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Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region

Rockingham County Conservation District

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COOPERATIVE PROJECT TO CONTROL INVASIVE PLANTS IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOAST REGION



A Final Report to
The New Hampshire Estuaries Project
Submitted by the

Rockingham County Conservation District
110 North Road
Brentwood, NH 03833

July 16, 2007

This report was funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.



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Executive Summary and Introduction

The purpose of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* is to coordinate with a variety of natural resource agencies and organizations and initiate an innovative collaborative effort to combat invasive species in the seacoast. Those partners include the University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Estuaries Project, the New Hampshire Coastal Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Rockingham County Conservation District, New Hampshire Audubon, the Town of Rye, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. These groups all have a common interest in protecting existing habitat and restoring degraded habitat for the benefit of aquatic life, migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and other plants and animals, as well as to reestablish beneficial ecological functions of both upland and aquatic habitats in the seacoast region of New Hampshire.

The main objective of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* was to restore degraded wetland and adjacent upland habitats through the control of invasive, non-native plants. This goal included the following specific items: 1) to identify and develop management plans for individual properties, and to select eight sites for monitoring and evaluation; 2) to advertise for and select an invasive species control contractor for individual projects; 3) to develop a scope of service for each property; 4) to oversee contracted work, review and approve invoices with assistance from Project Partners; 5) to complete payment requests to all funders; and 6) to monitor and evaluate contracted work on individual properties, and the overall project.

To date, the scope and objectives of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* are complete. RCCD considers this conservation project to be successful, and as with all new undertakings, there are many things to be learned along the way. In accordance with the management plans and conservation practices selected, the results of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* have been satisfactory. For New Hampshire, this new venture could not have taken place without the diversity of Project Partners bringing together considerable expertise and resources, and the RCCD is pleased to be collaborating with such an impressive group.

As additional phases of the overall conservation project expand there are recommendations to assist future endeavors. It is anticipated that through continued conservation practices to restore degraded habitats, other seacoast communities and private landowners will want to join the Project Partners in this collaborative effort against non-native, invasive plants. In fact, additional Conservation Commission members in the seacoast region and others from communities outside the region have already requested information on how to obtain assistance to eradicate invasive plants.

Additional phases of the overall habitat restoration project to control and manage invasive plants by using a combination of mechanical and chemical practices will likely

bring additional Project Partners. A broader assemblage will only benefit the overall goals of the project, as cooperation on a broad scale is undoubtedly one of the best ways to control non-native, invasive plants.

Project Goals and Objectives

This project involved the following phases:

- 1) To define properties to have management plans implemented, and to determine at least eight sites for monitoring and evaluation, and contracting with invasives control contractor(s) under two separate agreements. This phase determined conservation practices to be completed in an identified time frame, and included monitoring and evaluation of contracted work at eight different sites on individual properties. This phase included several site visits, to ensure project progress, and monitoring by Project Partners once the conservation practice was complete.
- 2) To administer the contracts for the properties selected. Administration of the first phase of the overall project is included in this report. This phase included the advertisement and selection of qualified invasive species control contractor(s) for projects; the development of a scope of service(s) for each property and to determine eight sites to monitor and evaluate; to negotiate with entities and assist in the selection of contractor(s); to review and approve invoices with assistance from Project Partners; and to submit payment requests to all required funders.

It is important to note that without the assistance and funding resources provided by the NHEP, the overall project would have not been possible. Project Partners are thankful for the continued support of the NHEP for innovative efforts to combat invasive species that are increasing in the seacoast region and beyond. Continued conservation practices will continue at the selected properties in 2007 and will likely expand to a couple of new properties as well.

Activities

The *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* is the first of its kind in New Hampshire. Due to the expansive and intense landuse changes occurring in the seacoast, this project couldn't have been more opportune. The overall intent to combat invasive plants in the seacoast, let alone the entire state, is a colossal undertaking and will take many years of constant and perhaps different conservation management practices. As natural resource groups in other states have already found, cooperation on a widespread scale is the best way to prevent and to control invasive plants.

This is the first phase for New Hampshire, and it is important to note that the success of this entire project involved the collaboration of a diverse group of natural resource organizations, agencies, and seacoast communities. The resources available to assist in defining and coordinating the actions that occurred (and are ongoing) through this project are considerable and include: University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Estuaries Project, the New Hampshire Coastal Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Rockingham County Conservation District, New Hampshire Audubon, the Town of Rye, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. Each of these groups brought expertise, funding, and/or technical resources to assist with the execution of this project.

The results of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* indicate success, and after the Project Partners monitor and evaluate after the final conservation practices take place later this year, a more complete analysis on the entire project can be reported. As with many pioneering natural resource projects it often takes several years, dedicated funding, a variety of conservation practices combined with educational programs in order for the project to flourish on its own. Time and evidence of successful habitat restoration projects will be essential in gaining additional support for this collaborative conservation effort. The following represent considerable accomplishments of this project, which would not have been possible without the support of the New Hampshire Estuaries Project (NHEP). The accomplishments that did occur during this project are bulleted for informational purposes. It should be noted that all parties involved in each of the documented tasks have expended a substantial amount of time, effort, energy, and resources to support the overall project.

