



Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management Detection & Monitoring Report

Purpose:

The Invasive Species Survey Report will provide an overview and help identify baseline site composition and guide potential invasive species response actions (control/treatment, post-treatment monitoring, adaptive management, restoration, and research) at a specific site over time.

This form can be found online as "Detect & Monitor Survey Report Template" at <https://www.capitalregionprism.org/reports-and-products.html> or with a request. Please consult the Capital Region PRISM if there are any questions at (518)-885-8995. Please capture and collect data using [iMapInvasives](#). The online software platform and associated mobile application are free and open sourced.

Section 1: Survey Summary

This section provides an overview of the site, contact information, etc. Save the report for your records and to guide potential future management decisions.

To determine site value, we recommend using a [Framework of Response](#). Resources the Capital Region PRISM recommends are the New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) [Prioritization Model](#), the [New York Protected Area Database \(NYPAD\)](#) and the [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Resource Mapper](#). These models and databases will allow you to assess your site's value based on a few factors. Sites should receive a comprehensive evaluation that includes ecological considerations such as ecosystem health and composition, invasive species present on site, and conservation targets. Other factors to consider are the significance of a site's cultural, social, or recreational value to the public. Although the Capital Region PRISM cannot directly assist with all projects, we can provide consultations to determine how to begin assessing ecosystem health and invasive species present on the property as well as provide best management practices regarding invasive species response.

Section 2: Survey Result Summary

The survey summary section will contain the goals, site description, survey methods, and maps generated from your survey efforts. Please fill out the provided table and insert screen shots of iMapInvasives maps and other relevant maps or documents. This form will serve as a record of your efforts and is intended to guide future management decisions.

Section 3: Summary of Recommendations

The recommendation section contains treatment calendars and post-season summaries. Most sites need to be revisited on a regular basis to document successes/failures, identify any changes needed, and update future treatment calendars.





Section 1: Survey Summary

General Information	
Date Survey Conducted: 6/4/2024	Property Owner Name, Title, and Contact: Bill Schongar, Regional Forester NYS Department of Environmental Conservation william.schongar@dec.ny.gov , (518) 357-2450
Site Name: Berlin State Forest	
Site Address (if different):	Survey Leader Name, and Contact: Sam Schultz, ss986@cornell.edu
Latitude/Longitude: 42.692, -73.319	County: Rensselaer County
Total Parcel Size (acres): 678 acres	Team Member Name(s): Stephen Root, Joe Simonds, Chris Benincasa
Worksite Size (acres): 106.39 acres	Permit(s)/Permission(s) Acquired? Yes, Temporary Revocable Permit
Report Author: Christopher Benincasa	Data Recorder & iMapInvasives ID: Stephen Root- 29191

***Remember to obtain proper permissions before completing any detection & monitoring project. Please attach any permits/permissions completed for this project as an appendix.

Conservation Goal:

- Delineate & assess a conservation value To prevent and protect a conservation value
- Local Eradication Post-Treatment Monitoring Containment
- Suppression Exclusion Restoration

Survey Type:

- Detection Follow-up Monitoring Detection Training eDNA
- Delineation Highly Probable Areas Volunteer Engagement

Site Description: Provide existing conditions of the site, current land use, landscape elements, historical uses, etc. This section should include information such as habitat composition, dominance of native species, list any known native species on site, any protected properties or larger landscape features that include site, etc.

The 678-acre Berlin State Forest is located in rural Rensselaer County, nestled along Cowdry Hollow. There is a 2.2-mile loop trail with some moderate elevation gain throughout the forest. The state forest is managed for multiple uses, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and recreation.

At the time of this survey, active logging was occurring, there were no open access trails. Known native species include but are not limited to: black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), gray birch (*Betula populifolia*), *Rubus spp.*, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), elm (*Ulmus spp.*), red oak (*Quercus rubrum*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), high bush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), low bush (*Vaccinium*





angustifolium) hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), meadowsweet spiraea (*Spiraea tomentosa*). Striped maple and beech are the dominant tree species within the state forest. A section of the forest consists of historically planted pine plantation. There was evidence of American beech and striped maple throughout the forest however along skid roads, no regeneration other than striped male, beech, and birch.

Survey Techniques: Provide a clear and concise description of the work to be conducted, target species, and any survey methods used (i.e. Highly probable area, rake toss, transect, etc.).

This was a preliminary detection and monitoring survey. Since there were no pre-existent trails throughout the forest, the Terrestrial Team followed skid roads to navigate. Forest health and terrestrial surveys were conducted.

Site Significance: Some recommended resources to identify high priority sites include: the CR-PRISM Framework of Response, the NYNHP Prioritization Model, the NYS DEC Environmental Resource Mapper? Please provide screenshots of any maps and/or models used to determine the site is a priority and describe why they show the site is a priority. What other reason is present for conducting the survey (rare, threatened, endangered species, partner property, significant habitat present, etc.)?

This site is a priority not only because of its proximity to the Taconic Ridge State Forest for ecological connectivity but it also has a very low level of invasive species currently. The property also has significant natural communities of beech-maple mesic forest and is in the vicinity of rare, threatened or endangered species.

