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September 29, 2004

FEDERAL ENERGY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, D.C. 20426

Subject: Monitoring Results Of The 2004 Survey Of Purple Loosestrife Populations On The White River Flowage (FERC Project No. 2444), the Superior Falls Flowage (FERC Project No. 2587), the Big Falls Flowage (FERC Project No. 2390), The Thornapple Flowage (FERC Project No. 2475) And Lake Hayward (FERC Project No. 2417).

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Dear Ms Salas: 049

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Enclosed is an original and eight copies of the 2004 purple loosestrife monitoring report for the above-mentioned projects as directed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (Commission) license orders. The license orders requires Northern States Power Company - Wisconsin (d.b.a. Xcel Energy) to perform annual surveys of project shorelines for the presence of purple loosestrife and to file the monitoring results with the Commission.

The above-mentioned flowages were surveyed during a period of peak biomass and an estimate of purple loosestrife densities were determined and compared to previous years' surveys. The 2004 monitoring results indicated that purple loosestrife presence and abundance were similar to the monitoring results from previous years. In July of 2004, Licensee cooperated with personnel from the Lake Holcombe Improvement Association (LHIA) in introducing a beetle to the Thomapple Flowage shorelines that specifically targets loosestrife populations. It is hoped that this population over time will be successful in reducing purple loosestrife populations on the Thomapple Flowage.

If you have any questions in regards to the monitoring results or to this filing, please feel free to give me a call at (715) 839-2692 or Mr. Robert Olson of my staff at (715) 839-1353.

Very truly yours,

Lloyd Everhart  
Administrator, Hydro Licensing

Attachment: Purple Loosestrife Monitoring Report

- c: Larry Thompson (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Angle Tomes (National Park Service)
- Jeff Scheirer (Wisconsin DNR)
- Project Files

**Monitoring Results Of Purple Loosestrife Surveys  
Performed At The White River, Superior Falls, Big Falls,  
Thornapple and Hayward Hydro Projects**

**September 29, 2004**

## **Monitoring Results Of Purple Loosestrife Surveys Performed On The White River Flowage, The Superior Falls Flowage, The Big Falls Flowage, The Thornapple Flowage And Lake Hayward.**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The operating licenses for the White River, Superior Falls, Big Falls, Thornapple and Hayward hydro projects directed the Licensee to develop a purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) monitoring plan for project shorelines. The plans were developed with input from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Park Service (NPS). The plans involve annual monitoring of project shorelines during a period of peak purple loosestrife biomass (late July through August). The following report is a summary of the surveys that were performed during the 2004 field season and comparisons made to the results of surveys from previous years.

### **2.0 Methods**

The shorelines of the Big Falls and Thornapple Flowages were surveyed for purple loosestrife on August 25, the Superior Falls and White River Flowages were surveyed on August 31, and Lake Hayward was surveyed on September 1. The survey dates coincided with the time of maximum flowering where purple loosestrife could be easily identified and surveyed for relative abundance. The project lands downstream from the Hayward Hydro Project were also surveyed.

Project shorelines were classified to indicate whether purple loosestrife was absent, present or abundant. Present indicated a light scattering of a few plants over an area, and in most cases, presence was limited to only an individual plant. Abundant indicated a dense growth of numerous plants over an area. Absent indicated that no purple loosestrife plants were present. Using these determinations of infestation, purple loosestrife locations were mapped on bathymetric maps and an estimate of shoreline miles occupied determined using a planimeter. This method overestimates the amount of shoreline where loosestrife is present, as a single dot from a highlighting pen covers a much larger area on the map than the individual plant. However, the method has been used consistently over the survey period and provides for a reliable and consistent means for comparing changes in loosestrife populations from year to year.

### **3.0 Results**

**3.1 White River Flowage.** Purple loosestrife plants were not found on the shorelines of the White River Flowage. This was similar to the findings from surveys conducted between 1998-2003.

**3.2 Superior Falls Flowage.** The shorelines of the flowage were absent of any purple loosestrife plants, which was similar to the findings from surveys conducted between

1998-2003. In addition to the purple loosestrife surveys, a survey of flowage waters for Eurasian milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum) was conducted and no plants were observed.

