



November 17, 2015

Office of the Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2536
Article 409 - 2013 Exotic Species Reports**

Dear Secretary:

In accordance with the Commission order approving the monitoring plan for purple loosestrife and Eurasian watermilfoil at the Little Quinnesec Hydroelectric Project, and the *Milfoil Weevil Monitoring and Eurasian Watermilfoil Adaptive Management Plan*, dated April 2010, enclosed are the following bi-annual reports prepared by White Water Associates, Inc.:

1. *Monitoring the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project for Eurasian Watermilfoil and Purple Loosestrife*, dated October 2015; and
2. *Report of Milfoil Weevil Monitoring and Eurasian Watermilfoil Management for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project for 2013*, dated October 2015.

Eurasian Watermilfoil & Purple Loosestrife Monitoring

In 2015, Eurasian water-milfoil ("EWM") remained under control. The number of plants and the surface coverage relative to the size of the impoundment is very small.

The removal of a single purple loosestrife plant in 2010 was apparently successful because no purple loosestrife plants were observed in the project area in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

Milfoil Weevil Monitoring

Much like the previous survey years, site K had the most EWM plants throughout the impoundment, with approximately 25. Like 2013, there were too few plants for the sampling protocol. These plants were distributed among other native plant species in an area about 20x20 feet. No signs of water-milfoil weevils were observed on ten EWM plants collected at site K.

Very truly yours,

Chuck Ahlrichs
President

Chuck Ahlrichs

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR <Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 8:04 AM
To: Chuck Ahlrichs
Subject: RE: 2015 Reports

No comments. Thank you.

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Cheryl Laatsch

Phone: 920-387-7869
Cheryl.laatsch@wisconsin.gov

From: Chuck Ahlrichs [mailto:cahlrichs@nbenergy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 10:51 AM
To: Utrup, Nick (Nick_Utrup@fws.gov); Kruger, Kyle (KRUGERK@michigan.gov); Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR
Subject: RE: 2015 Reports

Nick, Kyle and Cheryl- Will you have any comments to the reports?

Regards,
Chuck

From: Chuck Ahlrichs
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Utrup, Nick (Nick_Utrup@fws.gov) <Nick_Utrup@fws.gov>; Kruger, Kyle (KRUGERK@michigan.gov) <KRUGERK@michigan.gov>; Laatsch, Cheryl (Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov) <Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov>
Cc: Chris Sinclair <csinclair@nbenergy.com>
Subject: FW: 2015 Reports

All- Please see the attached reports for 2015 bi-annual exotic species and weevil monitoring at the Little Quinnesec Falls hydro facility. As you will see, no purple loosestrife were found and Eurasian watermilfoil remains well under control; thus, the trigger criteria contained in the April 2010 Adaptive Management Plan have not been met.

Please provide comments to the reports at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Chuck Ahlrichs
President



Northbrook Power Management, LLC
14550 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Suite 210, Scottsdale, AZ 85260
T: 480.551.1771 | M: 312.550.5827 | F: 480.551.1991
www.NorthbrookPower.com

From: Dean Premo [<mailto:dean.premo@white-water-associates.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Chuck Ahlrichs <cahlrichs@nbenergy.com>
Subject: 2015 Reports

Hello Chuck,

I hope all is well with you. I've attached reports for our 2015 work on the Little Quinnesec Falls Project. No big changes from the past.

Dean

Dean Premo, Ph.D., President
White Water Associates, Inc.
429 River Lane, P.O. Box 27
Amasa, Michigan 49903
Phone: (906) 822-7889
Fax: (906) 822-7977
E-mail: dean.premo@white-water-associates.com
Web: <http://www.white-water-associates.com>

Chuck Ahlrichs

From: Kruger, Kyle (DNR) <KRUGERK@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 8:42 AM
To: Chuck Ahlrichs; Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR
Cc: Utrup, Nick (Nick_Utrup@fws.gov)
Subject: RE: 2015 Reports

I took a look as well. MDNR does not have any comments. Thanks for the opportunity to review.

From: Chuck Ahlrichs [mailto:cahlrichs@nbenergy.com]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 10:06 AM
To: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR
Cc: Utrup, Nick (Nick_Utrup@fws.gov); Kruger, Kyle (DNR)
Subject: RE: 2015 Reports

Thanks, Cheryl.

From: Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR [mailto:Cheryl.Laatsch@wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 8:04 AM
To: Chuck Ahlrichs <cahlrichs@nbenergy.com>
Subject: RE: 2015 Reports

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E-mail: dean.premo@white-water-associates.com
Web: <http://www.white-water-associates.com>

Chuck Ahlrichs

From: Utrup, Nick <nick_utrup@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 10:47 AM
To: Chuck Ahlrichs
Cc: Kruger, Kyle (KRUGERK@michigan.gov); Laatsch, Cheryl (Cheryl.Laatsch@Wisconsin.gov)
Subject: Re: 2015 Reports

The FWS does not have any comments.

Thanks,

Nick

Nick Utrup
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Twin Cities Field Office
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Office: 612-725-3548 Ext. 2204
Cell: 952-567-9616
FAX: 612-725-3609
Email: Nick_Utrup@fws.gov

On Wed, Nov 11, 2015 at 10:51 AM, Chuck Ahlrichs <cahlrichs@nbenergy.com> wrote:

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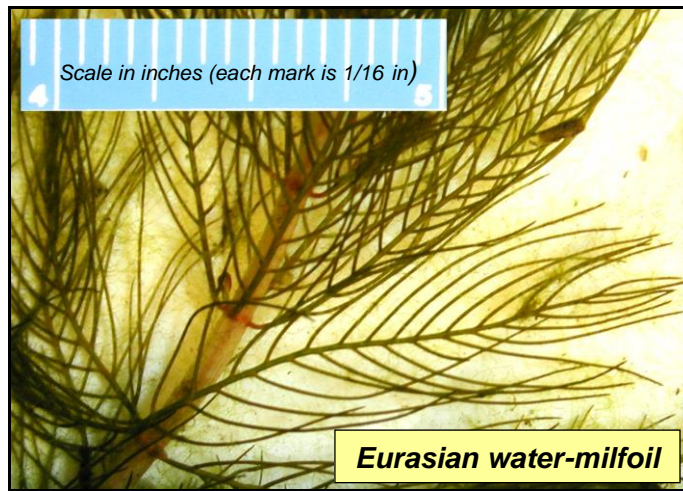
Fax:(906) 822-7977

E-mail: dean.premo@white-water-associates.com

Web: <http://www.white-water-associates.com>

PROJECT REPORT

**Monitoring the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric
Project for Eurasian Water-milfoil and Purple Loosestrife
FERC Hydro Project No. 2536, Little Quinnesec Falls**



Prepared for:

Northbrook Energy, LLC
14550 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Suite 210
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Contact: Chuck Ahlrichs
Email: cahlrichs@nbenergy.com
Voice: (480) 551-1771

Prepared by:

White Water Associates, Inc.
429 River Lane, P.O. Box 27
Amasa, Michigan 49903
Contact: Dean B. Premo, Ph.D., Senior Ecologist
Voice: (906) 822-7889

October 2015

PROJECT REPORT

**Monitoring the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric
Project for Eurasian Water-milfoil and Purple Loosestrife
FERC Hydro Project No. 2536, Little Quinnesec Falls**

Fieldwork: Caitlin Clarke, B.S., Field Biologist
Tom Plummer, Field Technician

Data Analysis And Report Dean Premo, Ph.D., Senior Ecologist
Caitlin Clarke, B.S., Field Biologist

Cite as: Clarke, Caitlin and Dean Premo. 2015. Monitoring the
Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project for Eurasian
Water-milfoil and Purple Loosestrife (FERC Hydro Project
No. 2536, Little Quinnesec Falls). Report to Northbrook
Energy, LLC by White Water Associates, Inc.



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Figure 1. Locations of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536), 2002-2015.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536).

Table 2. Summary of Eurasian water-milfoil in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536).

SUMMARY

Monitoring for Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) was conducted on the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC Hydro Project No. 2536) in 2015 as required by Article 409 of the FERC order issuing a project license. Monitoring for these species has occurred at this project since 1998 (annually through 2011 and biennially thereafter). Both plants have been reported in the Menominee River basin since 1990, although none in the project area before 2002. Scientists from White Water Associates (an independent consulting firm) conducted fieldwork from a boat and on foot on August 14, 2015.

The project area has a robust diversity of native aquatic plants including native water-milfoils. In 2015, five sites had Eurasian water-milfoil present. In 2013, Eurasian water-milfoil plants were found at six sites. In 2011, only one site had Eurasian water-milfoil, and in 2010, Eurasian water-milfoil was present at twenty-five sites. Like the 2013 survey, the largest number of Eurasian water-milfoil plants observed in 2015 was found at Site K. In 2015, approximately 25 Eurasian water-milfoil plants were discovered there scattered throughout the native aquatic vegetation. In 2013, there were approximately 20 Eurasian water-milfoil plants found there. At Site K in 2011, no invasive plants were present, which was a dramatic decrease from 2009 and 2010 when nearly 400 Eurasian water-milfoil plants were observed.

Over the years of monitoring at the Little Quinnesec Falls Project we have noted that small sub-populations of Eurasian water-milfoil come and go. This variability is again reflected in the 2015 survey results. The reasons for this are unknown, but may indicate the difficulty of Eurasian water-milfoil invading a thriving native plant community and the natural presence of native water-milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) in the project area.

