



# Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

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## **2011 ADIRONDACK PRISM STAFF WORK PLAN**

*January 2011*

The PRISM Staff Work Plan reflects ongoing activities and special annual projects in which PRISM staff and partners are involved. Though prepared at the onset of the calendar year, the document is adaptive based on the needs in the PRISM throughout the course of the year.

### **I. ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

Strategy: Maximize organizational effectiveness, program management, and resources available. This includes broadening APIPP's scope to address invasive plants, aquatic invasive species, and pests and pathogens, and to fulfill its obligations as a state-funded Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM).

#### **General Actions**

- Formalize and engage new principal partner involvement in the Adirondack PRISM.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of the Adirondack PRISM Invasive Species Strategic Plan. Identify strategies and resource needs for a comprehensive region-wide invasive species program (boat launch stewardship, response teams, invasive species prevention zones, etc.).
- Manage funding for priority prevention and management projects; keep informed about other funding opportunities.
- Leverage scientific and technical expertise and partner input in reviewing / advising PRISM strategies.
- Organize and facilitate biannual principal partner meetings, biannual terrestrial working group meetings, and regular ANS Committee meetings. Schedule additional meetings as needed.
- Distribute 2010 Annual Report and 2011 Work Plan.
- Recruit, interview, hire, train and supervise APIPP Intern. Develop work plan.

#### **Aquatic Actions**

- Organize both electronic and hard data files on all aquatic projects.
- Continually develop clear timelines for off season (winter) and field season (summer).
- Continue organizing aquatic GIS database so the online and GIS versions are identical.
- Assist terrestrial coordinator with terrestrial GIS projects.
- Develop TNC Safety Plans for aquatic sampling and diving.

#### **Terrestrial Actions**

- Organize both electronic and hard data files on all terrestrial projects.
- Transition terrestrial project data from paper based to electronic records.
- Utilize GIS to effectively manage, organize, and prioritize terrestrial occurrences and assessments.
- Develop TNC Safety Plan for herbicide use.

## **II. PRIORITIZATION**

Strategy: Prioritize species and sites to focus prevention and management actions.

### **General Actions**

- Finalize and begin using decision making framework for management projects.
- Continue to work with partners to set criteria and identify Invasive Species Prevention Zones (ISPZ) within the Adirondack region. Use GIS to create maps that help prioritize aquatic and terrestrial prevention sites.

### **Aquatic Actions**

- Continue coordinating APIPP's GIS capabilities and database and improve where necessary. This includes further developing the ISPZ concept and aquatic/terrestrial priorities (species, sites, and analyses).
- Complete regional assessments for 5 aquatic invasive plant species using the NYS Invasive Plant Ranking Form, [http://nyis.info/Resources/IS\\_Risk\\_Assessment.aspx](http://nyis.info/Resources/IS_Risk_Assessment.aspx).

### **Terrestrial Actions**

- Populate and organize terrestrial invasive species management sites photo database.
- Review and organize Terrestrial Coordinator files and database records.
- Incorporate old Invasives 2k Database into new Weed Information Management Software.
- Using GIS, create terrestrial invasive species distribution maps, site specific spread/die back trend maps, and spread potential models.
- Complete regional assessments for 10 terrestrial invasive plant species using the NYS Invasive Plant Ranking Form, [http://nyis.info/Resources/IS\\_Risk\\_Assessment.aspx](http://nyis.info/Resources/IS_Risk_Assessment.aspx).

## **III. SPREAD PREVENTION AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Strategy: Identify and promote breakthrough approaches for spread prevention and best management practices (BMPs).

### **General Actions**

- Provide guidance as requested on invasive species prevention policies.
- Develop strategy to roll out community preparedness planning for IS, specifically Emerald Ash Borer, to local towns and villages.
- Facilitate monthly research paper review among APIPP team.
- Complete Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Plans (HACCP plans) for field work and encourage other partners to develop plans.

### **Aquatic Actions**

- Analyze feasibility of advancing boat launch stewardship program statewide.
- Conduct literature review of underlying causes of invasion to freshwater systems and work with partners to develop plan to address these underlying water quality issues.
- Coordinate implementation of the I-LIDS system at a lake within the region. Assess effectiveness and logistical challenges to make recommendations to the ANS Committee.
- Collaborate with members of the Great Sacandaga, Peck's Lake, and Sacandaga Lake communities to implement spiny waterflea spread prevention measures. Utilize aquatic invasive species spread prevention template developed for Great Sacandaga Lake to guide activities as needed.

