



Capital Region PRISM Survey Report

Purpose:

The Invasive Species Survey Report will provide an overview and help guide invasive species treatments, baseline site composition, post-monitoring, and restoration at a specific site over time.

To be submitted to Capital Region PRISM following the completion of partner, individual, or PRISM-led survey for review. This form can be found online as "FieldSurveyReportTemplate" at <https://www.capitalregionprism.org> 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 [iMap Invasives](#). 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. Once complete, save your report and submit the form via email to a member of the Capital Region PRISM team. Feel free to include supporting documents in your submission.

To determine site value, we recommend using the iMap Invasives Prioritization Model which can be found on the [PRISM Prioritization webpage](#). The prioritization model will allow you to assess your site's ecological value based on a few factors. Evaluate the comprehensive score or the ecological score to determine if your site is a high priority site that will help us determine if the location and infestation falls into our priority objectives for future management. If it is not a high priority site, we still encourage you to complete invasive species surveying as the site may be culturally and socially of value to the public.

Section 2: Survey Result Summary

The survey summary section will contain the tables and maps generated from your survey efforts. The biological surveys will assist the Capital Region PRISM in our efforts to identify emerging species to be able to more effectively manage infestations and the spread of populations. Please fill out the provided table and insert screen shots of iMap Invasives maps.

Section 3: Summary of Recommendations

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



Section 1: Survey Summary

Date: 8/21/23	Property Owner Name: NYS DEC Region 4 State Forester, Bill Schongar
Site Name: Pittstown State Forest	Property Owner Contact: william.schongar@dec.ny.gov
Site Address (if different): Ward Hollow Rd, Troy 12180	Survey Leader Name and Title: Samantha Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator
County: Rensselaer	Survey Leader Contact: ss986@cornell.edu
Latitude/Longitude: 42.817256°N, 73.470963°W	Team Member Name(s): Angelina Sawicki, Lauren Costello, Jessica Stewart
Site Size: 1,167 acres	Team Member Contact(s): ars436@cornell.edu , lc2227@cornell.edu , jrs629@cornell.edu

Site Description: Provide existing conditions of the site, current land use, landscape elements, etc.

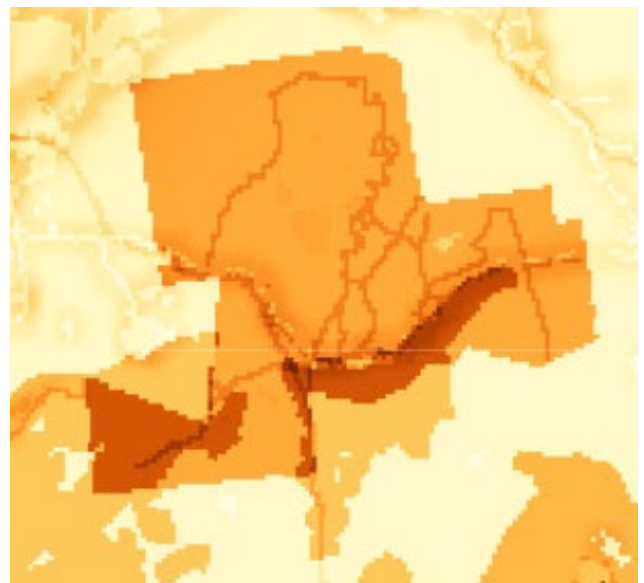
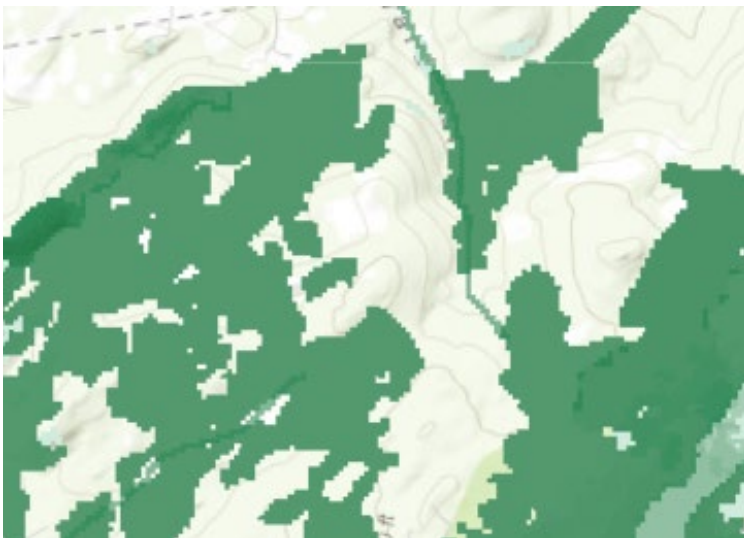
The 1,167-acre Pittstown State Forest is located on the northern edge of the Rensselaer Plateau. The forest features several miles of trails maintained for mountain biking. There are 9.5 miles of multiple use trails. The trails on the south side of the road (State Fire Lane) are wide, steep, and rocky. The trails on the north side are more moderate, but narrow and winding. The property is managed for multiple uses, including timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat and recreation. Other uses include: hiking, biking, primitive camping, snowmobiling, hunting and trapping.