With approximately 50 Eurasian water-milfoil plants observed in 2015, and approximately 45 observed in 2013, the actual surface area coverage of Eurasian water-milfoil relative to the size of the impoundment (349 acres) is extremely small. Although Eurasian water-milfoil was absent from Site K in 2011, a population of approximately 20 plants was present in the 2013 survey, and a population of approximately 25 plants was present in 2015. Also present at Site K in 2013 was a natural population of the native water-milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*). The water-milfoil weevil is a biological control agent of Eurasian water milfoil and likely plays a role in the fluctuation of Eurasian water-milfoil populations at this site. No water-milfoil weevils were observed in the 2015 survey.

The removal of a single purple loosestrife plant in 2010 was apparently successful because no purple loosestrife plants were observed in the project area in 2011, 2013 and 2015. A number of purple loosestrife plants continue to thrive immediately downstream of the project area on private and public land on the west side of the Menominee River.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) conducted an aquatic invasive species rapid assessment on the Little Quinnesec Falls project area on August 4, 2015. During this survey, Eurasian water-milfoil, narrow-leaf cattail (*Typha angustifolia*), aquatic forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), and rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*) were observed in isolated occurrences (Nault, 2015). These locations were documented and will be reported via the WDNR's website.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In 2015, monitoring for Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) was conducted on the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC Hydro Project No. 2536) as required by Article 409 of the FERC order issuing a project license. Monitoring for these non-native species has occurred at this project since 1998 (annually through 2011 and biennially thereafter). There have been reports of both Eurasian water-milfoil and purple loosestrife within the Menominee River basin since 1990, although none from the project area prior to 2002. Eurasian water-milfoil has been reported since 1995 from the Twin Falls Flowage about ten miles upstream of the project area.

Neither Eurasian water-milfoil nor purple loosestrife were reported from the Little Quinnesec Falls project during surveys conducted for the license application process (1990) and neither species was found in the project area during monitoring in 1998, 1999, 2000, or 2001. Eurasian water-milfoil was first documented in 2002 by observation of a few plants at two locations. In 2002, several specimens of Eurasian water-milfoil and both native water-milfoil species (*M. sibiricum* and *M. heterophyllum*) were collected from the project area and sent to experts Drs. Donald Les and Michael Moody of the University of Connecticut for further identification by genetic analysis. Their analysis of these specimens indicated that no hybrids were present, only the pure forms of each of the three species. Most locations where Eurasian water-milfoil has been found since 2002 have been small areas containing small numbers of individual plants mixed within a diverse community of native aquatic plants. Since 2006, a couple

of relatively small areas hosted larger numbers of Eurasian water-milfoil (one to two hundred individual plants). “Beds” or “colonies” where Eurasian water-milfoil is the dominant plant were not observed in the project area through 2008. In 2009, we reported two areas where Eurasian water-milfoil numbers were such that they could legitimately be referred to as “beds.” In 2010, only one of these two beds continued to thrive. In 2011, not only were no beds of Eurasian water-milfoil present, but only 5 plants were found in the project area. In 2013, approximately 45 Eurasian water-milfoil plants were observed in the project area, with the majority of them seen in one area. Similarly, in 2015, approximately 50 plants were observed, with the majority of them seen in the same area as in 2013.

Purple loosestrife was first found in 1998 growing along the Wisconsin shoreline of the river below the Little Quinnesec Dam (about 100 feet below the public access site). This area is within the one-quarter mile of the project survey area. Each year, White Water Associates staff removed these plants by hand pulling, but they persisted until 2005 when they were absent. In 2005 a single non-flowering plant and two flowering plants were found near the first private property residence about 30 feet downstream of the original patch. White Water staff pulled these plants in 2005 and they were absent in 2006. In 2007, six flowering purple loosestrife plants were observed along the Wisconsin shoreline downstream of the rafter’s boat launch. These were removed by NewPage staff. Downstream from this area, and outside the project survey area, there were numerous flowering purple loosestrife plants in 2007. The City of Niagara was contacted by NewPage and agreed to dispose of these plants; however, the plants remained in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011. In 2010, a single purple loosestrife plant was found in the project area a few hundred feet east of the Highway 141 Bridge located on the Michigan (north) shoreline. It was removed by hand. In 2013, approximately 15 purple loosestrife plants were observed along the banks of the river below the dam. This population increased significantly by 2015 with approximately 40 purple loosestrife plants observed.

This document reports 2015 monitoring results and presents information in five sections: (1) Summary, (2) Introduction and Background, (3) Methods, (4) Findings, and (5) Conclusions. Appendix A contains a figure and two tables.

METHODS

Fieldwork for the 2015 monitoring was completed on August 14, 2015. Caitlin Clarke and Tom Plummer of White Water Associates conducted the work on the reservoir and the river downstream of the dam. An 18-foot boat and 50 HP engine was used to survey the river and numerous backwaters between the Little Quinnesec Falls Dam and Big Quinnesec Falls Dam on the Menominee River. Most of the backwater wetlands are shallow and densely vegetated with a diversity of aquatic plants making motor use difficult. Water clarity conditions were ideal for the 2015 survey.

Field staff visually surveyed for Eurasian water-milfoil in aquatic plant beds and collected samples by hand and with a plant collecting rake. They closely examined the leaves of suspect plants, counting leaflets (average number of leaflets is the main morphological trait used to separate the native northern water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*) from Eurasian water-milfoil, although there is considerable variability within each species). Generally, the average number of leaflets for native, northern water-milfoil is 5-12 with a reported maximum of 13. The average number for invasive, Eurasian water-milfoil is 14-17 with a maximum of 20 (Czarapata, 2005). Also useful later in the season is the presence of winter buds (turions) on northern water-milfoil, structures not found on Eurasian water-milfoil.

Purple loosestrife, when flowering, is easily identified. Peak blossoming extends from late July through August in northern Michigan. Purple loosestrife is classified as *restricted* by the WDNR (Czarapata, 2005). Wetlands and backwaters connected to the project area reservoir were visually inspected. Binoculars were used to scan the shore of less accessible backwaters. The project area downstream of the Little Quinnesec Falls dam was surveyed on foot.

FINDINGS

This report section presents the findings from the 2015 survey and integrates information from past surveys to provide insight into population dynamics of Eurasian water-milfoil and purple loosestrife in the Little Quinnesec Falls project area.

Eurasian water-milfoil

The project area continues to have a robust diversity and dominance of native aquatic plants. Native water-milfoils in the flowage include *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* and *M. sibiricum*. *Vallisneria americana* and *Potamogeton richardsonii* continue to be some of the most abundant species throughout the flowage. Other species comprising the aquatic plant community include *Elodea canadensis*, *Elodea nuttallii*, *Potamogeton spirillus*, *P. epihydrus*, *P. diversifolius*, *P. zosteriformis*, *P. robbinsii*, *Heteranthera dubia*, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Ranunculus longirostris*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, and *Bidens beckii*.

The aerial photo shown in Figure 1 shows all sites where Eurasian water-milfoil has been detected in the Little Quinnebec Falls project area since 2002. Table 1 displays additional information about these areas, including the latitude/longitude, estimated number of plants observed, and an estimate of plant surface area involved. Table 2 summarizes the data over all monitoring years (2002 to present).

Over the years of monitoring at the Little Quinnebec Falls project area, the plants identified as Eurasian water-milfoil exhibit considerable morphological variation. The numbers of leaflets are sometimes intermediate between the northern water-milfoil and the Eurasian water-milfoil.

Considering the Little Quinnebec Falls population of Eurasian water-milfoil from an historical perspective, we have seen some sub-populations increase, some stay the same and some decrease or disappear. The sub-populations observed in 2010 at twenty-four sites disappeared in 2011. Four of these sites had reoccurring populations in 2013. Two new sites were also marked in 2013. Two new sites were observed in 2015.

In the 2011 survey, we detected only one site in the project area with rooted Eurasian water-milfoil. This was a dramatic decrease from the twenty-five sites documented in 2010 (the highest number of sites recorded in the project area). In 2013, rooted Eurasian water-milfoil was found at six sites. Four of these sites had Eurasian water-milfoil populations present at some point within the last 5 years, while the remaining two sites were new locations. In 2015, rooted Eurasian water-milfoil was found at five sites. Three of these sites had populations present within the last 5 years, while the two remaining sites were new locations.

At one of the new sites, AN, located approximately 800 feet east of the boat landing, approximately three Eurasian water-milfoil plants were observed.

At site AO (also new in 2015) five Eurasian water-milfoil plants were observed. This site is located and the opening of a small bay in between sites F and S. Some Eurasian water-milfoil plants were observed near here as recently as 2010.

At site E, Eurasian water-milfoil has been frequently present in small numbers over the years. Four plants were observed in 2006; three in 2007; and none observed in 2008. A few scattered plants were observed in 2009 and 2010, but were again absent in 2011. Three plants were observed in 2013, and approximately 10 were seen in the 2015 survey.

At site AL, Eurasian water-milfoil was observed first in 2013 and approximately six were present at this location in 2015.

