

Developing a Private Landowner Cost-Share Program for Invasive Species Removal

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About Huron Pines



Conserving the forests, lakes, and streams of Northeast Michigan

- Nonprofit, 501(c)(3)
- 41 years in business
- 13 full-time staff plus AmeriCorps program and seasonal crew
- Projects include:
 - Cheboygan Watershed
 - Land stewardship
 - Kirtland's Warbler Initiative



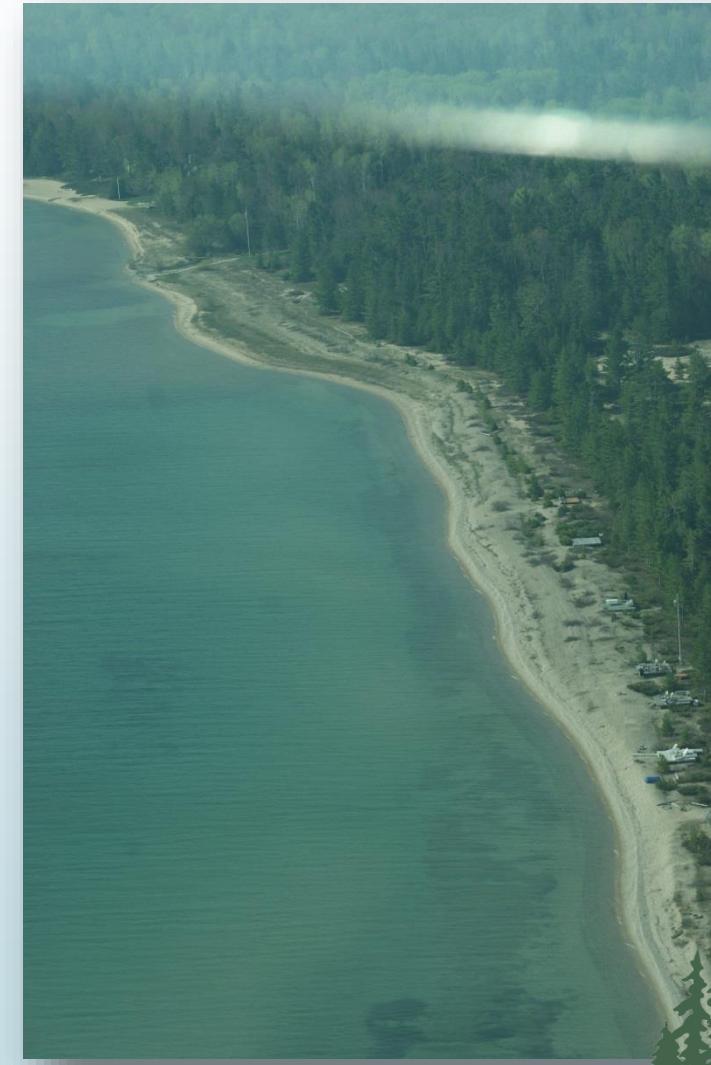
The Northeast Michigan Cooperative Weed Management Area

- ▶ Broad partnership of agencies, conservation groups, units of government and landowners
- ▶ 11 counties of Northeast Michigan
- ▶ Focus on Early Detection and Rapid Response to invasive plants
- ▶ Invasive Species SWAT Team

