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Partnership for Regional
Invasive Species Management
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Cornell Cooperative Extension Saratoga County
50 West High St.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Terrestrial Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP):
A Framework for Response

Section 1: Project Summary

General Information	
Site Name: Moreau Lake State Park- Lake Bonita	**County:** Saratoga
Address (if different): 201 Wilton Rd, Corinth, NY 12822	**Permit(s)/Permission(s) Acquired?** Yes, OPRHP Scientific Research Permit
Parking Lot Latitude/Longitude: 43°20'71.0"N 73°77'31.0"W	**Property Owner Name, Title, and Contact:** Andy Damon, Regional Biologist (Saratoga-Capital Region) Andy.Damon@parks.ny.gov (518) 584-2000 ext. 232
Total Parcel Size (acres): 6,250 acres	
Worksite Size (acres):0.66 acres (0.0532 acres infested)	**Project Leader Name, Title, and Contact:** Sam Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator Ss986@cornell.edu, (518)-885-8995 ext. 2211

*****Remember to obtain proper permissions before completing any response 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

Response Type:

☒ Initial Response ☒ Follow-up Monitoring ☐ Crew Assistance Program Project
☐ Research Action ☐ Restoration ☐ Volunteer Engagement

Site Description: This beautiful lake, recently acquired by the park after the closure of Mt. McGregor Correctional Facility, offers pristine Adirondack beauty. The lake contains bog matts and is part of a bird wildlife management area in the Moreau Lake State Park ISPZ. The Bonita Lake access road, left side coming in, is the site of the infestation. There are populations growing on either side of the road, after you take the turn from the main road.

Project Description: The Capital Region PRISM is predominantly using weed-whacking as the method of management for Japanese stiltgrass at this site. Hand pulling is used in small, isolated patches at this site. The goal for this site is complete eradication as there are not many invasives within Moreau Lake State Park and it is still a manageable population. This site is the same as the Moreau Lake State Park False Spiraea site, Japanese stiltgrass appeared in the 3rd year of treatment (2023) of the false spiraea site and is suspected to either have arrived on PRISM/OPRHP equipment/boots that were contaminated with stiltgrass seeds or on contaminated equipment from National Grid while mowing the right-of-way.

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Project Significance: Moreau Lake State Park is the Capital Region PRISM's Invasive Species Prevention Zone (ISPZ). The Park contains three designated areas: The Natural Heritage Area (NHA); Park Preservation Area (PPA); and a Bird Conservation Area (BCA). Below are short descriptions of these areas.

Natural Heritage Area (NHA)

The Master Plan designates the hemlock-northern hardwood forest and the calcareous talus slope woodland communities as Natural Heritage Areas. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest is not contiguous within the park but is part of a larger community unit that extends beyond the park boundaries. It is important to recognize the edges of this community in order to preserve the integrity of the community throughout its range. The calcareous talus slope woodland is a narrow band wholly within the park boundary and is considered rare statewide and globally. The calcareous talus slope woodland and the hemlock-northern hardwood forest communities were identified as significant ecological communities within Moreau Lake State Park. Characteristic trees include sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), eastern hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), and northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*).

In Moreau Lake State Park this community lies on a steep west-facing slope within the Warren County portion of the park. It occurs in a mature beech-maple mesic forest that is contiguous and unfragmented by any utility or recreational corridors. This community type is considered to be rare statewide and globally. The Natural Heritage Program ranks this particular occurrence as having good overall quality. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest community is a mixed forest that typically occurs on middle to lower slopes of ravines, on cool, mid-elevation slopes, and on moist, well drained sites. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is co-dominant with various hardwood species including beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple, red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*) and basswood (*Tilia americana*).

Portions designated as Park Preservation Areas (PPA)

Portions of parks are designated as PPAs. As a whole, Moreau Lake State Park does not fit into Park Preserve category nor does it fit the intent of the Park Preservation System Law. However, certain sections of the park do meet the criteria for a Park Preservation Area. It was determined that the area identified within the plan as the Palmerton Mountain Management Area can be designated as a PPA. The hemlock-northern hardwood forest community type is recognized as a significant community which is being designated as part of the NHA and the area is included in the BCA designated area. The area also offers grand panoramic views of the southern Adirondacks, the Hudson River, the Luzerne Mountains, the Lake Champlain Valley, the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Hudson and Mohawk River valleys and Moreau Lake.