3.3 Big Falls Flowage. There were no purple loosestrife plants found on the shorelines of the Big Falls Flowage. Again, this was similar to the results of the previous surveys conducted between 1998-2003.

3.4 Thornapple Flowage. A number of purple loosestrife plants were found to be growing on the shorelines of the Thornapple Flowage (*Figure 1*). The majority of plants appear largely concentrated in the wetland area in the middle part of the flowage and in some of the small backwater areas surrounding the flowage. Otherwise, purple loosestrife was present throughout much of the flowage shoreline as scattered pioneering plants. Many of the scattered plants were located on shorelines where lakefront homes and lawns had caused a disturbance to the natural shoreline.

During the 2004 survey, purple loosestrife was found to be present on 2.33 miles of shoreline or 30.7% of the shoreline. Purple loosestrife's presence on the flowage in 2004 increased slightly from 2.10 miles (33.1%) in 2003. Areas of shoreline with populations that were considered abundant were 0.45 miles, which was consistent with the 0.48 miles identified in the 2003 survey. A summary of the findings from previous surveys that were performed on the Thornapple Flowage is included below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Shoreline Miles (Present)</u>	<u>Shoreline Miles (Common)</u>	<u>Shoreline Miles (Abundant)</u>
1998	<i>Shoreline coverage not determined</i>		
1999	2.36	0.27	0.67
2000	1.64	-	0.70
2001	2.52	-	0.67
2002	2.52	-	0.48
2003	2.10	-	0.48
2004	2.33	-	0.45

The limited overall change in presence and abundance of loosestrife indicates that the plants have likely reached their peak numbers, which is limited by suitable growing conditions. Many of the pioneering plants don't appear to be exceptionally healthy as the shoreline areas where these plants are located are more upland, with steep shoreline banks, that don't provide suitable growing conditions for abundant loosestrife populations. The wetland areas have greater populations of loosestrife plants.

In July of 2004, Licensee cooperated with the Lake Holcombe Improvement Association (LHIA) to introduce a beetle population to the shorelines of the Thornapple Flowage that specifically targets purple loosestrife plants. These beetles have been introduced at the Licensee's Hayward and Holcombe Projects in past years with great success. An estimated 20,000 beetles were introduced in the wetland area in the middle part of the flowage where the highest densities of purple loosestrife exist. It is hoped that the beetles will be successful in establishing themselves and that purple loosestrife abundance will be significantly reduced. The heavy infestation area of purple loosestrife is a likely seed source for the rest of the flowage as well as the Thornapple Project

tailwaters. Licensee will continue to monitor purple loosestrife presence and abundance through the term of the new license.

**3.5 Lake Hayward.** The presence and abundance of purple loosestrife on Lake Hayward has been reduced significantly over the last several years of the survey. Purple loosestrife plants had historically been very prevalent in some shoreline areas on Lake Hayward.

The 2002 survey had found a significant reduction in loosestrife presence and abundance. During the 2002 survey, observations made in some of the areas that have historically been heavily infested with loosestrife, indicated that there were many skeletal remains of loosestrife from previous years, although the abundance of live plants appeared to be significantly reduced. During the 2003 survey, Licensee intensely searched the shoreline for loosestrife plants, as areas that had abundant populations in the past were almost non-existent. The 2004 survey indicated that purple loosestrife coverage had increased slightly although it was not found in abundant populations. A total of 0.54 miles of shoreline had purple loosestrife present and there were no areas that were classified as abundant. It appeared that native vegetation had begun to repopulate the areas that had been displaced by purple loosestrife where it had been historically found in abundance.

The following table summarizes the results of surveys performed on Lake Hayward from 1997 to the present.

Year	<u>Shoreline Miles (Present)</u>	<u>Shoreline Miles (Abundant)</u>
1997	0.3	0.70
1998	Shoreline coverage not determined	
1999	1.08	0.25
2000	1.28	0.10
2001	1.13	0.19
2002	0.90	0.07
2003	0.10	0.0
2004	0.54	0.0

The main areas of purple loosestrife infestation on Lake Hayward have been concentrated in the northwest section of the flowage at the mouth of Smith Lake Creek. This infestation has been reduced to a scattering of small purple loosestrife plants. Project lands on the Namekagon River immediately downstream from the Hayward Dam were also surveyed and no loosestrife plants were found. Licensee was made aware of control efforts that the National Park Service is conducting in the Hayward Project tailwaters.

