



# UP Phragmites Coalition

## Working to De-Phrag the UP!

### Project has been ongoing for 4 years – Funding Sources

\$458,160 NFWF SOGL grant, 2013-2015 (\$269,000 Match Commitment)

\$964,922 EPA GLRI grant, 2015-2016 (no match required)

\$210,282 MI Invasive Species Grant Program, 2016-2017 (\$246,708 Match Commitment)

\$60,000 US Forest Service award, 2017-2018 (\$15,000 Match Commitment)

### Key Coalition Partners

Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Menominee, Schoolcraft, and Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation Districts and Michigan Natural Features Inventory. We also work with the MDNR, MDEQ, MDOT, Hiawatha National Forest, Seney National Wildlife Refuge and many private landowners.

### Project Goals

- Map all the phragmites infestations in the Upper Peninsula (plus 20 additional invasive species that pose a threat to UP Great Lakes coastal & interior wetlands)
- Educate & build capacity among landowners about the invasive phragmites problem and how they can participate in our project
- Restore 1,500 acres of coastal shoreline and wetlands in Michigan's Upper Peninsula by conducting treatment of invasive phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)
- Establish sustainable long-term control of phragmites by identifying, coordinating, and training local stewardship groups to assume responsibility for control efforts after project is completed
- Continue early detection to identify new infestations on Lake Superior shoreline and interior wetlands

*Coordinate treatment efforts across jurisdictions and land ownerships to maximize benefits and efficiency.*

### Survey and Mapping

- 2013—Mapped the native stands and non-native phragmites infestations on more than 200 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline (previously untreated areas were re-surveyed in 2015)
- 2016 - Comprehensive mapping of the Garden Peninsula shoreline
- Utilized Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) mapping protocols—size & density of stands

Small infestations (<1000 sq ft) mapped as point, size estimated

Larger infestations (>1000 sp ft) mapped as polygons, size measured

- All data have been uploaded to MISIN [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)

### How Much Non-native Phragmites has been found in the UP?

Survey data from 2013-2016 indicated there were more than 2,000 acres of non-native phragmites in the UP. The two counties closest to the Wisconsin border are most heavily infested.

Delta County 1,300+ acres  
Menominee Co. 600+ acres

Another 150 acres or so in the remaining counties.

Only 1 small infestation is known from the Lake Superior shoreline -successfully treated in 2013.



This project is funded in part by grants to the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council from the Environmental Protection Agency through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program through the Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Agriculture and Rural Development. The UP RC&D Council is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

### Acres of Treatment by County

2016	2015	2014	2013
306.2	317	258	224 acres - Menominee County
500.6	399	151	174 acres - Delta County
2.6	4	33	38 acres - Mackinac County
	1.2	74	26 acres - Luce County
10.7	31	37	18 acres - Schoolcraft County
2	0.2	1	1.5 acres - Marquette County
3.8	0.5	1	1.5 acres - Alger County
0.03		0.5	1.5 acres - Iron County
0.3	1.0	2.1	1.5 acres - Dickinson County
0.8	1.1	1.4	1.0 acres - Chippewa County
827	755	559	487

- Private landowners paid for treatment on 93 acres in 2013 and 2014 in Menominee County
- MDNR paid for treatment on 152 acres in 2013 and 2014
- Delta Cons. District treated 337 acres in 2015 and 557 acres in 2016 (not included above) - State of MI grant

All of our project treatments have been done with a 2% solution of the aquatic formulation of glyphosate, plus surfactant and dye

#### Permits Required for our Project:

8 Certificates of Coverage, 1 NPDES permit

MDOT Construction Permit for treatments in ROWs

MDNR Parks and Recreation Division for treatments in state parks

MDNR Forest Mgmt and Wildlife Divisions – worked with staff with management responsibilities to secure permission to do treatments on state land

Landowners are required to sign our project permission form to have their property treated under the Certificate of Coverage – no need to get an individual aquatic nuisance control permit (avoid the \$75 individual permit fee)

#### Determining Treatment Success

- 80 pre-treatment monitoring plots with photo points were established in 2015
- Post-treatment monitoring was conducted in 2016 and will be repeated in 2017

#### Landowner Education and Engagement

- Hosted 12 public workshops to educate landowners about biology and negative impacts of phragmites
- More than 2500 landowners have been contacted, more than 1,000 directly engaged in treatment

#### **In Menominee County we have had great success engaging landowners:**

679 different landowners own property along 41 miles of Lake MI shoreline and were contacted

544 landowners had phragmites on their property

94% gave permission to have their infestation treated

UP wide 86% of landowners have given permission to have their phragmites treated

A small number denied permission for treatment, others could not be located

#### Plans for 2017 and 2018

**Winter 2016/17:** Mowed/shredded nearly 81 acres of dead biomass in Menominee and Delta counties

#### **Prior to December 2018:**

- In 2017 we will begin a pilot landowner cost-share program for phragmites treatment in several UP counties
- Begin treatments of infestations adjacent to US Forest Service land below the ordinary high water mark
- Identify local stakeholder/stewardship groups that will assume responsibility for phragmites management when the grant-funded project ends; leadership may come from conservation districts, townships, counties, non-profits, landowner groups, individuals or a combination of these
- Maintenance phase – important not to squander the progress that was made towards eradicating phragmites during the previous years

#### Challenges and Threats to Project Success

- No treatments have been conducted on USFS-managed lands, however, NEPA is being conducted now and should be completed in June of 2018 opening the possibility of treating Forest Service lands
- Continue to seek permission from private landowners who are currently not participating in project – small percentage, but critical to get as close to 100% participation as possible
- Find local stewardship groups to assume responsibility for continuing management after grant funding ends
- The success of the project is dependent on private landowners being dedicated to thinking of managing invasive phragmites as a form of property maintenance – something they will need to stay on top of at least until this species is under better control regionally
- Very short treatment window in the UP – while flowering, before killing frost – very weather dependent
- Two-year funding cycles not compatible with management activities which require a longer commitment

***Taking control of the Phragmites in the UP will require a long-term commitment by landowners, local officials and the general public***

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