## **Terrestrial Actions**

- Review latest research to stay informed about current best management practices for priority species and update APIPP's terrestrial best management practices guidelines.
- In collaboration with interested partners, develop outreach and training strategy to local and/or state highway departments. Collaborate with APIPP team, partners, and Sharon Plumb (TNC-VT), to explore adapting the VT Local Roads Programming to NY. Collaborate with Ed Frantz to hold DOT residency trainings.
- Satisfy 12 credit hours to become a fully certified herbicide applicator by the start of the field season.

## **IV. EARLY DETECTION AND RESPONSE**

Strategy: Formalize a PRISM-wide Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) network for terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.

### **General Actions**

- Participate in the iMAP invasives train-the-trainer session for inventorying/recording occurrence data.
- Work with partners to roll-out pilot aquatic response team and terrestrial response team.
- Maintain APIPP PRISM Early Detection Species List. Consider how climate change may affect ED species.
- Investigate applicability of remote sensing for early detection / mapping inventories.

### **Aquatic Actions**

- Continue coordination of the Aquatic Plant Volunteer monitoring program. Enhance support to existing core volunteers, including developing laminated, quick reference species guides for dedicated volunteers that include the 8 aquatic invasive plants in the region as well as several of the small bodied invasive organisms.
- Organize at least three aquatic invasive species trainings summer 2011.
- Continually update training materials where necessary. Include information about brittle naiad.
- Assist Asian Clam Rapid Response Working Group with response to Asian Clam in Lake George.
- Specific Site and Species Objectives:
  - Verify reports of curlyleaf pondweed in Pack Forest Lake
  - Continue to verify no regrowth of water hyacinth in the Raquette River near Potsdam
  - Survey the following waterbodies: Santa Clara Flow, Bog River Flow, Cedar River Flow, Portaferry Lake, Moshier Reservoir
  - Implement spiny waterflea monitoring protocol in 2011
- Pilot volunteer dive team summer 2012. Recruit volunteers throughout winter and early summer utilizing existing contacts from our volunteer pool and local dive shops.
- Track existing priority eradication projects including Grasse River, Follensby Clear Pond, Paradox Lake, Lake Placid, and Fulton Chain of Lakes.

## Terrestrial Actions

- In cooperation with APIPP team and iMap staff, develop plan to utilize volunteers in ED surveys in summer 2011, focusing first on potential Invasive Species Prevention Zones.
- Offer at least one formal training session to the general public and volunteers on terrestrial invasive species identification and/or best management practices. Train volunteers throughout the course of the field season in terrestrial invasive species identification and best management practices.
- Train and supervise the Terrestrial Invasive Species Response Team, Student Conservation Association team members, and seasonal APIPP Invasive Species Steward, and train The Nature Conservancy's conservation easement monitors.
- Facilitate elevated forest pest surveillance among partners and landowners. As needed, assist DEC, Ag&Mkts, and USDA with early detection surveillance for emerald ash borer and Asian longhorn beetle.
- Conduct ED surveys for priority terrestrial invasive plant species in priority areas.
- Using field computers with GPS capabilities, geographic information systems (GIS), and the weed information management system (WIMS), conduct mapping surveys of high priority roadway corridors including but not limited to State Routes 3, 30, 73, and 86.
- Using field computers with GPS capabilities, geographic information systems (GIS), and the weed information management system (WIMS), map all previously visited invasive species infestations for future monitoring of spread, spread potential, die back, growth rates, trends, ect.
- Continue monitoring previous year's management sites for signs of regrowth in order to address any needs for further management efforts.
- Monitor previous year's herbicide treatment sites for signs of native plant regrowth, any negative environmental effects associated with herbicide treatment, and to address any needs for continued herbicide treatment.
- Continue eradication efforts of black swallow-wort infestations along Boquet River in Elizabethtown, along the shores of Lake Champlain, and at the Ticonderoga Paper Mill in Essex County.
- Continue eradication efforts of infestations of yellow iris located within natural areas.
- Track eradication efforts of giant hogweed populations in the southwestern Adirondacks.
- Continue eradication efforts of new, small, isolated infestations of common reed, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, and Japanese knotweed affecting natural areas.
- Coordinate management, monitoring, and prioritization of terrestrial invasive plant sites documented on forest preserve, right-of-ways, and private properties and track progress using WIMS and photo-documentation.
- Continue control efforts of terrestrial infestations at high priority APA wetland permit sites.
- Re-treat (if needed) all previously treated DOT right of way herbicide treatment sites; all forest preserve terrestrial herbicide treatment pilot sites; all forest preserve terrestrial herbicide treatment AANR permit sites; and, all Conservancy land's herbicide treatment sites.
- Continue planning with partners to release biological controls for large purple loosestrife infestations.

