

**2024**  
**Invasive Species**  
**Annual Work Plan**  
**SLELO - PRISM**



*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. **MANAGEMENT/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

**Connected Lands and Waters (CLAW) Initiative:** Incorporated into the work of the SLELO PRISM is a resilient and connected lands approach that allows us to maximize conservation impact at-scale and the ability of natural systems to sustain themselves in the face of climate change. Our focus is to identify and protect resilient riparian and forested areas, suppress invasive species populations, and implement restorative ecological practices on areas that are substantially connected.

**Forest Health:** The St. Lawrence and Eastern Lake Ontario Region lies within the largest temperate deciduous forest in the world. This extends along the Appalachian Mountain range from Alabama through New York and into Nova Scotia, representing a corridor for species that will need to move long distances to find suitable habitat as climate changes. In the five-county SLELO boundary there is nearly 2-million acres of forested land. Our focus will be on suppressing forest pests and conducting restorative measures when deemed appropriate.

**Recover Ecosystem Resilience via Ecological Restoration:** As recommended in the New York State Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan, recovering ecosystem resilience especially after invasive species management measures have been implemented, is an important means by which to close-the-loop between management and recovery of impacted Priority Conservation Areas.

**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.

Lead Person /Team	Description of Activity	Location / Date	Notes <span style="color: green;">■</span> =Completed <span style="color: orange;">■</span> = Needs help <span style="color: red;">■</span> = Cancelled	Goal
<b>Early Detection Team</b> Terrestrial & Aquatic Coordinators	Conduct early detection surveillance and species assessments for all SLELO PRISM <b>Tier 1 and Tier 2 species</b> (terrestrial and aquatic).	Search rotation based on risk		Early Detection
"	"	Algonquin to Adirondack Core & Perimeter	With Assistance from Partners via Special Project Funding	Early Detection
"	"	Ironsides Island	Special Project Area/CLAW	Early Detection
"	"	Oneida to Tug Hill Linkage Area	CLAW	Early Detection
"	"	Tug Hill to Adirondacks Linkage Area	CLAW	Early Detection
"	"	Black Pond	Aquatic	Early Detection
"	"	Carleton Island	Terrestrial	Early Detection
"	"	Chaumont Bay	Aquatic	Early Detection
"	"	Deer Creek WMA	Aquatic	Early Detection
"	"	Chaumont Barrens	Terrestrial	Early Detection
"	"	El'Dorado Preserve	Terrestrial	Early Detection
"	"	Lakeview WMA, Cowell and Lakeview Pond	Aquatic	Early Detection
"	"	North Sandy Pond	Terrestrial/Dunes	Early Detection
"	"	Three Rivers Intersection	Aquatic	Early Detection
"	Jacque Cartier or Goose Bay	AIS Learning Experience:	Coordinate with E/O	Early Detection

“	Brasher State Forest	CLAW	Coordinate with Henry Dedrick, DEC	Early Detection
“	Bombay State Forest	CLAW	Coordinate with Henry Dedrick, DEC	Early Detection
“	Conduct intensive forest pest surveillance for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	Multiple Locations	December – March	Early Detection
<b>Rapid Response &amp; Management</b> Terrestrial Coordinator & Contractor	Control of Giant Hogweed at multiple sites using multiple techniques.	All sites	Coord. With State DEC GHW Program	Control
Via Millers Turf	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow wort	Chaumont Barrens	<i>Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request</i>	Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Carleton Island		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort, knotweed & phragmites	Deer Creek WMA		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort & phragmites	Eldorado - Black Pond	<i>Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request</i>	Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort, phragmites & bittersweet	French Creek WMA		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Bittersweet & yellow iris	Lakeview WMA	Coord. with DEC	Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort & phragmites	Limerick Cedars Preserve	<i>Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request</i>	Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Mud Bay Boat Launch		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Point Peninsula WMA		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Phragmites	Selkirk Fen Preserve		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallow-wort	Three Mile Creek OBI-Couch Easement	<i>Treat SW on Alvars when SW plants are small – Julie Covey Request</i>	Control