- ❖ RCCD coordinated with the Project Partners listed above on developing a strategy to coordinate staffing and financial resources to implement the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region*, and the overall seacoast invasives project. Meetings, phone calls, email, and other forms of communication with Project Partners led to the decision to develop a Request for Qualifications.
- ❖ RCCD met with Project Partners and coordinated the development of a Request for Qualifications for contractors capable of implementing an invasive species control plan. Project partners then hosted a site walk for interested contractors, and received two proposals. Proposals were reviewed by Project Partners and RCCD, and it was determined that both contractors were qualified.
- ❖ With all of the entities in agreement, and once the financial and staff structure was complete, management plans were prepared by the NRCS for individual properties in the towns of North Hampton (NH Audubon) and Rye.
- ❖ Project Partners initiated the development of management plans. NRCS assisted by providing GPS and GIS technology to delineate areas of invasive species in need of conservation practices on five properties owned by two different entities. Four of those properties are located and owned by the Town of Rye, and one property is owned by the NH Audubon Society and located in the Town of North Hampton (Appendix A). Project Partners assisted with review and revisions to proposed management plans. Eight sites were selected on the properties for monitoring and evaluation. Surveying and mapping was also completed by the NRCS at the Great Island Common in the Town of New Castle, as a component of another habitat restoration project also involving the removal of a considerable amount of invasive plants.

- ❖ RCCD developed a detailed Scope of Work for each entity, and provided the completed management plans for each of the five properties (Appendix A). Each entity provided a general scope of work for the contractor(s).
- ❖ RCCD sent out a detailed Scope of Work and Costs and general scope to each contractor for each entity (N.H Audubon and the Town of Rye), and requested detailed information be provided that included the following:
 1. Proposed method of treatment, including type and acreage of species treated.
 2. Proposed timeframe for treatment (week/month).
 3. Proposed cost of treatment to include labor and equipment and where standard practice applies, removal of debris, including method of disposal. For each practice outlined, please separate equipment type, capability, and costs (including operator), and estimate the number of hours/days at such costs.
 4. For mechanical treatment methods, provide narratives indicating areas to be treated, species targeted, types of equipment and any modifications to existing equipment to enable equipment to adequately complete the job, and operating instructions and techniques or procedures to be followed.
 5. For proposed chemical treatment provide narrative to include target invasive species, herbicide name, rate of application or spray volumes, acceptable dates of application, and any mixing instructions or special application techniques including timing factors.
- ❖ Qualified contractors were allowed a month to respond to these requests. Four responses were received, two from each qualified contractor. Project Partners reviewed responses from the qualified contractors. Meetings were held with each entity to assist in choosing a qualified contractor to complete the conservation practices. Requests for additional information were submitted to qualified contractors. After further analysis, a final contractor was chosen to implement the conservation practices for each entity.
- ❖ RCCD developed two contracts between the RCCD and the qualified contractor chosen, Northeast Wetland Restoration of Berwick, ME. Once the required documentation was submitted by the contractor to the RCCD, contracts were signed by both parties.
- ❖ Once work was initiated, additional meetings and informal gatherings took place with Project Partners and the selected contractor to determine the progress of this project. There was an initial hand-cutting of invasive plants that was completed in a timely manner. There were a variety of factors that delayed all of the mechanical on-the-ground work that was originally scheduled to be completed by March 1, 2007. Those delays included weather factors, tidal factors, equipment factors, and health factors.
- ❖ Project Partners assisted by monitoring and evaluating eight sites on the five properties chosen. The monitoring consisted of reviewing sites prior to and after conservation practices had been complete or while conservation practices were being completed. Due to timeframe challenges and communication each of the eight sites were not visited with the same frequency. Several photographs are provided of the eight sites chosen for monitoring and evaluation, most prior to, and all photographs are provided for those sites after conservation practices were complete (Appendix C). Several sites visits occurred between the months of December 2006 through July of 2007 by RCCD to ascertain project progress.
- ❖ RCCD and Project Partners monitored all properties and each of the eight selected sites once the contractor submitted invoices for completing the first phase of the project. Maps were submitted by the contractor with invoices that indicated which conservation practices had been completed (Appendix B).
- ❖ After monitoring and evaluation had taken place by Project Partners of the individual properties and specifically of the eight sites chosen, the contractor was paid for work completed.

- ❖ Project Partners are in agreement that additional project management and oversight is needed to confirm completion of conservation practices in accordance with management plans.
- ❖ Several site visits by Project Partners made it clear that additional technologies and project management assistance may ensure conservation practices are completed accurately. There are several recommendations offered in the next section that may assist with future collaborative habitat restoration projects to control and manage invasive plants.
- ❖ Additional properties owned by the NH Audubon are to be surveyed and management plans will be completed with additional assistance and resources from Project Partners within the next few months.
- ❖ RCCD met with two other Conservation Commission members (one in the seacoast region and one in Rockingham County) to discuss project accomplishments, and to explain how to become involved.
- ❖ Throughout the entire project the RCCD staff met with all Project Partners as well as interested individuals, and representatives from other agencies, some already participating in invasive plant control and management. More habitat restoration projects are currently being discussed, and future meetings will likely bring into the group additional Project Partners.

