

ORIGINAL



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February 24, 2012

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
 888 First Street, N.E.  
 Washington, DC 20426

Re: **Winter Hydroelectric Project**  
**FERC Project Number P-2064**  
**Flambeau Hydro LLC**  
**Final Report 2011 Land & Wildlife Management Report**

FILED  
 SECRETARY OF THE  
 COMMISSION  
 2012 MAR - 2 P 1:09  
 FEDERAL ENERGY  
 REGULATORY COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bose:

On behalf of Flambeau Hydro LLC, Licensee, North American Hydro Holdings is submitting (1) original and (8) copies of its Final Report 2011 Land & Wildlife Management Report for the Winter Hydroelectric Project.

Background

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "FERC" issued a License to Flambeau on August 12, 2005. Portions of the original Certification were contested by the Licensee. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) submitted a revised Water Quality Certification, Dated at Park Falls, WI: August 19, 2008 that replaced the original certification of June 21, 2005. Only conditions E, F, and J were modified and a footnote was added to condition D according to the Final Settlement Agreement. The submitted report is a requirement of the License pursuant to Article 404, Forest Service (FS) Condition 10, and WDNR Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, and R. The Land & Wildlife Management Plan was filed with FERC on December 19, 2008. FERC issued an Order Modifying and Approving the plan on June 3, 2011. At the time of approval the Licensee was directed to consult with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Forest Service (FS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Part (B) and (C) of the order states:

(B) The gray wolf is currently listed as federally endangered in Wisconsin by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The licensee shall file updated management provisions as part of the first annual report, due no later than March 1, 2012. Any further change in the Federal status of the gray wolf is to be acknowledged in the report. The filing shall also include documentation of consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service (FS), and FWS. The licensee also shall file documentation of non-native invasive species survey results, and the monitoring, control, and mitigation measures

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agreed to with the FS, upon completion of remaining surveys. Survey results and mitigation measures shall file as part of the annual reporting process described as part of the plan. Documentation of consultation with the FS is to be included in the filing. The Commission reserves the right to make changes to this plan based upon the licensee's filings and agency comments received on the reports.

(C) The licensee shall employ a biologist trained in the identification of the appropriate non-native invasive species and Regional Forester Sensitive Species and Management Indicator Species, as specified by the plan, to identify the appropriate species, or to educate other licensee staff.

#### Report Consultation

The Licensee sent the Draft Report to the agencies by letter dated December 27, 2011. The submittal letter requested consultation concerning the Grey Wolf and Non-Native Invasive Species Control.

The licensee received comment in support of allowing the Approved Land and Wildlife Management Plan to remain as written from FS, USFWS, and WDNR on February 13, and 15, 2012. The FS had stated that with the recent delisting of the Gray Wolf there is no need to monitor this species within the project area and to consult with Steven Spickerman, District Botanist of the FS concerning the control of invasive species. The other agencies agreed with FS comments. The Licensee assumes that the agency comments will be viewed as updates to the plan as specified in the Order Modifying and Approving the Plan dated June 3, 2011.

The Licensee received information on the control methods used by the FS on February 13, 2012 as well as a map of the area they currently treat. The FS stated that they have in the past treated invasives on North American Hydro property upstream of the dam and will continue treatment within the proclamation boundary. They also said they will look for ways to combine our efforts. The Licensee will attempt to follow the treatment methods supplied by the FS as well as attempt to coordinate our control efforts in the future.

The Licensee's staff Environmental Specialist has a B.S. in Forest Administration with a minor in Natural Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He along with another staff member is certified as completing the Wisconsin DNR Karner Blue Butterfly HCP Monitoring Training. They attended and have certificates of completion of a WI-DNR Aquatic Plant Identification Workshop on June 28, 29, 30, 2011. They also have attended a "Getting to Know Your Local Trees & Invasive Plants" class sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Extension. The licensee's staff consults agencies on a regular basis concerning identification and environmental issues.

If you have any questions concerning the report, please contact Mr. Gary Rast at the North American Hydro offices @ 920-293-4628, ext 15. He can also be reached by e-mail at [gary.rast@nahydro.com](mailto:gary.rast@nahydro.com).



Sincerely,  
**North American Hydro Holdings**  
**Agent for Licensee**

*For*   
Chuck Alsberg  
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Final Report 2011 Land & Wildlife Management Report dated February 24, 2012

Cc: Mr. Peter Fasbender, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mr. Paul Strong, USDA Forest Service Chequamegon, Nicolet NF  
Mr. Craig Roesler, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Ms. Cheryl Laatsch, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Corporate, NAHH  
Regional, NAHH  
Mr. Jason Kreuzscher

# **Final**

## **2011 LAND & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REPORT (Per FERC License Article 404)**

**Per USDA Forest Service 4(e) Condition 10  
Per WDNR Revised 401 Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, R**

### **Winter Hydroelectric Project FERC Project #2064 Flambeau Hydro, LLC**

**East Fork of the Chippewa River, Sawyer County, Wisconsin**

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**North American Hydro Holdings  
116 North State Street  
Neshkoro, Wisconsin 54960**

**Final – February 24, 2012**

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**I**  
**Plan Requirements & Approval**

**1.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license on August 12, 2005 to Flambeau Hydro LLC. The license is for the continued operation and maintenance of the 600 KW Winter Project (No. 2064), located in Sawyer County on the East Fork of the Chippewa River. As such, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission incorporated the following requirement into the new license:

**FERC License Article 404 - Land and Wildlife Management Plan**

*Within six months of license issuance, the licensee shall file for Commission approval a plan to manage land and wildlife at the project. The plan shall be prepared after consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Wisconsin DNR), the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Measures to protect threatened and endangered species (i.e., bald eagle, gray wolf) at the project, as well as other wildlife habitat of concern, shall be included in the land and wildlife management plan. In addition, the plan shall include guidelines for the managing vegetation, habitat, and ground-disturbing activities in accordance with condition 10 in appendix B of this license, and shall be consistent with the bald eagle and gray wolf management guidelines of the FWS, Forest Service, and Wisconsin DNR. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following:*

- 1. Procedures for obtaining and documenting bald eagle nesting activity and the presence of gray wolves on an annual basis, and for maintaining the information on project maps for use when planning land disturbing activities such as vegetation control or recreation facility development;*
- 2. Consultation with the Wisconsin DNR, Forest Service, and FWS prior to conducting land disturbing activities that could affect any of the threatened and endangered species using project land;*
- 3. Measures to protect Regional Forester Sensitive Species and Management Indicator Species; and*
- 4. Measures to control erosion from trails, parking lots and shoreline areas; and; annual consultation with the resource agencies to allow for periodic management plan updates and to obtain agency input regarding proposed management decisions.*

*The licensee shall include with the land and wildlife management plan documentation of agency consultation, including copies of agency comments and recommendations on the draft plan, and specific descriptions of how the agencies' comments are accommodated by the plan. The licensee shall allow a minimum of 30 days for the agencies to comment and to make recommendations, before filing the plan with the Commission. If the licensee does not adopt a recommendation, the filing shall include the licensee's reasons, based on project-specific information.*

*The Commission reserves the right to require changes to the plan. The land and Wildlife management plan shall not be implemented until the licensee is notified that the plan is approved. Upon approval, the licensee shall implement the plan according to the approved schedule, including any changes required by the Commission.*



**2.** Attached to the FERC License, and as Appendix B, are the USDA Forest Service Conditions. As such the USDA Forest Service incorporated the following condition into the FERC License:

**USDA Forest Service Condition No. 10 – Vegetation, Habitat and Ground-disturbing Activities on National Forest System Lands**

*Within one year of license issuance or at least 90 days prior to vegetation, habitat, and/or ground-disturbing activity, whichever comes first the Licensee shall file with the Commission a Vegetation, Habitat, and Ground-Disturbing Management Plan (Plan) that is approved by the Forest Service. The Plan shall be site specific and be prepared in consultation with the appropriate Federal and State resource agencies for all tree or vegetation removal, habitat, and/or ground-disturbing activities on, or effecting, National Forest System lands.*

*The Plan shall implement measures to prevent the Spread of non-native invasive species; minimize erosion as well as sedimentation; protect, mitigate, or enhance terrestrial and fisheries habitat; and provide for adaptive management measures based on prescribed monitoring objectives over the life of the license. The Licensee shall not file any such plans with the Commission or commence any such activities without written approval from the USDA Forest Service.*

*At a minimum, and where relevant, the Plan shall include the following provisions:*

*Notification to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest before the Licensee begins any vegetation or ground disturbing work;*

*The Licensee's plan shall comply with USDA Forest Service and Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest sensitive species and non-native invasive species management guidelines and protocols, including prevention, control, and monitoring protocols;*

*Identification of methods for prevention and control of non-native invasive species. Treatment of existing infestations of highest priority non-native invasive species shall be initiated immediately upon completion of appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and approval of the Plan by the Commission;*

*Notification to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest upon the Licensee finding new locations for any listed non-native invasive species and/or prior to any independent actions at non-native invasive species control efforts;*

*Timing to establish vegetation of disturbed soils as soon as possible;*

*Identification and prioritization of any erosion areas to be re-vegetated or rehabilitated: Procedures for identification of additional measures that the Licensee shall implement if monitoring reveals that re-vegetation and vegetation control is not successful or does not meet intended objectives;*

*Disclosure of any temporary habitat and/or ground-disturbing measures the Licensee will use;*

*A list of species to be used, planting location, and site preparation methods. Emphasis shall be to use native species and to follow the Forest's Land and Recourse Management Plan as well as the Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management practices for Water Quality.*

*Identification of measures the Licensee will use to mitigate project effects on terrestrial and aquatic habitat including any identified habitat threats, as well as measures designed to enhance habitat, including restoration of wetland, riparian, and aquatic systems;*

*Be updated to meet standards and guidelines that are applicable to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest;*

*Be updated as new information is obtained in consultation with the agencies and submit the updated plan to the Forest Service and Commission for approval;*

*A monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of re-vegetation, vegetation control and/or non-native invasive species control measures; and*

*Identify a timeline for accomplishing plan objectives.*

- 3.** Attached to the FERC License, and as Appendix A, are the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) 401 Revised Water Quality Certification Dated at Park Falls WI: August 19, 2008 Item Letter P, Q, and R. As such the WDNR incorporated the following conditions into the FERC License:

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 401 Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, and R**

*P. The licensee shall annually inspect the entire shoreline of the project waters for purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and map its distribution and relative abundance. Inspections should be scheduled in August while plants are flowering so purple loosestrife can be readily identified. The licensee should submit a report of the monitoring results to the Department by December 31 each year. If the Department deems it necessary to initiate or expand efforts to control purple loosestrife in the East Fork Chippewa River, the licensee shall provide reasonable cooperation in those efforts.*

*Q. The licensee shall monitor the shoreline of the project reservoir, power canal, tailrace, and bypassed channel for erosion, and if necessary, prepare an erosion control plan in consultation with the Department. Inspections should be conducted at three-year intervals in spring before vegetation develops, so eroded areas can be readily identified. The licensee shall submit to the Department a report of monitoring results by December 31 in the year of each inspection.*

*R. Before engaging in any activity that may introduce zebra mussels into project waters, the licensee shall provide or demand (through contract clause or other binding agreement) evidence of effective decontamination of barges, tools, boats, construction equipment, or other items capable of transferring water containing larval or adult zebra mussels. Effective decontamination may include steam-cleaning, chemical treatment, physical treatment, or other suitable procedures.*

#### **4. FERC PLAN APPROVAL**

The Land and Wildlife Management was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission December 19, 2008. It was approved by an *Order Modifying And Approving Land And Wildlife Management Plan Issued June 3, 2011*.

**II**  
**Description of Winter Hydroelectric Project**

### Project Description

The project is located on the East Fork of the Chippewa River, near the town of Winter, in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. The Project reservoir has been determined to be approximately 30 acres at the project's normal pool elevation. The USDA Forest Service portion of the reservoir, as defined to the natural thread of the river, would amount to a very tiny area of approximately 15 acres. Additionally, there are approximately 11 tiny acres of USDA Forest Service lands below the dam, making the total acreage of Federal lands at the project to be approximately only 26 acres.

The overall configuration of the project is as follows:

- Diversion Dam: A 14-foot-high, 140 foot-long concrete dam section (8 bays total) with steel gates on top of wooden stop logs in 7 bays and one bay with a 6'x16' steel lift gate operated with an electric motor and mechanical ball-screw. The diversion dam allows the water to be apportioned either to the bypassed reach or down the power canal and into the hydroelectric units.
- Power Canal: The power canal consists of earth embankments and is approximately 2,100 feet in length. The canal is approximately 20 feet wide at the bottom and has flanked earth embankments to retain the water.
- Intake Structure: The intake structures consist of reinforced concrete structure housing a common intake rack that conveys water to (2) two 5 foot – 6 inch penstock tubes.
- Powerhouse and the Tailrace: The powerhouse is a concrete structure (with a total of 24.5 feet of head) that houses two generators coupled to vertical Francis turbines. Unit 1 has a load capacity of 200 KW, and with a 174 CFS flow capacity. Unit 2 has a load capacity of 400 KW, with a 224 CFS flow capacity. The tailrace of the powerhouse is approximately 700 feet in length.
- USDA Forest Service Lands: The Forest Service lands are approximately 300 feet wide by 1600 feet long, or approximately 11 acres. However, this 300 foot strip includes; ½ of the river, the Diversion Dam, the Project's power canal, the diversion dam's access road and the left and right embankments for the power canal. (please refer to the Plan's map; Forest Service Lands at the Winter Project)