“	Chemical/manual treatment of Knotweed	Three Mile Bay WMA		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Swallowwort	Three Mile Creek		Control
“	Chemical/manual treatment of Bittersweet, knotweed & phragmites	Upper/Lower Lakes WMA's		Control
<b>Terrestrial Coordinator Special Projects</b>	Obtain & liberate <b>biological controls</b> for EAB, swallowwort and hemlock woolly adelgid.	Multiple locations – as identified		Control
“	Coordinate ecological restoration plantings on terrestrial treatment areas.	Multiple		Restoration
“	Assist with identifying subcontractors and quotes to provide field support of CLAW Initiatives	CLAW		ED/RR/Rest
“	“	Oneida to Tug Hill Linkage	<i>Tentative</i>	ED/RR/Rest
“	“	A2A Core and Perimeter and other areas	<i>Tentative</i>	ED/RR/Rest
“	“	Tug Hill to Adirondacks Linkage Area?	<i>Tentative</i>	ED/RR/Rest
<b>Aquatic Coordinator Special Projects</b>	Coordinate ecological restoration plantings on riparian areas as needed.	Multiple		Restoration
	“	A2A Core and Perimeter and other areas		Restoration
“	“	Oneida to Tug Hill Linkage		Restoration
“	“	Tug Hill to Adirondacks Linkage Area?		Restoration
“	Assist with identifying subcontractors and quotes to provide field support of CLAW Initiatives	CLAW		Restoration
“	Utilize Submersible ROV as needed		As needed	Innovation
	AIS Learning Experience(s)	Coordinate with E/O		E&O
“	Assist with freshwater outreach		As needed. In cooperation w DEC-ISCS	E&O

<b>Educator/Outreach &amp; Marketing</b>	Continue to enhance Pledge to Protect Marketing Initiatives, P2P Newsletter, list-serves, virtual toolboxes, etc	All five Counties		E&O
"	Coordinate a subcontract scope of work with Break the Ice Media or other consultant.			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		In cooperation with Terrestrial Coordinator	E&O
"	Coordinate up to six Education Committee meetings	e/o month or as needed		E&O
"	Assist with iMap Training Events (iMap)			E&O
"	Assist with water chestnut pulls and volunteers	July?	In cooperation with aquatic coordinator	Cooperation
"	Activate and coordinate all Volunteer Surveillance Networks	EAB, HWA, Fanwort, Tench, Spotted Lanternfly		Cooperation
"	Collaborate with Terrestrial and Aquatic Coordinator's on potential sparse populations of our management target species that volunteers could assist hand removals. (Swallow-wort, other?) Tier 1		As needed	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
"	Begin preparing for the 2025 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
"	AIS Learning Experience(s)		Coordinate with E/O committee and Aquatic Coordinator	E&O
<b>GIS Specialist</b>	Continue to develop (Priority Conservation Area) Score Cards		As identified	Innovation
"	Coordinate technical data requests made by SLELO staff members.		As needed	Innovation

	Field Reports data	Zack		Info Mgnt
	Data QA/QC	Zack		Info Mgnt
<b>Volunteers</b>	Begin preparing for the 2025 ELO Symposium		Autumn	E & O
"	Assist with Volunteer Surveillance Network			Cooperation
				Cooperation
<b>Education Committee</b>	Assist PRISM Educator with various activities.	PRISM wide	Coordinate with NYS DEC ISCS	E&O
<b>PRISM Administrator &amp; Contractual &amp; Special Projects</b>	Administer \$20k to Partners via RFP for projects that align with PRISM priorities.	Placeholder		Prevention
"	Administer \$20k as an in-house CLAW project startup initiative.	Placeholder		Prevention
"	Attend and present at Conferences as identified			Cooperation
"	Oversee the implementation of annual SLELO Workplan	PRISM wide		Cooperation
"	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
"	Coord. Activities with other PRISM's and statewide partners			Cooperation
"	Liaison between SLELO and DEC Invasive Species Coordination Section			Cooperation
Total estimated number of 2024 Work Plan activities in support of our Strategic Plan:			<b>Total = 76 Activities</b>	