



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: 8/20/24	Property Owner Name, Title, and Contact: Bill Schongar, NYS DEC Region 4 State Forester, william.schongar@dec.ny.gov , (518) 357-2450
Site Name: Cowee State Forest	
Site Address (if different): Plank Road, Petersburg, NY 12138	Survey Leader Name, Title, and Contact: Sam Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator, ss986@cornell.edu
Latitude/Longitude: 42.69819°N, 73.40875°W	County: Rensselaer
Total Parcel Size (acres): 3,700 acres	Team Member Name(s) and Title(s): Chris Benincasa, Riley Willard, Joe Simonds
Worksite Size (acres): 18.3 acres	Permit(s)/Permission(s) Acquired? Yes, Temporary Revocable Permit
Report Author: Sam Schultz	Data Recorder & iMapInvasives ID: Sam Schultz- 9924

***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 Delineation Follow-up Monitoring Detection Training eDNA
 Highly Probable Areas Volunteer Engagement Crew Assistance Program Project

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 (both common and scientific names), any protected properties or larger landscape features that include site, etc.

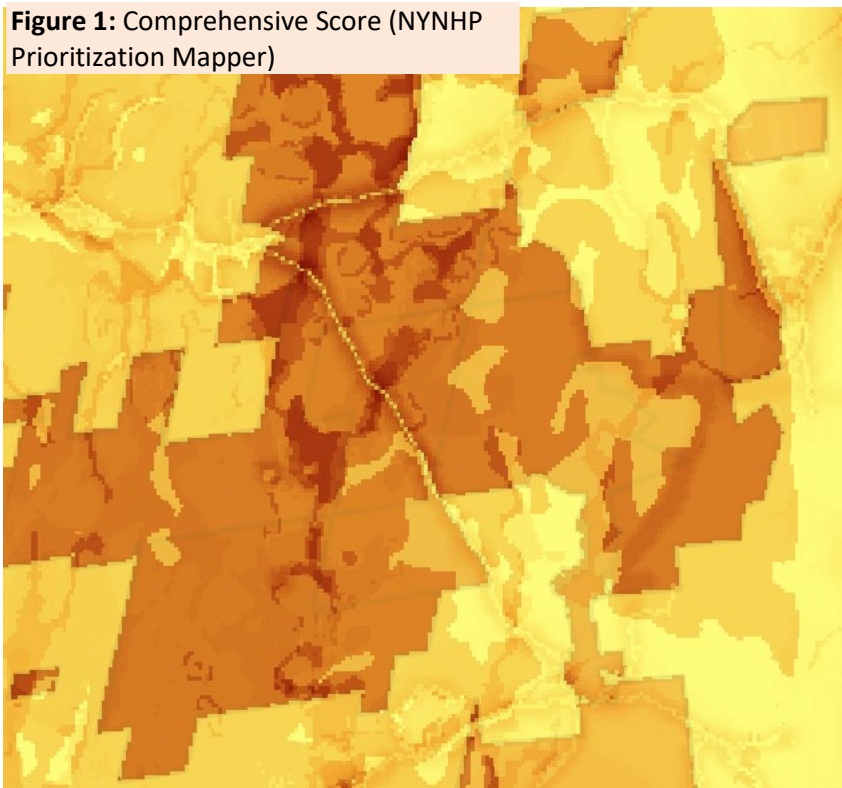
The 3,700-acre Cowee State Forest is located in the center of the Rensselaer Plateau. The property features a vast wetland complex. The property is managed for multiple uses, including watershed protection, wildlife habitat, public recreation, and timber production.

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 search, rake toss, transect, etc.).

The Terrestrial Team conducted a preliminary survey of this newly established state forest to assess any potential invasive species that should be addressed prior to any trail construction or timber production on the property.

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.)?

Figure 1: Comprehensive Score (NYNHP Prioritization Mapper)



Cowee State Forest scores moderate-high for the comprehensive and ecological scores on the NYNHP Prioritization Mapper. The state forest also features a large wetland complex of various sized wetlands. There are also a variety of significant natural communities on the property including: beech-maple mesic forest (high quality occurrence of uncommon community type), hemlock-northern hardwood forest (high quality occurrence of uncommon community type), shallow emergent marsh (high quality occurrence of uncommon community type), sedge meadow (high quality occurrence of uncommon community type), spruce flats (high quality occurrence of uncommon community type), spruce-fir swamp (high quality occurrence of uncommon community type). This location is in the vicinity of New England Cottontail – listed as special concern by NYS. This location is in the vicinity of bats listed as endangered or threatened.