Moreau Lake Bird Conservation Area (BCA)

The Moreau Lake BCA, 3,368 acres, is completely within the State Park and is also within Audubon's Moreau Lake Forest Important Bird Area. Hemlock-northern hardwood forest with associated beech-maple dominates the BCA. Much of the terrain is steep and rocky.

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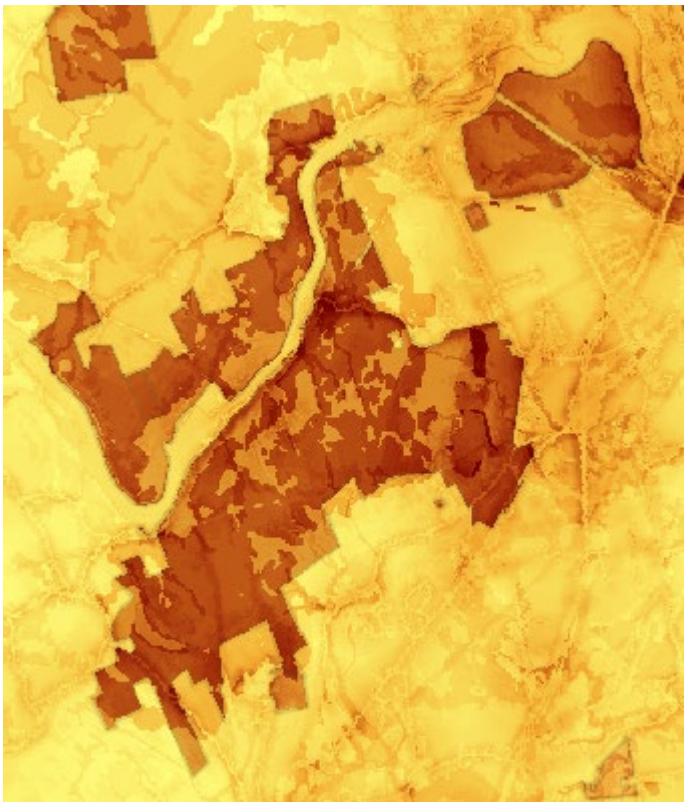
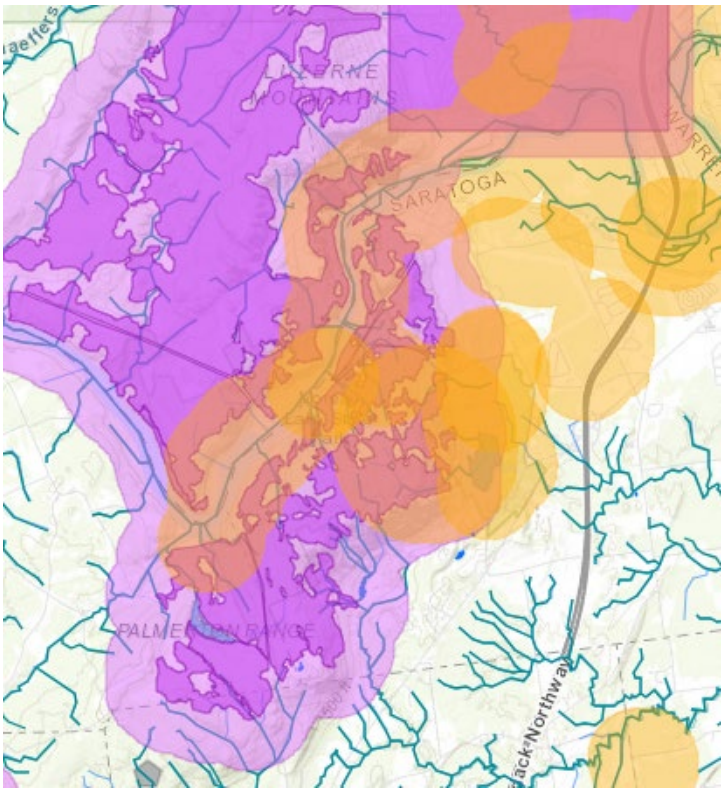
Moreau Lake BCA is a stopover site for Neotropical migratory songbirds, especially forest dwelling migrants during both spring and fall migrations. The site supports a diversity of birds associated with upland forest. It is also a significant wintering site for the state and federally threatened bald eagle; it regularly supports state threatened pied-billed grebe (possible breeder), northern harrier (spring and fall migration), and state species of special concern Cooper's hawk (possible breeder) and red-shouldered hawk (probable breeder).

The Hudson River supports birds such as common loon and osprey on migration. Songbirds concentrate along major rivers during spring and fall migration. It is also a significant overwintering site for bald eagles. Pied-billed grebes regularly occur in Mud Lake from spring through fall and may breed there.

