

**Capacity Building - Goal 1:** *The Lower Hudson PRISM has a robust public identity, strong internal structure and a sustainable resource base to continue its mission.*

The strategies for achieving this goal should include coordinating partners, volunteer recruitment and training, and public and local government engagement.

**2022 Objectives:**

- A. Increase our public visibility to have the LHPRISM be known as the go-to place for regional invasive species information.
- B. Maintain our strong internal structure by growing our active membership, sustaining membership and enabling partners to be more fully engaged.
- C. Increase partner's capabilities to conduct invasive species management.
- D. Foster strong academic relationships.

**2022 Actions:**

- 1.A.1. Coordinate participation in New York Invasive Species Awareness Week.
- 1.A.2. Continue using video platforms to share invasive species information.
- 1.A.3. Publish post/article referencing LHPRISM.
- 1.A.4. Publish a post/article introducing your audience to what you do within the LHPRISM.
  - Create template language to give everyone to use.
- 1.B.1. Use new Partner welcome packet and questionnaire for all new partners.
  - Continue working with New Partners working group.
- 1.B.2. Continue to make meetings valuable for attendees.
- 1.B.3. Ensure all partners have access to the Partner Portal.
- 1.B.4. Reach out and recruit new partners representing aquatic interests.
- 1.B.5. Reach out to appropriate local groups as potential partners.
- 1.C.1. Post recorded workshops on developing an IS management plan and planning and leading volunteer workdays.
- 1.C.3. Build a larger and more diverse regional LHPRISM volunteer base.
- 1.C.4. Help promote volunteer workdays.
- 1.C.5. Enhance organization's knowledge and awareness about Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 species.
- 1.C.6. Build in-house capabilities for herbicide application.
- 1.C.7. Seek out additional financial resources for invasive species work.
- 1.D.1. Recruit and host interns.
- 1.D.2. Reach out to teachers/schools to offer to give guest presentations to classes.
- 1.D.3. Compile a list of potential intern/scout/grad student projects.
- 1.D.4. Promote existing invasive species curricula.

**Conservation Targets - Goal 2:** *The Lower Hudson PRISM protects the rich, native biodiversity of the Lower Hudson Valley by focusing on priority targets for conservation.*

The strategies for achieving this goal should involve coordinating partners, managing invasive species strategically, assessment and monitoring network, and public and local government engagement.

**2022 Objectives:**

- A. Identify candidate Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) / Invasive Species Prevention Zones (ISPZ).
- B. Identify sites where rare, endangered, or special concern species would benefit by invasive species management.
- C. Support management projects which protect rare and endangered species populations.

**2022 Actions:**

- 2.A.1. Identify post-designation actions and benefits for PCAs.
- 2.A.2. Hold a workshop for prospective applicants for PCA designation.
- 2.A.3. Solicit and obtain at least three applications for PCA status.
  
- 2.B.1. Draft a plan for surveying rare/threatened/endangered (R/T/E) species based on phenology and other prioritization factors to determine which ones are being threatened by invasive species.
- 2.B.2. Begin implementing the plan to conduct surveys of R/T/E populations to determine which ones are being threatened by invasive species.
  
- 2.C.1. Continue to give weight to IS management projects that will benefit conservation targets in the management project and RFP proposal selection ranking processes.
- 2.C.2. Support the preservation of American ash through the Monitoring and Managing Ash (MaMA) initiative.
- 2.C.3. Support the preservation of American beech by investigating management or treatment methods for beech leaf disease (BLD).
- 2.C.4. Conduct invasive species management projects that protect R/T/E, or special concern species.
- 2.C.5. Conduct invasive species management projects that protect special concern habitats.

**Strategic Management - Goal 3:** *The Lower Hudson PRISM supports and optimizes regional conservation through strategic invasive species management.*

The strategies for achieving this goal should include managing invasive species strategically, early detection monitoring network, rapid response capacity, and eradication/control efforts.

**2022 Objectives:**

- A. Continue to build **early detection** capacity (terrestrial and aquatic).
- B. Continue to build and refine **survey** program(s) to fill data gaps and detect new introductions.
- C. Develop metrics to track our progress building early detection capacity and survey programs and achieving the goals set for those programs.
- D. Refine our **prioritization** of species and projects.
- E. Conduct **management** projects according to our prioritization guidelines.
- F. Monitor **recovery** of sites where invasive species are managed.
- G. **Test methods** for Best Management Practices.

**2022 Actions:**

- 3.A.1. Have clear management plans for each Tier 2 species.
- 3.A.2. Continue to include early detection species in our Blockbuster and ISF Intermediate training.
- 3.A.3. Develop a method of prioritizing where to survey for early detection species based on results of state-wide task force prioritization efforts.
- 3.A.4. Increase the number of people who are knowledgeable about Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 5 species.
- 3.A.5. Host site visits to view specific Tier 2 species in the field.
- 3.A.6. Continue to create and distribute species spotlight videos for identifying Tier 2 species.
- 3.A.7. Continue spotted lanternfly, beech leaf disease, and jumping worm survey efforts.
- 3.A.8. Encourage Partners to set up iMapInvasives alerts for Tier 2 species.
  