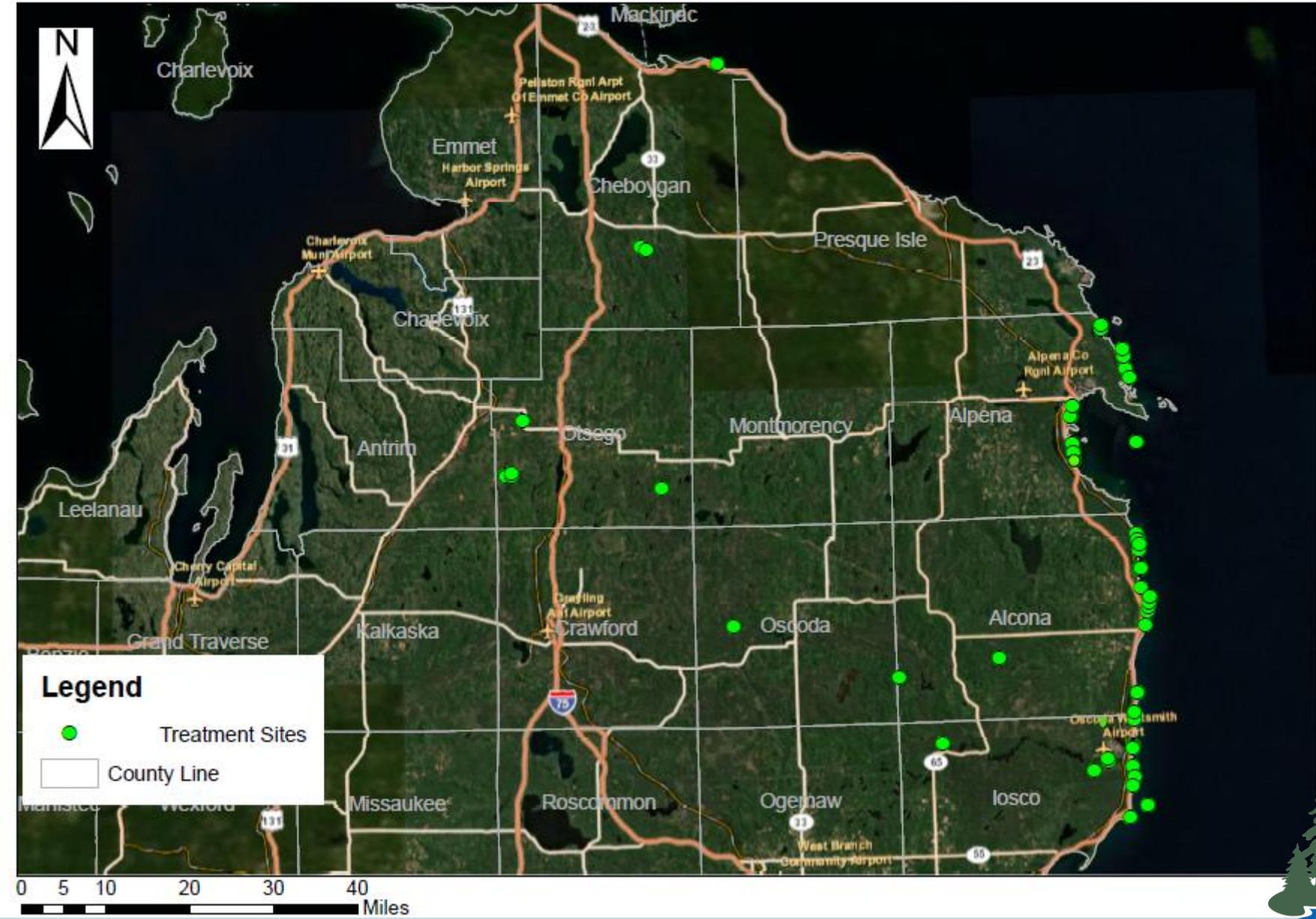


Huron Pines Invasive Species Program

- ▶ Aerial Inventory of Lake Huron Coastline
- ▶ Mobile Boat Wash: 300 contacts
- ▶ **225 acres invasive species treated**
- ▶ 900 acres impacted
- ▶ 4 volunteer events
- ▶ 10+ presentations
- ▶ Hine's emerald dragonfly partnership
- ▶ Pigeon River Country Invasive Species Blitz
- ▶ Working with nurseries to stop selling invasive landscape plants



Invasive Species Treatment Sites



The Campaign to End Phragmites

- Phrag is still an EDRR species in most of Northern Michigan
- There are many special natural places worth protecting
- Phrag is becoming more visible to the public in other places
- Funding is available for phragmites treatment



The Campaign to End Phragmites: Components

- Inventory (annual)
- Agency partnerships
- Cost-share to private landowners
- Our staff does the treatment except at large properties



Private landowner characteristics in Northeast MI

- ▶ Many 2nd homes
- ▶ Full-time residents some of the poorest in the nation
- ▶ Many sites are remote, close to public land or abandoned



Benefits of Cost-Sharing

- ▶ Landowners are invested in the project
- ▶ Private dollars leverage outside public funds
- ▶ Landowners are entered into Huron Pines system
- ▶ Invasive species treatment is a long-term relationship... that leads to an even longer-term stewardship relationship