Figure 2: Ecological Score (NYNHP Prioritization Mapper)

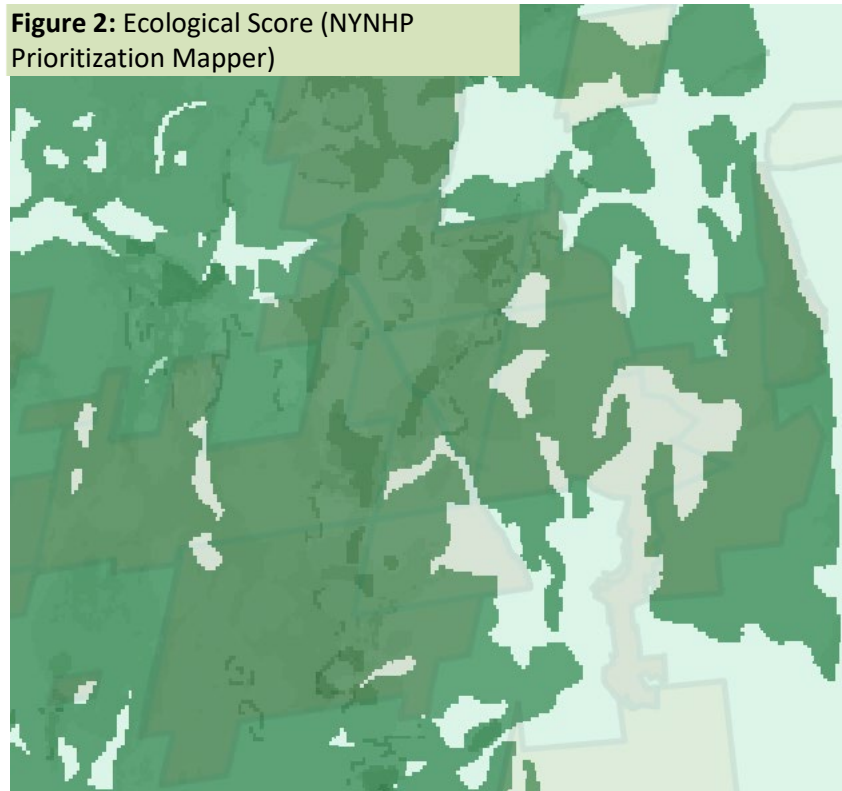
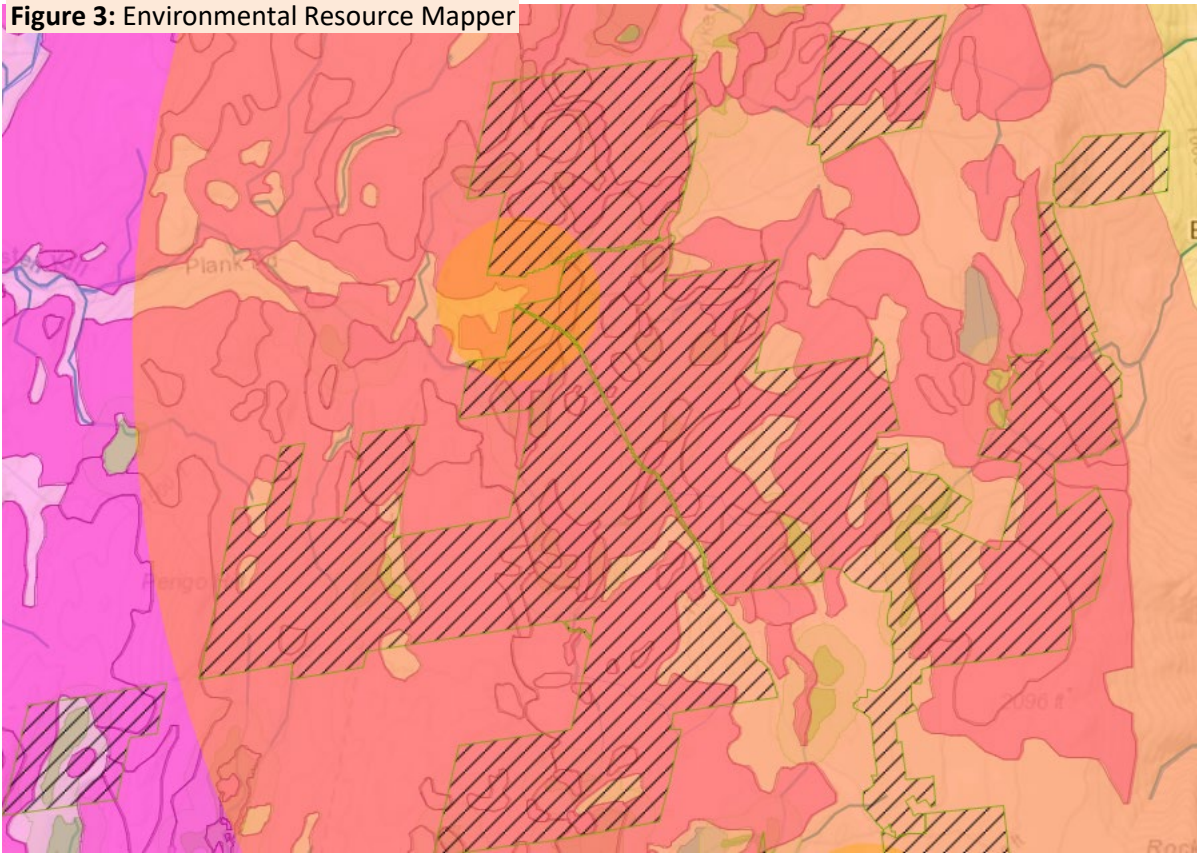