Recommendations:

The main objective of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* was to restore degraded wetland and adjacent upland habitats through the control of invasive, non-native plants primarily through the use of mechanical removal. Overall, the goals of the original project were satisfactorily completed. In discussion and review with several Project Partners there are a variety of recommendations suggested for the continuation and expansion of the overall habitat restoration project to proceed in an efficient and sustainable manner. Please note that some of the recommendations are broad in scope and others are administrative in nature, and may appear less important, yet are included to assist with all aspects of future habitat restoration projects.

- ✓ To develop contract(s) and management plan(s) that allow for flexibility while at the same time provide for more specific and clear conservation practice(s). This will permit appropriate project performance to be completed, including required monitoring, evaluation, and documenting effectiveness of restoration methods.
- ✓ To incorporate into future contracts specific acreage, specific conservation practices, and equipment type(s) to be utilized and/or method and type of herbicide(s) application for individual properties, each selected site, and each invasive species present.
- ✓ To initiate an equipment and qualification(s) database to include a larger collection of possible/available resources to accomplish habitat restoration projects.
- ✓ To create a database/spreadsheet to correlate individual funding agencies stipulations regarding such items as timeframe, conservation practice

stipulations, oversight and management, permitting, reporting guidelines, project performance, and other procedural requirements.

- ✓ To correlate the above mentioned database with funds to be expended for required matching dollars and/or time, contracted project work, and project management and oversight.
- ✓ To correlate and incorporate best management practices that researchers and land managers have developed and utilized in other areas for control and habitat restoration for a variety of ecosystem functions, to promote the most appropriate management practices for each habitat type. In conjunction with this recommendation, obtain funding to document the effectiveness of each restoration method to establish and record long-term evaluations, and assist with the sustainability of the overall project.
- ✓ To obtain assistance to correlate technical and financial resources and to provide hands-on technical assistance so that individual project(s) are completed in accordance with all regulatory requirements, habitat restoration parameters, and will meet the performance requirements of all Project Partners.
- ✓ To provide a mechanism for incorporating additional Project Partner review, support, and if necessary, enforcement actions.
- ✓ To request funding and include in future management proposals assistance for monitoring restoration results, which may include state and federal mandated monitoring, for a period of years after the initial restoration effort.
- ✓ To incorporate into future contracts required personnel contact prior to and while conservation practices are being implemented.
- ✓ Prior to contract execution, identify and where possible require all necessary permits for local, regional, state and federal agencies for completion of management practices, removal, transportation, and disposal of invasive plants.
- ✓ To assist Project Partners in expanding requirements for individual conservation practices with additional management techniques and realistic cost estimations to expand competitiveness for habitat restoration projects.
- ✓ To include more active participation through Project Partners in discussions and education of abutting landowners and interested individuals. While conservation practices are occurring in backyards, there is a great opportunity to educate abutting landowners that will only strengthen the cooperative relationship of the overall conservation effort. Moreover, this is an excellent time to establish new Project Partners.

- ✓ To publicize successful habitat restoration projects that will assist in bringing additional interest and support at the community level. Funding should be provided to include educational opportunities that support community participation. This will open the door to request assistance from those communities and private landowners that want to participate in order to continue to eradicate invasive plant species.
- ✓ To simultaneously include education and funds to provide alternative native plant species to plant at properties once a conservation practice has been completed. It will be critical to determine appropriate species for each ecosystem, and to understand species interaction and impacts on ecosystem functions prior to planting.
- ✓ To work with local schools to assist with native species planting, education, understanding of habitat functions, and restoration efforts at the local level, all of which will provide great benefits for future habitat restoration projects.

Results and Discussion

The two main objectives at the onset of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* have been achieved. As the Project Partners move forward with additional phases, the recommendations offered will support all future habitat restoration efforts. The Project Partners involved expect that conservation practices to restore degraded habitats will continue to take place at the existing sites and at least two additional sites will be added during the next year. Additionally, it is anticipated that other seacoast communities and private landowners may want to join during the next phase of this collaborative effort to control and eradicate non-native, invasive plants.

Through discussions with other Conservation Commission members in the seacoast region and others from communities outside the region, the process of getting people interested in eradicating invasive plants has begun. Educational efforts should be included on the control and management of invasive plants as new phases of this habitat restoration project progress.

This initial conservation project has brought to the forefront the fact that new approaches are needed to support the very different requirements and parameters of salt marsh habitat restoration for eradicating invasive plant species. In contrast to many upland restoration efforts there are several agencies with different regulatory and permitting requirements for the management, removal, sale, and transportation of invasive plant species in salt marshes both within New Hampshire and crossing state borders.

Through additional meetings and participation with other natural resource organizations and statewide agencies, it is recognized that there are other entities already involved in

invasive species control. Future planning efforts will try to invite these groups to participate in a variety of agreed upon priorities to succeed in the eradication of invasive plant species found in the seacoast region that include both salt marsh and upland areas. As other states have already experienced, a broader assemblage will only benefit the overall goals of the project, as it is undoubtedly one of the best ways to control non-native, invasive plants.