Licensee donated money to the Hayward High School's Environmental Studies class several years ago to initiate a biological control program for purple loosestrife on Lake Hayward. The class cooperated with the WDNR to secure beetles for transplantation on the shoreline. Their efforts appear to have been very successful over the last

several years in significantly reducing the quantity of purple loosestrife present on the shorelines of Lake Hayward. Future monitoring will help determine the long-term success of the beetle introduction.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

Purple loosestrife was not present on the White River Flowage, the Superior Falls Flowage or the Big Falls Flowage. The Thomapple Flowage shorelines are scattered with purple loosestrife plants, although there are heavier densities in a few of the wetland areas where growing conditions are more suitable. The number of pioneering plants appears to be constant from earlier surveys. The areas around the Thomapple Flowage that have steeper slopes at the shoreline have limited purple loosestrife presence and abundance. The abundant populations found in several areas on the Thomapple Flowage are significant enough that they are a good seed source for spreading to unpopulated shorelines as well as the downstream river sections. It is expected that the beetle introduction on the Thomapple Flowage will have a similar result to the introductions on Lake Hayward.

Lake Hayward has experienced a drastic decline in purple loosestrife over the several years due to the introduction of a beetle population which specifically targets the plant. The long-term effectiveness of the beetle's introduction will be determined in subsequent surveys.

H:\reference\purpleloosestrife\2004report.doc

LAKE Thornapple Flow  
 SECTION 18, 19, 22, 23, 24  
 RANGE 6, 7 W  
 TOWN Thornapple  
 TOWNSHIP 34 N

This is the only hydrographic map of this lake available, produced from original charts of Dept. of Natural Resources — Madison

A U. S. Geological Survey Map is available from us showing the area (approx. 12 square miles) adjacent to this lake.

To order specify Thornapple Quadrangle

Purple Loosetrife Survey - 2004  
 August 25, 2004

RUSK COUNTY

MAP NO.