In 2009, Eurasian water-milfoil numbers at site K had grown to what could reasonably be labeled a “bed.” This remained the case in 2010. The Eurasian water-milfoil plants at this site were part of a multispecies aquatic plant bed. This site was the subject of an intensive survey for the water-milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) in 2010. The weevil was found here in fairly robust densities in all three survey transects in 2010. Despite the presence of the weevil, the 2010 Eurasian water-milfoil at site K appeared healthy and dense. In 2011, however, Eurasian water-milfoil plants were completely absent from site K. In 2013, the oscillating population of Eurasian water-milfoil had returned in small numbers with approximately twenty Eurasian water-milfoil plants found among native aquatic vegetation. In 2015, the Eurasian water-milfoil population at site K had changed very little, with approximately 25 plants observed. Neither site K, nor the remaining 4 sites had sufficient numbers of Eurasian water-milfoil to be considered beds.

Over the years of monitoring at the Little Quinnesec Falls Project, we have noted that small sub-populations of Eurasian water-milfoil come and go and (sometimes) come back again. This phenomenon is documented in Table 1. The reasons for this rather tenuous hold of these small sub-populations of Eurasian water-milfoil are unknown, but may indicate the relative difficulty of Eurasian water-milfoil invading a thriving native plant community. The water-milfoil weevil may also play a role in biological control in the project area.

The actual surface area coverage of Eurasian water-milfoil relative to the size of the impoundment is very small (see Table 2 for summary). We used 349 acres as the size of the project area when calculating percentages. Clearly not all of the impoundment is suitable to Eurasian water-milfoil because of depth or water current. Using aerial photo interpretation and in-the-field ground-truthing, we roughly estimate that between 100 and 150 acres of the project area might be suitable Eurasian water-milfoil habitat (primarily consisting of shoreline areas and quiet

backwaters). Even if this more conservative estimate of habitat is used the relative amount of coverage of existing Eurasian water-milfoil is miniscule. The sites where Eurasian water-milfoil has been found in the Little Quinnesec Falls project have been fairly shallow backwaters and areas with little current. In all cases, the species is part of a diverse and healthy community of native aquatic plants.

Purple Loosestrife

In past years, no purple loosestrife was found within the portion of the project area, lying between the Little Quinnesec Dam and the Big Quinnesec Dam. In 2010, however, a single plant was located on an island along the north shore and about 150 yards downstream of the US 141 Bridge (latitude: 45.7934; longitude: -088.0458; see Figure 1). White Water staff carefully bagged the flower head and dug this plant up being careful to extract the entire root mass. The plant was bagged and disposed of in a sanitary landfill. In 2011, 2013, and 2015, despite careful inspection, no invasive plants were found at this site, indicating a successful removal.

Purple loosestrife has been found each year starting in 1998 until present growing along the Wisconsin shoreline of the river downstream of the Little Quinnesec Dam about 100 feet downstream of the public access site. This area is within the one-quarter mile of the project area. Each year, White Water Associates staff removed these plants by hand pulling, but the plants persisted until 2005 when they were absent. In 2005, a single non-flowering plant and two flowering plants were found near the first private property residence about 30 feet downstream of the original patch. White Water Associates staff pulled these three plants in 2005 and this site was absent of plants in 2006 and 2007. In 2007, we observed no purple loosestrife on the Michigan side of the river below the Little Quinnesec Falls Dam. In 2007, six purple loosestrife plants were located on the Wisconsin side of the river, downstream of the rafter's boat launch. NewPage staff removed, bagged, and disposed of these plants. Additional purple loosestrife plants were observed on the Wisconsin shoreline outside of the project survey area along the Niagara City Park. The City of Niagara was contacted by NewPage staff and agreed to dispose of these plants.

From 2008 through 2011, purple loosestrife plants were observed downstream of the Little Quinnesec Falls Dam, on the Wisconsin side of the river, from about 50 yards downstream of the boat landing parking area to approximately one-half miles below the boat landing parking area. In 2013, approximately 15 purple loosestrife plants were present in this area. This number increased significantly by 2015, with approximately 40 purple loosestrife plants observed.

CONCLUSIONS

Eurasian water-milfoil is known for spreading rapidly, usurping space, and dominating the aquatic plant community. Over the years at the Little Quinnesec Falls Project area, the Eurasian water-milfoil has been quite limited in occurrence and numbers. It may be that the robust populations of native plants and the presence of water-milfoil weevil help keep this invasive species in check. Although approximately 50 Eurasian water-milfoil plants were found in 2015, and 45 in 2013, the marked decline observed from 2009 to 2011 provides hope that the native vegetation, and possibly the water-milfoil weevil in Little Quinnesec Falls project area can keep the Eurasian water-milfoil population under control.

In 2006, we attempted to hand-pull individual Eurasian water-milfoil plants, but found this to be difficult in this setting. First, there is uncertainty about getting the underground portion of the plant and a danger of fragmenting the upper portions and setting some adrift to possibly colonize other areas. The process of wading or swimming and pulling the plants muddies the water making for difficult visibility. We also tried using a rake to pull the plants but the same difficulties exist as with the hand pulling. If the Eurasian water-milfoil plants are pulled early in their growing season, there is a better chance that the plants will not fragment. Nonetheless, the tannic (stained) water makes it difficult to see which plants to pull. The attempt at herbicide control of Eurasian water-milfoil at three project area sites showed little or no effect in 2007. In 2008, increased chemical dosage at these same sites appears to have been effective in reducing Eurasian water-milfoil in the 2008 season, but the plant made a strong comeback at two of these sites in 2009. In 2010, the population of Eurasian water-milfoil at one of these two sites (Site D) was greatly reduced. The reason for this decline is unknown. As documented in a separate 2010 report, the water-milfoil weevil was found to be present in the large sub-population of Eurasian water-milfoil at site K. The population of Eurasian water-milfoil at site K was absent in 2011, presumably influenced by water-milfoil weevil herbivory. Since then, small numbers of Eurasian water-milfoil plants have been present at this site.

The single purple loosestrife plant documented in the project area upstream of the Little Quinnesec Falls dam in 2010 was removed in 2010 and remained absent in 2011. As in the past, numerous purple loosestrife plants exist immediately downstream of the project area on private and public land.

LITERATURE CITED

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Appendix A

Figure 1

Table 1

Table 2

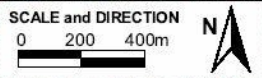
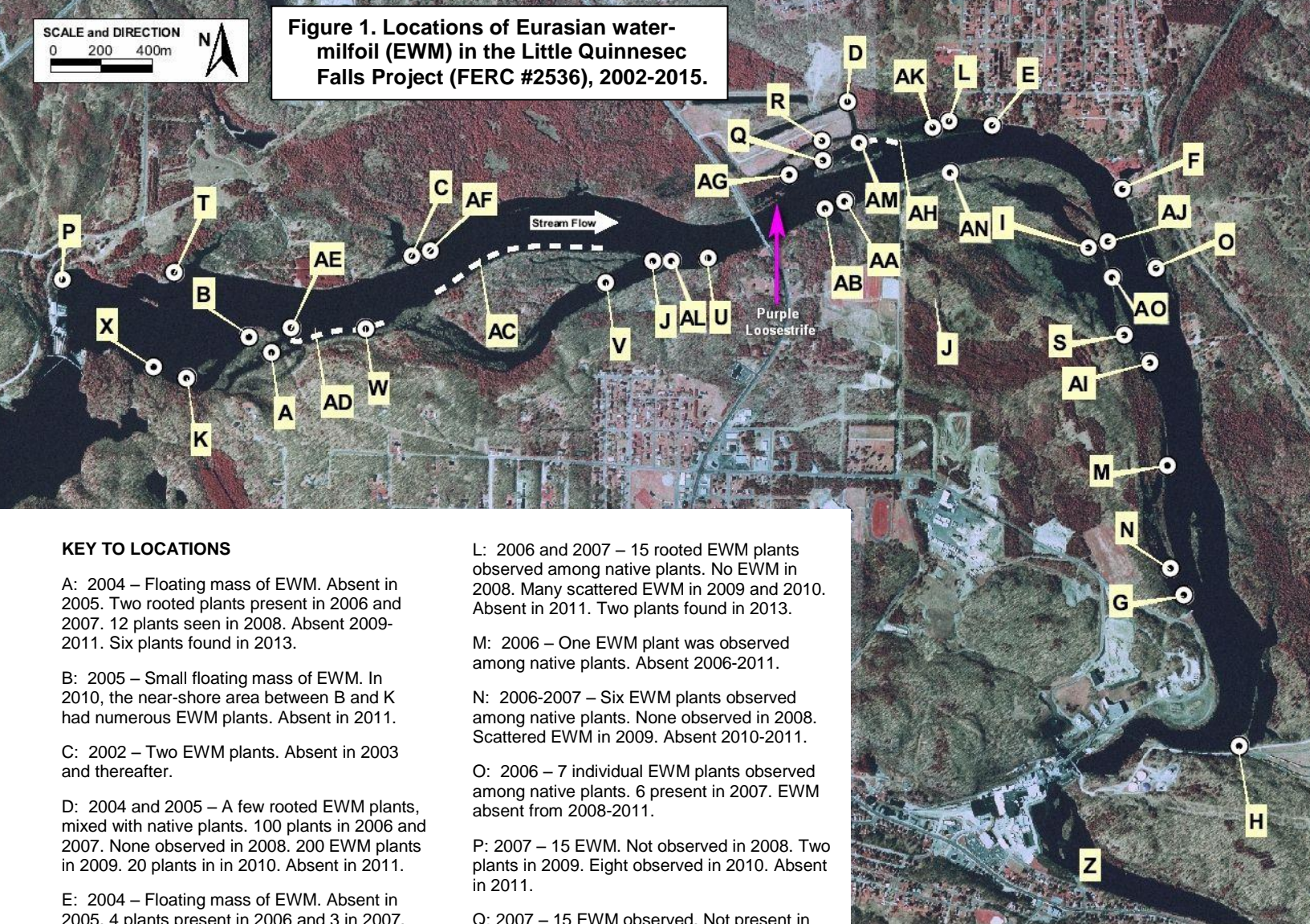


Figure 1. Locations of Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536), 2002-2015.