### **III Project Drawings**

**Winter Hydroelectric Project Boundary  
Exhibit G - Figure G-1**

**Forest Service Lands at the Winter Project**

Winter Hydroelectric Project Boundary  
Exhibit G - Figure G-1

**PROJECT LOCATION**

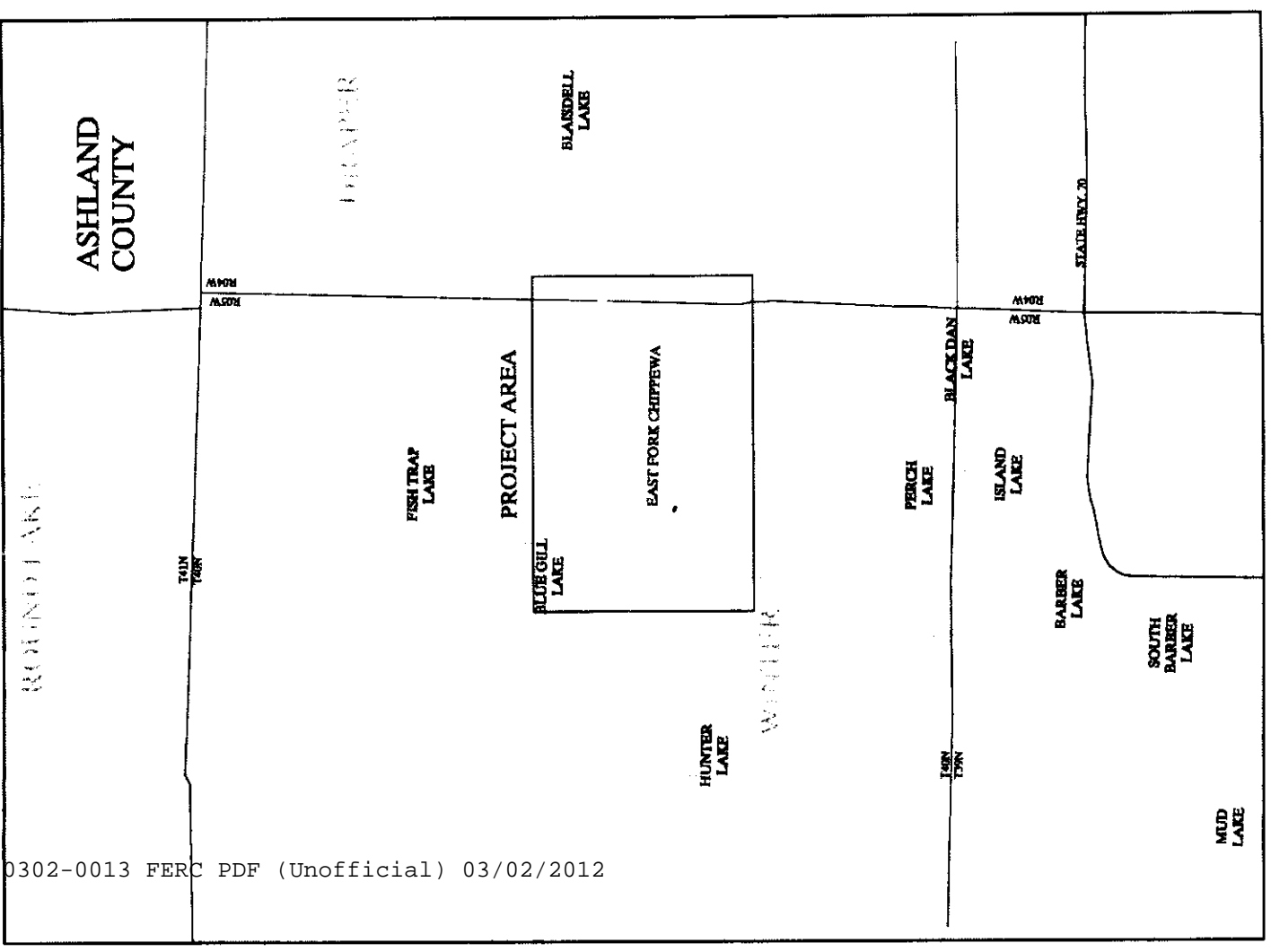
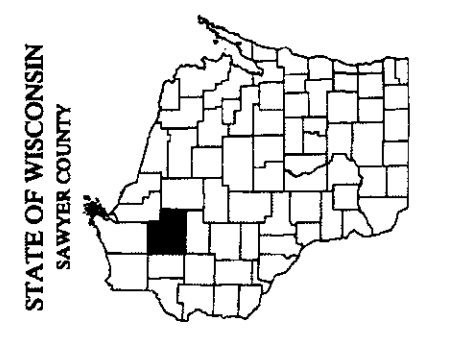
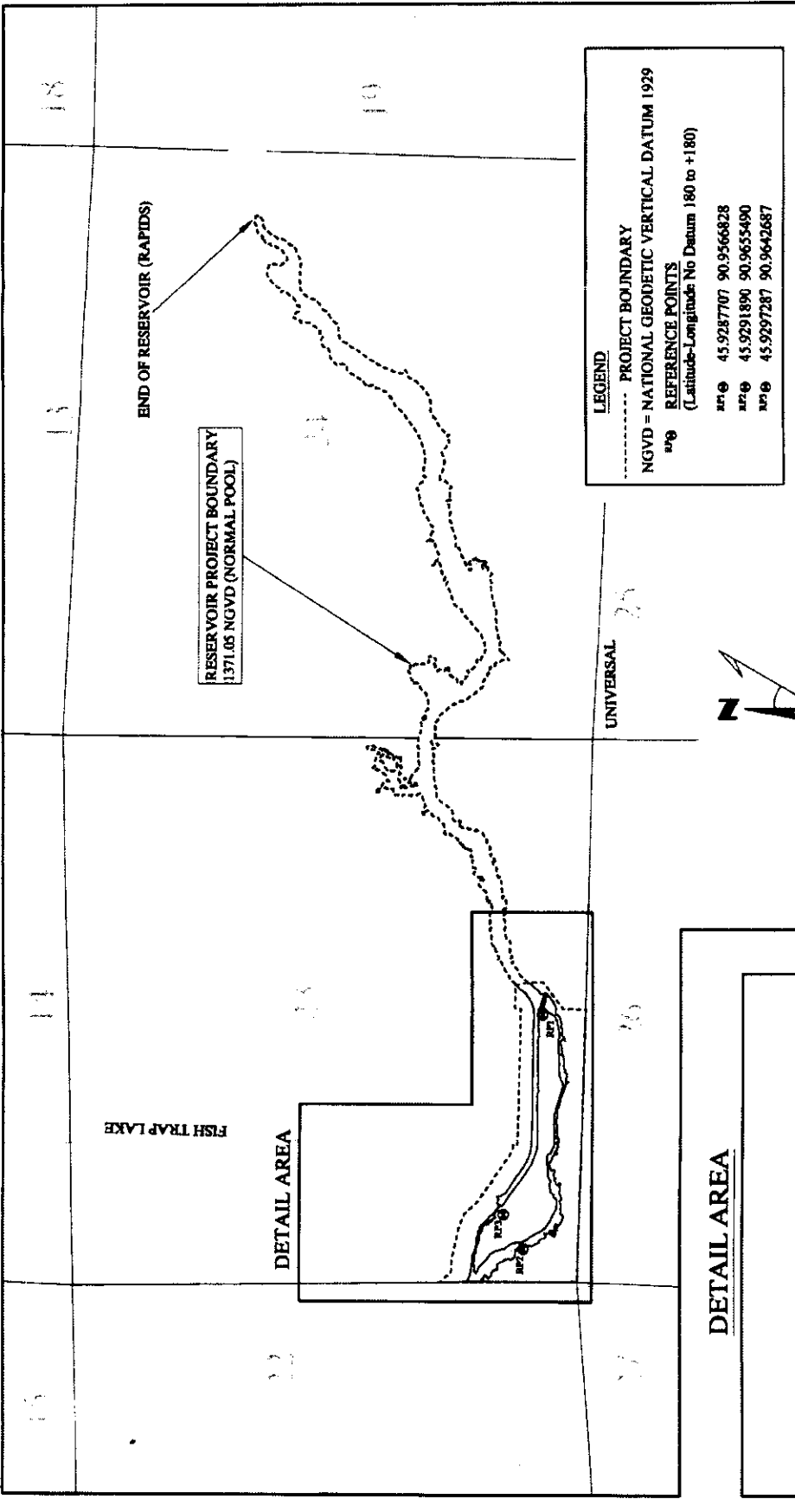


EXHIBIT G  
 FLAMBEAU HYDRO LLC  
 WINTER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT  
 EAST FORK CHIPPEWA RIVER - SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
 FERC PROJECT No. 2004  
**PROJECT BOUNDARY**  
 SEPTEMBER 12, 2006  
 FIGURE G-1  
 SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN



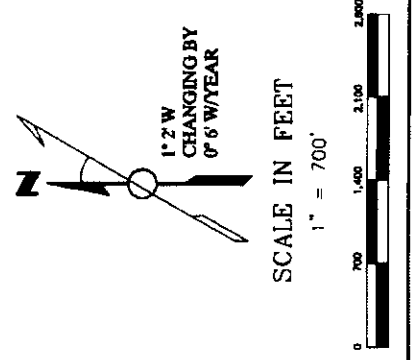
20120302-0013 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 03/02/2012

**PROJECT AREA**

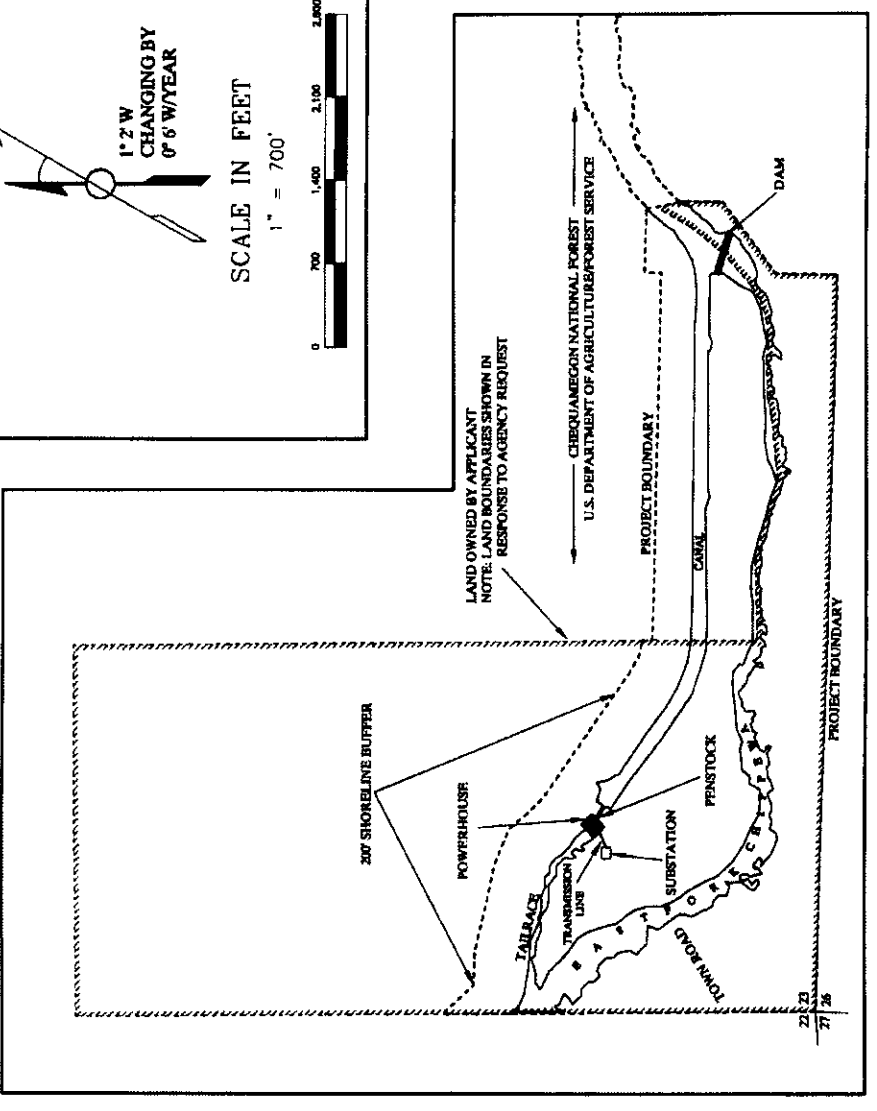


I, Phillip D. Hargrove, a Registered Land and Surveyor, herby certify that the exhibit drawing requested by Flambeau Hydro, LLC, is a true and accurate representation of the project boundary, ± 40 feet, and meets the specifications for maps and drawings set forth in 18CFR4.39.

*Phillip D. Hargrove*  
 Phillip D. Hargrove  
 Registered Land and Surveyor  
 #S-2563  
 Date 9/12/06



**DETAIL AREA**

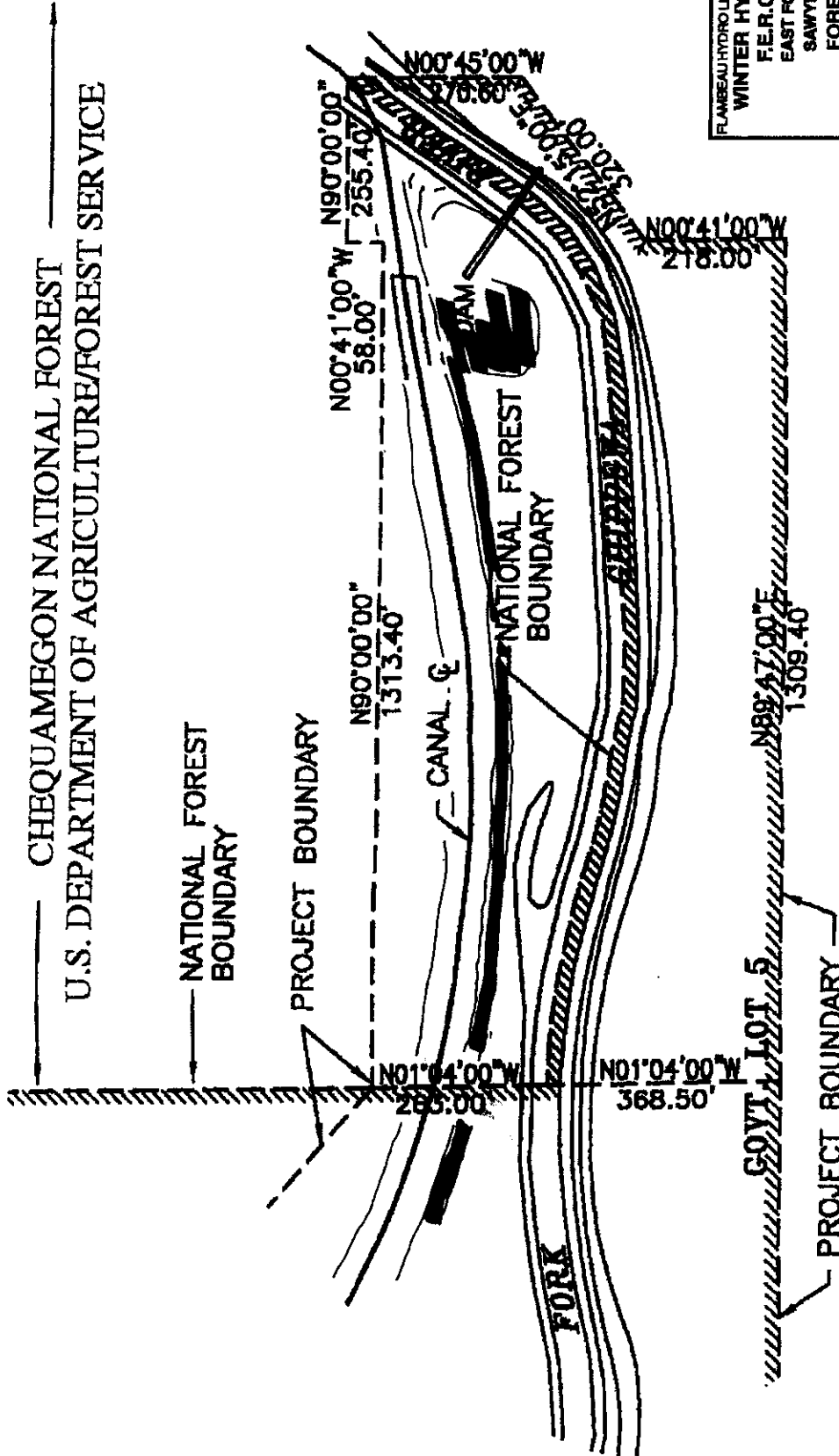


This drawings is part of the application for license made by the undersigned this 12th day of September 2006  
*Richard A. DeLoe*  
 Agent  
 FLAMBEAU HYDRO, LLC

PREPARED BY:  
**Northern Environmental**  
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## Forest Service Lands at the Winter Project



- POWER CANAL EMBANKMENT AND TOE AREA
- POWER CANAL EAST FORK RIVER
- DIVERSION DAM ACCESS ROAD

FLAMBEAU HYDRO, LLC SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
**WINTER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
 F.E.R.C. PROJECT NO. 2064  
 EAST FORK OF CHIPPEWA RIVER  
 SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
 FOREST SERVICE LANDS  
 AT  
 THE WINTER PROJECT

**IV**  
**Land & Wildlife Survey Results**

## 1. Bald Eagle

There are not results to report as no formal surveys were conducted for the Bald Eagle at the Winter Hydro Project in 2011 per approved plan. Agencies will be notified should any Eagle Nests be found located within the project boundary.