Rare, endangered, threatened, or protected species: The Park supports threatened Pied-billed Grebe and Bald Eagle and special concern Common Loon, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Common Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will. No federal- or state-listed flora and fauna species have been identified within the park.





Appendices (if applicable):

1. If Invasive Plant Management Decision Analysis Tool (IPMDAT) tool was utilized for this project, please attach result as an appendix.

2. Has pesticide use been proposed for this project? Attach any pesticide labels as an appendix.
   - Aquatic Pesticide Permits: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8530.html

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- Pesticide Laws and Regulations: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/112881.html

3. If relevant to a larger project, please include associated master plan if relevant to a larger project (link file URL or attach as an appendix).

Maps:

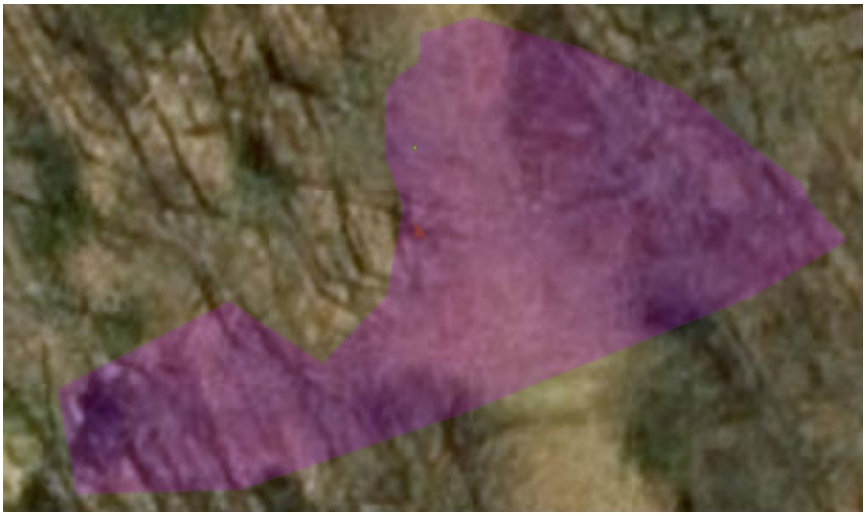

Figure 3: *Screenshot from ArcGIS Online, showing the original detection and treatment of Japanese stiltgrass on site in 2023.*

Figure 4: *Screenshot from ArcGIS Online, showing the expansion of Japanese stiltgrass in 2024.*

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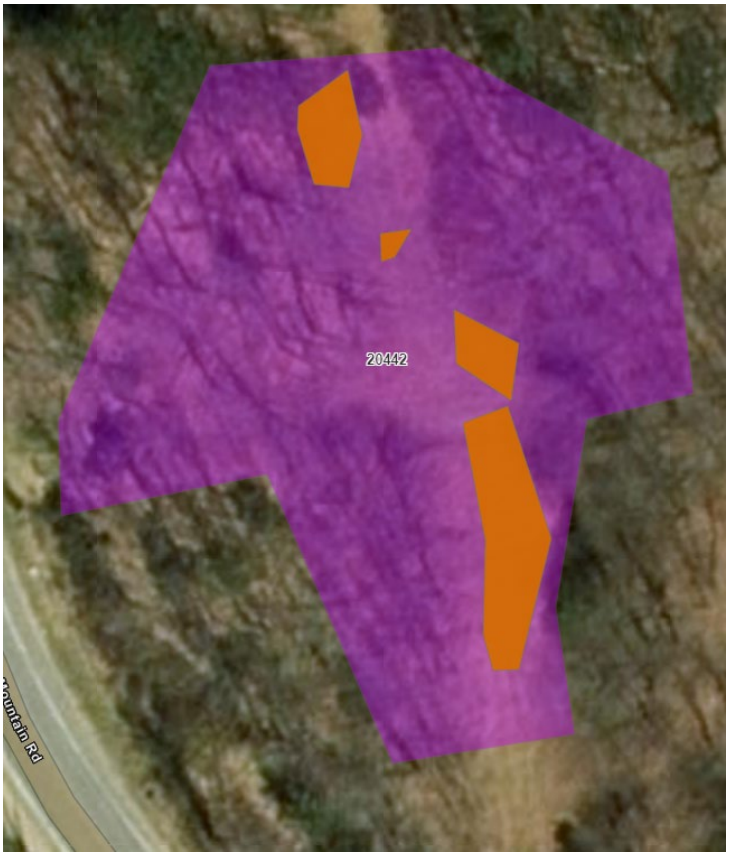