In reviewing the management plans produced for the five properties, it is clear that more comprehensive management plans and details concerning conservation practices are needed for future restoration projects. The delineation of individual sites for monitoring was difficult, yet the number of sites and the amount of acreage covered on each property was greater than originally anticipated.

Generally the following was indicated on each management plan as follows:

Rye:

- A. Marsh Road: < 1 acre, 4 sites
- B. Fairhill Marsh: < 1 acre; 2 sites
- C. Awcomin Marsh: < 20 acres; 14 +/- sites
- D. Wallis Road: < 5 acres; 2 sites

NH Audubon:

- E. Little River: <6 acres; 6 large sites, 20+/- smaller sites

For monitoring, the sites were delineated as follows (corresponding to Appendix C):

Rye:

- A. Marsh Road: < 1 acre, 4 sites
Site: 8
- B. Fairhill Marsh: < 1 acre; 2 sites
Site: 9
- C. Awcomin Marsh: < 20 acres; 14 +/- sites
Sites: 1, 2, 3 & 4
- D. Wallis Road: < 5 acres; 9 sites
Sites: 5, 6 & 7

NH Audubon:

- E. Little River: <6 acres; 6 large sites, 20+/- smaller sites
Sites: 10 & 11

Originally, it was anticipated that at least ten acres would receive conservation practices during the first year, which has clearly been surpassed. The eight sites that have been monitored can be found in Appendix C, and were correlated with conservation practices completed. Due to timing, and the expectation for monitoring and evaluation, and a

computer malfunction, a few of the sites do not have great photographs before conservation practices were completed. Please refer to the photographs contained in Appendix C to review each of the eight sites before and after conservation practice was completed, although the angles of each photograph may appear a bit skewed, the sites are all documented. Overall, this has been a successful conservation project, and as with many new missions the oversight and project management for this new cooperative venture has been necessary.

There are many positive outcomes that are the direct result of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region*. Conservation practices were completed and the number of acres treated exceeded original expectations, all of which aids in decreasing the amount of invasive plants found in the seacoast. Additionally, the current project has been the catalyst to develop a Cooperative Weed Management Area for seacoast New Hampshire, which has already been designated the “*New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership (NH CWIPP)*”. This organization will assist in preventing, eradicating, containing, and controlling invasive plants within the CWIPP area. The NH CWIPP will develop an Invasive Plant Management Plan that will help to define the goals and objectives of the CWIPP, and will provide the steps planned to accomplish those goals. This is one of the most impressive accomplishments of the *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region*.

Conclusions

The *Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region* has ended successfully, and has been the catalyst for future habitat restoration efforts in the NH Coastal Watershed. RCCD and Project Partners are pleased to be moving forward in taking this cooperative habitat restoration effort to the next level.

The intent for future phases of this cooperative habitat restoration project will be to include several of the recommendations offered, and it is expected that additional entities will become involved under the NH CWIPP. Involvement will likely include other agencies and interested groups and municipalities as well as the inclusion of new properties, and it is expected that the NH CWIPP will extend its program to private landowners. It is anticipated that the NH CWIPP will also improve working relationships between the parties and the general public, and assist with management priorities.

The pending NH CWIPP and development of the Invasive Plant Management Plan will define the overall goals and objectives and coordination priorities of all parties. While this is being pursued, it is the intent that existing Project Partners will initiate better management plans to include more defined integrated pest management plans that will provide more detailed information and result in a better overall habitat restoration project.

Any further conservation or natural resource projects that are initiated because of the current project will also emphasize the importance of this work, of habitat restoration, and of stewardship of the natural resources in each community, and in the NH Coastal Watershed. This result not only benefits the communities involved, but also benefits all that live and enjoy in the NH Coastal Watershed.

APPENDIX A

Individual Property Management Plans

**Marsh Road
Fairhill
Awcomin
Wallis Road
Little River**

Marsh Road - Invasive Species Map

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

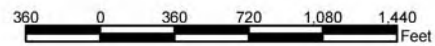


Legend

-  Invasive Species
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOFRYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Fairhill Marsh

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

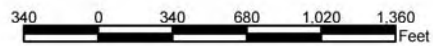


Legend

-  Practices (polygons)
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



2005-2006 Invasive Species Control - Awcomin

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

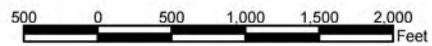


Legend

-  Practices (polygons)
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Wallis Road Marsh

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Legend


-  Practices (polygons)
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOFRYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Invasive Species Control at Little River