## 2. Gray Wolf

There are no results to report as no formal surveys were conducted for the Gray Wolf the Winter Hydro Project in 2011 per approved plan. However, the Gray Wolf was delisted at the time of submittal of the Land and Wildlife Management Plan and since that time, has been re-listed as Threatened and Endangered in Wisconsin by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The License will file updated management provisions concerning the Gray Wolf with the Commission by March 1, 2012 as directed by the Order Issued June 3, 2011 after consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), U.S. Forest Service (FS) and the FWS. The consultation with the agencies is being requested at the time of submittal of the **DRAFT 2011 Land and Wildlife Management Report**. Any change in the Federal status of the Gray Wolf will be acknowledged in the report.

## 3. Wood Turtle

The annual Wood Turtle survey was conducted at the Winter Hydro Project on June 2, 2011 by Gary Rast, Environmental Specialist with NAHH. The survey started at 12:30 p.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. for a total survey time of 4 hours. The survey was divided into 3 sections consisting of the Bypass Reach (12:30 – 1:15 p.m. on foot), Tailrace (1:15 – 2:00 p.m. on foot), and Impoundment (2:00 – 4:30 p.m. by boat). Conditions for the survey were good. Temperatures were in the high 60's to low 70's, breezy, and bright sunshine throughout the entire survey. Project log sheet records indicated a HWL of 1370.31 MSL, TWL of 1346.21 MSL, and a Project Flow of 444 CFS. No sightings of Wood Turtles were noted. However, other species were observed and included:

- Various Song Birds
- Blackbirds
- Crows
- (6) Painted Turtles
- (1) Black Bear

Survey documents and photos may be found at the end of the report under the section titled Survey Documents page 24.

#### 4. Non Native Invasive Species

This section of the report includes survey results for species such as:

- Asiatic Honeysuckles, *Lonicera tartarica*, *L. morrowii*, and *L. x bella*
- Buckthorns, *Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*
- Curly Pondweed, *Potamogeton crispus*
- Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*
- Eurasian Water Milfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*
- Japanese Knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*
- Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*

It was agreed upon during Agency consultation and during the development of the Final Land and Wildlife Management Plan that these surveys could all be conducted concurrently. However, the Final Plan devoted a separate section to Purple Loosestrife which will be addressed in the next section of the report.

The survey was conducted by Mr. Gary Rast and Miss Andi Schemberger of NAHH on July 26, 2011. It should be noted that the project was in the process of an approved drawdown to accommodate the installation of a fish passage. Partial agency correspondence is included in (**Appendix 1**) only for reference. It was handled by other NAHH employees as a separate issue. Water levels were low and in the process of dropping. This resulted in the surveyors not being able to access the complete Impoundment of the project. The Tailrace was surveyed (8:30 – 9:30 a.m. on foot), Bypass Reach (9:30 – 10:30 a.m. on foot), and Impoundment 10:30 – 1:15 p.m. by boat). Project records indicated a HWL of 1369.53 MSL, TWL of 1344.70 MSL, and Project Flow of 93 CFS at the time of the survey.

The weather conditions during the survey and results were as follows:

1. Tailrace – Bright Sun, No Breeze, and Temperatures in the mid 60's
2. Bypass Reach – Bright Sun, Slight Breeze, and Temperatures in the low 70's
3. Impoundment – Bright Sun, Slight Breeze, and Temperatures in the 80's

Honeysuckle was observed on the Tailrace Canoe Portage Trail and Fishing Access Trail as well as on the Bypass Reach Roadway to dam. The coordinates with photos are attached in the survey documents. The photos and a request for helping in identification were sent to Mr. Steven Spickerman, Plant Ecologist for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (**Appendix 1**). He responded that he thought it was the invasive variety but was not sure of which of the three it was without a sample but, it looks like *Lonicera morowii*. None of the other invasive species were noted during this survey.

Survey documents and photos may be found at the end of the report under the section titled Survey Documents page 24.

## 5. Purple Loosestrife

On July 26, 2011, Flambeau Hydro, LLC (FHLLC) performed an inventory of purple loosestrife plants at the Winter Project in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. The method of inventory was defined as follows:

While Purple Loosestrife is blooming in July and August, the inventory should be conducted using a boat to survey the impoundment above the dam within the Project Boundary and on foot below the dam within the Project Boundary. County wetland maps may be used to determine other areas where Purple Loosestrife could be found on lands owned by FHLLC within the Project Boundary. Lands owned by FHLLC within the Project Boundary will be surveyed on foot. A pair of binoculars should be used to search for the purple flowered spikes of the plant. When plants are located, the person(s) inventorying should get close enough to make a positive identification without disturbing the plants or the immediate area around the plants as this could cause them to spread. A GPS receiver will be used to establish a GPS coordinate for the location of the plants. If it is not possible to get close enough to establish an accurate location, an approximate location will be established with reference to an established GPS coordinate. The plants should be inventoried by marking and numbering the location on a Project map along with notes approximating size of plants, stand area, stem density, plant density, and location with reference to established GPS coordinates. Photos and/or videotape may be taken of the largest occurrences.

Example:

GPS point CLRVPL001; Location Lat N45° 54.493' Lon W92° 31.128';  
Plant height 2' – 6'; Density ~5' X 50' ~40 plants single & multi-stem;  
Comments Insect damage observed. Seed heads removed. Photos. No  
Video.

The area to be inventoried shall be the shoreline of the impoundment and lands owned by FHLLC within the Project Boundary as indicated on the Project Boundary Map G-1, as filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

General Observations:

The Winter Project Boundary was divided into three different areas; *the impoundment* (from the Winter powerhouse to the upstream project boundary, approximately 2.10 miles upstream), *FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* (FHLLC owned property adjacent to the dam and powerhouse), *the tailrace/bypass reach* (from the powerhouse to a point approximately 595 feet downstream, including the 3,028-foot long bypass reach area from the spillway to the downstream project boundary).

*The tailrace/bypass reach* was surveyed on foot (Tailrace 8:30 – 9:30 and ByPass Reach 9:30 – 10:30) and no purple loosestrife plants were observed.

*The FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* was surveyed on foot and no purple loosestrife plants were observed.

*The FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* was surveyed on foot and no purple loosestrife plants were observed.

*The impoundment* was surveyed by boat beginning at 10:30 and ending at 1:15. No areas of purple loosestrife were observed within the project boundaries. (WNTRPL002/WNTRPL003, and WNTRPL004) were found within the project boundary in previous surveys. WNTRPL002/WNTRPL003 was located in a wet low lying peninsula of land adjacent to the river with only limited access to the affected area available. No plants were observed at this location. WNTRPL004 was a stand of Loosestrife located in 2010 but was not accessed due to low water. The survey crew tried to proceed upstream outside of the project boundary as during previous surveys to explore if any plants existed that may be contributing to the infestation by spreading seeds downstream into the impoundment. The 2010 survey revealed four areas of blooming purple loosestrife plants located ~240 yards upstream from the project boundary. This site, (WNTRPLNA01) was not readily accessed due to the drawdown and low water conditions as during the previous year's survey and no Purple Loosestrife was observed.

All previous occurrences were found on land not owned by FHLLC and none was found to exist during the 2011 survey.

The prior purple loosestrife plants were inventoried and have been noted on the survey sheet(s) and map(s) at the end of this report with notations added for 2011. No other occurrences of purple loosestrife were observed.

During the inventory, a Digital Camera, Laser Rangefinder, GPS, and 2 pair of binoculars were used to document occurrences of purple loosestrife as noted in the survey comments at the end of this report.

A vegetation survey dated 1999 and included in Exhibit E of the Application for New License for the Winter Hydroelectric Plant and filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was used as an aid in a 2008 baseline purple loosestrife survey.

## **6. Land Disturbance & Erosion Control**

### *Erosion*

On July 26, 2011, Flambeau Hydro, LLC (FHLLC) performed an inventory and survey of erosion sites at the Winter Project in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. Monitoring of erosion is a requirement of Section Q of the Water Quality Certification for the Winter Project and reads as follows:

- Q. The licensee shall monitor the shoreline of the project reservoir, power canal, tailrace, and bypassed channel for erosion, and if necessary, prepare an erosion control plan in consultation with the Department. Inspections should be conducted at three-year intervals in spring before vegetation develops, so eroded areas can be readily identified. The licensee shall submit to the Department a report of monitoring results by December 31 in the year of each inspection.

A basic rating system of Minor, Moderate, and Severe is used to give an indication of the condition of each site with the following description for each condition:

Minor – Some unusual erosion from within the recent past is noticeable. The site is either small or stable to the point that very little or no unusual sediment is entering the river. The toe of the bank is stationary and stable with material such as rocks, logs, vegetation, etc.

Moderate – Some unusual erosion from within the recent past is noticeable. The site has areas that appear to be actively eroding into the water in places. Vegetation may be slumping into the river at a slow rate. The majority of the toe of the bank is still stable with material such as rocks, logs, vegetation, etc.

Severe – Heavy unusual erosion from the recent past is evident. The site is actively eroding into the water. Little or no vegetation is present. The entire toe of the bank is unstable and eroding into the water.

FHLLC has been actively monitoring erosion within the Project Boundary since 2006 in order to gain an understanding of trends at potential sites for a more thorough baseline inspection in the 2008 season. The next inspection will be performed in 2012.

### General Observations:

The Winter Project Boundary was divided into three different areas; *the impoundment* (from the Winter powerhouse to the upstream project boundary, approximately 2.10 miles upstream), *FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* (FHLLC owned property adjacent to the dam and powerhouse), *the tailrace/bypass reach* (from the powerhouse to a point approximately 595 feet downstream, including the 3,028-foot long bypass reach area from the spillway to the downstream project boundary).



*The tailrace/bypass reach* was surveyed on foot and no unusual erosion sites were observed.

*The FHLLC owned property within the project boundary* was surveyed on foot and one minor erosion site (WNTR ER003) was observed.

WNTR ER003 is located on a point of land formed at the confluence of the powerhouse tailrace and the by-pass reach about 0.12 miles downstream from the powerhouse. This site is a popular fishing area located on FHLLC property and erosion here can be directly attributed to pedestrian traffic. This is considered a Minor site due to its small footprint and rocky characteristic that increases stability. No noticeable erosion has been evident during the monitoring period of 2008 through 2011. The site appears much the same as it did in past surveys. Human activity at this site appears to be what has caused this to be classed as an erosion site. It is unlikely to contribute noticeable sediment discharge to the river in its current condition.

No other unusual erosion sites were observed on FHLLC owned property within the project boundary.

*The impoundment* was surveyed by boat and two Minor erosion sites (WNTR ER001 and WNTR ER002) were observed.

WNTR ER001 is located on the right side of the river at the confluence of Fishtrap Creek and the East Fork of the Chippewa River about 0.90 miles upstream from the powerhouse. This site is not located on FHLLC property. It is considered a Minor site due to the stability of the toe. The entire toe is firmly established with trees, shrubbery, and other vegetation. No noticeable erosion has been evident during the monitoring period of 2008 through 2011. In fact it appears to be healing. A draw down was in effect during the 2011 survey for the installation of an approved fish passage. Due to this condition, a good comparison photo could not be taken of WNTR ER001. A photo taken during the 2010 survey was used in its place. It is unlikely to contribute noticeable sediment to the river in its current condition.

WNTR ER002 is located on the right side of the river near the spillway about 0.43 miles upstream from the powerhouse. This site is not located on FHLLC property. It is considered a Minor site due to the small size and stability of the toe. The entire toe is established with rock and gravel. No noticeable erosion has been evident during the monitoring period of 2008 through 2011. It is unlikely to contribute noticeable sediment to the river in its current condition.

No other unusual erosion sites were observed in the impoundment.

These erosion sites were inventoried and have been noted on the survey sheet(s) and map(s) at the end of this report.

During the inventory, a digital camera and/or video camera was used to document the erosion sites as noted in the survey comments at the end of this report. Please note that the photos are of sites ER001 thru ER003 but the report describes them in this order ER003, ER001, and ER002.





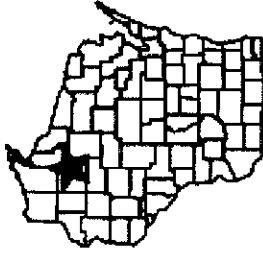


**Erosion Survey**

**Project:** Winter #2064      **Datum:** WGS 84  
**Date:** 7/26/2011  
**Crew:** GRR & AS

GPS point	Latitude	Longitude	Length of Site	Height of Bank	Comments
WNTR ER001	N45° 55.957'	W90° 56.904'	25'	15'	First observed in 2006 as Minor site. Right side of river at confluence of Fishtrap Creek and East Fork of the Chippewa River. Toe is stable with trees, shrubs, and other vegetation. No noticeable erosion from 2008 through 2011 and appears to be healing. No remediation. Photos in 2008 and 2010.
WNTR ER002	N45° 55.760'	W90° 57.347'	15'	4'	First observed in 2006 as Minor site. Right Side of river near spillway. Toe is stable with rocks and gravel. No noticeable erosion from 2008 through 2011. No remediation. Photos in 2008 and 2011.
WNTR ER003	N45° 55.830'	W90° 57.988'	25'	6'	First observed in 2006 as Minor site. Located on a point of land formed at the confluence of the powerhouse tailrace and the by-pass reach. Popular fishing site with moderate pedestrian traffic. Site is stable with rocks. No noticeable erosion from 2008 through 2011. No remediation. Photos in 2008 and 2011.