Cost-Share Timeline

- ▶ Winter:
 - ▶ Mapping and reporting
 - ▶ Fundraising
 - ▶ Equipment maintenance and preparation
 - ▶ Crew hiring
- ▶ Spring:
 - ▶ Landowner surveys
 - ▶ General crew scheduling
 - ▶ Early season treatments
- ▶ Summer:
 - ▶ Landowner surveys back
 - ▶ Site visits
 - ▶ Estimates mailed and returned
 - ▶ Treatment
- ▶ Fall:
 - ▶ Treatment
 - ▶ Invoicing
 - ▶ Monitoring
 - ▶ Reporting



The Cost-Share MOU

- ▶ Simple contract
- ▶ Multiple functions
- ▶ Flexible but clear

 **Huron Pines**
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Huron Pines Invasive Species Treatment Contract
Page 1 of 2 - Estimate

Huron Pines (or its assigns) will use a state-approved herbicide to treat invasive species on your property. The work will include all necessary herbicide, equipment, permits and labor costs. There is a one hour minimum charged for treatment.

Physical Location of Property: _____
Street Address or Other Physical Description _____

City _____ State _____ Zip (if known) _____

Name of Property Owner: _____

Mailing Address of Property Owner: _____
Street Address or Other Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Approximate stand size (in acres): _____ Stand density: _____

<u>Estimated hours per treatment type</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Total</u>
_____ hours hand application	\$250/hour	\$ _____
_____ hours spraying	\$200/hour	\$ _____
Subtotal		\$ _____
Less cost-share: 50% of costs up to \$1,000		\$ _____
Total cost to Property Owner		\$ _____

Estimate prepared by: _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Payments may be made by credit card either through our website www.huronpines.org/invasives or by calling Jill at (989) 448-2293 x21. A fee of \$_____ must be added to the total for credit card processing.

Deadline for return of this contract: _____

Protecting the Great Lakes by conserving the forests, lakes & streams of Northeast Michigan since 1973 | huronpines.org



Elements of a Cost-Share MOU: Project Elements



Huron Pines

Huron Pines Invasive Species Treatment Contract Page 2 of 2 - Agreement

Property Owner agrees to:

1. Authorize Huron Pines to enter or cross the private property at times agreeable to the Property Owner for treatment of targeted weed species.
2. Provide guidance or assistance as needed to Huron Pines in regard to identifying property boundaries and identifying infestation locations.
3. Reimburse Huron Pines for 50% of the total project cost and any expenses accrued over \$1,000 pre-cost share for work accomplished under this agreement, per the estimate on reverse side (Page 1).
4. Grant permission for Huron Pines to access property with notification for 5 years, unless formally revoked, either orally or in writing. Permission is also granted for project monitoring by Huron Pines. Treatment each year will require a new cost estimate and require approval by initiating a new estimate.
5. Maintain the treated site for 10 years to ensure its long-term success. This is not a commitment to the same costs each year, only to maintaining the treatment area.

Huron Pines agrees to:

1. Conduct treatment of targeted weed species using best management practices. These may include mechanical and chemical methods. Herbicide treatment will be handled by trained individuals.
2. Hold Property Owners harmless for all claims, suits or actions whatsoever resulting from this cooperative agreement and to absolve Property Owners from all liabilities related to actions conducted by Huron Pines.

This agreement shall be effective upon the signature of all the parties listed below.

Signatures: Based on the estimate provided on the reverse side (Page 1),
Huron Pines agrees to provide Invasive Species treatment and Property
Owner agrees to the above terms.

Property Owner Signature

Date

Property Owner Name (Printed)

- ▶ Landowner must give written permission for access to property as well as herbicide use (MI DEQ Permit Requirement)
- ▶ **All owners** must have knowledge of the treatment
- ▶ Landowners must agree to maintain project results for 10 years
- ▶ Landowners help us notify neighbors



Elements of a Cost-Share MOU: Payment

- ▶ Amount is 50% up to \$1,000 with extra discounts depending on funding and need
- ▶ Estimate of time usually included
- ▶ Landowners can group together if one person is willing to pay on behalf of others
- ▶ Landowners can use other contractors and still receive cost-share (must send invoice/proof of payment and proof of legal treatment)
- ▶ We accept (encourage) prepayment but also invoice after completion



What have we learned?

- Outreach needs to be constant, even to multi-year participants
- Landowners and funding sources need a “bridge” to help them work toward mutual goals
- Economic and political issues influence even the best-funded project
- Some people can’t be convinced



What have we learned?

- ▶ Funding is a puzzle that we have to piece together to make all aspects of the program work each year
- ▶ Future challenge: keeping the program going as internal and funder interests change



Thank You!

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