

Chippewa Flowage Invasive Species Education and Management Project

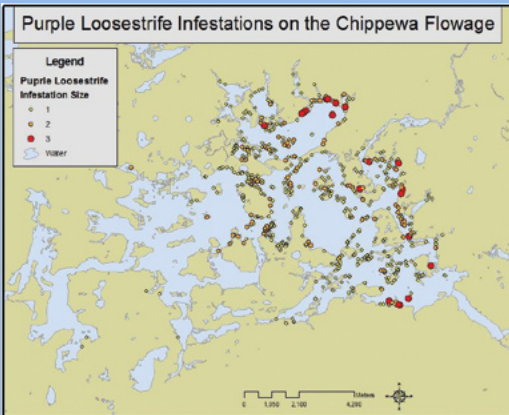
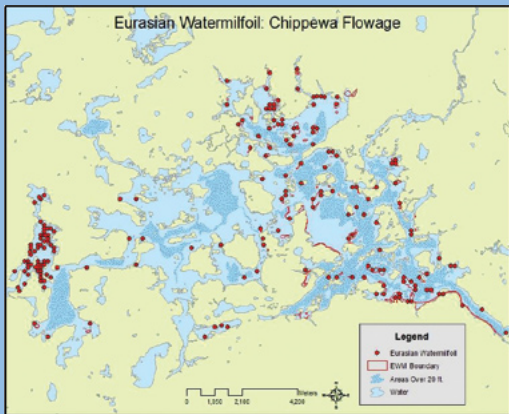
GREAT LAKES REGION



National Themes:
 Watershed Management, Environmental Restoration

Project Description

The spread of Eurasian water-milfoil and purple loosestrife within the Chippewa Flowage and other area lakes is becoming a problem. These invasives displace native species that provide valuable food and cover for native fauna. The aim of this project is to map areas of invasive species on the Chippewa Flowage, explore educational and management options for control and eradication, provide targeted education and promote local leadership and capacity building.



All photos and maps provided by Erik Olson

Actions

Eurasian water-milfoil: The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa tribal college provided interns, boats, and equipment. Interns worked under the supervision of the project educator to collect large quantities of data covering a 15 square-mile area. Those areas with higher densities will be targeted for management. Using GPS points as part of a grid system, a GIS map will be constructed which will show spatial distribution of invasive species concentration.

Purple Loosestrife: Volunteers from the LCO Community, Chippewa Flowage Lake Association, and LCOOCC helped inspect a large area of shoreline. Volunteers and staff gathered information on the purple loosestrife infestations to increase the effectiveness of management activities. The information will be entered into computer databases by the project educator and student interns at LCOOCC. These files will then be provided to Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to update GIS coverage. In addition, a map will be developed of the purple loosestrife infestations on the Chippewa Flowage and will be shared with natural resource management agencies and organizations.



PROJECT CONTACTS

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PROJECT PARTNERS

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LCOOCC Extension

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government

Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Conservation Department

Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

Hayward Area Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau

Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation

Sawyer County Lakes Forum

UW-Stevens Point Herbarium

University of Wisconsin Extension

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

US Forest Service



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Outcomes/Impacts

The Project has had some major accomplishments over the last year. A baseline survey covering both sides of the Flowage for both invasive species as well as native aquatic plants was completed in summer 2006. Collaboration on management activities, targeted education, and research continued.

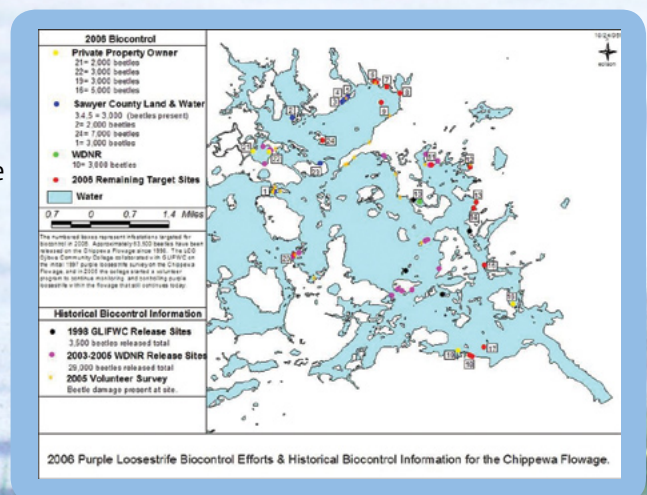
Recently, the Project started providing public service announcements (PSAs) on WOJB 88.9FM Woodland Community Radio. Project and WOJB staff create two announcements every six weeks to be aired during the morning news hour. PSAs are common on WOJB, but the style of these water quality/invasive species-related announcements has caught the public's attention. There has been positive feedback from both local citizens and those residing up to one and a half hours away.

A steering committee, made up of local, tribal, state and federal representatives, has been established to build local collaboration and partnerships, engage citizens and organizations in addressing the key issues, and promote local leadership and capacity building. With the baseline survey in hand, and the support of the steering committee, the Project is well on the way to developing a comprehensive management plan to protect the environmental and cultural integrity of our waters.

A large number of local people assumed key leadership roles in the Project. One volunteer took charge of two purple loosestrife survey sections in 2005 and another two in 2006, and also started an aquatic invasive species (AIS) subcommittee within his Lake Association. On top of that, he raised purple loosestrife beetles for release and worked with the Project staff and the WDNR to release them on targeted infestations on the Flowage.

Community support for this and other similar projects is strong, mainly thanks to county-wide education and outreach activities. The local economy depends on the health of our lakes and rivers, and educating community members, businesses, and companies on AIS prevention leads them to a sense of stewardship that is tied to responsibility and job security.

People from many different agencies, organizations, cultures, and backgrounds have come together to work as a team in support of the project.



www.uwex.edu/ces/regionalwaterquality

LCOOCC Extension Water Quality Web Site:

www.lco.edu/public/ext/water/waterquality.htm