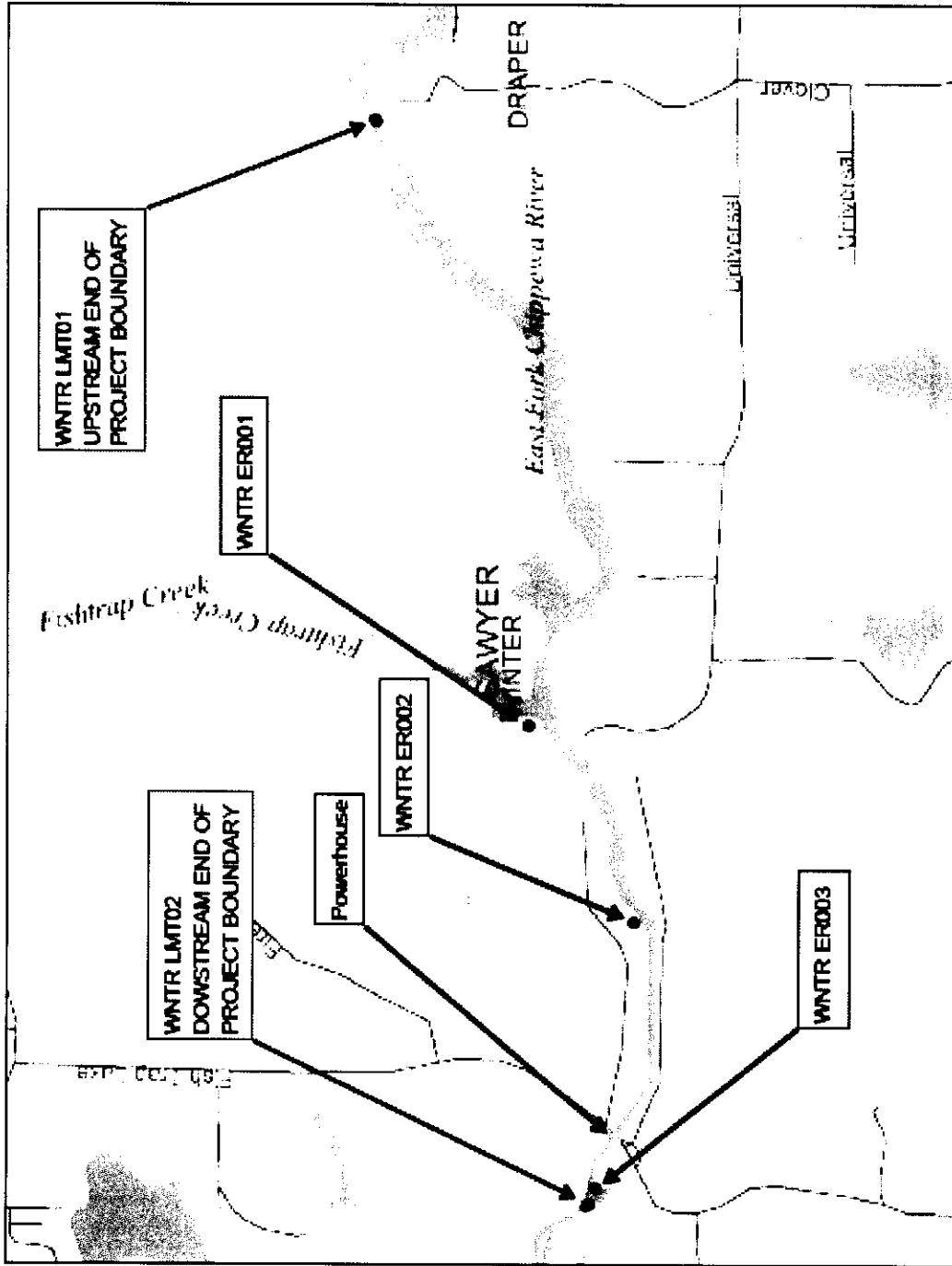
# Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064 Erosion Site Location Map 2011



## Legend

- Dams
- Major Highways
- Interstates
- State Highway
- U.S. Highways
- County Roads
- Local Roads
- 24K County Boundaries
- CIV: Towns
- CIV: Twp
- 24K Open Water
- 24K Rivers and Shorelines
- Village
- City

Scale: 1:20,000



This map is a user-generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

## **7. Zebra Mussels**

No Zebra Mussels were observed during the Wood Turtle/Invasive/Erosion surveys performed during 2011. The installation of the fish passage and documentation of decontamination procedures concerning equipment was handled by other project staff during the construction process and were included in their report.

## **8. Standards and Guidelines**

Flambeau Hydro LLC realizes that during the term of the license, applicable standards and guidelines for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest may change. So that the Plan can be updated and accommodate new information as it is obtained, Flambeau Hydro LLC will formally consult with the Forest Service every five (5) years to update the plan accordingly during the term of the License. The table below shows the schedule the consultation process will follow. The first formal consultation will take place in 2013.

Year	Formal Consultation
2013	Yes
2018	Yes
2023	Yes
2028	Yes
2033	Yes
2038	Yes

## **Survey Documents**



**Wood Turtle**

### Wood Turtle Survey Form Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 6/2/11 Conducted By: GARY RAST

Time Survey Started: 12:30 PM Time Survey Ended: 1:15 PM

Weather Conditions: HIGH 60'S TO LOW 70'S, BRIGHT SUNSHINE,  
↓ BREEZY

Location of Survey Area:  Tailrace  Bypass Reach  Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): N/A

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): N/A

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Sex of Turtles Sighted:  Male  Female  Unknown

Total # Turtles Sighted: N/A

Other Species Observed: SONG BIRDS OF VARIOUS KINDS

#### Other Pertinent Survey Information

SEE IMPOUNDMENT SURVEY. PHOTOS OF AREA ARE  
ATTACHED AT END OF SURVEY.

Gary Rast 6/2/11

### Wood Turtle Survey Form Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 6/2/11 Conducted By: GARY RAST

Time Survey Started: 1:15 PM Time Survey Ended: 2:00 PM

Weather Conditions: HIGH 60'S TO LOW 70'S, BRIGHT SUNSHINE,  
↓ BREEZY

Location of Survey Area:  Tailrace  Bypass Reach  Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): N/A

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): N/A

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Sex of Turtles Sighted:  Male  Female  Unknown

Total # Turtles Sighted: N/A

Other Species Observed: SONG BIRDS OF VARIOUS KINDS

#### Other Pertinent Survey Information

SEE IMPOUNDMENT SURVEY. PHOTOS OF SURVEY  
AREA ARE ATTACHED AT END OF SURVEY.

Gary Rast 6/2/11

**Wood Turtle Survey Form**  
**Winter Hydroelectric Project – FERC # 2064**

Date: 6/2/11 Conducted By: GARY RAST

Time Survey Started: 2:00PM Time Survey Ended: 4:30 PM

Weather Conditions: HIGH 60'S TO LOW 70'S, BREEZY, + BRIGHT SUNSHINE

Location of Survey Area:  Tailrace  Bypass Reach  Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): N/A

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): N/A

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Sex of Turtles Sighted:  Male  Female  Unknown

Total # Turtles Sighted: N/A

Other Species Observed: VARIOUS SONG BIRDS, R.W. BLACKBIRDS, CROWS, (6) PAINTED TURTLES, + (1) BLACK BEAR

Other Pertinent Survey Information

ENTIRE SURVEY OF PROJECT LASTED 4 1/2 HOURS.  
NO WOOD TURTLES WERE OBSERVED AT EITHER THE TAILRACE, BYPASS REACH, OR IMPOUNDMENT. PHOTOS OF SURVEY AREA ARE ATTACHED AT END OF SURVEY.  
PROJECT FLOW = 444 CFS  
HWL = 1370.31 MSL  
TWL = 1346.21 MSL

Gary Rast 6/2/11



**Photo 1 – Winter Wood Turtle Survey - Power Canal**



**Photo 2 – Winter Wood Turtle Survey – Impoundment**



**Photo 3 - Winter Wood Turtle Survey – Impoundment**  
Arrow Points To Approximate Area Where Black Bear Was Sighted



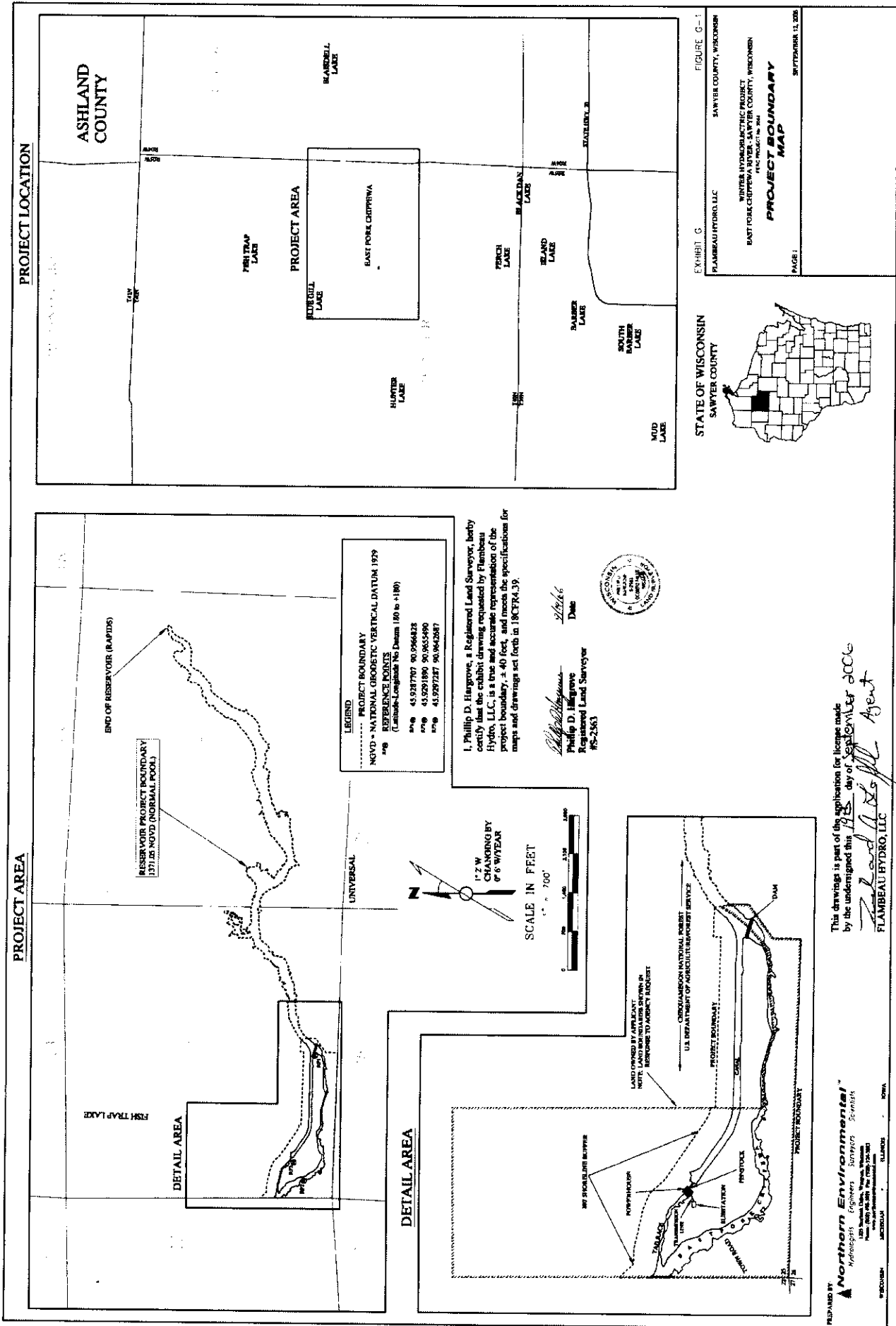
**Photo 4 – Winter Wood Turtle Survey – By-Pass Reach (Upper)**



**Photo 5 – Winter Wood Turtle Survey – By-Pass Reach (Lower)**



**Photo 6 – Winter Wood Turtle Survey – Tailrace**



PROJECT LOCATION

ASHLAND COUNTY

PROJECT AREA

PROJECT AREA

FISH TRAP LAKE

DETAIL AREA

DETAIL AREA

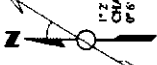
LEGEND  
 --- PROJECT BOUNDARY  
 --- RESERVOIR PROJECT BOUNDARY (NORMAL POOL)  
 --- END OF RESERVOIR (RAPIDS)  
 --- RESERVOIR PROJECT BOUNDARY (NORMAL POOL)  
 --- PROJECT BOUNDARY  
 --- NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM 1979  
 REFERENCE POINTS  
 (Latitude-Longitude No Datum 180 to +180)  
 \*# 45 02 17 07 90.7466825  
 \*# 45 02 18 00 20.6534990  
 \*# 45 02 17 27 90.9646287

I, Phillip D. Hargrove, a Registered Land Surveyor, hereby certify that the exhibit drawing requested by Flambeau Hydro, LLC, is a true and accurate representation of the project boundary, ± 40 feet, and meets the specifications for maps and drawings set forth in 18CFR4.3.