KEY TO LOCATIONS

A: 2004 – Floating mass of EWM. Absent in 2005. Two rooted plants present in 2006 and 2007. 12 plants seen in 2008. Absent 2009-2011. Six plants found in 2013.

B: 2005 – Small floating mass of EWM. In 2010, the near-shore area between B and K had numerous EWM plants. Absent in 2011.

C: 2002 – Two EWM plants. Absent in 2003 and thereafter.

D: 2004 and 2005 – A few rooted EWM plants, mixed with native plants. 100 plants in 2006 and 2007. None observed in 2008. 200 EWM plants in 2009. 20 plants in 2010. Absent in 2011.

E: 2004 – Floating mass of EWM. Absent in 2005, 4 plants present in 2006 and 3 in 2007. None in 2008. Scattered plants in 2009 and 2010. Absent in 2011. 3 plants found in 2013. Ten plants found in 2015.

F: 2004 – Floating mass of EWM. Absent in 2005, but 2 rooted plants present in 2006 and 2007. None observed in 2008-2011.

G: 2004 – Floating mass of EWM. Absent 2005-2008. Scattered plants at bay mouth in 2009. None in 2010 or 2011.

H: 2004 – Floating mass of EWM. EWM absent in 2005 and 2006. EWM present in 2007, but not 2008. Several plants in 2009 and 2010. Absent in 2011.

I: 2002 – This was the original location for EWM in the LQF Project. A few rooted plants were scattered native plants. No change in coverage observed from 2002 to 2005. All EWM absent in 2006. In 2008, 9 plants present. In 2009, 18 EWM were observed. None were observed in 2010 and 2011.

J: 2006 – Floating un-rooted EWM mass in an area of diverse native plants. Three un-rooted plants present in 2007. None observed in 2008. A few plants in 2009 and 2010.

K: 2006 – 3 rooted EWM plants were observed among yellow water lilies. Increased to 100 in 2007 and 200 in 2008. In 2009 and 2010, more numerous plants form a bed. Absent in 2011. 20 EWM plants found among native plants in 2013. 25 EWM plants found among native plants in 2015.

L: 2006 and 2007 – 15 rooted EWM plants observed among native plants. No EWM in 2008. Many scattered EWM in 2009 and 2010. Absent in 2011. Two plants found in 2013.

M: 2006 – One EWM plant was observed among native plants. Absent 2006-2011.

N: 2006-2007 – Six EWM plants observed among native plants. None observed in 2008. Scattered EWM in 2009. Absent 2010-2011.

O: 2006 – 7 individual EWM plants observed among native plants. 6 present in 2007. EWM absent from 2008-2011.

P: 2007 – 15 EWM. Not observed in 2008. Two plants in 2009. Eight observed in 2010. Absent in 2011.

Q: 2007 – 15 EWM observed. Not present in 2008 or 2009. Fifteen in 2010. Absent in 2011.

R: 2007 – Two EWM. None in 2008. Two in 2009 and eight in 2010. Absent in 2011.

S: 2007 – Six EWM among native plants. Not observed in 2008 or 2009. Eight observed in 2010. Absent in 2011.

T: 2008 – Six EWM observed at river's edge. Same in 2009. No EWM seen in 2010 or 2011.

U: 2009-2010 – 20 EWM scattered along shore with native vegetation. Absent in 2011.

V: 2009-2010 – 15 EWM scattered among native vegetation. Five present in 2011.

W: 2009 – One EWM plant in native plants. In 2010, 8 EWM were observed. Absent in 2011.

X: 2009 – Five scattered EWM in native plants. 10 observed in 2010. Absent in 2011.

Z: 2008-2011 – No EWM observed.

AA: 2010 – A single EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AB: 2010 – A single EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011

AC: 2010 – Five EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AD: 2010 – About 50 EWM among native aquatic plants. Absent in 2011.

AE: 2010 – Observed fragments of EWM floating in the strong current. Absent in 2011.

AF: 2010 – Observed three EWM plants among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AG: 2010 – Observed fifteen EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AH: 2010 – Observed nine EWM plants among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AI: 2010 – A single EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AJ: 2010 – Observed six EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AK: 2010 – A single EWM among native plants. Absent in 2011.

AL: 2013 – 10 plants found among native plants. Six plants observed in 2015.

AM: 2013 – 3 plants found among native plants.

AN: 2015 – 3 EWM observed among native plants.

AO: 2015 – 5 plants found amount native plants.

Purple loosestrife – arrow indicates site of a single plant in 2010 that was removed. Absent from 2011-2015.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
A	2004	45.78759 -88.03029	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Floating un-rooted mass (ca. 4 square feet) of <i>M. spicatum</i> at entrance to small bay.
A	2006		Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026	N	After absence in 2005, two rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> in 2006.
A	2007		Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026	N	Two rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> plants among abundant native milfoil and bladderwort.
A	2008		Y	Y	12	24	0.00055	0.000158	N	Twelve rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> plants among abundant native milfoil and bladderwort.
A	2009		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
A	2010		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
A	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
A	2013		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	Six rooted plants found scattered among native vegetation.
B	2005	45.78848 -88.03040	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Small un-rooted mass (ca. 2 square feet) of <i>M. spicatum</i> floating downstream.
B	2010		Y	Y	40	80	0.00184	0.000526		The shoreline from B southwest to K has these scattered <i>M. spicatum</i> among natives.
B	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
C	2002	45.79125 -88.02352	Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026		Two rooted plants present in 2002, but absent in subsequent years.
D	2004	45.79701 -88.00139	Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079		A few rooted plants of <i>M. spicatum</i> , mixed with a variety of native aquatic plants.
D	2005		Y	Y	10	20	0.00046	0.000132		A few rooted plants of <i>M. spicatum</i> , mixed with a variety of native aquatic plants.
D	2006		Y	Y	100	200	0.00459	0.001315	N	Rooted plants have increased in number to ca. 100 rooted plants approximately 150 feet in either direction from the GPS point.
D	2007		Y	Y	100	200	0.00459	0.001315	N	Rooted plants at about the same number and dispersion as in 2006.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
D	2008	45.79701 -88.00139	N							Chemically treated area with no <i>M. spicatum</i> and few other macrophytes observed.
D	2009		Y	Y	200	400	0.00918	0.002630	N	A dense bed of <i>M. spicatum</i> observed in 2009 with few other macrophytes.
D	2010		Y	Y	20	40	0.00092	0.000263		Many fewer plants and in poorer condition than in 2009. Other native plants present.
D	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
E	2004	45.7963 -87.99399	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Floating un-rooted mass (ca. 2 square feet) of <i>M. spicatum</i> found along river's edge.
E	2006		Y	Y	4	8	0.00018	0.000053	N	After an absence in 2005, 4 rooted plants were present in 2006. There are downslopes from several houses on the bank and docks that accommodate boats and pontoon boats.
E	2007		Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.000039		Three rooted plants observed in 2007 in conditions similar to 2006.
E	2008		N							None were present in the 2008 survey. Few aquatic macrophytes present; significant filamentous algae present.
E	2009		Y	Y	25	50	0.00115	0.000329	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> scattered through the area.
E	2010		Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197		<i>M. spicatum</i> scattered through the area.
E	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
E	2013		Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.00039	N	Three <i>M. spicatum</i> among native milfoil.
E	2015		Y	Y	10	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	10 <i>M. spicatum</i> among native milfoil.
F	2004		45.7921 -87.98744	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013	
F	2006	Y		Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026	N	Two rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> found along river's edge right at the mouth of Fumee Creek.
F	2007	Y		Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026	N	Two rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> found along river's edge right at the mouth of Fumee Creek.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
F	2008		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> observed (only native milfoil)
F	2009	45.7921 -87.98744	N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> observed (only native milfoil)
F	2010		N							
F	2011		N							
G	2004	45.77982 -87.98366	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Floating un-rooted mass (ca. 2 square feet) of <i>M. spicatum</i> caught along river's edge upstream of fire dock.
G	2009		Y	Y	30	60	0.00138	0.000395	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> distributed around entry of bay.
G	2010		N	N						No <i>M. spicatum</i> noted in area seen in 2009
G	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
H	2004	45.77453 -87.98065	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Floating un-rooted mass (ca. 2 square feet) caught along river's edge.
H	2007		Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	Fifteen rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) were observed among a diverse community of native aquatic plants. Eight of these plants were just upstream of the downstream tip of the island on the west side (river side) of the island and seven were just upstream of the downstream tip of the island on east side of the island.
H	2008		N	N						No <i>M. spicatum</i> observed in 2008.
H	2009		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> among native aquatic plants.
H	2010		Y	Y	8	16	0.00037	0.000105		<i>M. spicatum</i> among native aquatic plants.
H	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
I	2002	45.79204 -87.98893	Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.000039		A few rooted plants scattered within a species-rich community of native aquatic plants. This was original site for <i>M. spicatum</i> in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project area.
I	2003		Y	Y	4	12	0.00028	0.000079		A few rooted plants scattered within a species-rich community of native plants.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
I	2004	45.79204 -87.98893	Y	Y	4	12	0.00028	0.000079		A few rooted plants scattered within a species-rich community of native plants.
I	2005		Y	Y	4	12	0.00028	0.000079		A few rooted plants scattered within a species-rich community of native plants.
I	2006		N							All <i>M. spicatum</i> were absent.
I	2007		N							The low water prevented entry into this bay in 2007. We assume no change since 2006.
I	2008		Y	Y	9	18	0.00041	0.000118	N	Nine plants scattered in channel between long bay and short bay.
I	2009		Y	Y	18	36	0.00083	0.000237	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> scattered in this bay among native aquatic plants.
I	2010		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> observed in this area, in fact much less aquatic vegetation than in past.
I	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
J	2006	45.79119 -88.01104	Y	N	1	2	0.00005	0.000013	N	Floating un-rooted mass (ca. 2 sq. feet) of <i>M. spicatum</i> in area of diverse native plants.
J	2007		Y	N	3	6	0.00014	0.000039	N	Floating un-rooted plant fragments (ca. 6 sq. feet) of <i>M. spicatum</i> in area of diverse native plants.
J	2008		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> observed in 2008.
J	2009		Y	Y	5	10	0.00023	0.000066	N	A few <i>M. spicatum</i> among native plants.
J	2010		Y	Y	12	24	0.00055	0.000158		Several <i>M. spicatum</i> among native plants.
J	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
K	2006	45.78674 -88.034822	Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.000039	N	Three rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) observed in a bed of yellow water lilies.
K	2007		Y	Y	100	200	0.00459	0.001315	N	Rooted plants have increased in number to ca. 100 rooted plants in an area approximately 100x300 feet. These plants are mixed in with <i>Nuphar</i> , <i>Vallisneria</i> , and <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
K	2008	45.78674 -88.034822	Y	Y	200	400	0.00918	0.002630	N	Rooted plants have increased in number to ca. 200 rooted plants in an area approximately 100x300 feet. These plants are mixed in with <i>Nuphar</i> , <i>Vallisneria</i> , and <i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>
K	2009		Y	Y	~400	~800	0.01836	0.005261	N	Similar area as in 2008, but denser and excluding other plants. It is accurate to characterize this as a bed. Difficult to estimate number of plants
K	2010		Y	Y	~400	~800	0.01836	0.005261	Y	Similar area as in 2009. Weevil survey here showed all life stages present and plant damage occurring.
K	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
K	2013		Y	Y	20	40	0.00092	0.000264	Y	Approximately 20 <i>M. spicatum</i> observed scattered throughout native vegetation.
K	2015		Y	Y	25	60	0.00137	0.000393	N	Approximately 25 <i>M. spicatum</i> observed scattered throughout native vegetation.
L	2006	45.796423 -87.996198	Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	Fifteen rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) were observed among a diverse community of native aquatic plants.
L	2007		Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	Low water in 2007 prevented access into all parts of this bay, so it was estimated that the same number of rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> were present as in 2006 (among a diverse community of native aquatic plants).
L	2008		N							This area was chemically treated in 2007 and 2008.
L	2009		Y	Y	60	120	0.00275	0.000789	N	Numerous <i>M. spicatum</i> throughout the bay.
L	2010		Y	Y	60	120	0.00275	0.000789		Numerous <i>M. spicatum</i> throughout the bay among native aquatic plants.
L	2011									Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
L	2013		Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026	N	