Customer(s): AUDUBON SOCIETY OF N H



APPENDIX B

Completed Conservation Practices

**Marsh Road
Fairhill
Awcomin
Wallis Road
Little River**

Marsh Road - Invasive Species Map

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



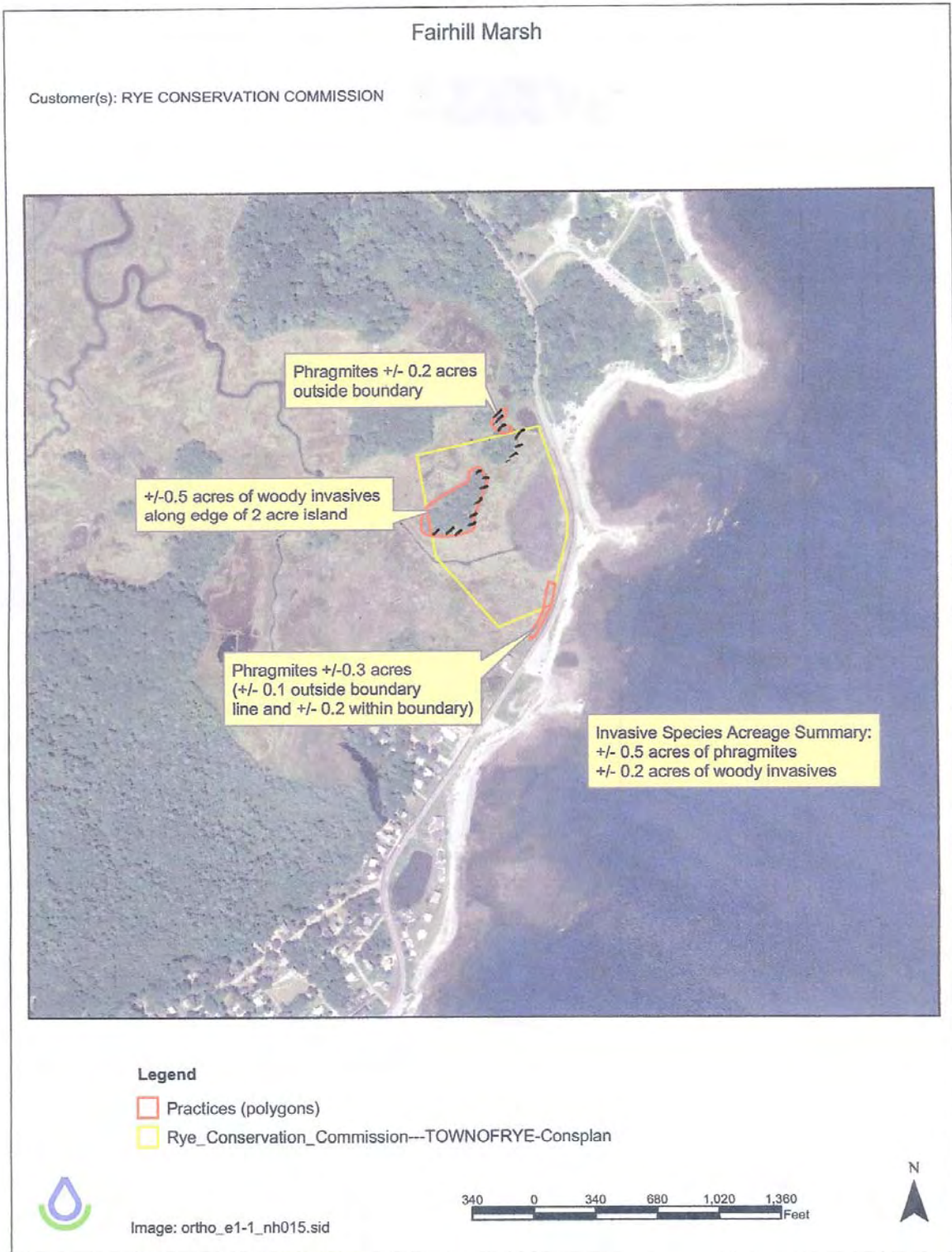
Legend

-  Invasive Species
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission--TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid





2005-2006 Invasive Species Control - Awcomin

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Legend

- Practices (polygons)
- Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Wallis Road Marsh

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Legend



-  Practices (polygons)
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission--TOWNOFRYE-Consplan