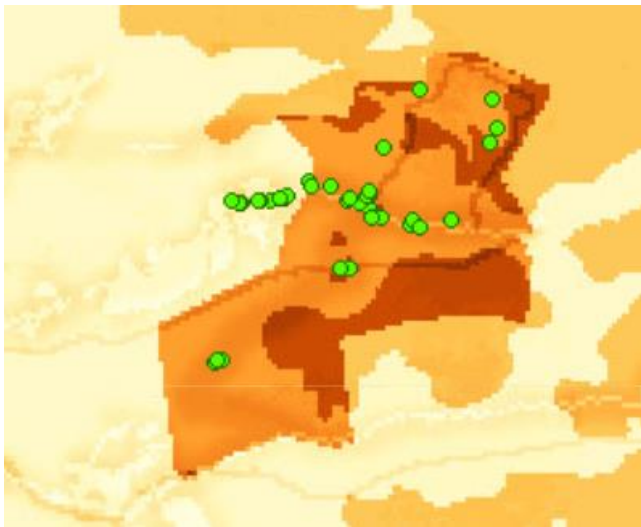


Figure 1: Comprehensive Score map taken from the NYNHP Prioritization Mapper. Darker orange shows the areas that are more significant for prioritization. Green dots show currently reported iMapInvasives points.

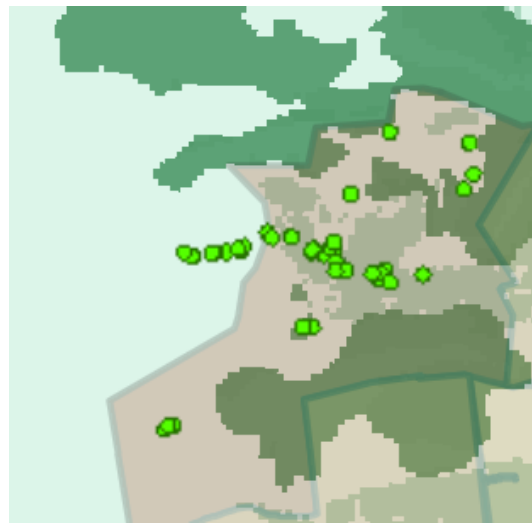


Figure 2: Ecological Score map taken from the NYNHP Prioritization Mapper. Darker green shows the areas that are more ecologically significant. Green dots show currently reported iMapInvasives points.



Figure 3: Screenshot from the NYSDEC Resource Mapper. The hatched lands shows DEC owned property, pink is significant natural communities, and orange shows the presence of rare, threatened or endangered species.



Figure 4: Field Maps Screenshot showing species detected and delineated during this survey.