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
M	2006	45.78440 -87.984675	Y	Y	1	2	0.00005	0.000013	N	An individual rooted plant of <i>M. spicatum</i> (ca. 2 square feet) was observed among native plants at the mouth of a small bay.
M	2007	45.78440 -87.984675	N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed from 2007 through 2011.
M	2008		N							
M	2009		N							
M	2010		N							
M	2011		N							
N	2006	45.780751 -87.984406	Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	Six individual rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) observed among a community of native plants at the mouth of a small bay.
N	2007		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	Low water conditions during 2007 prevented access to this shallow bay; we assume conditions to be the same as in 2006.
N	2008		N	N						Low backwater conditions during 2008 prevented access to this shallow bay.
N	2009		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> scattered in small bay.
N	2010		N	N						No <i>M. spicatum</i> observed in 2010 or 2011.
N	2011		N							
O	2006	45.791406 -87.985502	Y	Y	7	14	0.00032	0.000092	N	Seven individual rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) observed among a diverse community of native plants in a bay upstream of Verso park.
O	2007		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	Six individual rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) observed among a community of native plants in bay upstream of Verso park.
O	2008		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2008. This area was chemically treated.
O	2009		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed 2009-2011.
O	2010		N							
O	2011		N							

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
P	2007	45.790 -88.041	Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	This was a new find in 2007 in an area just below the Big Quinnesec Dam on the north side of the river in a bay with little or no current. Distributed in an area of 10x20 feet.
P	2008		N	N						No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2008.
P	2009		Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026		Two <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2009.
P	2010		Y	Y	8	16	0.00037	0.000105		Eight <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2010.
P	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
Q	2007	45.7949 -88.0025	Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	This new area was in the area where old man-made excavations (canals) were made. These plants were scattered throughout the backwater channel just outside of the created channels.
Q	2008		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2008 or 2009.
Q	2009		N							
Q	2010		Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197		<i>M. spicatum</i> among native plants.
Q	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
R	2007	45.7956 -88.0026	Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026	N	Two rooted plants present in 2007 among native plants.
R	2008		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2008.
R	2009		Y	Y	2	4	0.00009	0.000026		Two <i>M. spicatum</i> among native vegetation.
R	2010		Y	Y	8	16	0.00037	0.000105		Eight <i>M. spicatum</i> among native vegetation.
R	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
S	2007	45.789 -87.987	Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	Six rooted <i>M. spicatum</i> (each ca. 2 sq. ft.) were observed among a community of native plants in quiet water along the river's edge.
S	2008		N							No <i>M. spicatum</i> were observed in 2008 or 2009.
S	2009		N							
S	2010		Y	Y	8	16	0.00037	0.000105		<i>M. spicatum</i> seen in 2010 among natives.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
S	2011	45.789 -87.987	N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
T	2008	45.79036 -88.03532	Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> observed among native plants in quiet water along the river's edge in 2008 and 2009.
T	2009		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	
T	2010		N	N						<i>M. spicatum</i> absent in 2010 and 2011.
T	2011		N							
U	2009	45.79145 -88.00748	Y	Y	20	40	0.00092	0.000263	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> were scattered along the shore with native aquatic plants
U	2010		Y	Y	20	40	0.00092	0.000263		<i>M. spicatum</i> were scattered along the shore with native aquatic plants
U	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
V	2009	45.79090 -88.01153	Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> were scattered along the shore with native aquatic plants
V	2010		Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197		<i>M. spicatum</i> were scattered among native aquatic plants
V	2011		Y	Y	5	10	0.00023	0.000066	N	
W	2009	45.78946 -88.02341	Y	Y	1	2	0.00005	0.000013	N	One <i>M. spicatum</i> on edge of current among native plants.
W	2010		Y	Y	8	16	0.00037	0.000105		Eight <i>M. spicatum</i> on edge of current among native plants.
W	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
X	2009	45.78698 -88.04108	Y	Y	5	10	0.00023	0.000066	N	<i>M. spicatum</i> plants among native plants.
X	2010		Y	Y	10	20	0.00046	0.000132		<i>M. spicatum</i> distributed among native plants.
X	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
Z	2008	The area downstream of LQF Dam	N							<i>M. spicatum</i> was not observed in the portion of the project area that is downstream of the Little Quinnesec Falls Dam.
Z	2009		N							
Z	2010		N							
Z	2011									

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
AA	2010	45.79349 -88.00136	Y	Y	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		A single <i>M. spicatum</i> among native plants.
AA	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AB	2010	45.79320 -88.00238	Y	Y	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		A single <i>M. spicatum</i> among native plants.
AB	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AC	2010	0.5 mile of shore between 45.79160 -88.01309 and 45.78988 -88.02192	Y	Y	5	10	0.00023	0.000066		Five <i>M. spicatum</i> scattered among native aquatic plants.
AC	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AD	2010	0.25 mile of shore between 45.78894 -88.02438 and 45.78807 -88.02931	Y	Y	50	100	0.00230	0.000658		About fifty <i>M. spicatum</i> scattered among native aquatic plants in this stretch of shoreline. It seems as though the bed of <i>M. spicatum</i> at Site K may be the source of these plants. Fragments observed along the shore here as well as rooted plants.
AD	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AE	2010	45.78848 -88.02931	N	N						Observed quite a few fragments of <i>M. spicatum</i> in the strong current that breaks around this point. Likely source is Site K.
AE	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AF	2010	45.79136 -88.02235	Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.000039		Observed three plants of <i>M. spicatum</i> among <i>M. sibiricum</i> and other native plants.
AF	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AG	2010	45.79438 -88.00425	Y	Y	15	30	0.00069	0.000197		Observed fifteen plants of <i>M. spicatum</i> among dense <i>Elodea</i> and some <i>M. sibiricum</i> and other native plants.
AG	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AH	2010	200 yard long shore	Y	Y	9	18	0.00041	0.000118		Observed nine plants of <i>M. spicatum</i> among native plants.

Table 1. History of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536)*.