5129



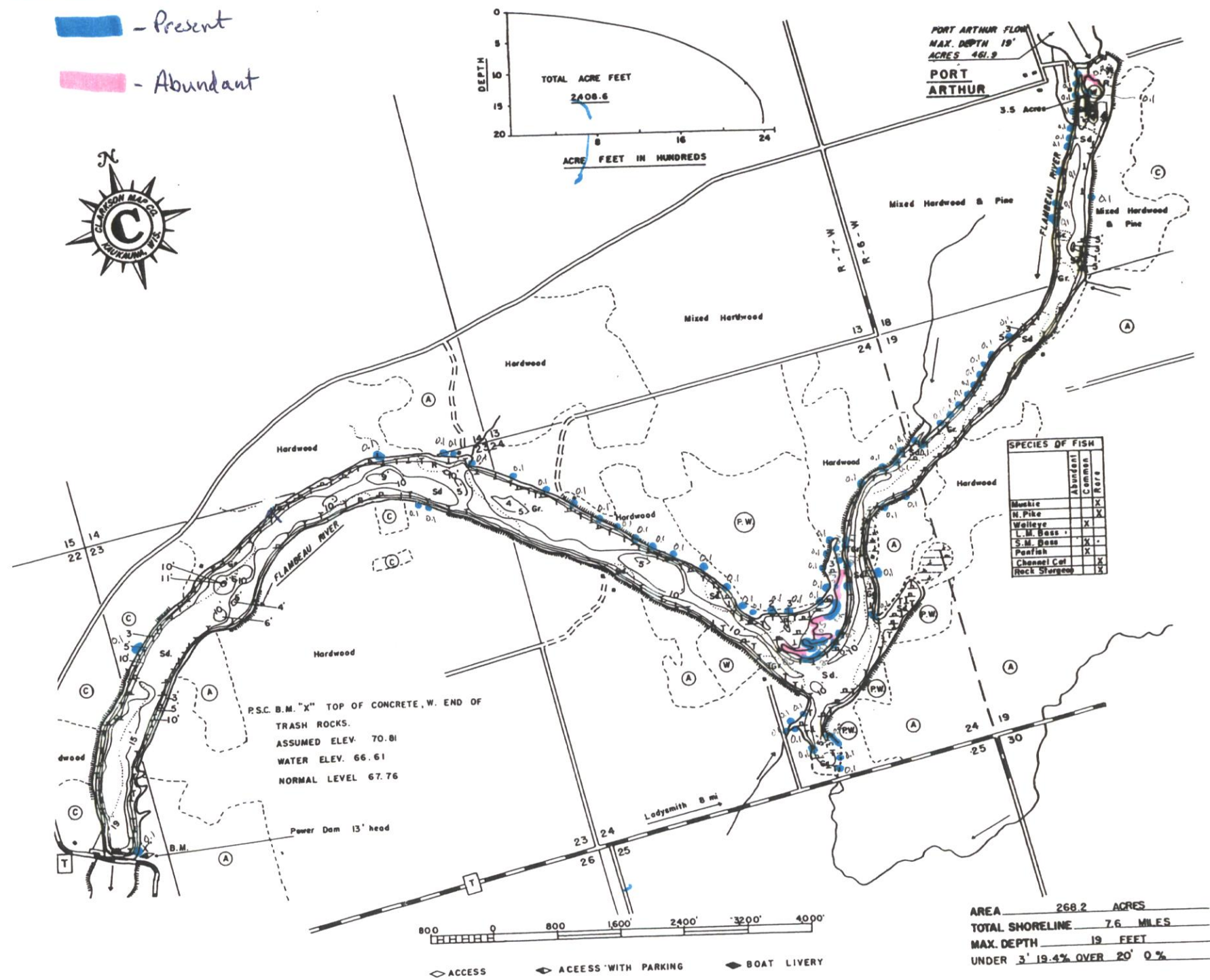
LEGEND

TOPOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

BRUSH REFUGE	⊕
SAPLING TANGLE	∞
SPAWNING BOX	□
MINNOW SPAWNER	*
WEED BED	⊙
ROCKY SHOAL	⊙
DWELLING	■
ABANDONED DWELLING	□
RESORT	□
STEEP SLOPE	≡≡≡
SPRING	○
INTERMITTENT INLET	→
BRUSH	∞
WOODED	W
PASTURED	P
CULTIVATED	C

Index

■ - Present  
 ■ - Abundant



Area of Purple Loosetrife Present:  
 $\frac{2.5 \text{ clicks}}{4,000 \text{ ft.}} = \frac{7.7 \text{ clicks}}{x}$   
 $x = 12,320 \text{ feet or } 2.33 \text{ miles}$   
 30.7% of shoreline

Area of Purple Loosetrife Abundant:  
 $\frac{2.5 \text{ clicks}}{4,000 \text{ ft.}} = \frac{1.5 \text{ clicks}}{x \text{ miles}}$   
 $x = 2,400 \text{ feet or } 0.45 \text{ miles}$   
 5.98% of shoreline

Figure 1. Purple Loosetrife Populations On The Thornapple Flowage, August 2004.

Public 0410050151-01-001

2004 Purple Loosestrife Survey

LAKE Hayward Flowage  
 SECTION 26, 27  
 RANGE 9 W  
 TOWN Hayward  
 TOWNSHIP 41 N

This is the only hydrographic map of this lake available, produced from original charts of Dept. of Natural Resources — Madison  
 A U. S. Geological Survey Map is available from us showing the area (approx. 12 square miles) adjacent to this lake.  
 To order specify Hayward Quadrangle

