

## 2022 Invasive Species (IS) Accomplishment Highlights

- In 2022, **282 new infestation locations of terrestrial invasive species (TIS) were detected and recorded.**
  - In total since 2017, surveillance efforts have documented approximately 6,249 infestation locations from 38 TIS found within the FDL Reservation boundaries, in the nearby surrounding 1854 Ceded Territory, on Spirit Island, in the St. Louis River Estuary, and on WI Point.
  - **In 2022 we performed management activities on approximately 277.5 acres**
    - Many sites we have been managing for multiple years are starting to see substantial returns of native species and significantly less invasive ones
  - Control efforts of TIS consisted of methods such as pruning, mowing, weed whipping, hand pulling, planting, and others were utilized for management in 2022.
    - Solar Site Restoration Area has been restored to pollinator habitat and is being maintained.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected in Cloquet, MN in March of 2022, but currently there are **no detections of EAB within Reservation boundaries.**
  - In response to the detection in Cloquet, the IS coordinator wrote to the commissioner of the MDA urging them to reconsider quarantine boundaries, which was refused.
  - The IS team has surveyed 34 new points for ash this year in addition to approximately 172 acres of visual surveys in target locations, for a total of 621 survey points since 2018.
  - The IS team worked in conjunction with the MDA to place 20 purple prism traps for surveillance in high risk areas around the Reservation.
- Focused **on prevention of spread for aquatic invasive species through inspections and decontaminations.**
  - A total of **93 boats were inspected and decontaminated** throughout the year, mostly during the Fond du Lac treaty fishing and ricing season. A total of **187 nets were decontaminated** in the spring and fall netting season.
- Focused on **prevention of spread of terrestrial invasive species** via the construction pathway.
  - **Inspectors reviewed and approved all equipment entering the Reservation boundaries** to ensure they had been decontaminated properly before working on the Reservation.
- **eDNA surveillance for rusty crayfish and zebra mussels** in partnership with the FDL TCC environmental institute
  - Collected samples from 32 water bodies in the 1854, 1837 ceded territories and the Reservation.
  - Implemented intensive trapping on Bang Lake and Stoney Brook rivers where rusty crayfish were detected in 2021. No crayfish have been detected via trapping.
- An **infested waters list and map** can be found on the FDL invasive species webpage. It includes infested waters in MN from the 1854, 1842, and 1837 ceded territories as well as the Reservation.
  - **Currently, there are 11 aquatic locations within the Reservation boundaries listed as infested: Bang Lake, Big Lake, Hardwood Lake, Simian Lake, Simian Creek, St. Louis River (various locations), Stoney Brook River (various locations), Third Lake, and West Twin Lake.**
- **Signage for terrestrial and aquatic invasive species awareness and prevention has been posted.**
  - The IS coordinator is working with MN DOT and MN DNR to post signage at public landings
- Participated in many educational and outreach opportunities to raise invasive species awareness.
  - Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council Field Day, introduced a group of IS professionals to the St. Louis River Estuary and to work at FDL who had not worked with tribal communities or knew this area.
- Participated in many collaborative efforts.
  - Working to create an Indigenous Conservation Corps program to prepare young adults for careers at RM.
  - Participation in MAISRC, MITTPC, MDA Noxious Weeds, and MISAC advisory councils.
  - Participation in Phragmites technical team for control in the St. Louis River Estuary.
  - Participation in the Great lakes interjurisdictional projects, including social science research about bicontrol acceptance in the region.

## 2023 Invasive Species Goals

- Continue prevention, early detection and surveillance efforts, control, monitoring, education, and collaboration within the FDL Reservation, on FDL-owned lands in the St. Louis River Estuary, and starting in the 1854 Ceded Territory.
- Complete the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) preparation and infestation plan, it is currently in draft form.
  - Continue implementing preparation actions, such as surveillance, underplanting, and seed collection, and infestation actions, such as sanitation, with other RM divisions as pertinent.
- Continue to work on building a more sustainable program through initiatives such as composting and/ or creating char to better dispose of invasive species waste.
- Implement the Indigenous Conservation Corps for (young) adults on the Reservation who are interested in pursuing careers in natural resources, especially at Resource Management at FDL. This crew is currently on schedule to start in April and end in September.
- Work with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to come up with amicable solutions for the control of Spiny Moth (formerly gypsy moth) moving on to the Reservation in larger numbers.
- Continue to work towards restoration on Fond du Lac owned lands in the St. Louis River estuary including Spirit Island and WI Point.
- Begin restoration efforts for areas that have been largely managed for invasive species to encourage the repopulation of important native species, such as pollinator and wildlife habitat species.



Chi- Miigwech for your support!

For questions or concerns regarding invasive species management please contact Kelsey Taylor at 218-878-7104 or [kelsey.taylor@fdlrez.com](mailto:kelsey.taylor@fdlrez.com)

(Please note, Kelsey will be on maternity leave March- May. If you have immediate questions or concerns in that time, please contact the Resource Management office at 218-878-7101)