Site Code	Year	Lat. & Long. Coordinates	Present (Y/N)	Rooted (Y/N)	Number of Plants	Surface Area (sq. ft.)	Surface Area (acres)	% Project boundary acres (349 acres)	Weevil evidence (Y/N) ¹	Comments
AH	2011	between 45.79535 -88.00065 and 45.79566 -87.99983	N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AI	2010	45.78804 -87.98569	Y	Y	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Observed one <i>M. spicatum</i> among natives.
AI	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AJ	2010	45.79227 -87.98797	Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079		Observed six <i>M. spicatum</i> among natives.
AJ	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AK	2010	45.796168 -87.99699	Y	Y	1	2	0.00005	0.000013		Observed one <i>M. spicatum</i> among natives.
AK	2011		N							Thorough search revealed no <i>M. spicatum</i> .
AL	2013	45.79121 -88.01059	Y	Y	10	20	0.00046	0.000132	N	New site in 2013 had 10 <i>M. spicatum</i> plants among native milfoil plants.
AL	2015		Y	Y	6	12	0.00028	0.000079	N	Six <i>M. spicatum</i> observed among native milfoils.
AM	2013	45.79586 -88.00104	Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.000039	N	New site in 2013 had 3 <i>M. spicatum</i> plants among native milfoil plants.
AN	2015	45.79473 -87.99699	Y	Y	3	6	0.00014	0.000039	N	New site in 2015 had 3 <i>M. spicatum</i> plants among native milfoil plants.
AO	2015	45.79094 -87.98744	Y	Y	5	10	0.00023	0.000066	N	New site in 2015 had 5 <i>M. spicatum</i> plants among native milfoil plants.

¹ Field staff began checking for evidence of weevil herbivory on *M. spicatum* in 2006. In 2010, field staff did not check generally for weevil herbivory since a specific weevil survey was for targeted areas.

***2015 finds in bold**

Table 2. Summary of Total Plant Observations of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC #2536).					
Year of Survey	Number of Sites Observed with EWM	Estimated Number of Plants	Surface Area (square feet) ¹	Surface Area (acres) ¹	Percent Project Boundary Acres ²
2002	2	5	10	0.00023	0.0001
2003	1	4	12	0.00028	0.0001
2004	2	15	34	0.00078	0.0002
2005	2	14	32	0.00073	0.0002
2006	8	139	278	0.00638	0.0018
2007	13	290	580	0.01331	0.0038
2008	7	265	542	0.01244	0.0036
2009	16	801	1602	0.03678	0.0105
2010	25	739	1478	0.03393	0.0097
2011	1	5	10	0.00023	0.0001
2013	6	44	88	0.00203	0.0006
2015	5	50	118	0.00271	0.0007

¹ *In most cases, the surface area is based on the total number of plants (rooted and un-rooted) and assumes two square feet of surface area coverage (as viewed from above) for each plant, unless other observations were recorded.*

² *Calculation of percent project boundary acres assumes 349 acres for the project area.*

Report of Milfoil Weevil Monitoring and Eurasian Water-milfoil Management for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project for 2015

FERC Hydro Project No. 2536, Little Quinnesec Falls



Specimens from the Menominee River on the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project.

On left: Adult and larval Milfoil Weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*)

Below: Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)



Prepared for:

Northbrook Wisconsin, LLC (the licensee)
14550 N Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd, Suite 210
Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Contact: Chuck Ahlrichs
Voice: (480) 551-1771

Prepared by:

White Water Associates, Inc.
429 River Lane, P.O. Box 27
Amasa, Michigan 49903
Contact: Dean B. Premo, Ph.D., Senior Ecologist
Voice: (906) 822-7889

October 2015

Report of Milfoil Weevil Monitoring and Eurasian Water-milfoil Management for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project for 2015

FERC Hydro Project No. 2536, Little Quinnesec Falls

October 2015

Prepared By: Dean Premo, Ph.D., Senior Ecologist
Caitlin Clarke, Biologist

Field Work: Caitlin Clarke, Field Biologist
Tom Plummer, Field Technician

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Monitoring for Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) has been conducted on the Little Quinnesec Falls Project (FERC Hydro Project No. 2536) from 1998 through 2015 as required by Article 409 of the FERC order issuing a project license. This monitoring has shown that small sub-populations (several plants) of Eurasian water-milfoil come and go. The reasons for this are unknown, but may be due to difficulty invading a thriving native plant community. The 2010 milfoil weevil monitoring documented presence of this native species (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) in the project area. It potentially plays a role in Eurasian water-milfoil control. No beds of Eurasian water-milfoil existed in the project area prior to 2009. The 2009 survey revealed that two Eurasian water-milfoil sites had numbers large enough that they could be referred to as “beds.” One of these “beds” resulted from the rebound of Eurasian water-milfoil in an area where two years of herbicide treatments had depressed the native vegetation. The other bed was never treated with herbicide, but Eurasian water-milfoil numbers had increased in size from previous years. The surface area of Eurasian water-milfoil in 2009 and 2010 in the 349 acre project area was less than 0.04 acres (Premo and Premo, 2010). In 2011, despite careful inspection, Eurasian water-milfoil was found at only one site, whereas 25 sites had the invasive plant in 2010. Only five Eurasian water-milfoil plants were found in 2011 compared to 739 plants found in 2010. In 2013, six sites had Eurasian water-milfoil present.

Eurasian water-milfoil occurs in much larger populations in the Menominee River watershed in reservoirs upstream and downstream of the Little Quinnesec Falls Project and in lakes. These multi-acre areas of Eurasian water-milfoil have been treated by several methods. In 2010, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) was concerned with the management of Eurasian water-milfoil in Michigan’s waters. It was also interested in potential use of biological control agents, specifically the milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) in managing Eurasian water-milfoil. Because of this interest, the MDNRE requested that Northbrook Wisconsin, LLC (the FERC licensee for the Little Quinnesec Falls Project) prepare a milfoil weevil monitoring and treatment plan for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project. This plan was completed and submitted to the responsible agencies in April 2010.

At the recommendation of the MDNRE, Northbrook Wisconsin, LLC (the licensee) adopted an ***adaptive management*** (Walters, 1986) approach to Eurasian water-milfoil in the project area. This approach uses findings from monitoring activities to inform management actions and periodic refinement of the plan. This annual report on milfoil weevil monitoring and Eurasian water-milfoil management is presented in six sections: (1) Introduction and Background, (2) Study Area, (3)

Milfoil Weevil Ecology, (4) Survey for Milfoil Weevil, (5) Eurasian Water-milfoil Management at the Little Quinnesec Falls Project, and (6) Literature Cited.

STUDY AREA

The Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project is located on the Menominee River approximately ninety miles upstream from where it flows into Lake Michigan (in Menominee, Michigan). The Menominee River is a border stream between Michigan and Wisconsin. The study area of interest to this plan is the impounded area from the Little Quinnesec Falls Dam upstream approximately 4.4 miles to the Big Quinnesec Falls Dam. The surface area of this riverine impoundment is 349 acres. The shoreline is about 15 miles long and nearly all is vegetated in forested riparian area. Just a little more than one-half mile of the shoreline is developed (principally manifested by the Big Quinnesec Falls Dam and the Little Quinnesec Falls Dam and mill site). Very little residential development exists along the river in the study area.

In this section, we describe two components of the biota in the study area. In the first subsection, we discuss the aquatic plant community with emphasis on Eurasian water-milfoil. In the second subsection, we discuss the fish community of the study area since some fish have particular importance as predators of the milfoil weevil.

The study area has consistently displayed a robust diversity of native aquatic plants. Native water-milfoils in the flowage include *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* and *M. sibiricum*. The most abundant species throughout the flowage are *Vallisneria americana* and *Potamogeton richardsonii*. Other species comprising the aquatic plant community include *Elodea canadensis*, *Elodea nuttallii*, *Potamogeton spirillus*, *P. epihydrus*, *P. diversifolius*, *P. zosteriformis*, *P. robbinsii*, *Heteranthera dubia*, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Ranunculus longirostris*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, and *Bidens beckii*.

Eurasian water-milfoil was first documented in 2002 by observation of a few plants at two locations. Most locations where the plant has been found since 2002 have been small areas containing small numbers of individual plants mixed within a diverse community of native aquatic plants. In 2009, we documented an increase in Eurasian water-milfoil density and dominance at Site D (estimated 200 plants) and Site K (400 plants). This was the first time that we referred to a “bed” of Eurasian water-milfoil in the study area. These two sites were identified as sites to monitor for milfoil weevils in 2010, but since Eurasian water-milfoil at Site D was greatly diminished in 2010, weevil monitoring occurred only at Site K. In 2011, sampling for weevils was not done at either site, due to lack of Eurasian water-milfoil. In 2013, weevil sampling was conducted at Site K only. Site K was again used for monitoring of milfoil weevils in 2015.

The study area offers a large diversity of aquatic habitat. This ranges from quiet shallow backwaters with dense beds of native aquatic vegetation to deep river pools with significant current and cobble bottom. The natural shoreline of the study area continuously contributes large woody material to the river edges forming good habitat for invertebrates and fish. A variety of fish spawning habitat is also present in the study area. For these reasons, the fish community in the study area is also diverse. It includes species that are known predators of the milfoil weevil. Game fish species present in the study area include: Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*), Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*), Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*), Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), Rock Bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*), Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), Walleye (*Stizostedion vitreum*), and Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*). Pumpkinseed and Bluegill are known to be significant predators of the milfoil weevil (Newman, 2004; Sutter and Newman, 1997). A large variety of cyprinid and other minnows and darters exist in the study area (Becker, 1983). Some of these are potential, but not yet documented, predators of the milfoil weevil.