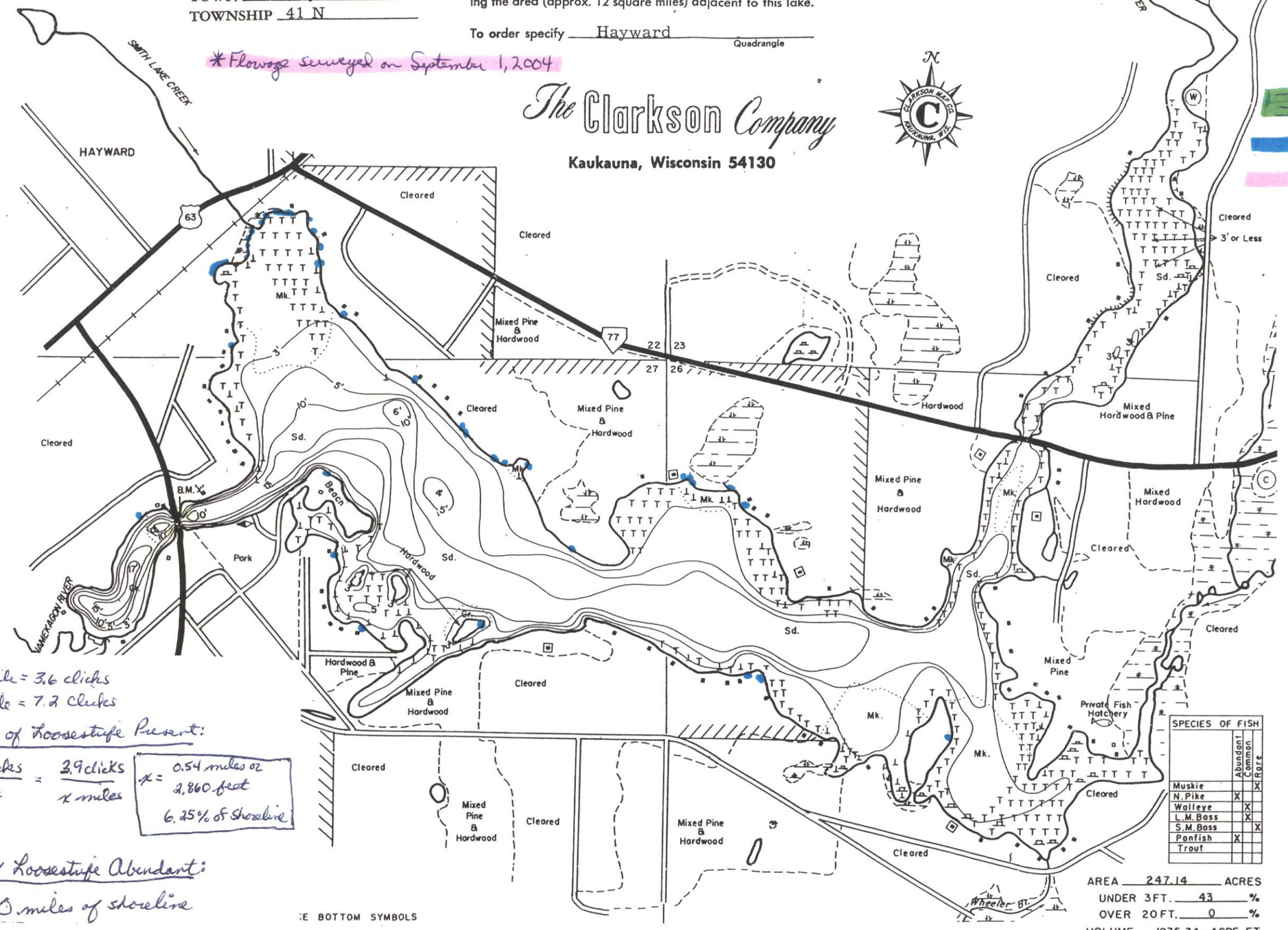
SAWYER COUNTY  
 Map No. 5260

\* Flowage surveyed on September 1, 2004

The Clarkson Company  
 Kaukauna, Wisconsin 54130



Index  
 Present  
 Abundant



1/2 mile = 3.6 clicks  
 1 mile = 7.2 clicks  
 Areas of Loosestrife Present:  
 7.2 clicks = 2.9 clicks  
 1 mile = x miles  
 x = 0.54 miles or 2,860 feet  
 6.25% of shoreline

Area of Loosestrife Abundant:  
 0 miles of shoreline

SPECIES OF FISH		
	Abundant	Common
Muskie		X
N. Pike	X	X
Walleye	X	X
L.M. Bass	X	X
S.M. Bass	X	X
Panfish	X	
Trout		

AREA 247.14 ACRES  
 UNDER 3 FT. 43 %  
 OVER 20 FT. 0 %  
 VOLUME 1235.34 ACRE FT.  
 TOTAL ALK. 69 P.P.M.  
 SHORELINE 8.64 MILES  
 MAX. DEPTH 17 FEET

Figure 2. Purple Loosestrife Populations on the Hayward Flowage, August 2004.

0410050151-01-002