO website & social media outlets. |  |  | E & O |
| **“** | Attend and present at Central US Division Stewardship Conference |  | With Rob | E & O |
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| **GIS Specialist** | Develop a PCA (Priority Conservation Area) **Score Card** |  |  | Innovation |
|  | Create a master map of SLELO Priority Conservation Areas using iMaps ecologically sensitive areas as base map and add a treatment layer |  |  | Innovation |
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| **Volunteers** | Hand Pulling Water Chestnuts with Oswego SWCD Partner | Salmon River @Port Ontario |  | Control |
| “ | Hand Pull Water Chestnuts with DEC Region 6 partners | Lakeview WMA | Coord. w DEC | Control |
| **“** | Assist with Volunteer Monitoring Networks (VSN’s) x 4 |  |  | Control |
| “ | Assist with water chestnut surveillance and hand pull in coop. with seasonal ED team at Guffin Bay | Guffin Bay |  | Control |
| “ | SLELO Exhibit at Salmon River Fish Hatchery for National Hunting & Fishing Day Open House | Salmon River Fish Hatchery |  | Cooperation |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Contractual** & **Special Projects** |  |  |  |  |
| *placeholder* | Contract with entity to develop a 10-year PRISM Story based on collective impacts of all PRISM’s | *Tentative* | Need permission from DEC - ISCS | Cooperation |
| *placeholder* | Contract with ELO Dunes Foundation to implement recommendations of Mgnt. Plan | *Tentative* |  | Restoration |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **SLELO Education Committee** | Support education and outreach efforts within the PRISM region as needed. |  | Committee | E & O |
| **“** | Begin preparing for the **2023 ELO Symposium** | autumn |  | E & O |
|  |  |  |  | E&O |
| **I.S.P.C. & others** | Oversee the implementation of annual SLELO Workplan | PRISM wide |  |  |
| **“** | Coordinate SLELO Partner meetings, activities, etc. | n/a |  | n/a |
| **“** | Coordinate / supervise SLELO team and all activities | n/a |  | n/a |
| “ | Oversee all subcontracts | n/a |  | n/a |
| “ | Serve on the NYS Invasive Species Advisory Committee |  |  | n/a |
| “ | Serve on TNC’s North American Inv. Spp. Advisory Comm |  |  | Prevention |
| “ | Coord. Activities with other PRISM’s and statewide partners |  |  | Prevention |
| “ | Attend and present at Conferences as identified |  |  | Cooperation |
| “ | Attend and present at Central US Division Stewardship Conference with staff |  |  | Info. Mgmt. and sharing |
|  |  |  |  |  |

***Special Initiatives in 2022*** ***-***  ¨P2P Marketing Initiative

¨Urban Forest Sustainability

¨Watercraft Inspection Steward Program - WISP

¨Aquatic Restoration Initiative Phase III

¨Environmental DNA

¨Submersible ROV Surveys

## **A total of 85 activities.**

## **With help from employees, partners and volunteers.**