

**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

for the

TRI-LAKES RELIABILITY PROJECT



February 17, 2006

ATTACHMENT FOR RESPONSE 20

Excerpt from Tri-Lakes Reliability Project APA application for State Projects for Construction of Roads/Trails Involving Wetlands, Question #25c, Proposed Mitigation Measures

EXCERPT FROM:

**Application for State Agency Projects for Construction of Trails Involving Wetlands
Supplemental Information Request
Question #25c Wetland Impacts & Mitigation**

Excerpt from Page 11 through 14 of this attachment from the original November 30, 2005 submittal to the APA.

Invasive Species Control

The APA, NYSDOT, NYSDEC, and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy have worked together to inventory and control invasive vegetative species in the Park by developing management plans specific to certain locations. To date the work has focused primarily on purple loosestrife. Other terrestrial plant species that are found in the Park and are considered invasive include garlic mustard, common reed grass and Japanese knotweed. Environmental construction methods used to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plant species in the Park are based on procedures found in the NYSDOT Environmental Procedures Manual, Section 4.8.4 (June 22, 2005) and Attachment 4 of NYSDOT's "Invasive Species Control Methods for Maintenance and Construction" (9/10/04) and Appendix A of APA's Individual Permit Issued Under General Permit 2002G-2, "Management of Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species In or Within 100' of Wetlands in the Adirondack Park."

The environmental analysis completed to date has identified six locations of invasive species along Route 56. See the following map, *Invasive Species Locations*. In addition, both Japanese knotweed and Common Reed grass were found at the Kayem Sand Pit, which may be used as a marshalling yard. If the sand pit site is used for a marshalling yard, this invasive plant will be removed and controlled at the site.

Prior to the start of construction, detailed field topographic survey and woodland assessments will be completed. A detailed survey for invasive species will be conducted at this time to assure that a comprehensive assessment is completed prior to finalizing construction drawings. Based on the data determined in the field assessment, and on the above referenced documents, a remedial program for control of invasives will be prepared. The preferred treatment period will be during the 2006 growing season.

The general approach to invasive species control will be the use of herbicides. All herbicide use shall be in accordance with label instruction, state and federal law (including adjacent landowner notification requirements) and will be conducted by, or under, the supervision of certified applicators familiar to working in NYSDOT and utility corridor ROWs.

Japanese Knotweed Control- Herbicide Use

Methods: Use Glyphosate or Trichlopyr (Garlon) formulations only.

Effectiveness: Glyphosate or Trichlopyr (Garlon) treatments in late summer or early fall are much more effective in preventing regrowth of Japanese knotweed the following

year. Empirical evidence is that Garlon is more effective than Roundup in causing Japanese knotweed mortality.

Strategy:

- Late June- Cut or mow down stalks, and remove stalks from the site.
- Allow knotweed to regrow.
- After August 1, spray knotweed with ROUNDUP, RODEO, or GARLON.

Cautions: Established stands of Japanese knotweed are difficult to eradicate, even with repeated herbicide treatments. However, herbicide treatments will greatly weaken the plant and prevent it from dominating a site. Adequate control is usually not possible unless the entire strand of knotweed is treated; otherwise, it will re-invade via creeping rootstocks from untreated areas.

Common Reed Grass (Phragmites) Control- Herbicide Use

Methods: Use glyphosate formulations only. Apply after tasseling stage when nutrients going back to the rhizomes will translocate the herbicide into roots. After 2 to 3 weeks following application of glyphosate, cut or mow down the stalks to stimulate the emergence and growth of plants previously suppressed. If the plants are too tall to spray, cut back in mid-summer and apply glyphosate when re-growth reaches 2 to 3 feet tall. Use spray bottle for individual foliar spot treatments. For smaller sites, use swab or syringe with a large gauge needle to apply 1-2 drops directly to cut stems if cutting is done first.

Effectiveness: Herbicide use is a 2-year, 2 step process because the plants may need a touch-up application, especially in dense stands since subdominant plants are protected by thick canopy and may not receive adequate herbicide in the first application.

Cautions: This herbicide is not selective (kills both monocots and dicots), thus should be applied carefully to prevent killing of non-target species. All tank mixes should be mixed with clean (ideally, distilled) water, because glyphosate binds tightly to sediments, which reduces toxicity to plants. Don't apply in windy conditions, because spray will drift and kill other plants. Don't apply if rain is forecast within 12 hours, because herbicide will be washed away before it can act. Choose Rodeo formulation for applications in standing water or along a shoreline.

Disposal of Invasive Species Debris

Invasive species debris will be disposed of at the Star Lake Transfer Station or transported out of the Park in sealed bags by the herbicide applicator.

Additional Measures

In addition, the following measures will be completed to prevent the spread of invasive species during construction:

- Each area found to contain invasive species will be quarantined by an enclosure to prevent the spread of plants during construction. Appropriate signage will be developed to warn of the invasive species.
- A management plan will be prepared for each species and area, based on the above.
- The encounter will be reported and a copy of the management plan sent to the Nature Conservancy and the APA for approval.
- The use of straw for mulch will be limited (no hay will be used as per APA requirements)
- As described in Section 3.1.3 of the EWP, prior to deployment of equipment to the Park, all undercarriage and tracks will be cleaned and free of soil.
- As part of daily and weekly safety and procedure reminders, workers will be informed about the importance of preventing the spread of invasive species.
- Environmental Inspector will make daily inspections of the enclosures to ensure that the area has not been accidentally entered. Equipment that has entered the area will be removed and taken to the marshalling yard for cleaning. All mud and debris from the cleaning will be disposed of as a solid waste at an approved landfill outside of the Park.
- Native seed mixes will be applied to exposed soils upon completion of construction.