- 3.B.1. Continue to build BlockBuster program volunteer corps to fill data gaps.
- 3.B.2. Re-evaluate target species list for all terrestrial plant survey program levels (ISF Standard, Intermediate and Blockbuster).
- 3.B.3. Utilize EcoQuest survey program to aid in reporting of emerging invasive species in strategic areas and at strategic times of year.
- 3.B.4. Continue to encourage data collection using iNaturalist and iMapInvasives.
- 3.B.5. Provide existing in-house data to iMapInvasives for bulk upload.
- 3.B.6. Conduct terrestrial and aquatic invasive species surveys to fill data gaps, incorporating the goals/needs of regional and state-wide working groups.
- 3.B.7. Explore and implement new technologies and programs to strengthen aquatic surveys
  
- 3.C. Develop metrics to use so that we can track our progress building early detection capacity and survey programs and achieving the goals set for those programs.

## Lower Hudson PRISM 2022 Action Plan

- Report ISF Intermediate survey results - number of volunteers, number of observations
- EcoQuest - number of observers, number of observations by species
- Blockbuster - number blocks completed (percentage of total), number observations, number volunteers
- Survey partners to assess usage of iNaturalist and promotion of EcoQuest challenges

3.D.1. Review and update as necessary Lower Hudson PRISM species Tier categorizations for Terrestrial plants.

3.D.2 Review and update as necessary Lower Hudson PRISM species Tier categorizations for Aquatics.

3.D.3. Review and update as necessary Lower Hudson PRISM species Tier categorizations for Forest pests.

3.D.4. Refine management project ranking criteria and use it to select management projects.

3.E.1. Conduct projects to completely treat populations of Tier 2 species.

3.E.2. Conduct projects to limit the spread of Tier 3 species focused on boundary populations or to protect high value targets.

3.E.3. Conduct local control projects to protect high value targets and to locally suppress Tier 4 species.

3.E.4. Incorporate priority manual control projects of AIS as defined by the Hudson River AIS Task Force, LI-Metro AIS Task Force, and Hudson River/Mohawk River Water Chestnut Working Group.

3.F.1. Hold vegetation assessment protocol workshop to teach how to conduct surveys.

3.F.2. Conduct pre-treatment vegetation assessment surveys using the protocol we have developed.

3.F.3. Identify partners who can assist others with vegetation assessment surveys.

3.F.4. Pilot the use of Native Plant Restoration decision-making flowchart developed in 2020 to identify which management sites will be candidates for either active or passive restoration.

3.F.5. Offer partner site visits to restoration areas to share experiences and knowledge.

3.G.1. Test new non-chemical methods Japanese stiltgrass control.

3.G.2. Test new non-chemical methods of Japanese knotweed control.

3.G.3. Test winter cut-stump treatment of Japanese angelica tree and cut-leaf blackberry.

3.G.4. Research non-glyphosate alternatives for invasive species treatments.

**Education and Outreach - Goal 4:** The Lower Hudson PRISM reaches out to new audiences and delivers education that communicates the positive impacts of invasive species management on ecosystems. The Lower Hudson PRISM offers clear steps for action on personal and community levels.

The strategies for achieving this goal should include coordinating the PRISM education and outreach message, public education and outreach, (noting early detection and rapid response outreach message), volunteer training, local government engagement and reporting (incorporated throughout).

**2022 Objectives:**

- A. Conduct tailored education and outreach messaging that is consistent with the specific target audiences.
- B. Disseminate educational materials for high priority, early detection species (esp. spotted lanternfly (SLF), beech leaf disease (BLD)) including seasonal, timed alerts.
- C. Plan, prepare for, and participate in NY's Invasive Species Awareness Week.
- D. Incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion aspects into our messaging and materials.
- E. Measure the impact or behavior change resulting from our education and outreach efforts.

**2022 Actions:**

- 4.A.1. Conduct outreach and education to youth with awareness message and use of Seek and iNaturalist.
- 4.A.2. Conduct outreach and education for municipal / highway departments with message encouraging detection and ways to mitigate spread.
  - Create video that DOT and others can use.
- 4.A.3. Conduct outreach and education to gardeners, turf and landscape professionals, arborists with message about selecting non-invasive species and early detection of pests.
  - Work with horticulturists/gardeners to jointly plan education events including native and invasive information.
- 4.A.4. Conduct outreach and education to lake associations, boat and yacht clubs, marinas, boaters and fisherfolk on aquatic invasive species identification and their responsibilities to mitigate spread.
- 4.A.5. Promote the use of NYSDEC's Native Plants for Restoration Guide when it's available.
  