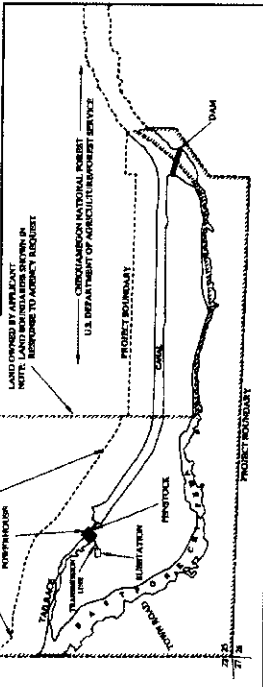
*Phillip D. Hargrove*  
 Phillip D. Hargrove  
 Registered Land Surveyor  
 #S-2363



1" = 700'  
 SCALE IN FEET



UNIVERSAL



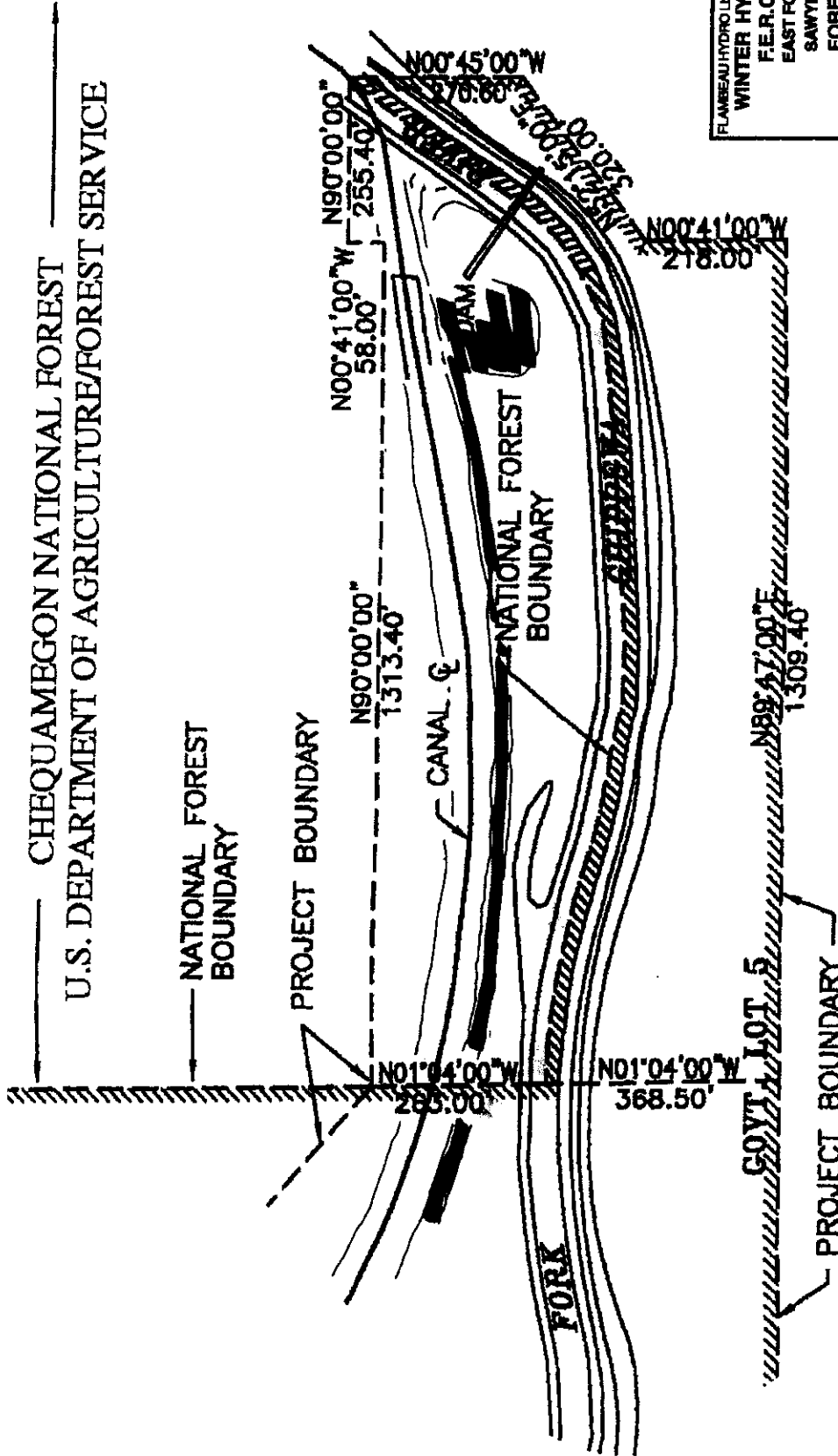
This drawing is part of the application for license made by the undersigned this 19th day of September 2006  
*Sawyer and Hargrove, Inc.* Agent  
 FLAMBEAU HYDRO, LLC

DESIGNED BY  
**Northern Environmental**  
 Hydrographers Engineers Surveyors Scientists  
 1200 North Main Street, P.O. Box 1000  
 Flambeau, Wisconsin 54431  
 Phone: (715) 255-1200  
 Fax: (715) 255-1201  
 E-mail: info@northernenv.com  
 WWW: www.northernenv.com

EXHIBIT C  
 FLAMBEAU HYDRO, LLC  
 STATE OF WISCONSIN  
 SAWYER COUNTY

FIGURE G-1  
 SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
 NORTHERN HYDROGRAPHIC PROJECT  
 EAST FORK CREEPER RIVER, SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
 #112 PROJECT No. 2006  
**PROJECT BOUNDARY  
 MAP**  
 PAGE 1  
 SEPTEMBER 13, 2006





POWER CANAL EMBANKMENT AND TOE AREA  
 POWER CANAL/EAST FORK RIVER  
 DIVERSION DAM ACCESS ROAD

FLAMEAU HYDRO, LLC SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
**WINTER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT**  
 F.E.R.C. PROJECT NO. 2084  
 EAST FORK OF CHIPPEWA RIVER  
 SAWYER COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
 FOREST SERVICE LANDS  
 AT  
 THE WINTER PROJECT

**Invasive Species/Erosion**

Year 2011 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey

Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 7/26/11 Conducted By: GARY RAST + ANDI SCHEMBERGER

HWL: 1369.53 TWL: 1344.70

Time Survey Started: 8:30 Time Survey Ended: 9:30

Weather Conditions: BRIGHT SUN, NO BREEZE, TEMPS IN MID 60'S + HUMID

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace  Bypass Reach \_\_\_\_\_ Impoundment \_\_\_\_\_

Time of Sighting(s): THROUGHOUT SURVEY

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): SAME AS PAST YEARS. WP 15 THRU WP 19 - SEE PHOTOS (N45° 55.830' W 90° 57.988' E R003)

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica \_\_\_\_\_ L. morrowii \_\_\_\_\_ L. x bella \_\_\_\_\_

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica \_\_\_\_\_ R. frangula \_\_\_\_\_

Curly Pondweed: \_\_\_\_\_ Garlic Mustard \_\_\_\_\_ Eurasian Water Milfoil \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese Knotweed: \_\_\_\_\_ Purple Loosestrife \_\_\_\_\_

Erosion: XEROOS (Photos Taken) Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ PHOTOS 11-18

Other Species Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Pertinent Survey Information

HONEYSUCKLE OBSERVED BUT NOT SURE THAT IT IS INVASIVE (GPS WP #15 + #16 / GPS WP #17, #18, + #19) REVISITED EROOS - APPEARS TO BE ABOUT SAME AS IN PAST PROJECT IS IN PROCESS OF A PLANNED / APPROVED DRAW DOWN. SURVEY PHOTOS ATTACHED WITH GPS COORDINATES.

Gary Rast

Year 2011 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey

Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

PAGE # 2

Date: 7/26/11 Conducted By: GARY RAST + ANDTSCHEMBERGER

HWL: 1369.53 TWL: 1344.70

Time Survey Started: 9:30 Time Survey Ended: 10:30

Weather Conditions: BRIGHT SUN, SLIGHT BREEZE, + TEMPS IN LOW 70'S

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace  Bypass Reach  Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): 9:55

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): WP 20 - SEE PHOTOS

(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica  L. morrowii  L. x bella

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica  R. frangula

Curly Pondweed:  Garlic Mustard  Eurasian Water Milfoil

Japanese Knotweed:  Purple Loosestrife

Erosion:  (Photos Taken) Yes  No

Other Species Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Pertinent Survey Information

HONEY SUCKLES OBSERVED BUT NOT SURE THAT IT IS INVASIVE (GPS WP #20) SURVEY PHOTOS ARE ATTACHED WITH GPS COORDINATES. PROJECT IN PROCESS OF DRAW DOWN.

Gary Rast

Year 2011 Invasive Species/Erosion Survey

PAGE #3

Winter Hydroelectric Project - FERC # 2064

Date: 7/26/11

Conducted By: GARY RAST & ANOT SCHEMBERGER

HWL: 1369.53

TWL: 1344.70

Time Survey Started: 10:30 Time Survey Ended: 1:15

Weather Conditions: BRIGHT SUN, SLIGHT BREEZE, TEMPS IN 80'S

Location of Survey Area: Tailrace  Bypass Reach  Impoundment

Time of Sighting(s): THROUGHOUT SURVEY

Location of Sighting(s) (GPS Coordinates): SAME AS PAST YEARS SEE PHOTOS

(ERO02-N 45° 55.957 W 090° 56.904) (ERO01-N 45° 55.760 W 090 57.347)  
(Attach Photos & Map if Applicable)

Asiatic Honeysuckles: Lonicera tartarica  L. morrowii  L. x bella

Buckthorns: Rhamnus carthartica  R. frangula

Curly Pondweed:  Garlic Mustard  Eurasian Water Milfoil

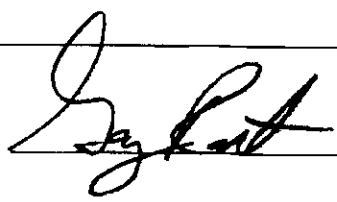
Japanese Knotweed:  Purple Loosestrife

Erosion: ER002 PHOTOS # 23-30  
ER001 PHOTOS # 31-33 (Photos Taken) Yes  No

Other Species Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Pertinent Survey Information

SURVEY DONE BY BOAT - CAN'T ACCESS EVERYTHING AS WATER IS LOW. PROJECT IS IN PROCESS OF A PLANNED/APPROVED DRAWDOWN. SURVEY PHOTOS ATTACHED WITH COORDINATES.

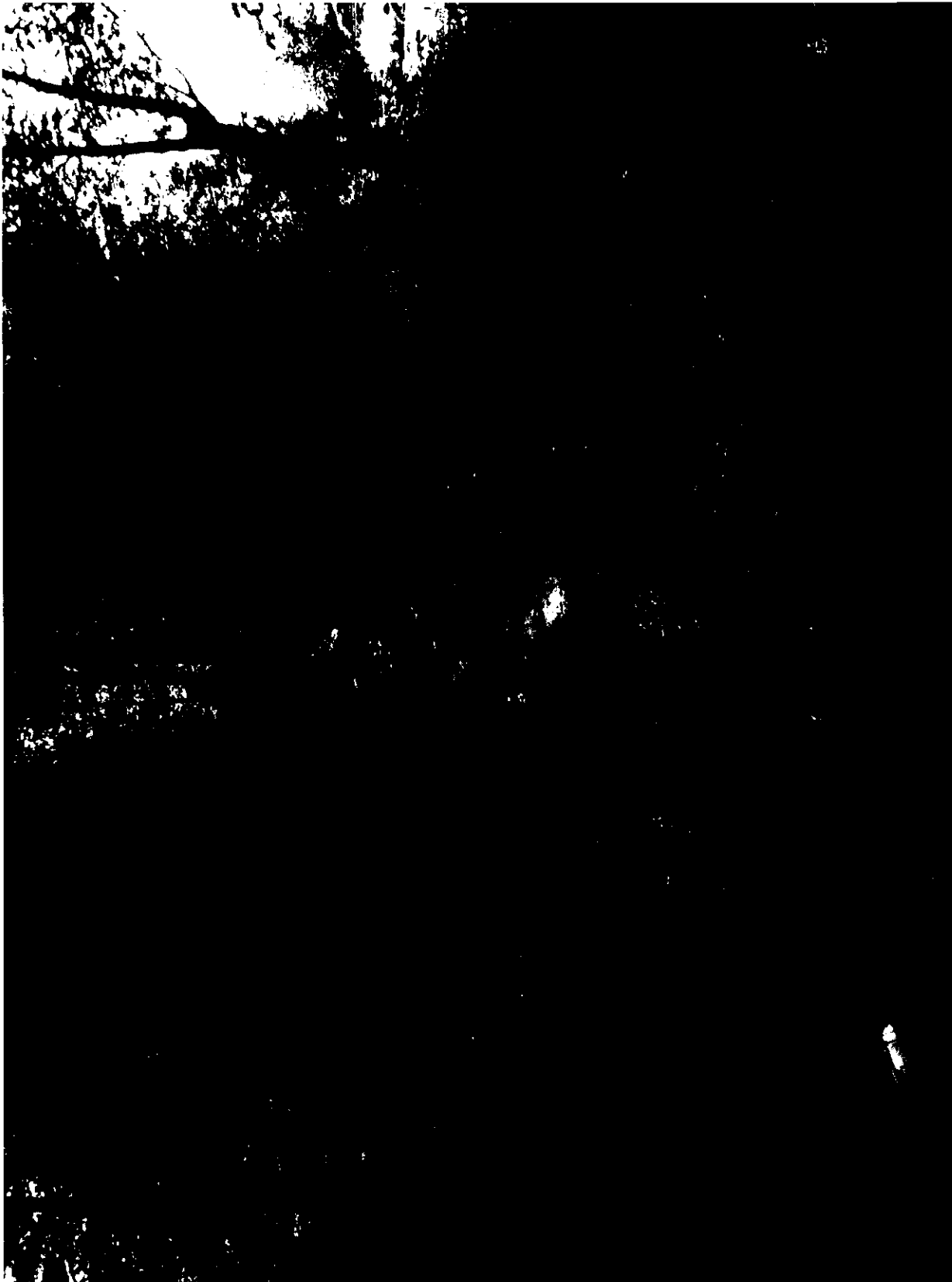




ER001 – Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064 Erosion Site #1  
7/26/11 – Photo Taken Between 10:30 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.  
Lat = N45° 57.3470' Lon = W090 57.3470' WGS 1984

