

Upper Peninsula

Resource Conservation
and Development Council

UP Phragmites Coalition Working to De-Phrag the UP!

Project has been ongoing for 3 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)

Key Coalition Partners

Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Menominee, Schoolcraft, and Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation Districts and Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

Also working with MDNR, MDEQ, MDOT, Hiawatha Natl. Forest, Seney NWR 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 1,300 (400 + 800+100) 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)
- Utilized Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) mapping protocols—size & density of stands

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

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

- All data have been uploaded to MISIN www.misin.msu.edu

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

Survey data from 2013 indicates there are at least 1,950 acres of non-native phragmites in the UP. The two counties closest to the Wisconsin border are most heavily infested.

Delta County 1,241 acres
Menominee Co. 583 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.



Acres of Treatment by County

| 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|------|------|-------------------------------|
| 317 | 258 | 224 acres - Menominee County |
| 399 | 151 | 174 acres - Delta County |
| 4 | 33 | 38 acres - Mackinac County |
| 1.2 | 74 | 26 acres - Luce County |
| 31 | 37 | 18 acres - Schoolcraft County |
| 0.2 | 1 | 1.5 acres - Marquette County |
| 0.5 | 1 | 1.5 acres - Alger County |
| | 0.5 | 1.5 acres - Iron County |
| 1.0 | 2.1 | 1.5 acres - Dickinson County |
| 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.0 acres - Chippewa County |
| 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 more than 250 acres in 2015 (not included above—with a grant from the state of MI)

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 will be conducted in August/September 2016 and 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:

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

664 landowners had phragmites on their property

93% gave permission to have their infestation treated

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

Plans for 2016 and 2017

Winter 2016: Remove dead biomass from treatment sites by mowing (target 350-400 acres)

Fall 2016: Conduct herbicide treatment on re-sprouts as needed, treat newly detected sites

Prior to October 2017:

- Identify local leaders and stakeholder groups that will assume responsibility for phragmites management when the grant-funded project ends
- Potential leadership might be provided by conservation districts, townships, counties, local lakeshore or landowner groups, non-profit organizations, individuals, or any combination of the above
- Maintenance phase – important not to squander the progress that was made towards eradicating phragmites during the previous years

Challenges and Threats to Project Success

- To date no treatments conducted on USFS-managed lands – they support the project and are trying to secure funding to conduct NEPA - steady progress being made
- 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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