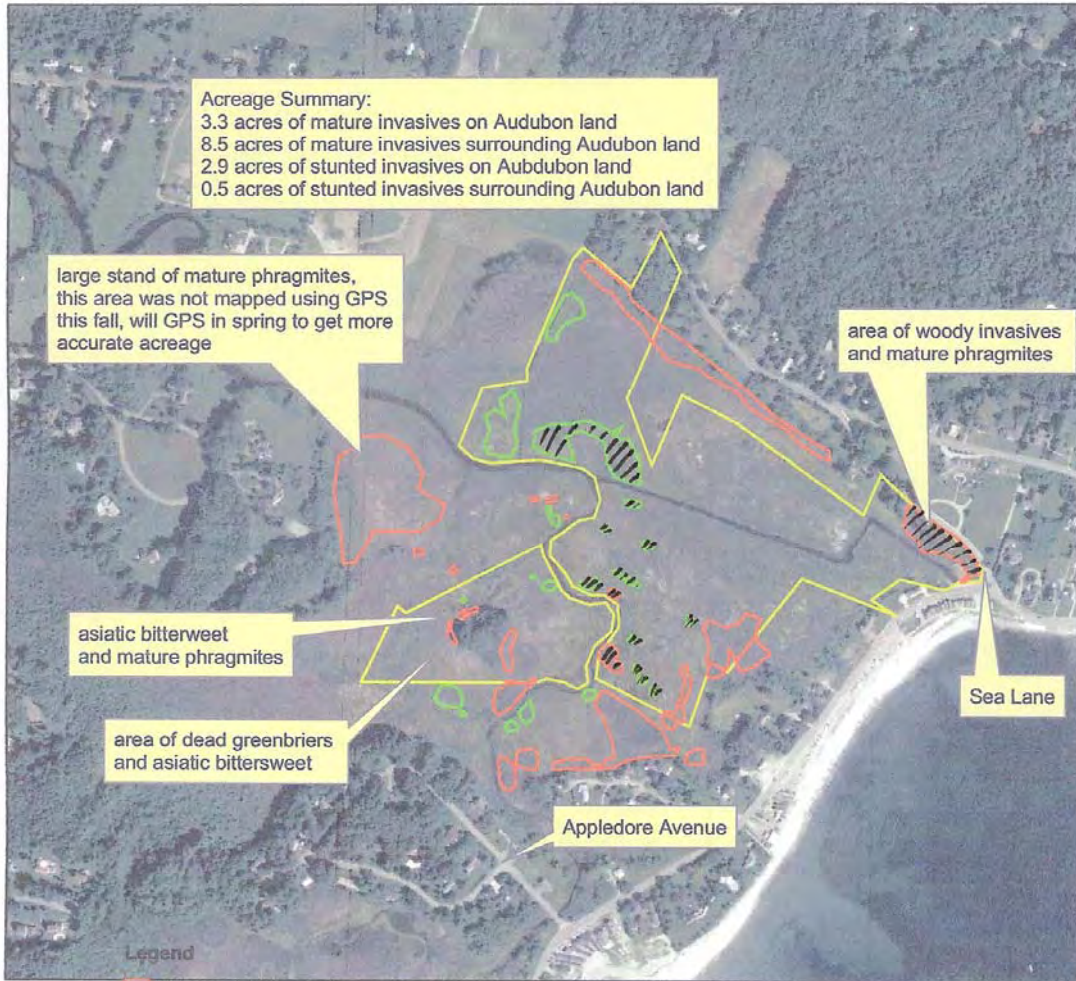


Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Invasive Species Control at Little River

Customer(s): AUDUBON SOCIETY OF N H



Legend

- Practices (polygons)
- Audubon_Society_of_NH-----AduS-Consplan
- stunted and/or dying phragmites, seed heads absent
- practice_instance_point
- practice_instance_polyline
- practice_instance_polygon
- land_unit



Image: drg_s_nh015.sid



APPENDIX C

Photo Site Maps

Marsh Road

Fairhill

Awcomin

Wallis Road

Little River

Photographs

Marsh Road

Fairhill

Awcomin

Wallis Road

Little River

Marsh Road - Invasive Species Map

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

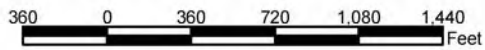


Legend

-  Invasive Species
-  Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Fairhill Marsh

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

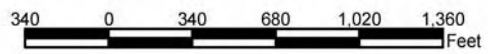


Legend

- Practices (polygons)
- Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOFRYE-Consplan