Figure 4: *Screenshot from ArcGIS Online, showing the expansion of Japanese stiltgrass in 2025.*

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Section 2: Implementation Summary

Response: The Capital Region PRISM is predominantly using weed-whacking as the method of management for Japanese stiltgrass at this site. Hand pulling is used in small, isolated patches at this site. The goal for this site is complete eradication as there are not many invasives within Moreau Lake State Park and it is still a manageable population. Originally, percent cover was estimated to be 5% with a sparse distribution. The estimated size of the infestation was 0.00013 acres. Best management practices for this species can be found on the NYIS.info website here: https://nyis.info/species/japanese-stiltgrass/. At this site specifically, hand pulling and weed whacking prior to seed set is the preferred method of treatment which will be re-assessed as needed depending on results of management.

Disposal and Disturbance: Disposal consists of leaving pulled plants on site if the plants are not yet in seed and are disposed of in the trash off-site if they are in seed at the time of removal. Disturbance is quite high at this site due to the use of weed-whackers however, this site is disturbed as well by the utility company (National Grid) by annual mowing around the time of Japanese stiltgrass management.

Restoration: This site has received some active restoration by raking in some seeds into the soil. With the utility line being present it is difficult to justify planting since the area is mowed annually to minimize large shrubs and trees from being established in the area.

Post-Treatment Monitoring: Post-treatment monitoring will be managed annually by Capital Region PRISM staff and will occur in late August to early September just before plants go to seed to avoid further spread.

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Treatment, Post-Treatment (Monitoring), and Restoration Calendar: Briefly outline when response, post-treatment monitoring, restoration efforts, and possibly research efforts are anticipated to occur with a date range. When completed check the box next to the targeted date range with an initial.

	Year 1 (2023)	Year 2 (2024)	Year 3 (2025)	Year 4	Year 5
Summer	☐	☐ **June 25th** Not treated but density observed	☐	☐	☐
Early Autumn	☐ **August 25th** Detection & hand pulling of Japanese Stiltgrass	☐ **August 15th** Mowed using brushcutters	☐ **August 28th** Mowed using weed-whackers	☐	☐
Late Autumn	☐	☐ **September 13th** Mowed using weed-whackers	☐	☐	☐

Notes: Make notes as necessary and keep the documentation simple. Use plant phenology to determine ideal time for response actions and restoration efforts. Document anything that did not work with recommended adjustments in the post season report.

Goal Progress: ☐ Goal Unlikely ☒ Regressing ☐ No Change ☐ Progressing ☐ Goal Met

Follow-up Plan: ☒ Further Treatment Planned ☐ Further Monitoring Planned ☐ Monitoring Phase Complete

☐ Further Management Not Planned ☒ Other: Reach out to National Grid (utility company and ask them to spray Japanese stiltgrass on site) since plant is in their right-of-way

Native Species Recovery: ☐ Absent ☒ Sub-Dominant ☐ Dominant

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Section 3: Project Implementation - Year 1 (2023)

Treatment Schedule: Plan out when and how treatments will occur. Attach and reference separate spreadsheet if more space is needed for additional species. Include the Tier level & Threat ranking of each species.

Treatment Window (MM/DD/YY)	Target Species Common & Scientific Name	Tier & Threat Rank	Response Method	Size of Infestation (Acres)*	Percent Cover (%)	Species Abundance	Acreage Treated	Disposal Method
08/25	Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)	4, VH	Hand pull	0.00013 acres	5%	Sparse	0.00013 acres	Trash

End-of-Year Summary:

Time Spent on Site (Hours)/ # of Staff on Site: NA

# of Volunteers (if any)/Total Hours of Volunteer Hours on Site (# of volunteers x Time spent on site) NA

Explain any successes, failures, or needed adjustments. Including restoration, missed treatments, not monitoring, etc.

Goal Progress: ☐ Goal Unlikely ☐ Regressing ☒ No Change ☐ Progressing ☐ Goal Met

Follow-up Plan: ☐ Further Treatment Planned ☒ Further Monitoring Planned ☐ Monitoring Phase Complete ☐ Further Management Not Planned ☐ Other: _____

Native Species Recovery: ☐ Absent ☒ Sub-Dominant ☐ Dominant

Adjustments Needed:

Explain any changes to be made for future years and update treatment restoration and calendars.