- 4.B.1. Identify audiences for spotted lanternfly (SLF) messages.
- 4.B.2. Coordinate with state-wide efforts for SLF messages.
- 4.B.3. Send out SLF messages.
  
- 4.C.1. Host events during NY Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW).
  
- 4.D.1. Provide Spanish translations for our written and video materials.
- 4.D.2. Ensure messages are accessible to the widest range of audiences based on reading ease.

4.D.3. Plan efforts to distribute these materials to the target audiences.

4.E.1. Provide evaluation guidelines and ideas for partners for different types of events or campaigns.

**Mitigate Pathways of Invasion - Goal 5:** *PRISM has a coordinated program to prevent species introduction by focusing on pathways.*

The strategies for achieving this goal should involve public and local government engagement/coordinating partners, education and outreach, and managing priority species strategically.

**2022 Objectives**

- A. Identify top priority pathways for the Lower Hudson.
- B. Mitigate the spread of aquatic invasive species by boaters.
- C. Monitor for and work to prevent spread of high priority regional forest pests.
- D. Mitigate pathway associated with movement of heavy equipment.
- E. Mitigate pathway of spread from commercial sales.
- F. Mitigate the spread of invasive species by hikers.

**2022 Actions:**

5.A.1. Prioritize pathways on current list and assess data availability needed for prioritization.  
5.A.2. Investigate associations between ISF/Blockbuster survey observations with pathway sources.

5.B.1. Continue to cover select high traffic boat launches with Watercraft Inspection Stewards.  
5.B.2. Educate groups that manage private water bodies on spread prevention and best practices.

5.C.1. Assist with inspections and monitoring for spotted lanternfly.  
5.C.2. Provide education and encouragement to avoid transporting pests (e.g spotted lanternfly (SLF), beech leaf disease (BLD)).  
5.C.3. Raise awareness of SLF, BLD, and Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALB) with professionals.  
5.C.4. Raise awareness of SLF and BLD with general public.

5.D.1. Gather literature, guidelines and programs regarding cleaning equipment that have been developed or used in other PRISMs or organizations.  
5.D.2. Promote the use of clean equipment best management practices.

5.E.1. Support listing additional species in Part 575.  
5.E.2. Continue to reach out to nurseries to discourage the sale of invasive plants and encourage native alternatives.  
5.E.3. Continue to educate gardeners and the general public on the impacts of invasives and encourage native alternatives.  
5.E.4. Educate curators of public gardens on the need to mitigate invasive plantings.

5.F.1. Share boot brush construction plans to encourage creation and installation of stations at trailheads.  
5.F.2. Promote use of Play, Clean, Go messaging.

5.F.3. Consider offering to subsidize boot brush station installations.



**Information Exchange - Goal 6:** *The establishment of an information exchange allows Lower Hudson PRISM partners and other professionals to strategically manage and integrate information relevant to the management of invasive species and offer that information to any person, group, agency (partner and non-partner alike).*

The strategies for achieving this goal should involve coordinating partners and education and outreach.

## 2022 Objectives

- A. Continue to increase information available on our website.
- B. Increase use of social media to disseminate information.
- C. Share more information between partners on experiences managing invasive species.
- D. Evaluate the feasibility of holding a Lower Hudson PRISM Summit in Fall.

## 2022 Actions:

- 6.A.1. Add additional information on Tier 1, 2 and 3 species to web site.
- 6.A.2. Post existing LHPRISM-branded education and outreach resources available on our web site.
- 6.A.3. Make our Partners' public contact information available on web site by geographic area (e.g. county).
- 6.A.4. Organize and redesign the Resources page on the web site.
- 6.A.5. Add restoration section or page to the web site.
- 6.A.6. Upgrade website Drupal platform.
  
- 6.B.1. Continue to rotate responsibility among LHPRISM staff members for posting and share Partner posts when available.
- 6.B.2. Compile sheet of everyone's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.
- 6.B.3. Encourage Partners to follow other's accounts and share other Partner's posts.
- 6.B.4. Encourage Partners to sign-up for providing content for at least one post. Send content to [invasives@nynjtc.org](mailto:invasives@nynjtc.org) or tag @Lower Hudson PRISM.
- 6.B.5. Create Lower Hudson PRISM Instagram account and start using it.
- 6.B.6. Share more identification information on Tier 1 and 2 species and management information Tier 4.
- 6.B.7. Continue to use Stewardship newsletter to share upcoming invasive species-related partner events, news and notes.
  
- 6.C.1. Continue to facilitate sharing management experiences.
- 6.C.2. Begin sharing information on restoration results.
  
- 6.D.1. Convene working group to discuss options for whether or when to hold the Summit.