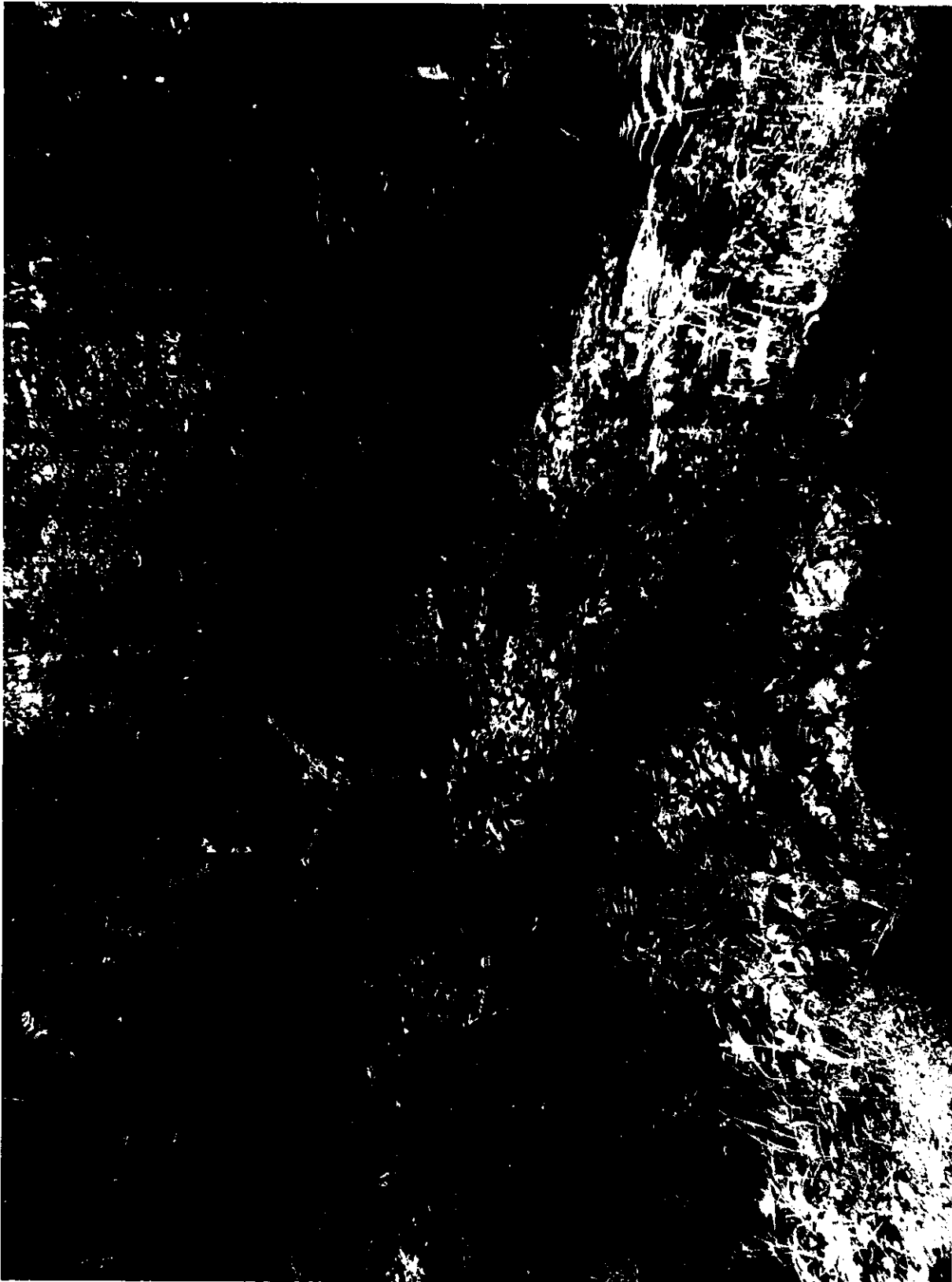


ER002 - Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064 Erosion Site #2  
7/26/11 - Photo Taken Between 10:30 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.  
Lat = N45° 55.8300' Lon = W090 57.9880' WGS 1984



ER003 - Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064 Erosion Site #3  
7/26/11 - Photo Taken Between 8:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.  
Lat = N45° 55.9570' Lon = W090 56.9040 WGS 1984





**Honeysuckle (Invasive ?) Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064  
7/26/11 GPS WP 15 - 19 - Canoe Portage Trail & Fishing Access Trail  
Photo Taken Between 8:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.**



Honeysuckle (Invasive ?) Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064  
7/26/11 GPS WP 15 - 19 - Canoe Portage Trail & Fishing Access Trail  
Photo Taken Between 8:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.



Honeysuckle (Invasive ?) Winter Hydroelectric Project P-2064  
7/26/11 GPS WP #20 – By - Pass Reach Roadway To Dam  
Photo Taken Between 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**Purple Loosestrife Survey**

**Project:** Winter #2064 **Datum:** WGS 84

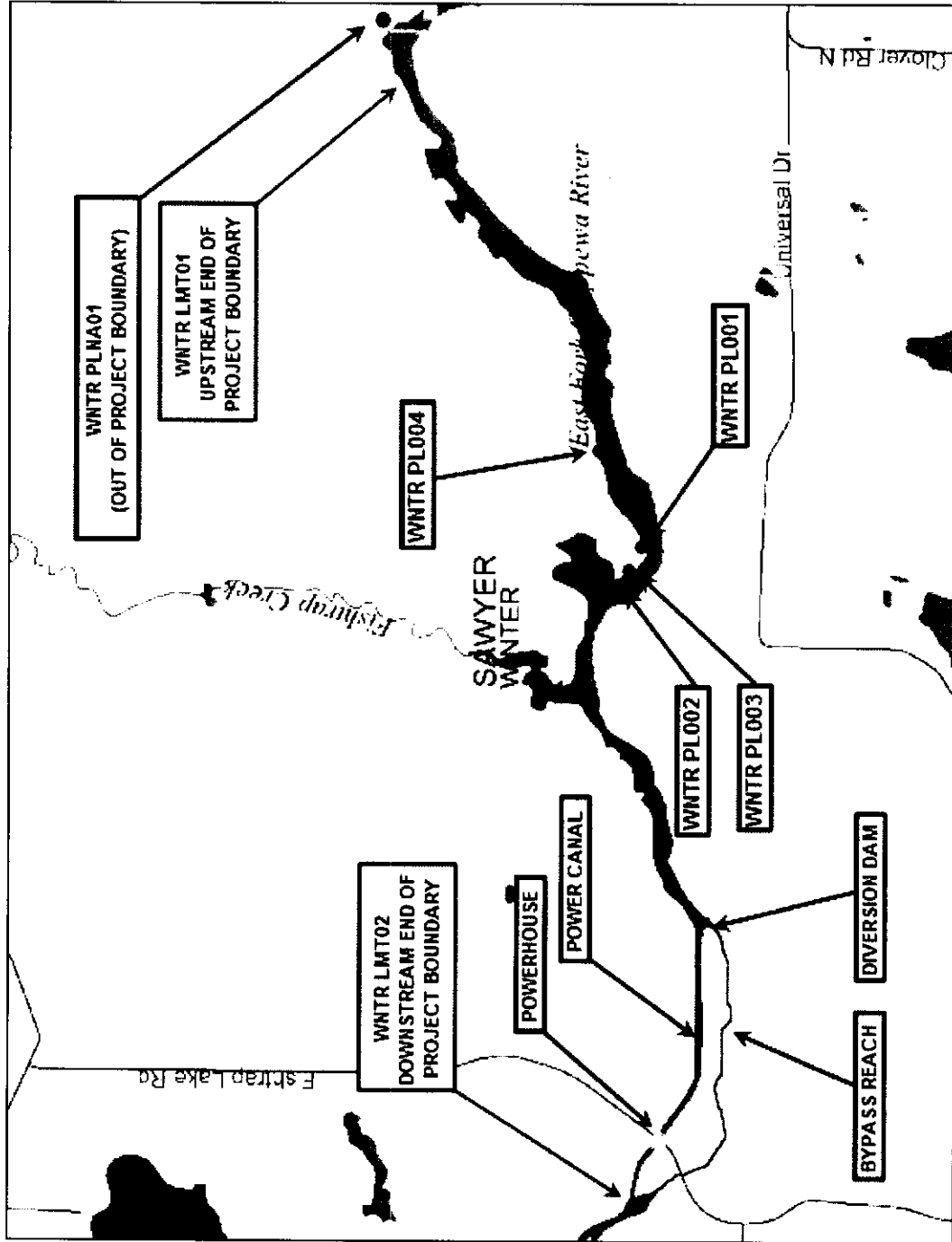
**Date:** 7/26/2011

**Crew:** GRR, AS

Sighting #	GPS point	Latitude	Longitude	Plant Height	Stand Area	Comments
1	WNTR PL001	N45°55.827'	W90°56.572'	N/A	N/A	First observed in 2007. Located on the right side of the river ~4050 ft. upstream from the diversion dam. No plants observed in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Seed heads cut in 2007. No treatment in 2008. No photos.
2 & 3	WNTR PL002 WNTR PL003	N45°55.868' N45°55.851'	W90°56.650' W90°56.628'	4' - 6'	~120' x 200' ~5 groups of plants	First observed in 2007. Located on the right side of the river ~3700 ft. upstream from the diversion dam. Beginning in 2009, sites PL002 and PL003 were grouped as one continuous site due to the close proximity of the sites. In 2010 some old cane was visible with no new growth within it.. No beetle damage. Plants were in full bloom, however nothing observed in 2011. No treatment in 2008 thru 2011. Photos in 2007.
4	WNTRPLNA01	N45°56.225' estimated location	W90°55.392' estimated location	3' - 6'	~1000' x 10' 4 areas of blooming plants	First observed in 2007. Right side of river. This sighting was ~240 yards upstream of the project boundary limits and could not be reached by boat due to rapids. In 2010 only 4 areas of blooming plants were observed at this site. No treatment in 2008 thru 2011. This site can not be reached for close observation of plants. Photos in 2007.
5	WNTR PL004	N45°55.904	W 90°56.347	1, - 6'	5' x 5' ~4 - 6 plants	First observed in 2010. Located on the right side of river and ~ 5130' upstream of the diversion dam. No old cane and no treatment in 2010 and nothing observed or treated in 2011. No beetle damage observed.

# WINTER PROJECT, PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE LOCATION MAP 2011

Winter WI, FERC #2064



This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

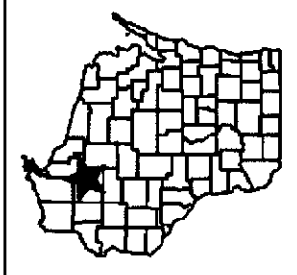
Scale: 1:18,999

## Legend

- Dams
- Major Highways
- Interstate
- State Highway
- U.S. Highways
- County Roads
- Local Roads
- 24K County Boundaries
- Civil Towns
- Civil Town
- 24K Open Water
- 24K Rivers and Shorelines
- Intermittent
- Fluctuating
- Perennial
- Cities and Villages
- Village
- City

Purple Loosestrife Observed in 2011

Purple Loosestrife Observed in Previous Years and not in 2011



## **Appendix 1**

### **Agency Correspondence**

**Gary Rast****FILE COPY**

---

**From:** Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 11:48 AM  
**To:** Gary Rast  
**Subject:** DNR comments

Hi Gary - It appears as you have collected all the agency comments for the Winter Wildlife plan, so I agree with the other agencies, that a call on Friday would not be needed. I was hoping to have a more rounded discussion of some of the invasive issues. Oh well.

We should talk about developing an erosion control plan for Clam River and for Danbury. Have you crafted one of these plans before? Would it be helpful for DNR to work with you on this, and help develop the plan? Or would you prefer to draft a plan and we would provide comments? Just let me know, so I can provide input from the correct staff. thanks

Cheryl Laatsch, Water Mgt Specialist,  
WDNR, Office of Energy, GEF2, 7th Floor  
101 S Webster St Madison WI 53707-7921  
Madison office phone: (608) 264-8943

OR

Cheryl Laatsch, Horicon DNR  
N7725 HIGHWAY 28  
HORICON WI 53032  
(920) 387-7869  
(920) 485-3028 (Fax)

e-mail: [Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov)  
Website: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/WIDNR](http://www.facebook.com/WIDNR)

**Gary Rast**

FILE COPY

**From:** Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 4:03 PM  
**To:** Gary Rast  
**Cc:** Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Cory Mirr; Jason Kreuzscher; John McCutcheon; Reinecke, Sue -FS; Steven Spickerman  
**Subject:** RE: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

Gary,

I just wanted to acknowledge that the USFWS has reviewed the Land and Wildlife Management Report and concurs with the Forest Service in their letter dated February 13, 2012. Because the wolf has been delisted, the USFWS does not recommend that surveys be included in the Land and Wildlife Management Plan. The USFWS does not recommend making any changes to the approved Land and Wildlife Management Plan at this time. With regards to the Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Management Report, the USFWS does not have any further comments and generally defers to the Forest Service relative to the management of Invasive Species on Forest Service land.

The USFWS does not recommend a conference call to discuss the Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Utrup  
 Hydropower Coordinator  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office  
 2661 Scott Tower Drive  
 New Franken, WI 54229

Office: (920) 866-1736  
 Cell: (920) 530-9937  
 FAX: (920) 866-1710  
 Email: Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov

"Gary Rast"  
 <Gary.rast@nahydro.com>

To

"Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR"  
 02/13/2012 02:44 PM <Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov>  
 CC

"Jason Kreuzscher"  
 <jason.kreuscher@nahydro.com>,  
 <Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov>, "Reinecke,  
 Sue -FS" <sreinecke@fs.fed.us>,  
 "John McCutcheon"  
 <john.mccutcheon@nahydro.com>,  
 "Steven Spickerman"



<sspickerman@fs.fed.us> ,

<cory.mirr@nahydro.com>

Subject

RE: FW: WDNR comments regarding  
P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land  
and Wildlife Report

Cheryl,

Cheryl,

The Licensee just got an e-mail with comment from Forest Service on the Winter Land and Wildlife Management Report. I have just forwarded it to you. They agreed that surveys don't have to be done for the wolf and we should talk to Steve Spickerman from FS about the invasive control. I just talked to Steve Spickerman of FS about control of the Honeysuckle.

He will send me an e-mail with some control that may be used and indicated they may be able to treat the sites listed in the report when they do control on their property. The licensee also spoke with Nick Utrup of USFWS. He will draft and send an email that basically says wolf surveys are not needed and defer to the FS on the invasive control.

He further said on the phone that USFWS felt the plan should remain as written. That all being said, we don't believe a phone conference is necessary on any of these issues. We await your comments on the report and on the invasive/wolf questions as presented in the submittal letter dated December 27, 2012. The Licensee will file the final report on the 24th of February. Thanks

Gary

-----Original Message-----

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [mailto:Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 1:19 PM

To: Gary Rast

Subject: RE: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

Gary - Sue, Nick, Ryan and I are available on Fri Feb 17th in the am.

Can you please set up a conf call line, and send out the details to all the participants? Still waiting to here if anyone else may join us.

Cheryl Laatsch, Water Mgt Specialist,  
WDNR, Office of Energy, GEF2, 7th Floor  
101 S Webster St Madison WI 53707-7921  
Madison office phone: (608) 264-8943

OR

Cheryl Laatsch, Horicon DNR  
N7725 HIGHWAY 28  
HORICON WI 53032  
(920) 387-7869  
(920) 485-3028 (Fax)

e-mail: Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov  
Website: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/WIDNR](http://www.facebook.com/WIDNR)

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Rast [mailto:Gary.rast@nahydro.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 08:20 AM  
To: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Jason Kreuzscher; John McCutcheon  
Cc: jklassy@nahydro.com  
Subject: FW: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov [mailto:Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov]  
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 2:19 PM  
To: Gary Rast  
Cc: Peter\_Fasbender@fws.gov  
Subject: Re: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

Hi Gary,

I am available all day Monday for a call to discuss DNR comments relative to the Winter Wildlife Plan (and other topics referenced below).

Otherwise, I may be available for part of the day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Thanks,

Nick

Nicholas J. Utrup  
Hydropower Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office  
2661 Scott Tower Drive  
New Franken, WI 54229

Office: (920) 866-1736  
Cell: (920) 530-9937

FAX: (920) 866-1710  
Email: Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov

"Gary Rast"

<Gary.rast@nahydr

o.com>

To

<Peter\_Fasbender@fws.gov>,

02/10/2012 09:39 <Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov>

AM

cc

Subject

FW: WDNR comments regarding

P-2064

NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and

Wildlife Report

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [mailto:Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 9:32 AM

To: Magana, Ryan J - DNR; peter\_fasbender@fws.gov; Cory Mirr; sreinecke@fs.fed.us;  
pstrong@fs.fed.us; Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov; Roesler, Craig P - DNR

Cc: Gary Rast

Subject: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

Hi everyone - Gary would like to talk about some of the comments that we provided. NAH needs to have comments to FERC by the end of Feb. Please let us know your availability for a 1-2 hour conf call the week of Feb 13th.

