

We Energies
2007 Annual Report - Nuisance Plant Control Survey
Way Dam & Michigamme Reservoir
FERC Project #1759

We Energies' Environmental department staff, Mr. Mike Grisar and Mr. John Hrobar, conducted a survey from a boat at the Way Dam and Michigamme Reservoir project on July 31, 2007. The survey was specific to monitoring for the presence of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) in the Michigamme River portion of the project area. While the license requires a survey on an alternating year basis, We Energies is committed to minimizing the potential for a prolific invasion of this species at Way Dam and Michigamme Reservoir and conducted an interim survey in 2007.

Purple loosestrife was observed, mapped, and removed at four locations (see attached map) in 2006. All four locations (stands 1-4) occur up the east portion of the project area along the shorelines of the Michigamme River. A single plant was observed at each of the four locations. Three of the observations were centrally located near where the Michigamme River empties into the larger Michigamme Reservoir basin. The fourth location occurred in the far eastern reaches of the project area.

In 2007, purple loosestrife was again observed at two of the locations observed in 2006, stands 1 & 3 near the mouth of the Michigamme River. It was also observed occurring at four new locations upstream from stands 1 & 3. Stand 5 occurs centrally between Weber Lake and the mouth. Stands 6 & 7 occur along the south edge of Weber Lake, while stand 8 occurs at the far upstream limits of the project area. All locations were documented using a Trimble Geo XH GPS unit.

Table 1. Summary of the 2007 Purple Loosestrife Observations

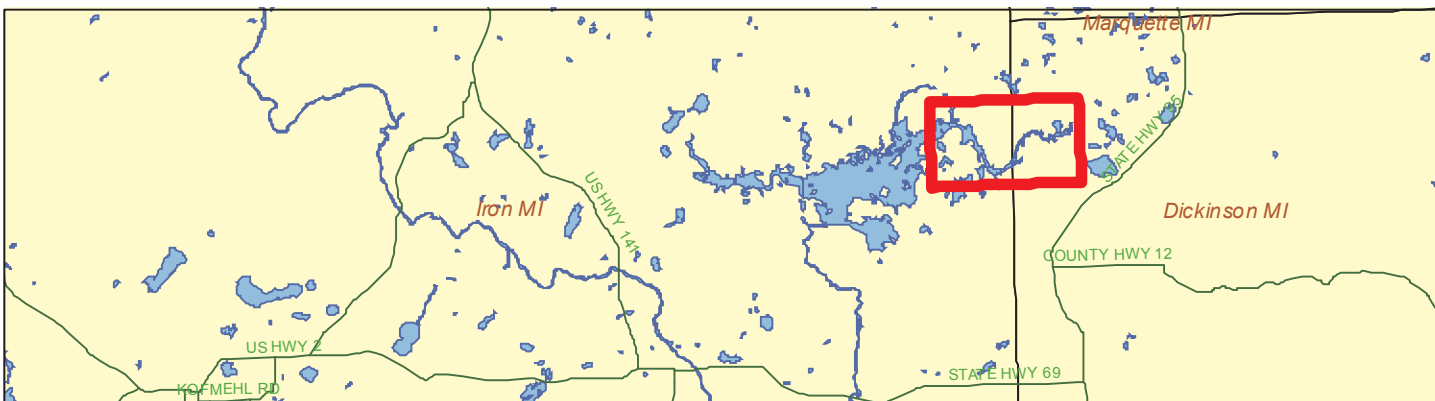
Stand #	# of Plants	Stand/Plant Age	Stem Density or # of Stems	Notes
1	1	1 – Year	2 stems	Growing at same 2006 location
2	Not Present in 2007			
3	2	1 – Year	6 & 3 stems	Growing ~ 25' from 2006 location
4	Not Present in 2007			
5	1	2 – Year	10 stems	3 stems from 2006
6	2	2 – Year	~ 40 and 20	4 & 2 stems from 2006
7	2	2 – Year & 1 – Year	~30 and 2 stems, respectively	5 stems from 2006
8	1	2 – Year	~15 stems	2 stems from 2006

Each of the 2 reoccurring locations contained small, few stemmed, and first-year plants. Stand 3 would have been undetectable from the shoreline in 2007, without the benefit of the 2006 observation. Each of the four new locations contained second year plants. These plants

appeared to be very small (<3' tall) and few stemmed in 2006. They each occurred among tall and dense wetland vegetation, and were not detectable during the 2006 survey.

All observed plants were in full flower, although there was no evidence that any of the plants had set seed. All plants were carefully hand removed including flowers, stems, and roots. The removed plants were all bagged and disposed of appropriately. An estimated 80-90% of the root masses were removed along with the flowering stems.

We Energies plans to continue surveying for purple loosestrife at the Way Dam & Michigamme Reservoir project site annually to minimize the potential for mature plants setting and releasing seed into the reservoir. The entire reservoir will be surveyed in 2008 for both purple loosestrife and Eurasian water milfoil.



* 2007 GPS purple loosestrife — Project Boundary



Way Dam 2007 Eurasian Water Milfoil and Purple Loosestrife Survey

Source: USDA NAIP 2005 Aerial Photograph
Iron County

AMS 8/3/2007