*** Reminder:** if the project changes drastically (i.e., switch from manual control to chemical control) it may require a new SEQR review.

Year 1 Notes:

- First year of detection

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Section 3: Project Implementation - Year 2 (2024)

Treatment Schedule: Plan out when and how treatments will occur. Attach and reference separate spreadsheet if more space is needed for additional species. Include the Tier level & Threat ranking of each species.

Treatment Window (MM/DD/YY)	Target Species Common & Scientific Name	Tier & Threat Rank	Response Method	Size of Infestation (Acres)*	Percent Cover (%)	Species Abundance	Acreage Treated	Disposal Method
06/24	Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)	4, VH	NA	0.04 acres	80%	Dense	0 acres	NA
08/15			Mow (brush cutter)	0.054 acres	80%	Dense	0.054 acres	Left on site
09/13			Mow (weed-whacker)	0.0075 acres	80%	Dense	0.0075 acres	Left on site, bagged plants in seed

End-of-Year Summary:

Time Spent on Site (Hours)/ # of Staff on Site: NA

# of Volunteers (if any)/Total Hours of Volunteer Hours on Site (# of volunteers x Time spent on site) NA

Explain any successes, failures, or needed adjustments. Including restoration, missed treatments, not monitoring, etc.

- **June 25th**- 8 people managing (5 PRISM staff and 3 OPRHP staff)
- **August 15th**- 8 people managing (5 PRISM staff and 2 OPRHP staff). Active restoration occurred with native seeds including yarrow, milkweed, and aster spp.
- **September 13th**- 2 PRISM staff delineated and weed-whacked Japanese stiltgrass. Just starting to go into seed. Areas cut during last visit did not show any evidence of seeding.

Goal Progress: ☐ Goal Unlikely ☒ Regressing ☐ No Change ☐ Progressing ☐ Goal Met

Follow-up Plan: ☒ Further Treatment Planned ☐ Further Monitoring Planned ☐ Monitoring Phase Complete ☐ Further Management Not Planned ☐ Other: _____

Native Species Recovery: ☐ Absent ☒ Sub-Dominant ☐ Dominant

Adjustments Needed:

- September 13th- Mowed Japanese stiltgrass, if continuing management of this species in the future, treat a week earlier prior to seed set. A few stems regrowing in the false spiraea pile placed in the sun to solarize.

Year 2 Notes:

- More stiltgrass was found on site than last year, likely spread by the mowers.

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Section 3: Project Implementation - Year 3 (2025)

Treatment Schedule: Plan out when and how treatments will occur. Attach and reference separate spreadsheet if more space is needed for additional species. Include the Tier level & Threat ranking of each species.

Treatment Window (MM/DD/YY)	Target Species Common & Scientific Name	Tier & Threat Rank	Response Method	Size of Infestation (Acres)*	Percent Cover (%)	Species Abundance	Acreage Treated	Disposal Method
08/28/25	Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*)	4, VH	Mow (weed-whacker)	0.0532 acres	Left side of road (next to road) - 40% Middle Patch- 15% Furthest patch- 15% Right side of road- 75%	Left side of road (next to road)- Sparse Middle Patch- Sparse Furthest patch- Sparse Right side of road- Dense	0.0532 acres	Left on site

End-of-Year Summary:

Time Spent on Site (Hours)/ # of Staff on Site: 3 PRISM staff, 1.5 hours

# of Volunteers (if any)/Total Hours of Volunteer Hours on Site (# of volunteers x Time spent on site) NA

Explain any successes, failures, or needed adjustments. Including restoration, missed treatments, not monitoring, etc.

Goal Progress: ☐ Goal Unlikely ☒ Regressing ☐ No Change ☐ Progressing ☐ Goal Met

Follow-up Plan: ☒ Further Treatment Planned ☐ Further Monitoring Planned ☐ Monitoring Phase Complete ☐ Further Management Not Planned ☐ Other: _____

Native Species Recovery: ☐ Absent ☒ Sub-Dominant ☐ Dominant

Adjustments Needed:

- Reach out to National Grid and ask them to treat the plants chemically within the right-of-way. Consider monitoring further along right-of-way to determine if there is more that is outside of the previously treated area but still within OPRHP boundaries.

Year 3 Notes:

- Spreading quickly and we need to get on top of this infestation quickly.

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Section 3: Project Implementation - Year 4

Treatment Schedule: Plan out when and how treatments will occur. Attach and reference separate spreadsheet if more space is needed for additional species. Include the Tier level & Threat ranking of each species.