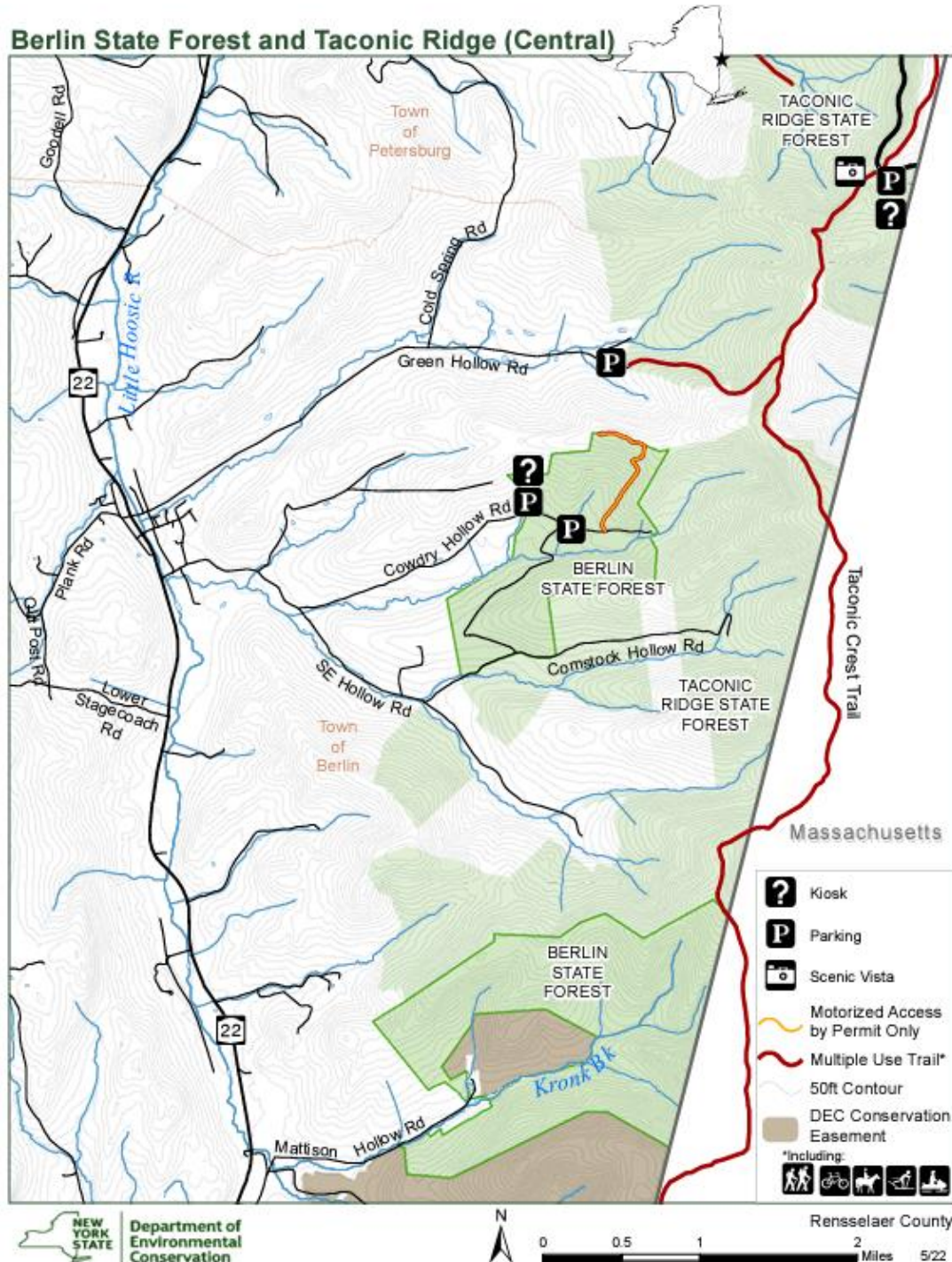
Section 2: Survey Result Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	Tier Rank	Threat Ranking	Growth Form	Phenology/ Life stage	Percent Cover (%)	Distribution/ Abundance
Beech leaf disease nematode	<i>Litylenchus crenatae mccannii</i>	1a	Not assessed	Insect	Emerging	<5%	Trace (single plant/clump)
Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	4	Very High	Tree	Vegetative	<5%	Linearly scattered
Common buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	4	Very High	Shrub	Vegetative	<5%	Trace (single plant/clump)
Honeysuckle (species unknown)	<i>Lonicera spp species unknown</i>	4	Not assessed	Shrub	Fruit/In Seed	<5%	Trace (single plant/clump)
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	4	Very High	Shrub	Vegetative	<5%	Trace (single plant/clump)
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	4	Very High	Herbaceous	Vegetative	<5%	Linearly scattered
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris var vulgaris</i>	4	High	Herbaceous	Vegetative	<5%	Linearly scattered
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	4	Very High	Shrub	Flowering	<5%	Dense plants/clumps
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe spp micranthos</i>	4	High	Herbaceous	Vegetative	<5%	Linearly scattered
Sweet bedstraw	<i>Gallium odoratum</i>	Untiered	Low	Herbaceous	Fruit/In Seed	<5%	Sparse (scattered plants/clumps)
Witches' Money Bags	<i>Hylotelephium telephium</i>	Untiered	NA	Herbaceous	Vegetative	<5%	Trace (single plant/clump)





Map: Develop a map of the survey area that has the searched area, any iMapInvasives points, polygons and/or lines for presence or non-detection. Multiple maps may be added for multiple species or locations. All searched areas, detection and non-detection data should be uploaded to the CR-PRISM SharePoint Tracker and iMapInvasives.





Section 3: Summary of Recommendations

This section provides recommendations of any response methods, monitoring methods, and restoration efforts based on the survey.

Additional Notes: Provide any additional information that is not included above regarding species surveyed for or about the survey itself. Were there any barriers or issues that arose before or during the survey? Provide any advice that could limit barriers or issues in the future.

Mugwort and Japanese stiltgrass were found near a culvert that was installed (lots of fill was dumped in the area). Multiflora rose formed dense thickets along the roadside. Black locust and spotted knapweed was scattered linearly along the access road. Both the honeysuckle and the witches' money bags were found deep in the forest when approaching the river.

Response: Briefly describe any recommendations for future response methods, why they are recommended, and any alternatives to consider. Please use abundance and site-specific factors in your recommendation. If conducting a highly probable area survey, please list any response actions taken while on-site. Optional: Attach or reference BMP guidance document. Consider state and local permitting requirements.

This area has relatively low abundance of invasives but does have a lot of different types of invasives present, this site is at high risk for being covered with invasives. With ongoing logging and seemingly minimal regeneration, this site could be at risk of becoming an invasive shrubland in the future. Therefore, satellite populations should be monitored to suppress any propagules that could be introduced into the site.

Post-Survey Monitoring: Briefly describe the monitoring procedure, when it will occur, and who will complete it. Consider the phenology of species when suggesting timelines. If a response goal such as eradication, suppression, containment and/or exclusion is selected, will a management plan be drafted? If a plan is needed, please contact the CR-PRISM office for a template of our Invasive Species Management Plan.

This site should be monitored again in 2-3 years to assess the impact of the invasives and to determine the extent of the spread following logging within the state forest. Depending on spread, management should be considered for this site.