Figure 3: Environmental Resource Mapper

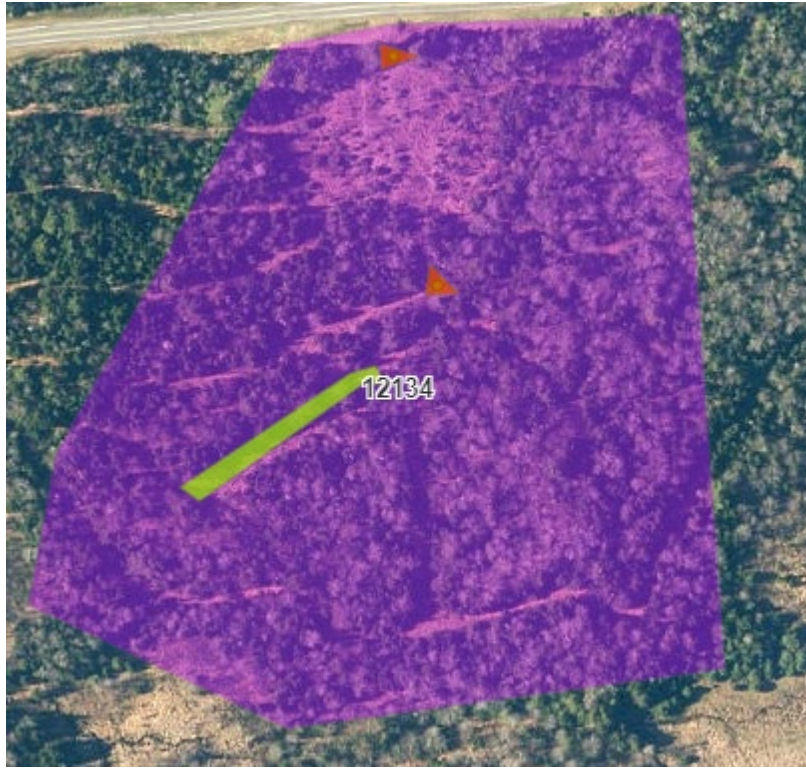


Section 2: Survey Result Summary

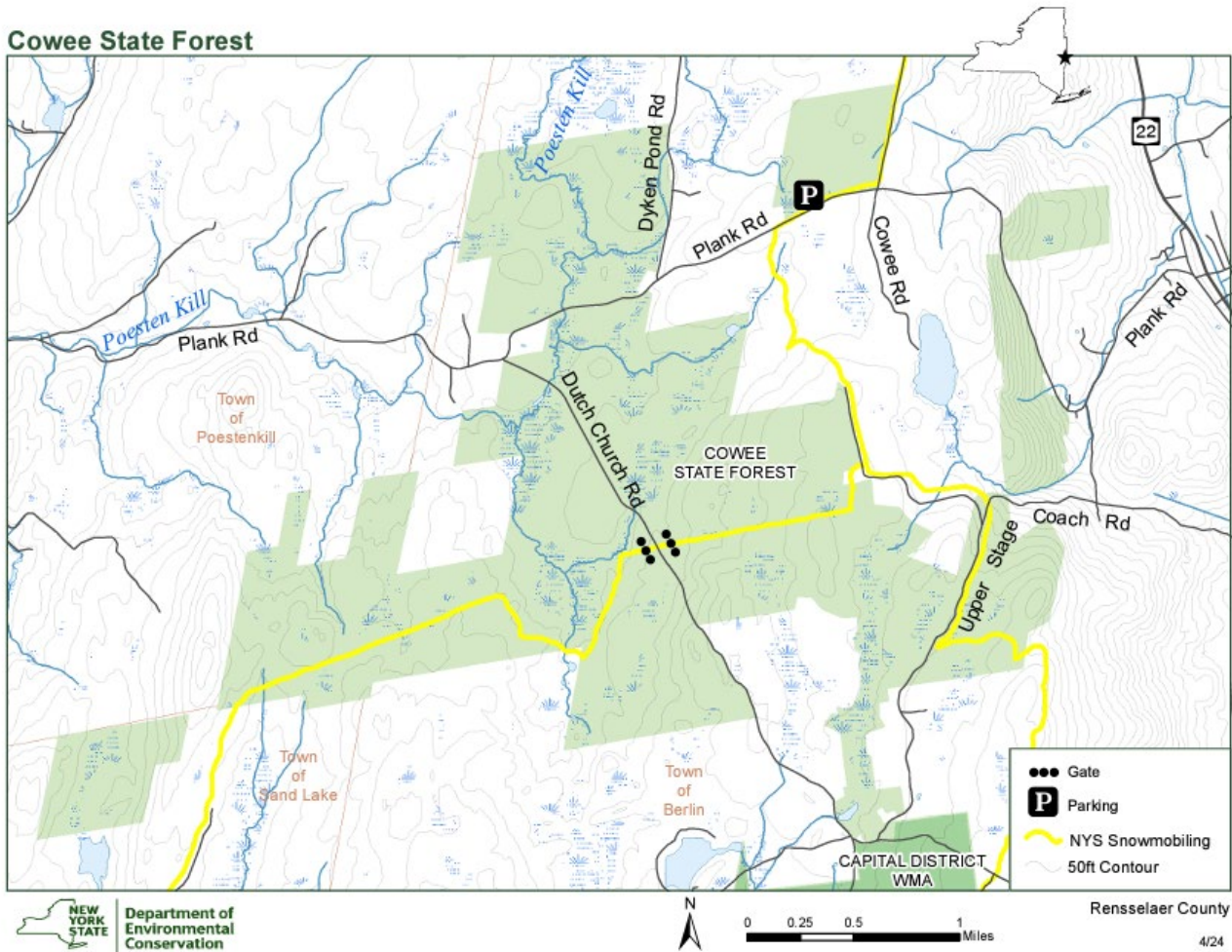
Common Name & Scientific Name	Tier Rank	Threat Ranking	Growth Form	Phenology/ Life stage	Percent Cover (%)	Distribution/ Abundance	Area Infested (acres/miles if linear)	For Highly Probable Areas Area Treated (acres/miles if linear)
Reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea)	4	High	Grass	Vegetative	26-50%	Dense plants/ clumps	0.23 acres	0 acres
Multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora)	4	Very High	Shrub	Vegetative	26-50%	Sparse	0.02 acres	0.02 acres
Morrow's honeysuckle	4	Very High	Shrub	Vegetative	<5%	Trace	0.0 acres	0.02 acres

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. If available, include a property map for a comprehensive view of the property. All searched areas, detection and non-detection data should be uploaded to the CR-PRISM SharePoint Tracker and iMapInvasives.

- Insert Survey Map(s):



Cowee State Forest



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.

The day the Terrestrial Crew went to survey was raining intermittently and the weather was very cold. The property also does not currently have any trails and limited parking lots. The area where the TIS Crew surveyed contained deep rivets where water had previously run through the property, making walking through the property quite difficult.

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.

If it is determined that the state wants to create some trails or conduct timber harvesting on the property on the property, the reed canary grass should be treated. Since there are limited invasive species on the property there are no other recommendations for response at this time.

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.

At this time there are no recommended post-survey monitoring recommendations. Again, if the state decides to make trails on the property then the Capital Region PRISM can make some recommendations to prevent invasive species spreading throughout the property during trail construction or timber harvesting.