- Work with, educate, and empower volunteers throughout the field season by managing terrestrial invasive species in their particular areas of interest.
- Assist the NYS DEC, as needed, in the development of an AANR permit for terrestrial invasive species rapid response activities.
- Orchestrate, submit, and supervise all necessary site workplans and AANR permits for management actions on forest preserve.
- Orchestrate, submit, and supervise all necessary APA wetland permits and DOT highway work permits.
- Compile and analyze data from 2010 terrestrial inventory which replicated the 98/99 inventories.
- Replicate, and expand where appropriate, the 1998/99 terrestrial invasive plant roadside inventory.

## **V. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Strategy: Increase public understanding of the importance of reducing the introduction, spread, and impact of invasive species, and recommend appropriate regional actions.

### **General Actions**

- Consider additional opportunities to raise public awareness of invasive species along Scenic Byways.
- Better utilize the media to feature invasive species success stories.
- Work with partners to scope out the value of conducting an IS economic impact analysis for the Adirondack region.
- Organize informational field trips for legislators with PRISM partners.
- Explore offering training in special topic of interest for partners/volunteers (eg. Early Detection Species) or additional training sessions of interest, as needed.
- Continue to inform landowners about invasive species; consider doing a mailing to every landowner in the park.
- Assist the coordination of Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week (consider planning “weed walks and invasive plant paddles”).
- As requested, participate in county Soil & Water conservation districts local conservation field day events.
- Update APIPP’s comprehensive invasive species powerpoint presentation.
- Collaborate with partner groups involved in Adirondack Outdoors to submit articles to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise’s outdoor publication “Embark” and with the *Meet the Town* owners’ new publication “Meet the Park.”
- Submit bi-weekly invasive species columns during the field season to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise and other local papers.
- Distribute brochures: Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Invasive Plants of the Adirondacks.
- Distribute poster: “You can make a difference, help stop the spread of invasive species”
- Produce and distribute two newsletters.
- Track number of audiences reached through APIPP principal partner presentations. Maintain annual invasive plant distribution maps.
- Maintain website and PRISM list-serve.

- Develop a plan to initiate a “Participating Businesses Program” for the Adirondacks, similar to the one in Lake George but including both aquatic and terrestrial relevant businesses.

### **Aquatic Actions**

- Offer presentations to the Saranac Lake and Lake Placid Fish and Game Clubs and at least three others. If possible, present at the Association of Fish and Game Clubs for the Adirondack region.
- Attend environmental education activities and programs as they are scheduled throughout the region, eg. Waterfest.
- Participate in Paul Smith’s Adirondack Watershed Institute Trainings: Lake and Volunteer Stewards.
- Collaborate with leaders of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail to create paddler specific AIS signage along route.
- Continue to collaborate with DEC to ensure that signage at boat launches that designates infected waters in the Adirondacks is current, including those waters with variable-leaf milfoil.

### **Terrestrial Actions**

- As requested/needed, offer presentations or trainings to interested groups.
- Contact the Adirondack Mountain Club to align opportunities to train field crews.
- Create and distribute “You Have an Invasive Species on Your Property” mailbox cards.
- Create and order “Invasive Species Management Crew Ahead” road work signs.
- As requested/needed, identify opportunities for volunteer groups to assist in inventory and management projects.
- Contact Lani Ulrich to identify opportunities to raise awareness about garlic mustard id and management in Old Forge in May.
- Respond to inquiries from partners or the general public about terrestrial invasive species identification and/or management practices.
- Work with CCE and SWCD to phase out use of invasive plants during plant swaps and tree/shrub sales.
- Consider developing outreach strategy to nurseries in the Adirondack region in accordance with the potential law, NYS Regulatory System for Non-native Invasive Species.