MILFOIL WEEVIL

Eurasian water-milfoil is one of North America's most noxious and aggressive weeds. It represents an ecological threat to native aquatic plants and the animals that use these native plants as habitat. As a result, tremendous effort has been applied to control and management of Eurasian water-milfoil. Three North American insect species have been considered as agents of biological control for Eurasian water-milfoil. Of these, the milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) has shown the greatest promise (Newman, 2004). For this reason it is under consideration as a biological control agent in the study area.

Euhrychiopsis lecontei specializes in using water-milfoil as its host plant and food. This native weevil feeds solely on native and Eurasian water-milfoils with the native Northern water-milfoil comprising its principal food source (Newman, 2004; Herman, 2009). Milfoil weevils overwinter in the organic material (leaves and other organic debris) in the vegetation of the near-shore riparian area. Weevil populations are reported to be higher where natural riparian zone exists (Herman, 2009). They crawl, swim, or fly to this overwintering habitat and return to milfoil beds by the same means in spring (Creed and Sheldon, 1994). Adults feed on water-milfoil leaves and spend their time clinging to plants underwater (Newman et al., 2001). Female milfoil weevil lays one or two eggs per day on the tips of water-milfoil plants and may lay more than a hundred eggs over the course of a season. The eggs hatch in a few days and the grub-like larvae feed on the tips of the milfoil plant working their way down the stem feeding on vascular tissues. The larvae use the upper

three feet of the milfoil plant and burrow (by chewing) in and out of the plant, leaving small pin-holes. At the end of their development, the larvae burrow into the lower and thicker part of the milfoil stem and pupate. The adult emerges from the pupa and exits the stem through a “blast hole” (larger than the pin hole entrances of the larvae). The complete life cycle is completed in a little less than four weeks and three or four generations are possible during the summer (Cofrancesco and Crosson, 1999; Newman, 2004). In late August to mid-September (in Minnesota and Vermont) adults stop laying eggs and move to shore to overwinter (Sheldon and O’Bryan, 1996; Newman et al., 2001).

Adult milfoil weevils feed on the meristems (the growing tips of the plant), leaves, and stems of the milfoil plant and can suppress the growth of the plants (Creed and Sheldon, 1993). The larvae, however, have the greater impact on the milfoil plant. Young larvae feeding on the meristem suppress plant growth and elongation (Creed and Sheldon, 1993). Older larvae mine the stems and consume vascular tissue thus inhibiting transport of nutrients (Newman et al., 1996) which may affect root carbohydrate stores and reduce vigor and ability to overwinter (Creed and Sheldon, 1995). Larval mining of stems can cause the plants to leak gasses which cause the plant to become less buoyant, and sink out of the upper water column (Creed et al., 1992).

Although the milfoil weevil has been associated with numerous milfoil declines in the field, many are poorly documented. Newman (2004) summarizes the literature and states that “densities of 1 or more weevils per stem can control milfoil and densities of <0.1 per stem are not likely to control the plant.” Since most of this reported work has been done on very large and dense populations of Eurasian water-milfoil, it is not known what dynamic is in play between weevils and milfoil in small Eurasian water-milfoil populations. In fact, R.M. Newman indicated (pers. com., 2010) that no one has looked at the minimum water milfoil bed size needed to maintain a viable weevil population and stated that if the overall plant density is less than a few stems per square meter it would probably be hard to support a significant weevil population.

Successful biological control results in a suppression of the pest plant, not its elimination (Getsinger et al., 2002; Newman, 2004). Because this control is potentially cyclical, it is more useful for long term control in lower priority sites and over large areas. If biological control is implemented, at least several years must be provided to determine if suppression will take place (Newman, 2004).

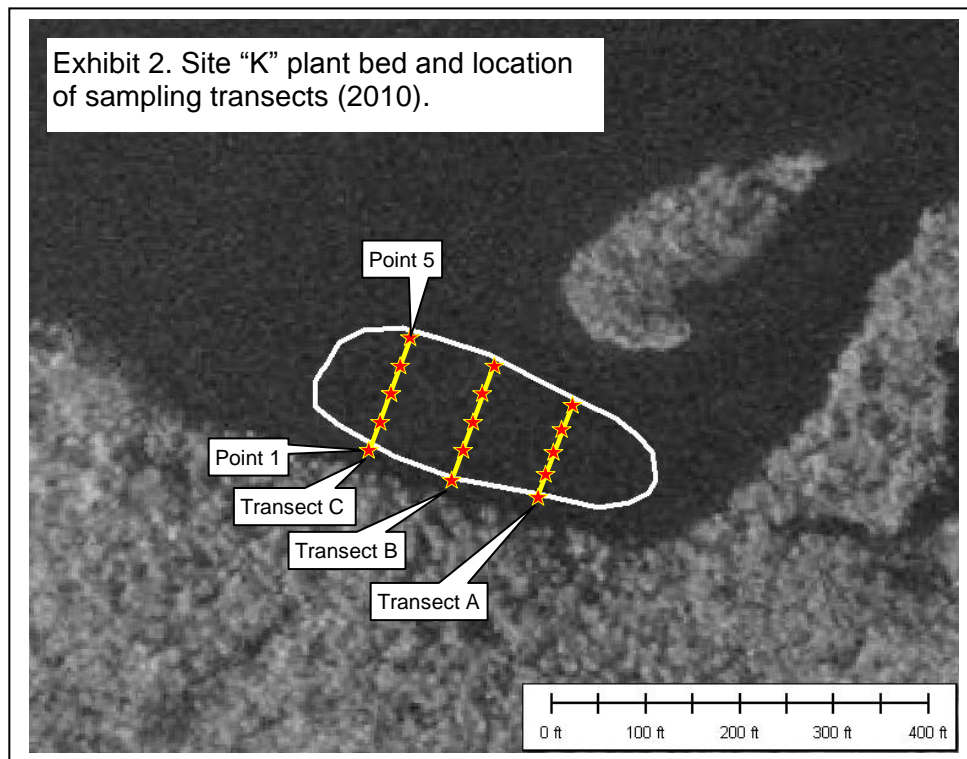
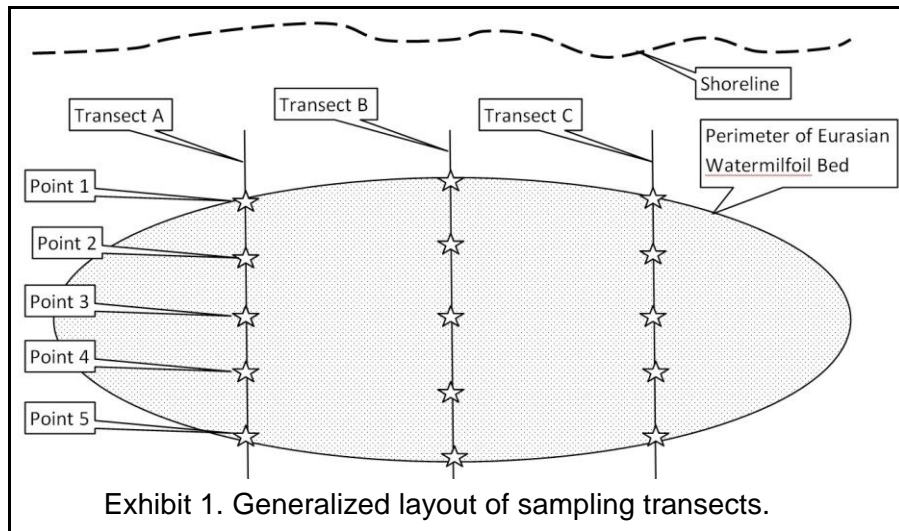
MILFOIL WEEVIL MONITORING

The *Milfoil Weevil Monitoring and Eurasian Water-milfoil Adaptive Management Plan for the Little Quinnesec Falls Hydroelectric Project* (Premo, 2010a) called for investigating presence and abundance of the milfoil weevil in the study area. The milfoil weevil is common and can be abundant in lakes of the Great Lakes states (Newman, 2004). Its distribution in riverine systems is less well known, but it has been found as a native in Menominee River impoundments upstream of the study area (Grisar, pers. com, 2010). In this section, we describe monitoring methods, review the 2010, 2011 and 2013 monitoring results, and present the 2015 monitoring results.

Methods

We developed the survey protocol for the study area by researching scientific literature and contacting experts (outlined in Premo, 2010a). The plan called for us to monitor for weevils at Eurasian water-milfoil beds of size similar to the two “beds” identified in the study area in 2009 (Sites D and K). In 2010, only a single bed in the study area (Site K) met this criterion (Premo and Premo, 2010a; Premo, 2010b). In 2011, 2013 and 2015 no beds met this criterion. In 2010, we mapped the aquatic plant at Site K bed using a hand-held GPS unit. Three parallel transects were established in the bed that were oriented along the long axis of the bed. One transect was established through the center of the bed and the flanking transects were positioned half-way between the middle transect and the edges of the bed (the three transects divide the bed into parallel quarters). Five collection points were established equidistant along each transect with one located at the shoreward edge of the bed, one at the outside edge, one in the middle, one between the middle and outside edge, and one between the middle and shoreward edge. Exhibit 1 is a generalized layout of transects and sampling points. Exhibit 2 shows an aerial photograph with the actual size and shape of the plant bed at Site K.