Tentative agenda:

1. Winter Wildlife Plan comments and Invasive Monitoring comments 2. Erosion Control issues at Clam Rv and Danbury 3. Any other comments on the recent plan submittals

Cheryl Laatsch, Water Mgt Specialist,  
WDNR, Office of Energy, GEF2, 7th Floor  
101 S Webster St Madison WI 53707-7921  
Madison office phone: (608) 264-8943

OR

Cheryl Laatsch, Horicon DNR  
N7725 HIGHWAY 28  
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(920) 387-7869  
(920) 485-3028 (Fax)

e-mail: Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov  
Website: dnr.wi.gov  
www.facebook.com/WIDNR

---

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR  
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 08:04 AM  
To: 'Gary Rast'  
Subject: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011  
Land  
and Wildlife Report

Gary - Here are the comments collected from our Regional Ecologist. If you have any concerns or questions, we would be happy to set up a conf call to discuss them.

1. Page 4, second paragraph, it mentions that there are guidelines for managing vegetation, etc in condition 10, appendix B. It is unclear how vegetation management is occurring on the site
2. Page 6, #3 P. states that for loosestrife surveys - "Inspections should be scheduled in August..." However, on page 16, #5. - "While Purple Loosestrife is blooming in July and August, the inventory should be conducted..." The survey in 2011 took place on July 26, and no plants were found, even in

areas where plants had been seen in 2010.

Apparently these locations were not on the subject property however. In any case, loosestrife is often flowering in late July, although due to variation within a given year (due to weather), and within a given population of loosestrife (due to genetics, micro-climate conditions), it is often best to conduct surveys for loosestrife in August (See below for survey timing suggestions).

3. Page 15, #4 - Comment 1. - Non-native Invasive Species surveys were conducted on July 26, 2011. Garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle are best detected either in late fall, when most other vegetation has senesced (and these species remain at least somewhat green), or in spring, before other vegetation is fully leafed out. Comment 2. - Although curly pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil are listed as target species for detection, it is not clear what protocol was used to survey for them. Curly leaf pondweed is most detectable early in the growing season. Because it senesces and decays during mid-summer, it is not likely to be found in late July. Standard survey protocol for aquatic plants is to take numerous "rake pulls" from across the entire waterbody. A garden rake, with rope attached is used to pull up aquatic vegetation at a given point, allowing the surveyor to accurately identify all plants at that point.

4. Ideally the invasive species survey would be broken up into at least

2

survey periods: one in May, when curly leaf pondweed, garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle are most detectable. The second in August, for purple loosestrife, knotweed and Eurasian water milfoil (using rake pulls).

5. With the exception of purple loosestrife, as noted on page 6, #3 P., it is not clear whether the applicant must control invasive species once detected. If control is initiated, it should be done with appropriate herbicides when near water, and using best known techniques, specific to each species.

6. Gray Wolf - As of January 27, 2012, has been delisted. However, it is a protected wild animal in Wisconsin.

Cheryl Laatsch, Water Mgt Specialist,  
WDNR, Office of Energy, GEF2, 7th Floor  
101 S Webster St Madison WI 53707-7921  
Madison office phone: (608) 264-8943

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e-mail: Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov  
Website: dnr.wi.gov  
www.facebook.com/WIDNR

FILE COPY

**Gary Rast**

**From:** Gary Rast  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 2:45 PM  
**To:** 'Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR'  
**Cc:** Jason Kreuscher; Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov; 'Reinecke, Sue -FS'; John McCutcheon; 'Steven Spickerman'; 'Cory Mirr (cory.mirr@nahydro.com)'  
**Subject:** RE: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

Cheryl,

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Gary

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Cheryl Laatsch, Water Mgt Specialist,  
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Cheryl Laatsch, Horicon DNR  
 N7725 HIGHWAY 28  
 HORICON WI 53032  
 (920) 387-7869

FILE COPY

**Gary Rast**

---

**From:** Spickerman, Steven -FS [sspickerman@fs.fed.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 2:40 PM  
**To:** Gary Rast  
**Subject:** Herbicide Guide  
**Attachments:** FS\_Herbicide\_Mixing\_Guide\_20090713.xls

Gary,

Attached is what we use as an herbicide mixing guide. Scroll down to honeysuckle. The mix highlighted in yellow is what we have used on both FS land and on NA Hydro land in the Winter Dam area. Just to reiterate, we have in the past treated on NA Hydro upstream from dam (ie. east of FR 1661). We will continue treatment within the proclamation boundary of the Forest as needed and look for ways to combine efforts.

Thanks.

Steven Spickerman  
Plant Ecologist  
Great Divide Ranger District  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
715-264-2511

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2/14/2012

## Herbicide Mixing Guide

## Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Species	Herbicide	% Solution	Mix Rate	Surfactant	Timing	Notes
Garlic Mustard	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	3% ai	9.4 oz/gal 1.2 oz/pint	none	mid April to end May OR fall rosettes	mix in water
	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	3% ai	7.2 oz/gal 0.9 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	mid April to end May OR fall rosettes	mix in water
	Element 4/Carlton 4 (61.6% triclopyr)	1%	1.3 oz/gal 0.16 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	mid April to end May OR fall rosettes	mix in water
	Plateau (24% imazapic)	6 oz/acre	0.25 oz/gal 0.2 tsp/pint	0.5 oz/gal MSO	mid April to end May	mix in water
Spotted Knapweed	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	3% ai	9.4 oz/gal 1.2 oz/pint	none	mid June - July	mix in water
	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	3% ai	7.2 oz/gal 0.9 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	mid June - July	mix in water
	Transline (40.9% clopyralid)	0.5%	0.5 oz/gal 0.375 tsp/pint	0.5 oz/gal	mid June - July	mix in water
	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	2% ai	6.2 oz/gal 0.75 oz/pint	none	June	mix in water
Canada thistle	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	2% ai	4.8 oz/gal 0.6 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	June	mix in water
	Transline (40.9% clopyralid)	0.5%	0.5 oz/gal 0.375 tsp/pint	0.5 oz/gal	early June - July	mix in water
	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	2% ai	6.2 oz/gal 0.75 oz/pint	none	June - July	mix in water
Swamp thistle	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	2% ai	4.8 oz/gal 0.6 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	June - July	use when near open water; mix in water
	Transline (40.9% clopyralid)	0.5%	0.5 oz/gal 0.375 tsp/pint	0.5 oz/gal	June-July, Sept	mix in water
	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	2% ai	6.2 oz/gal 0.75 oz/pint	none	June - July	mix in water
Wild parsnip	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	2% ai	4.8 oz/gal 0.6 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	late June (rosettes) - July	mix in water
	Transline (40.9% clopyralid)	0.5%	0.5 oz/gal 0.375 tsp/pint	0.5 oz/gal	late June (rosettes) - July	mix in water
	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	2% ai	6.2 oz/gal 0.75 oz/pint	none	late June (rosettes) - July	mix in water



## Herbicide Mixing Guide

## Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Species	Herbicide	% Solution	Mix Rate	Surfactant	Timing	Notes
Phragmites	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	2% ai	6.2 oz/gal 0.75 oz/pint	none	July	mix in water
	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	2% ai	4.8 oz/gal 0.6 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	July	use when near open water, mix in water
Reed Canary Grass	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	1% ai	3.1 oz/gal 0.39 oz/pint	none	late Aug - Sept	mix in water
	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	1% ai	2.4 oz/gal 0.3 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	July	use when near open water, mix in water
Purple loosestrife	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	1% ai	2.4 oz/gal 0.3 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	mid July - early August	use when near open water, mix in water
Leafy Spurge	Plateau (24% imazapic)	12 oz/acre	0.5 oz/gal 0.4 tsp/pint	0.5 oz/gal MSO	late Aug-mid Oct	mix in water
	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	3% ai	9.4 oz/gal 1.2 oz/pint	none	late Aug-mid Oct	mix in water
	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	3% ai	7.2 oz/gal 0.9 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	late Aug-mid Oct	mix in water
Honeysuckle	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	3% ai	9.4 oz/gal 1.2 oz/pint	none	July - Oct	foliar spray; mix in water
	Rodeo/Aqua Neat (53.8% glyphosate)	3% ai	7.2 oz/gal 0.9 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal	July - Oct	foliar spray; mix in water
	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	50%	64 oz/gal 8 oz/pint	none	July - Oct	cut stump - must be treated within 30 minutes; mix in water
Buckthorn	Razor Pro (41% glyphosate)	50%	64 oz/gal 8 oz/pint	none	early Sept to late Oct	cut stump - must be treated within 30 minutes; mix in water
	Element 4/Garlon 4 (61.6% triclopyr)	20%	25.6 oz/gal 3.2 oz/pint	none	early Sept to late Oct	cut stump/basal bark; mix in bark oil
	Element 4/Garlon 4 (61.6% triclopyr)	2%	2.6 oz/gal 0.32 oz/pint	0.5 oz/gal		foliar spray; mix in water

FILE COPY

**Gary Rast**

---

**From:** Spickerman, Steven -FS [sspickerman@fs.fed.us]**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 2:09 PM**To:** Gary Rast**Subject:** Invasives - Winter Dam Area

Gary, per our conversation earlier today.

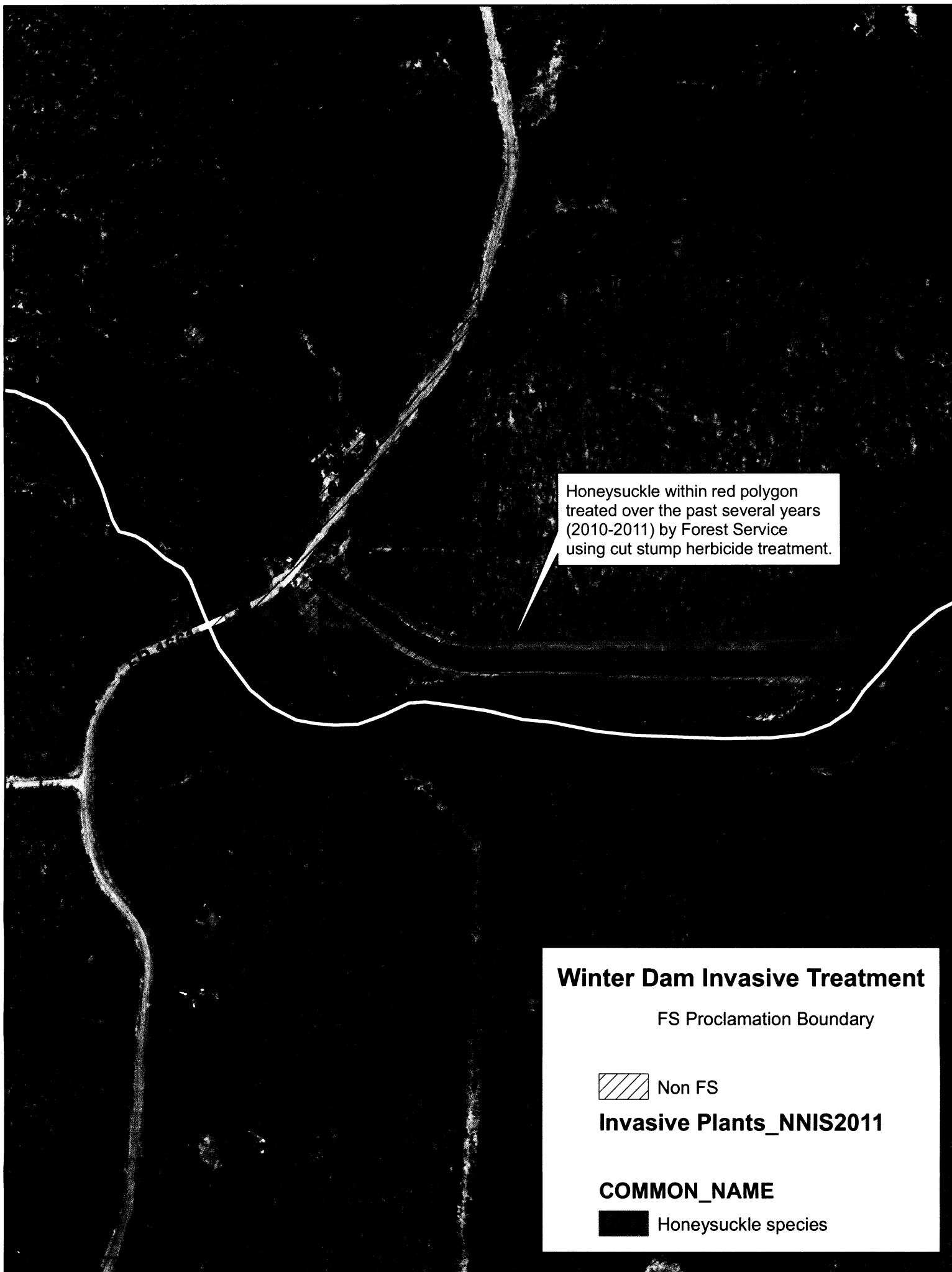
US Forest Service personnel have for the past several years, including the summer season of 2011, been working on eradication of invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*) in the vicinity of the Winter Dam facility, both on federal lands and adjacent North American Hydro property. Control efforts have included cutting with an herbicide treatment to the cut stems. To date, most of our effort has been upstream from Forest Road 1661 although we have completed downstream surveys and plan on control efforts in this area starting in 2012.

In addition, Forest Service Biological Technicians have been inventorying and controlling invasive plants on the East Fork Chippewa River every other year for a number of years now. All control efforts have been to purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) to date. Inventory targets include curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) as well as other species.

If you have any questions, please call.

Steven Spickerman  
Plant Ecologist  
Great Divide Ranger District  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
715-264-2511

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### Winter Dam Invasive Treatment

FS Proclamation Boundary

 Non FS

**Invasive Plants\_NNIS2011**

**COMMON\_NAME**

 Honeysuckle species

FILE COPY



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
Supervisor's Office

500 Hanson Lake Road  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
715-362-1300 (Phone)  
715-369-8859 (Fax)  
TTY: 711 (National Relay System)  
Internet: [www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf)

File Code: 2770

Date: February 13, 2012

Mr. Chuck Alsberg  
Chief Executive Officer  
North American Hydro  
116 State Street  
P.O. 167  
Neshkoro, WI 54960

.....BY  
RECEIVED  
FEB 16 2012

Dear Mr. Alsberg:

Your letter of 12/17/2011 asked the agency to review the Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Management Report for FERC Project P-2064. In addition, you also asked for consultation on two issues related to the plan; honeysuckle control and monitoring of the Grey wolf.