## **VI. PARTNER SUPPORT**

Strategy: Ensure that partners receive adequate resources to implement priority actions.

### **General Actions**

- Continue to participate in the development and beta-testing of iMap invasives.
- Identify possible funding sources or facilitate the development of grant proposals to fund priority projects.
- Sustain momentum to establish eight PRISMs across NY with base funding support.
- Contribute updated information to Unit Management Plans; submit UMP amendments as needed.

- Collaborate with Department of State, Wildlife Conservation Society, municipalities and local groups to identify ways to integrate invasive species initiatives into local watershed revitalization planning efforts, etc.
- Collaborate with other PRISMs and participate in monthly NYS IS Conference Calls and quarterly PRISM leader calls.
- Serve as the PRISM representative on the Invasive Species Advisory Committee and contribute information as requested/needed by the Invasive Species Council

#### **Aquatic Actions**

- Work with the Adirondack ANS committee and Paul Smith's College to develop strategy for use of GLRI and USFWS funds to implement the Adirondack ANS Management Plan.
- Work with Paul Smith's College, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake George Association and others to fund a regional Adirondack Watershed Stewardship Program to staff summer stewards at water access sites.
- Assist Lake Champlain Research Institute with BASS questionnaire final report.
- Assist APA, as needed, in the development of a general permit for aquatic invasive species rapid response activities.
- Continue serving as the "go-to-program" for APA and DEC queries regarding aquatic invasive species.
- Attend partner meetings and provide comments/expertise as appropriate.
- Support spread prevention programs on the Champlain Canal.
- Provide information, as requested, to the Legislature and local governments for an aquatic invasive species spread prevention law.

#### **Terrestrial Actions**

- Collaborate with and lend assistance to DEC's invasive species specialist, Wayne Blanchard, if funded, in controlling terrestrial invasive species infestations at all of the 36 land based DEC campgrounds within the park.
- Contact Brookfield Power staff and National Grid staff to identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Serve as technical and ed/outreach liaison for and lend support to community-based ED/RR efforts including but not limited to the following projects:
  - Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program (Doug Johnson)
  - Tupper Lake Garlic Mustard Eradication Project (Carol Richer)
  - Tupper Lake Purple Loosestrife Project (Raquette River Outfitters)
  - Elizabethtown Swallow-wort Control Project (Julie Martin)
  - Paul Smith's College Watershed Steward Project (Eric Holmlund)
  - Fish Hatchery Japanese Knotweed (Guy Middleton)
  - Moose River Plains Garlic Mustard (Jeff Corbin)
  - Roostercomb Barberry, Buckthorn and Honeysuckle Removal (Tony Goodwin)
  - Noblewood Invasive Plant Inventory and Action Plan
  - SLELO-APIPP Hogweed Project

## **PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

January 18-20	Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting
February 14-18	Invited presentation – US Fish and Wildlife Service
Feb 28 –Mar 4	National Invasive Species Awareness Week
March 22-23	Adirondack Local Government Day
April 5-6	iMap Invasive Species Database Symposium
April 7-8	Northeast Natural History Conference
April-May	NYS Federation of Lakes Association Annual Conference
May 18-19	Adirondack Research Consortium Annual Conference
May 23-27	Watershed Stewardship Training – Paul Smiths
June TBD	Aquatic Invasive Plant Volunteer Training – Bolton Landing
June TBD	Aquatic Invasive Plant Volunteer Training – TBD
June TBD	Aquatic Invasive Plant Volunteer Training – TBD
June 25	Invited presentation – Otter Lake
July 11-17	Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week
Sept. 9-11	Adirondack Canoe Classic – 90 Miler
Nov TBD	Cornell Cooperative Extension In-service Training Workshop

Other events and activities will be added throughout the season.

The APIPP full partnership meets in the spring and fall. The Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Committee meets on average every other month or as needed.

Monthly PRISM Conference Calls, last Wednesday of every month, 11-12, email Leslie Surprenant [ljsurpre@gw.dec.state.ny.us] to be added to the notification list.  
Summer hiatus during July and August.