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The Regional Early Detection and Rapid Response Campaign in Northeast Michigan



About Huron Pines

Conserving the forests, lakes, and streams of Northeast Michigan

- Nonprofit, 501(c)(3)
- 38 years in business
- 8 full-time staff plus AmeriCorps program
- Projects include:
 - In-stream habitat
 - Land stewardship
 - Watershed planning





Program Overview

Early detection and rapid response, involving

- Partnerships (CWMA)
- Inventory
- Working with landowners
- Physical/Chemical treatment
- Outreach and education



Early Detection-Rapid Response

- Our resources are still high quality
- Find invaders fast and treat them before they become a big, expensive problem
- Priority species: phragmites, buckthorn, purple loosestrife (*newcomer: Japanese knotweed*)







Partnerships

Northeast Michigan
Cooperative Weed
Management Plan



- We organized a Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Partners include agencies, nonprofits, interest groups, local governments
- Not a commitment to funding but to the overall effort
- HP AmeriCorps SWAT Team



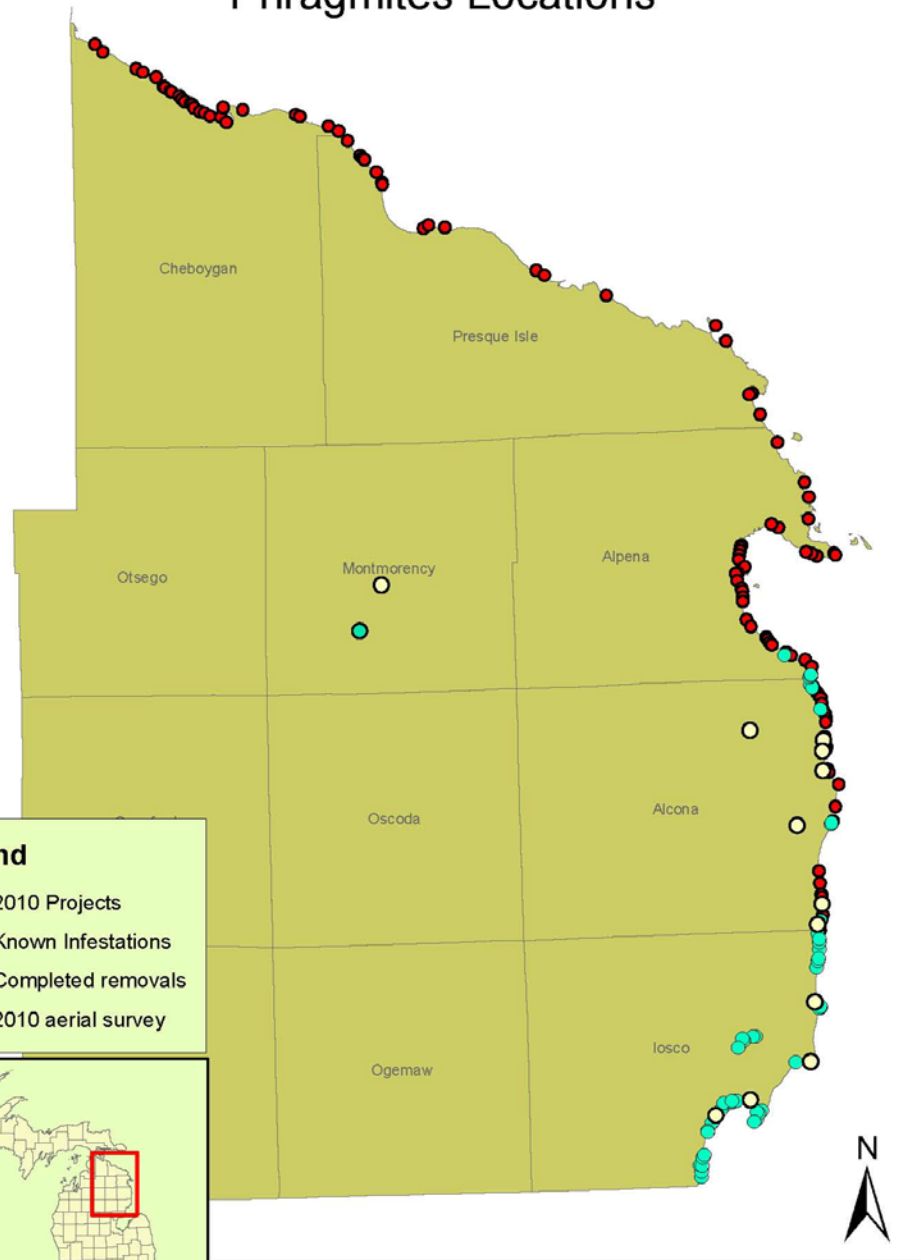


2010 Phragmites Inventory

- May aerial survey
- June-July ground survey
- Met private landowners, enrolled in program
- **Results: 246 patches**
 - 24 native, 222 invasive
 - 80 treated (33%)
 - Over 200 miles surveyed



Phragmites Locations





2010 Treatment (All Species)

- Phragmites: 80 sites, 33.1 acres
- Buckthorn: 4 acres
- Loosestrife: 30 river miles surveyed, 45 trash bags of plants
- Japanese knotweed: 1 patch in Presque Isle Co.





2011 Plans

- Continued SWAT Success
- Increase phragmites treatment from 80 to 100 properties
- Invasive Species Summit
- Enlist local volunteers
- Invasive species inventory/removal integrated into other HP projects





Future Goals

- Treatment organized locally
- HP treated areas clear of invasives
- HP Crew acts as a SWAT team—"on call" for small projects but not months
- Northeast Michigan invasive species under control!



Obstacles



- Lack of knowledge: what to do and what NOT to do
- Apathy at local leader level
- Lack of funding for whole shoreline treatment
- Many vacant/forclosed/unknown properties
- Distrust of government/anger at shoreline regs





Successes

- SWAT team approach
- Individual landowner relationships
- Outreach—workshops, letters, materials
- County-wide permits
- Volunteer events
- Treatment!



Contact Info

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