The water depth and substrate required the use of a boat to sample the fifteen collection points at Site K. At each point, we collected one rooted Eurasian water-milfoil stem from each side of the boat (randomly selected by collecting the first rooted stem contacted with the hand). On a few occasions a rake was used to collect stems. With the two stems in the boat, we collected the top 24 inches of each and placed both in a plastic sample bag marked with transect letter and point number. The plant samples thus collected were stored in a cooler on wet ice. The unused portion of the Eurasian water-milfoil stems were placed in a plastic bag and retained for proper disposal (composting). After all fifteen points were sampled, a total of 30 plant stems were collected and transported back to the White Water Associates’ laboratory for examination.



We measured a Secchi transparency depth at the subject Eurasian water-milfoil bed. We also measured temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity at the water surface. We recorded substrate type in the bed. We used a laser range-finder to measure distance to the nearest shore from the shoreward edge of the bed. We recorded a description of the shoreline and riparian area vegetative cover. We also recorded qualitative observations regarding the overall health of the Eurasian water-milfoil, presence of weevils or weevil damage, and native plants present.

At sampling Point 3 of each transect (A, B, and C) we used a double-sided fourteen-tine rake to make a one meter tow to collect vegetation. All plants on the rake were identified and a rake fullness rating was applied for each species. The rake fullness values were based on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Point-Intercept Protocol for aquatic plant surveys as follows: (1) rake fullness rating 1 is given when plant is present and occupies less than one-half of tine space, (2) rating 2 is given when plant is present and occupies more than one-half of tine space, (3) rating 3 is given when plant is present and occupies all or more than tine space. This approach provides a baseline estimate of Eurasian water-milfoil density in the bed.

In order to compare to other Eurasian water-milfoil stands in the Menominee River Basin, we will also applied the “estimated density rating” used by We Energies in their annual monitoring (We Energies 2009 Annual Report – Nuisance Plant Control). The ratings are: (1) Sparse: 0-5% cover; (2) Moderately Sparse: >5-25% cover; (3) Moderate: >25-75% cover; (4) Moderately dense: >75-95% cover; and (5) Dense: >95% cover.

In the laboratory, Eurasian water-milfoil samples were examined for presence of all milfoil weevil life stages using magnification. Quantitative data are reported as number of weevils per stem.

For the 2010 weevil monitoring, field work was conducted on July 28, 2010. We predicted that Eurasian water-milfoil (and potentially milfoil weevils) would be at maximum population size around that date. In 2011, we conducted the fieldwork on August 3. In 2013, field work took place on August, 19. In 2015, field sampling was conducted on August 14^h.

2010 Monitoring Results Review

The 2010 water-milfoil weevil monitoring results have been previously reported (Premo, 2010b) and are reviewed here for context. We planned to monitor for weevils at the two Eurasian water-milfoil subpopulations identified as “beds” in the study area in 2009 (Sites D and K) and any other subpopulations that were recognized in 2010 to have reached a similar size. The 2010 Eurasian water-milfoil monitoring revealed that only one site (Site K) still met this size criterion (Premo and Premo, 2010). The aquatic macrophyte bed that constitutes Site K was 370 feet by 134 feet and had a surface area of just under one acre. We judged good quality overwintering habitat for weevils was available in the nearby shoreline and riparian area. The plant bed at Site K was comprised of a diverse assemblage of native plant species and Eurasian water-milfoil.

During the 2010 field sampling, we observed one adult milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) and one larva on Eurasian water-milfoil stems. In the laboratory and under better magnification we found a total of twelve adults, seventeen eggs, and thirty-nine larvae. The density of water-milfoil

weevils (all life stages) over the entire bed was 2.27 per stem. Newman (2004) indicated that densities of one or more weevils per stem can control Eurasian water-milfoil.

2011 Monitoring Results

In 2011, we planned to monitor for weevils at Site K and any other site with a sufficiently large subpopulation of Eurasian water-milfoil. On the August 3, 2011 survey of the entire project area, we were surprised to find that of the 25 sites that had Eurasian water-milfoil in 2010, only one site had Eurasian water-milfoil in 2011. The plant bed at Site K, the largest subpopulation of Eurasian water-milfoil in 2010, had none in 2011. The one site that had Eurasian water-milfoil in 2011 had five relatively small plants (down from 15 in 2010). We saw no sign of weevil herbivory on these plants. As result of the lack of Eurasian water-milfoil, the sampling protocol for milfoil weevil as outlined in the methods section could not be carried out in 2011.

2013 Monitoring Results

Similar to 2011, we planned to monitor for weevils at Site K and any other site with a large enough population of Eurasian water-milfoil. Upon searching the project area, Site K had the highest number of Eurasian water-milfoil plants, with approximately 20 rooted plants. Nevertheless, this was too few for the sampling protocol. Instead, field biologist adapted the protocol and collected approximately 13 plants for further weevil inspection. The Eurasian water-milfoil plants were scattered throughout a 20x20 foot area among other native milfoils and aquatic vegetation. In this estimated area, Eurasian water-milfoil coverage was approximately 0-5%. Other patches of aquatic vegetation near Site K were dense with native milfoils and it is possible that a few plants of Eurasian water-milfoil were dispersed there as well.

Thirteen two-foot Eurasian water-milfoil plants were collected from Site K for further inspection of weevils. Under a microscope, six adult weevils, thirteen pupae, twenty-three larvae, twelve eggs, and twelve blast holes were observed. There were also three areas on the plants where herbivory damage was obvious. A total of 54 weevils (all life stages) were present on the thirteen collected Eurasian water-milfoil plants. On average, 0.46 adult weevils, 1.0 pupa, 1.8 larvae, and 0.94 eggs were present on each two-foot Eurasian water-milfoil plant. This is an average of 4.23 weevils, of all life stage, per two-foot stem. As stated by Newman (2004), “densities of 1 or more weevils per stem can control milfoil, and densities of <0.1 per stem are not likely to control the plant.” In the case of Site K in 2013, these numbers are consistent with controlling Eurasian water-milfoil.

2015 Monitoring Results

Much like the previous survey years, site K had the most Eurasian water-milfoil plants throughout the impoundment, with approximately 25 plants. Like 2013, this was too few plants for the sampling protocol. These plants were distributed among other native plant species in an area about 20x20 feet. No signs of water-milfoil weevils were observed on ten Eurasian water-milfoil plants collected at site K.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AT LITTLE QUINNESEC FALLS PROJECT

After reviewing the extensive literature on Eurasian water-milfoil and speaking with experts on the subject, we recognized in 2010 that the relatively small population of the invasive Eurasian water-milfoil in the Little Quinnesec Falls study area was “under control” by most standards. Our observations in the 2011 survey could accurately be characterized as a population crash for Eurasian water-milfoil. To what extent this is attributable to water-milfoil weevils remains unknown, but in 2010 they had sufficient density at Site K to affect control. In 2013 and 2015, the number of Eurasian water-milfoil plants at Site K was small. However, the 2013 native weevil population was flourishing with an average 4.23 weevils (all life stages) per two-foot stem. Again, this density of weevils was capable of affecting control of the Eurasian water-milfoil.

Part of the adaptive management approach involves increasing the ecological knowledge base for the system being managed. The Little Quinnesec Falls study area provides a potential opportunity to test the efficacy of biological control in very small populations of Eurasian water-milfoil. Laura Herman (University of Wisconsin Extension Lakes program) expressed that a bed of at least four or five acres was needed before weevil treatment (that is, introduction of weevils) was warranted (pers. com 2010). Raymond Newman (Professor, Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota) offered the opinion that the Eurasian water-milfoil population at the Little Quinnesec Falls study area might be too small to support milfoil weevils, but indicated that no one has researched this topic (pers. com. 2010). The 2010 study found a native population of milfoil weevils in fairly high densities at Site K despite the small size of the Site K bed (about one acre). The high density of weevils was again present during this 2013 survey.

The adaptive management plan (Premo, 2010a) calls for augmentation of biological control of Eurasian water-milfoil by introducing milfoil weevils in the Little Quinnesec Falls study area if two criteria are met:

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1. The Eurasian water-milfoil population increases in size for two consecutive years (2010 and 2011) in areas that constitute beds; and
 2. The population of milfoil weevils in these beds is less than 0.1/stem, the lower threshold for likely effective control according to Newman (2004).

In 2010, neither of these criteria was met. In 2011, the first criterion was not met since Eurasian water-milfoil had greatly decreased from the previous year. In 2013, Eurasian water-milfoil numbers increased from zero plants to 20 plants at site K, but this number does not constitute a “bed.” It was also found that the population of milfoil weevils in this area was greater than 0.1 weevil/stem. Similarly, in 2015, the size of Eurasian water-milfoil area did not constitute a bed. There is no need for artificial augmentation of the water-milfoil weevil population at this time. Future monitoring will follow the status of both the Eurasian water-milfoil and the milfoil weevil at this location, as well as subpopulations in other parts of the study area.

In his review paper, Newman (2004) states that although the milfoil weevils can be effective control agents if adequate densities can persist (through summers and years), many sites investigated have failed to sustain this density. In spite of significant research, it is not yet possible to predict when suppression of Eurasian water-milfoil will occur. The Little Quinnesec Falls project area has demonstrated a dramatic and interesting suppression of Eurasian water-milfoil, some of which might be attributed to the water-milfoil weevil. Given the complexity of this ecosystem, it is likely that additional factors play a role in the population dynamics of the Eurasian water-milfoil as well.

Follow-up monitoring will track the success of the adaptive management process. Part of this adaptive process will be to communicate with other ecosystem managers in the region, resource agency technical staff, and scientists with expertise in Eurasian water-milfoil management.

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