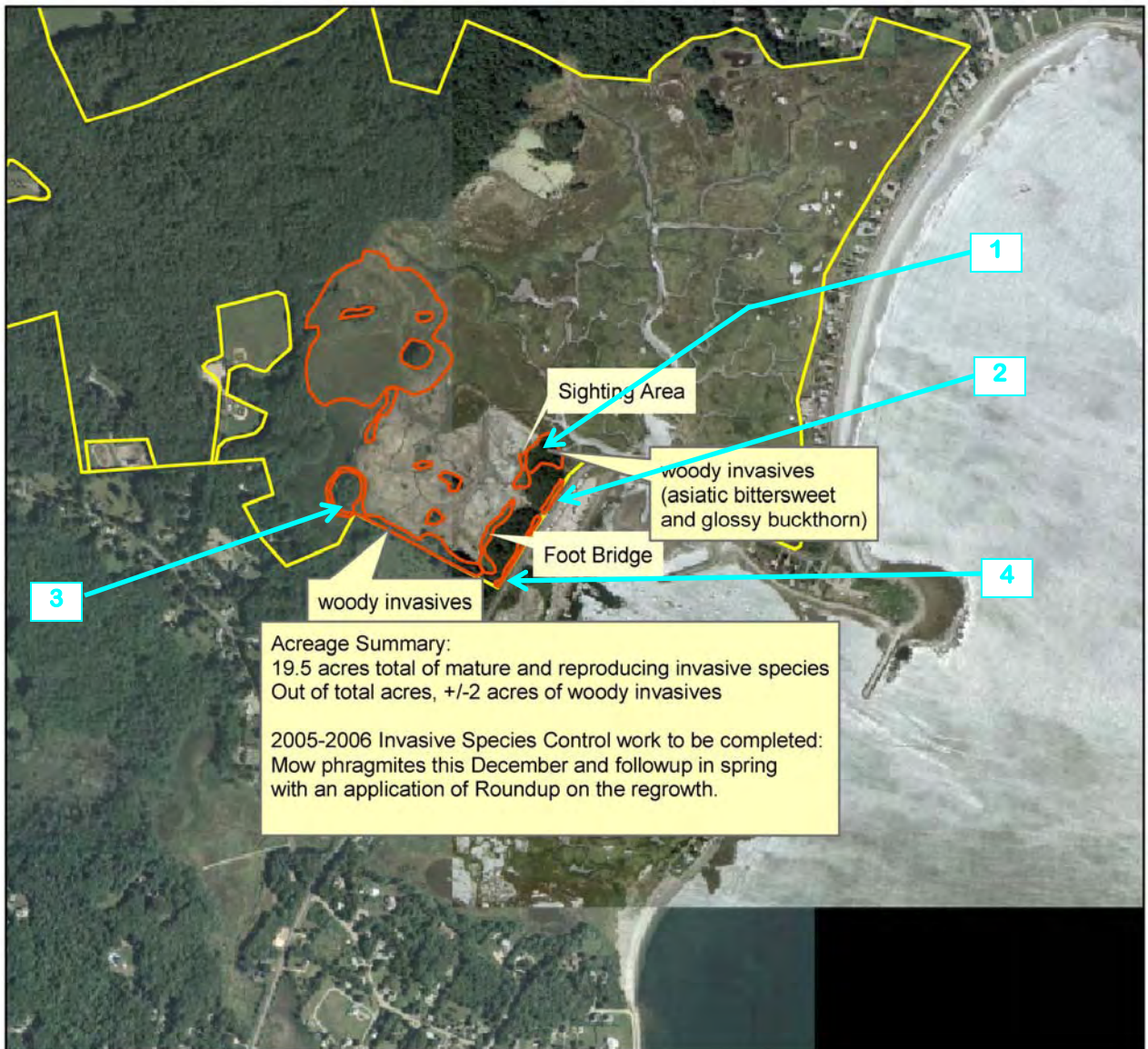


Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



2005-2006 Invasive Species Control - Awcomin

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



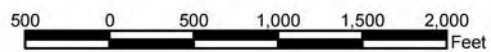
Legend

Practices (polygons)

Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Wallis Road Marsh

Customer(s): RYE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Legend

Practices (polygons)

Rye_Conservation_Commission---TOWNOF RYE-Consplan



Image: ortho_e1-1_nh015.sid



Invasive Species Control at Little River

Customer(s): AUDUBON SOCIETY OF N H

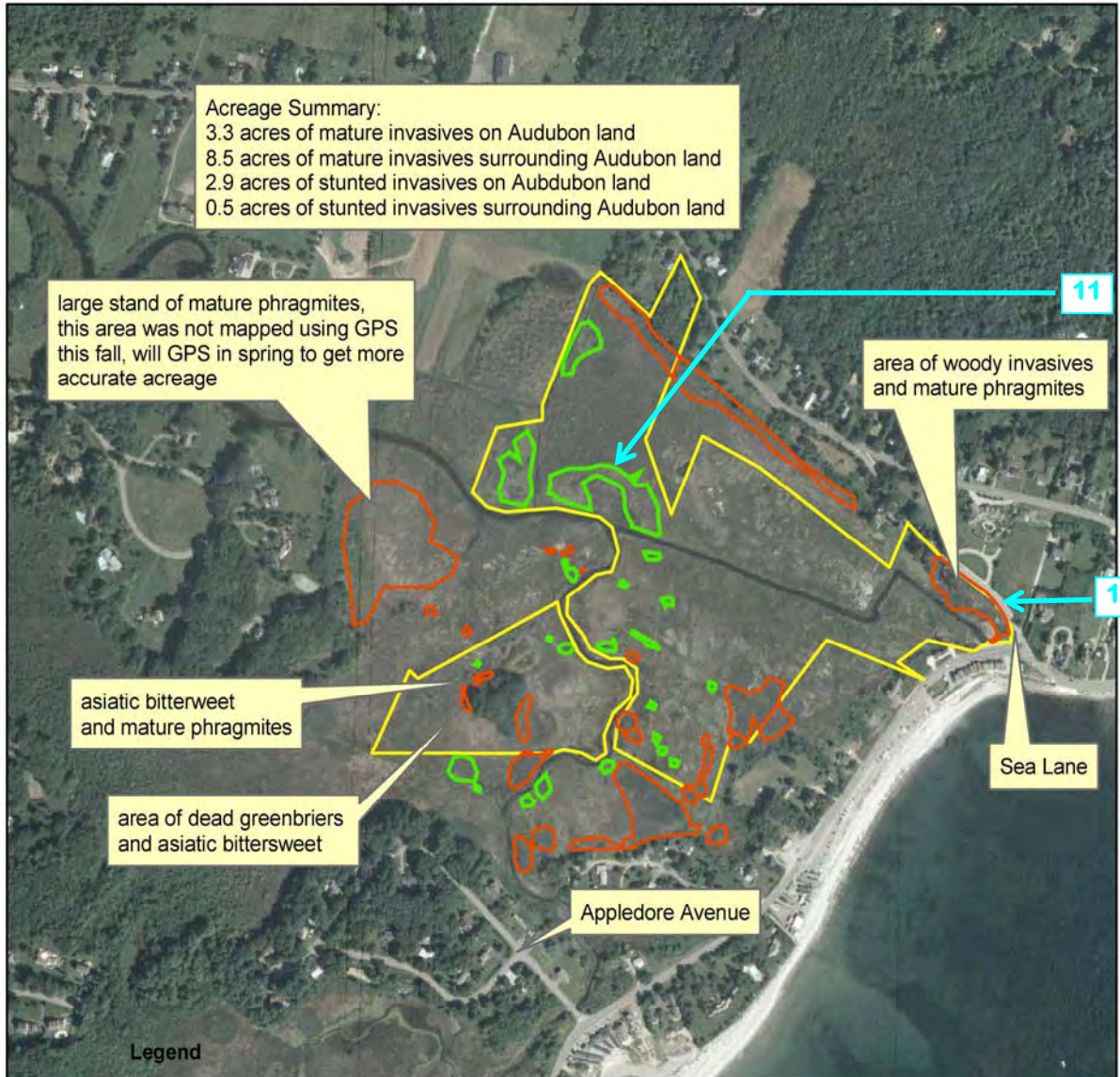
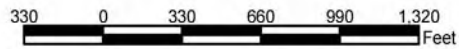