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.).

CR-PRISM team split forming two survey teams. The target species of this survey was Japanese stiltgrass. Trails on either side of the road were surveyed and transects formed in areas with high density of stiltgrass.

Did you identify this site through the iMap Invasives Prioritization Model? If yes- Did it score high in either ecological or comprehensive value? What other reason is present for conducting the survey?

Yes, this site scores moderate-high for comprehensive score and moderate for ecological score. This site was selected due to the proximity to Grafton Lakes State Park, one of the Capital Region PRISM's Priority Conservation Areas as well as one of the PRISM's Invasive Species Prevention Zones. This site should be considered for an elevation to a Priority Conservation area or a high priority secondary site for surveying and treatments.



Section 2: Survey Result Summary

Common Name	Scientific Name	GPS Location	Growth Form	Phenology	Distribution/ Abundance	Area Infested (acres/miles if linear)
Japanese Stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	42.816712N, 73.467955W	Herbaceous	Vegetative	Dense	2.2 miles, 2.008 acres
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	42.815907N, 73.463374W	Shrub	Seed	Sparse	0.0097 miles, 0.04 acres
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	42.813993N, 73.463017W	Tree	Vegetative	Trace	0.02 acres
Oriental Bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	42.815561N, 73.464206W	Vine	Vegetative	Trace	0.0157 miles, 0.02 acres
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	42.815696N, 73.466928W	Herbaceous	Vegetative	Trace	0.02 acres
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	42.813030N, 73.462186W	Tree	Seed	Sparse	0.02 acres

Growth Form:

Terrestrial: Ground Cover, Herbaceous, Vine, Shrub, Tree, Insect, Animal

Aquatic: Submerged, Floating, Emergent, Riparian, Animal

Phenology:

Plants: Vegetative, Flowering, Fruit/In Seed, Dormant, Dead

Insects: Emergence, Swarming, Spawning

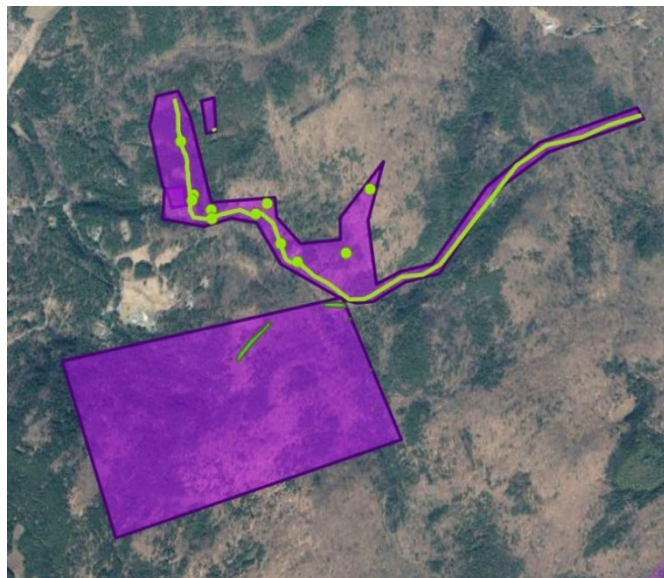
Animals: Spawning, Swarming, Migrating

Distribution/Abundance:

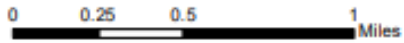
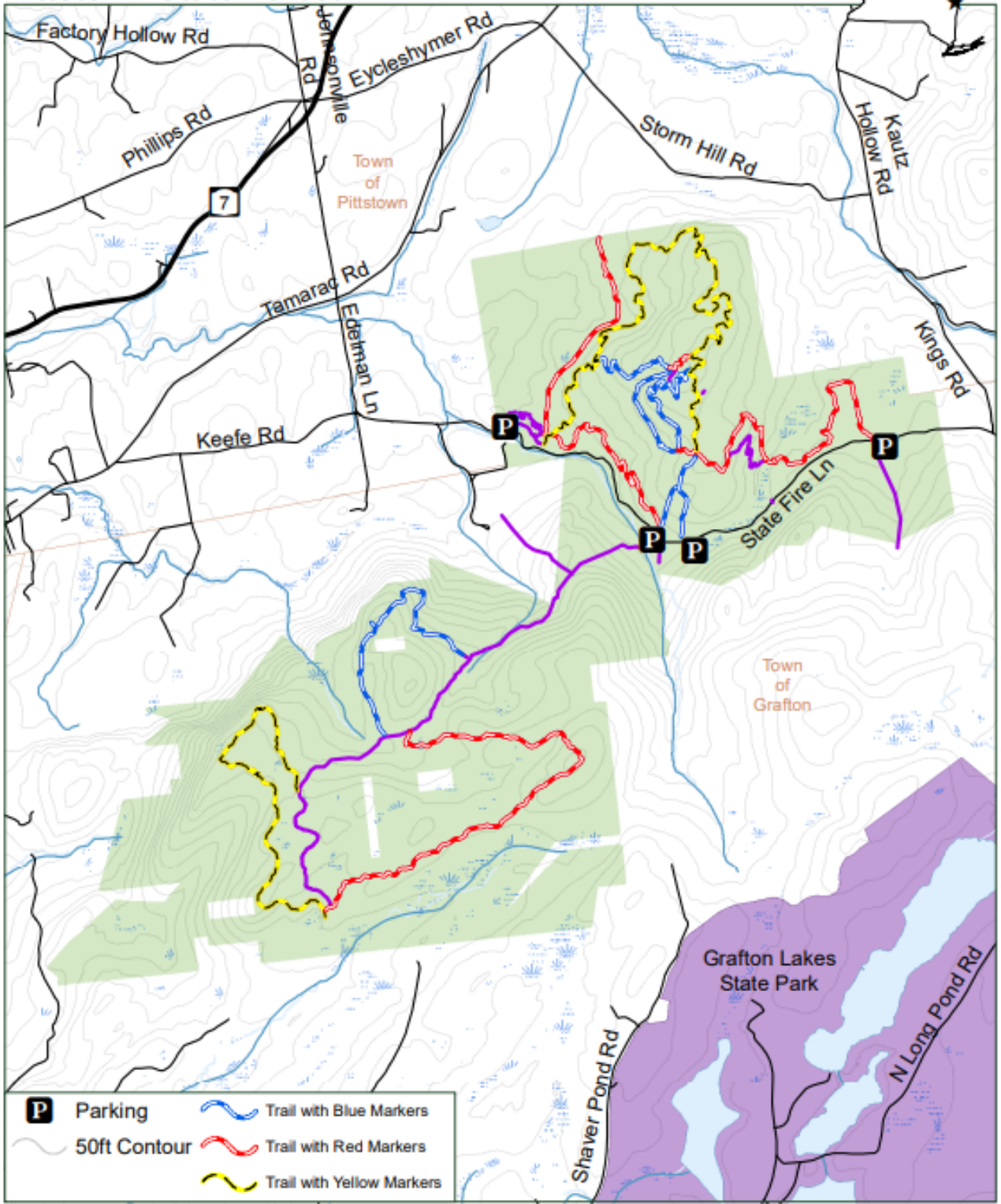
Trace (single plant/clump), Sparse (scattered plants/clumps), Dense plants/clumps, Monoculture, Linearly scattered

Map: Develop a map of the survey area that has any iMap Invasives points and/or searched, polygons to delineate infestation extent. Multiple maps may be added for multiple species or locations. Different mapping formats are welcome but iMap Invasive delineations are preferred.

Insert Survey Map(s):



Pittstown State Forest



Section 3: Summary of Recommendations

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

Additional Notes: Describe any barriers or issues that arose before or during the survey. Issues arising before completing the survey could include: trouble contacting owner, extended time to obtain permission, trouble accessing the property, etc. Barriers arising during the survey could include: downed trees, trail is closed off, hazards on site, unforeseen injury, inclement weather, etc. Provide any advice that could limit barriers or issues in the future.

The only issues CR-PRISM team ran into was that these trails are not well marked. Color markers on maps do not always coordinate with colors shown on trail.

Treatment: Describe briefly any recommendations for future treatment methods, why they are recommended, and any alternatives to consider. Please use abundance and site-specific factors in your treatment recommendation. Optional: Attach or reference BMP guidance document. Consider state and local permitting requirements.

Treatment of stiltgrass at this area is not feasible. However, prevention measures should be taken by the mountain bikers and hikers that recreate in this state forest. If the Saratoga Mountain Bike Association is interested in installing infrastructure to help bikers and hikers reduce the spread of invasive stiltgrass seeds into the state forest the Capital Region PRISM is willing to provide guidance.

Post-Survey Monitoring: Briefly explain the monitoring procedure, when it will occur, and who will complete it. Consider the phenology of species when suggesting time-lines. If a control such as eradication, suppression, and 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.

Post-Survey monitoring should continue to occur on a biannual basis along highly probable areas for high-threat species that have the potential to spread into Grafton Lakes State Park. Additionally, aside from the invasive stiltgrass and the hemlock woolly adelgid, the forest is largely uninvaded by invasive species. This site should also be considered for future restoration efforts as beech and hemlocks die back due to forest pests in the area.