Treatment Window (MM/DD/YY)	Target Species Common & Scientific Name	Tier & Threat Rank	Response Method	Size of Infestation (Acres)*	Percent Cover (%)	Species Abundance	Acreage Treated	Disposal Method

***REMINDERS**:

- Obtain proper permissions before completing any management project. Please attach any permits/permissions completed for this project as an appendix.
- If infestation is linear, use miles to measure "size of infestation"

Integrated Pest Management Methods Deployed: See Section 2 for full list of methods.

- **Manual**- the use of physical means to eliminate or reduce pest populations
- **Mechanical**- the use of mechanical means to eliminate or reduce pest populations
- **Chemical**- the use of pesticides to eradicate or limit the prevalence of unwanted pests.
- **Cultural**- the practice of modifying the growing environment to reduce the prevalence of unwanted pests.
- **Biological control**- the use of a natural enemy or predator to control a pest.

Percent Cover:
iMapInvasives Percent Cover Ranges: <5%, 5%-25%, 26%-50%, 51%-75%, 76%-100% or use a specific percentage

Distribution/Abundance:
Trace (single plant/clump), Sparse (scattered plants/clumps), Dense plants/clumps, Monoculture, Linearly scattered

End-of-Year Summary:

Time Spent on Site (Hours)/ # of Staff on Site:

# of Volunteers (if any)/Total Hours of Volunteer Hours on Site (# of volunteers x Time spent on site)

Explain any successes, failures, or needed adjustments. Including restoration, missed treatments, not monitoring, etc.

Goal Progress: ☐ Goal Unlikely ☐ Regressing ☐ No Change ☐ Progressing ☐ Goal Met

Follow-up Plan: ☐ Further Treatment Planned ☐ Further Monitoring Planned ☐ Monitoring Phase Complete ☐ Further Management Not Planned ☐ Other: _____

Native Species Recovery: ☐ Absent ☐ Sub-Dominant ☐ Dominant

Adjustments Needed:

Explain any changes to be made for future years and update treatment restoration and calendars.

*** Reminder:** if the project changes drastically (i.e., switch from manual control to chemical control) it may require a new SEQR review.

Year 4 Notes:

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Section 3: Project Implementation - Year 5

Treatment Schedule: Plan out when and how treatments will occur. Attach and reference separate spreadsheet if more space is needed for additional species. Include the Tier level & Threat ranking of each species.

Treatment Window (MM/DD/YY)	Target Species Common & Scientific Name	Tier & Threat Rank	Response Method	Size of Infestation (Acres)*	Percent Cover (%)	Species Abundance	Acreage Treated	Disposal Method

***REMINDERS**:

- Obtain proper permissions before completing any management project. Please attach any permits/permissions completed for this project as an appendix.
- If infestation is linear, use miles to measure "size of infestation"

Integrated Pest Management Methods Deployed: See Section 2 for full list of methods.

- **Manual**- the use of physical means to eliminate or reduce pest populations
- **Mechanical**- the use of mechanical means to eliminate or reduce pest populations
- **Chemical**- the use of pesticides to eradicate or limit the prevalence of unwanted pests.
- **Cultural**- the practice of modifying the growing environment to reduce the prevalence of unwanted pests.
- **Biological control**- the use of a natural enemy or predator to control a pest.

Percent Cover:
iMapInvasives Percent Cover Ranges: <5%, 5%-25%, 26%-50%, 51%-75%, 76%-100% or use a specific percentage

Distribution/Abundance:
Trace (single plant/clump), Sparse (scattered plants/clumps), Dense plants/clumps, Monoculture, Linearly scattered

End-of-Year Summary:

Time Spent on Site (Hours)/ # of Staff on Site:

# of Volunteers (if any)/Total Hours of Volunteer Hours on Site (# of volunteers x Time spent on site)

Explain any successes, failures, or needed adjustments. Including restoration, missed treatments, not monitoring, etc.

Goal Progress: ☐ Goal Unlikely ☐ Regressing ☐ No Change ☐ Progressing ☐ Goal Met

Follow-up Plan: ☐ Further Treatment Planned ☐ Further Monitoring Planned ☐ Monitoring Phase Complete ☐ Further Management Not Planned ☐ Other: _____

Native Species Recovery: ☐ Absent ☐ Sub-Dominant ☐ Dominant

Adjustments Needed:

Explain any changes to be made for future years and update treatment restoration and calendars.

*** Reminder:** if the project changes drastically (i.e., switch from manual control to chemical control) it may require a new SEQR review.

Year 5 Notes:

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