The Forest concurs with the Company that with the recent delisting of the Grey wolf there is no need for the Company to continue to monitoring the species within the project area. Broad-scale surveys will be continued in the general area through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the volunteer wolf-tracking program.

The Forest has cooperated the last several years with the Company on control of invasive species within the project area. We would like to continue to cooperate and ask that you contact Steven Spickerman, District Botanist, at (715) 264-2511 or [sspickerman@fs.fed.us](mailto:sspickerman@fs.fed.us) to develop a plan to control the honeysuckle within the project area.

The Forest has reviewed the entire plan and has no other comments.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sue Reinecke at (715) 762-5182.

Sincerely,

PAUL I. V. STRONG  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Sue Reinecke, Steven Spickerman



FILE COPY

**Gary Rast**

---

**From:** Reinecke, Sue -FS [sreinecke@fs.fed.us]

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2012 1:09 PM

**To:** Gary Rast

**Subject:** land and wildlife management plan

Hi Gary, just want to give you a heads up that a letter is waiting signature regarding the land and wildlife management plan and should be on its way very shortly. We had no comments on the plan. we concur with dropping the surveys for the wolf and ask that you work with Steven Spickerman on the honeysuckle issue.

sue

\*\*\*\*\*

Sue Reinecke, Forest Fisheries Biologist  
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
1170 4th Ave South  
Park Falls, WI 54552  
(715)762-5185 [sreinecke@fs.fed.us](mailto:sreinecke@fs.fed.us)

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Gary Rast**

FILE COPY

---

**From:** Gary Rast  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 2:44 PM  
**To:** 'Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR'  
**Cc:** 'Strong, Paul -FS'; 'Peter Fasbender (Peter\_Fasbender@fws.gov)'; Jereme Klassy; Cory Mirr; Jason Kreuzscher  
**Subject:** RE: Winter Draft Wildlife Mgt Plan

Cheryl,

I need to make a correction to your e-mail, it is a Draft Report. No I haven't received any comment from anyone. However, that is not unusual and may not get any some years. However, we do need to have some type of comment on controls of the invasive species noted and the wolf status as outlined in the submittal letter. The plan states we will consult on invasive control measures and FERC has said we need to consult and file updates to the plan on the wolf as well. The status of the wolf changed between submittal of the plan and the approval of the plan and is or has changed back again at the time of report. That is why the Licensee believes its plan is still valid and should not be changed and is asking for agency concurrence. Take a more time if needed. However, we need to file the final on or before March1, 2012. That is our drop dead date as later than that can be viewed as a violation by FERC.

Gary

---

**From:** Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [mailto:Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:05 PM  
**To:** Gary Rast  
**Subject:** Winter Draft Wildlife Mgt Plan

Hi Gary -

Have you received any comments from the feds on the Draft plan yet? If you have, can you share those with me?

I am in the process of gathering comments from our wildlife staff, and am requesting an extension of time to finish gathering those comments. Please advise. Thanks

Also, I have received comments on the Purple loosestrife and water quality plans that were submitted and will be sending out information shortly.

Cheryl Laatsch, Water Mgt Specialist,  
WDNR, Office of Energy, GEF2, 7th Floor  
101 S Webster St Madison WI 53707-7921  
Madison office phone:(608) 264-8943

OR

Cheryl Laatsch, Horicon DNR  
N7725 HIGHWAY 28  
HORICON WI 53032  
(920) 387-7869  
(920) 485-3028 (Fax)

e-mail: Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov  
Website: dnr.wi.gov

2/14/2012

(920) 485-3028 (Fax)

e-mail: Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov  
Website: dnr.wi.gov  
www.facebook.com/WIDNR

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 08:20 AM  
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Cc: jklassy@nahydro.com  
Subject: FW: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

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Hi Gary,

I am available all day Monday for a call to discuss DNR comments relative to the Winter Wildlife Plan (and other topics referenced below).

Otherwise, I may be available for part of the day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Thanks,

Nick

Nicholas J. Utrup  
Hydropower Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office  
2661 Scott Tower Drive  
New Franken, WI 54229

Office: (920) 866-1736  
Cell: (920) 530-9937  
FAX: (920) 866-1710  
Email: Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov

"Gary Rast"

<Gary.rast@nahydro.com>

o.com>

To

<Peter\_Fasbender@fws.gov> ,

02/10/2012 09:39

<Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov>

AM

cc

Subject

FW: WDNR comments regarding

P-2064

NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and

Wildlife Report

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [mailto:Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 9:32 AM

To: Magana, Ryan J - DNR; peter\_fasbender@fws.gov; Cory Mirr; sreinecke@fs.fed.us; pstrong@fs.fed.us; Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov; Roesler, Craig P - DNR

Cc: Gary Rast

Subject: FW: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011 Land and Wildlife Report

Hi everyone - Gary would like to talk about some of the comments that we provided. NAH needs to have comments to FERC by the end of Feb. Please let us know your availability for a 1-2 hour conf call the week of Feb 13th.



Tentative agenda:

1. Winter Wildlife Plan comments and Invasive Monitoring comments
2. Erosion Control issues at Clam Rv and Danbury
3. Any other comments on the recent plan submittals

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From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR  
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 08:04 AM  
To: 'Gary Rast'  
Subject: WDNR comments regarding P-2064 NAH Winter Draft 2011  
Land  
and Wildlife Report

Gary - Here are the comments collected from our Regional Ecologist. If you have any concerns or questions, we would be happy to set up a conf call to discuss them.

1. Page 4, second paragraph, it mentions that there are guidelines for managing vegetation, etc in condition 10, appendix B. It is unclear how vegetation management is occurring on the site
2. Page 6, #3 P. states that for loosestrife surveys - "Inspections should be scheduled in August..." However, on page 16, #5. - "While Purple Loosestrife is blooming in July and August, the inventory should be conducted..." The survey in 2011 took place on July 26, and no plants were found, even in areas where plants had been seen in 2010. Apparently these locations were not on the subject property however. In any case, loosestrife is often flowering in late July, although due to variation within a given year (due to weather), and within a given population of loosestrife (due to genetics, micro-climate conditions), it is often best to conduct surveys for loosestrife in August (See below for survey timing suggestions).
3. Page 15, #4 - Comment 1. - Non-native Invasive Species surveys were conducted on July 26,

2011. Garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle are best detected either in late fall, when most other vegetation has senesced (and these species remain at least somewhat green), or in spring, before other vegetation is fully leafed out. Comment 2. - Although curly pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil are listed as target species for detection, it is not clear what protocol was used to survey for them. Curly leaf pondweed is most detectable early in the growing season. Because it senesces and decays during mid-summer, it is not likely to be found in late July. Standard survey protocol for aquatic plants is to take numerous "rake pulls" from across the entire waterbody. A garden rake, with rope attached is used to pull up aquatic vegetation at a given point, allowing the surveyor to accurately identify all plants at that point.

4. Ideally the invasive species survey would be broken up into at least 2

survey periods: one in May, when curly leaf pondweed, garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle are most detectable. The second in August, for purple loosestrife, knotweed and Eurasian water milfoil (using rake pulls).

5. With the exception of purple loosestrife, as noted on page 6, #3 P., it is not clear whether the applicant must control invasive species once detected. If control is initiated, it should be done with appropriate herbicides when near water, and using best known techniques, specific to each species.

6. Gray Wolf - As of January 27, 2012, has been delisted. However, it is a protected wild animal in Wisconsin.

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[www.facebook.com/WIDNR](http://www.facebook.com/WIDNR)

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**Gary Rast**

**From:** Gary Rast  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 11:46 AM  
**To:** 'Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR'  
**Cc:** Roesler, Craig P - DNR; Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov; 'jklassy@nahydro.com'; Jason Kreuzscher; 'Cory Mirr (cory.mirr@nahydro.com)'; John McCutcheon  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on various FERC submittals

Cheryl,

I have a couple of comments to offer.

1. The WQ location at Clam River has been used since monitoring began in 2008 (4 years). If you want the location changed we can try to accommodate you on the request. However, it's location may be dangerous to our staff during high water events and may not be a wise decision. Please advise.
2. The near bottom phosphorus sample at Flambeau Upper was discontinued in 2007 based upon Craig Roesler's comments in an e-mail dated January 19, 2007 concerning the 2006 monitoring results. It has been collected a time or two by mistake since then but his e-mail clearly states we may discontinue.

I will pass these comments on to the individual in our company who deals primarily with the PL and Erosion and let them respond on those issues.

---

**From:** Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [mailto:Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012 9:49 AM  
**To:** Gary Rast  
**Cc:** Roesler, Craig P - DNR; Nick\_Utrup@fws.gov  
**Subject:** Comments on various FERC submittals

Hi Gary - Here are the comments that I have gathered so far. Please let me know if you want to discuss any of these comments in more detail. Thanks

Craig R reviewed the following reports from North American Hydro:  
(Dates are from cover letters. Since DNR water resource staff are currently changing their areas of coverage, we've also added the initials of who should receive these reports in the future - CR = Craig Roesler, Hayward; JK = Jon Kleist, Park Falls)

Clam River Water Quality (WQ) 11-12-11 (CR)  
Danbury WQ 11-15-11 (CR)  
Winter WQ 12-1-11 (CR)  
Flambeau Upper WQ 12-2-11 (JK)  
Flambeau Lower WQ 12-2-11 (JK)  
Flambeau Pixley WQ 12-2-11 (JK)  
Flambeau Crowley WQ 12-2-11 (JK)

Clam River Purple Loosestrife (PL) 12-21-11 (CR)  
Danbury PL 12-28-11 (CR)  
Flambeau Upper PL 12-15-11 (JK)  
Flambeau Lower PL 12-15-11 (JK)  
Flambeau Pixley PL 12-15-11 (JK)  
Flambeau Crowley PL 12-15-11 (JK)

Winter Run of River / Minimum Flow Annual Report 12-21-11 (CR)

Craig had comments on 3 of the above reports, These reports were also passed onto local county staff who had interest in reviewing the results.:

1/31/2012

1. Clam River WQ - The monitoring site should be moved to the deep hole (29 ft) near the dam. This will better characterize oxygen depletion conditions, and is a fairly standard approach for lake and reservoir monitoring.
2. Flambeau Upper WQ - Near bottom phosphorus samples were not collected in 2011. I believe this is part of the required monitoring and should be done in the future.
3. Clam River PL - There is a substantial amount of purple loosestrife present and very limited control measures have been applied. The report mentions there was no PL beetle feeding damage observed and that many sites are inaccessible. I contacted Brad Morris, the AIS staffer in Burnett Co., sent him a copy of the report, and mentioned it may be possible to get funding for a beetle release from NAH. He sounded like he was interested in pursuing a PL beetle release. NAH should work with the county staff to develop a plan to help reduce PL infestations.

The Winter Land and Wildlife Mgmt. Report was given to Ken Jonas, DNR wildlife supervisor in Hayward. We are still waiting for his comments.

We are still waiting for some DNR staff input on the Erosion Monitoring reports for Danbury and Clam River, and will let you know when I receive it. The WQ Certification indicates the licensee shall monitor... for erosion, and if necessary, prepare an erosion control plan...". At this point, we recommend that NAH prepare an erosion control plan. We will gladly provide guidance and feedback, and help determine where additional Ch 30 permits may be required.

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**North American Hydro Holdings, Inc.**

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December 27, 2011

Mr. Craig Roesler  
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Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
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Hayward, WI 54843

Mr. Peter Fasbender  
Field Supervisor  
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Mr. Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor  
USDA Forest Service Chequamegon, Nicolet NF  
Park Falls Supervisor's Office  
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Park Falls, WI 54552-1921

**Re: Winter Hydroelectric Project  
FERC Project Number P-2064  
Flambeau Hydro LLC  
Draft Report 2011 Land & Wildlife Management Report**

Dear Agency:

Purpose

On behalf of Flambeau Hydro LLC "Flambeau" (Licensee), North American Hydro Holdings is submitting (2) copies of the Draft Report 2011 Land & Wildlife Management Report for the Winter Hydroelectric Project for review and comment.

Background

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "FERC" issued a License to Flambeau on August 12, 2005. Portions of the original Certification were contested by the Licensee. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) submitted a revised Water Quality Certification, Dated at Park Falls, WI: August 19, 2008 that replaced the original certification of June 21, 2005. Only conditions E, F, and J were modified and a footnote was added to condition D according to the Final Settlement Agreement. The submitted report is a requirement of the License pursuant to Article 404, Forest Service (FS) Condition 10, and WDNR Water Quality Certification Item Letter P, Q, and R. The Land & Wildlife Management Plan was filed with FERC on December 19, 2008. FERC issued an Order Modifying and Approving the plan on June 3, 2011.



Invasive Species and Wolf Agency Consultation

The Licensee is requesting consultation concerning non native invasive species control. Honeysuckle was observed on company lands during the 2011 survey as indicated in the report. After consultation, the Licensee proposes to begin using the agreed upon control methods in 2012.

The Licensee also is requesting consultation concerning the gray wolf. The original plan stated: Gray wolves are known to inhabit the northern portion of Wisconsin. At this time, no known Gray Wolves are known to inhabit the very small areas of the Project corridor or on project property. The Eastern Gray Wolf has been delisted by the U S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and is no longer on the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species List. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) does conduct some level of monitoring for the Gray Wolf. Therefore, Flambeau Hydro LLC will not conduct any surveys to identify and document any occurrences of the Gray Wolf inhabiting project property and along the Project boundary. If in the future, the status of the species changes, the Licensee will cooperate with the FWS, the FS and the WDNR personnel for guidance regarding the management of the Gray Wolf consistent with the Gray Wolf management guidelines of the FWS, Forest Service, and DNR. Additionally, if a Wolf den becomes established within the project boundary, the Licensee will notify the agencies. This schedule will be followed for the term of the license.


At the time of approval the wolf was on the threatened and endangered species list. The Licensee was ordered to consult and file updates to the plan. In mid December 2011 it was announced that the gray wolf was to be de-listed. *The Licensee believes its plan is still valid and should not be changed and is asking for agency concurrence.*

Conclusion

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's regulations allow for a 30 day formal review and comment period. Thank you in advance for providing your responses in a timely manner so we can include your comments and recommendations, as appropriate, into our report which the Licensee must file by March 1, 2012 with the FERC.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Mr. Gary Rast at the North American Hydro Holdings offices @ 920-293-4628 ext. 15, or by email at; [gary.rast@nahydro.com](mailto:gary.rast@nahydro.com).

Sincerely,  
 North American Hydro Holdings  
 Agent for Licensee

  
 for Charles Alsberg  
 Chief Executive Officer



Attachment: Draft Report 2011 Land & Wildlife Management Report – December 27, 2011

Cc: Corporate, NAHH  
Regional, NAHH

Document Content(s)

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