Image: drg_s_nh015.sid



MARSH ROAD PHOTOGRAPHS

Site 8 - Intersection of Brackett Road and Marsh Road, at corner, most northerly area of invasives



AFTER: April 2007



AFTER: July 2007

FAIRHILL MARSH PHOTOGRAPHS

Site 9 - Route 1A, most southerly boundary of property



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: June 2007

AWCOMIN PHOTOGRAPHS

Site 2 - Rt 1A North of pathway into Awcomin



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: May 2007

Site 1 - Sighting area north of entrance pathway



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: May 2007

Site 3 - Southerly boundary, most south-western area of invasives



BEFORE: March 2007



DURING: April 2007



AFTER: June 2007

Site 4 - Southerly boundary entrance – adjacent to Route 1A



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: May 2007



AFTER: July 2007

WALLIS ROAD PHOTOGRAPHS

Site 5 - Wallis Road, near conservation sign, on southerly side of Wallis Road



BEFORE: November 2006



AFTER: December 2006

Site 6 - Brackett Road: Eastern side of Brackett Road, and North of massacre marsh 1691 burial ground.



BEFORE: March 2007



DURING: March 2007



AFTER: July 2007

Site 7 - Brackett Road, north of site 6, Eastern side of Brackett Road, and North of massacre marsh burial ground.



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: March 2007

LITTLE RIVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Site 10 - Intersection of Route 1A and Sea Road, North Hampton, most southerly boundary or property



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: May 2007



AFTER: July 2007

Site 11 - North side of Little River, the most southerly area of invasives on the north side of the river



BEFORE: March 2007



AFTER: June 2007

APPENDIX D

Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

July 16, 2007

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Email: rccdted@ttlc.net / rccdmac@ttlc.net

**THE NH ESTUARIES PROJECT ASSISTS IN THE COMPLETION OF
FIRST COOPERATIVE PROJECT TO CONTROL INVASIVE PLANTS IN
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOAST REGION**

The first Cooperative Project to Control Invasive Plants in the New Hampshire Seacoast Region has been completed. Five properties in the towns of Rye and North Hampton have had conservation practices completed to restore degraded wetlands and adjacent upland habitats through the control of invasive, non-native plants. This is the first phase for the New Hampshire seacoast region, and the success of this entire project involved the collaboration of a diverse group of natural resource organizations, agencies, and seacoast communities. The Rockingham County Conservation District and Project Partners including the University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Estuaries Project; the New Hampshire Coastal Program; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; New Hampshire Audubon; the Town of Rye; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. Each of these groups brought expertise, funding, and/or technical resources to assist with the execution of this project. These groups all have a common interest in protecting existing habitat and restoring degraded habitat for the benefit of aquatic life, migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and other plants and animals, as well as to reestablish beneficial ecological functions of both upland and aquatic habitats in the seacoast region of New Hampshire. Implementation of conservation practices on five properties including the cutting and removal of many huge stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and other invasive plants including glossy and common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus* spp.), and Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). For New Hampshire, this new venture could not have taken place without the considerable assistance and

expertise of the Project Partners that includes funding assistance from the New Hampshire Estuaries Project for which Project Partners are grateful.

Approximately \$30,000 from a variety of funding sources assisted in the completion of administration and conservation practices that have taken place this year. In response to demand for services and as a result of this habitat restoration project, the formation of the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership (NH CWIPP) is currently being initiated by the NH Coastal Program. Funding sources are being sought to develop the NH CWIPP and for this group to work cooperatively to monitor, control and prevent the spread of invasive plants across jurisdictional boundaries within New Hampshire's Coastal Watershed. This conservation project promotes the sustainability of the state's natural resources and will achieve significant conservation goals.

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