nationalgrid

Lockport-Batavia Line 112 Rebuild Project

Appendix E

Invasive Species

Prepared For: nationalgrid

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION (D/B/A NATIONAL GRID) 300 Erie Boulevard, West Syracuse, NY 13202

LOCKPORT- BATAVIA 112 REBUILD PROJECT

TOWNS OF LOCKPORT AND ROYALTON, NIAGARA COUNTY, AND TOWN OF ALABAMA, GENESEE COUNTY, NEW YORK

INVASIVE SPECIES INVENTORY REPORT

JANUARY 2020 Updated May 2021



ASSOCIATES 180 Charlotte Street Rochester, New York 14607 Fisher associates project no. 190176.00

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (d/b/a National Grid), Fisher Associates' Environmental Scientists conducted an invasive species inventory between August 6 and October 2, 2019. The objective was to identify the presence and abundance of invasive plant species within the Project Study Limits defined to support the Lockport-Batavia 112 Rebuild Project (Project) (see *Figure 1: Project Vicinity and Index Map*). The Project Study Limits at the time consisted of a 445.14-acre area, which encompassed potential construction and limits of disturbance required for the Project. This area was generally from the Lockport-Batavia 112 overhead transmission line Structure 1-2 in Lockport, New York to Structure 210.5 in Alabama, New York. An additional invasive species inventory was conducted on June 16, 2020 for Additional Project Study Limits consisting of another 1.50-acres. These were from where the original study limits ended at Structure 210.5 to just past Structure 211 in Alabama, New York. A second additional invasive species inventory was conducted on November 12 and 13, 2020 for and extension of the existing Project Study Limits. This second extension was to expand the Project Study Limits between relocation Structures 143 and 156 northwards along Lewiston Road to ensure enough land was reviewed for Segment 4 Relocation. A total of 462.05-acres has been surveyed for the presence of invasive species (see *Figure 2: Invasive Species Inventory Map*).

The Project Study Limits are located in the Towns of Lockport and Royalton, Niagara County, and the Town of Alabama, Genesee County, New York. The majority of the Project Study Limits are located within an existing maintained right-of-way (ROW) for multiple overhead electrical transmission lines. In the western portion of the Project, the Project Study Limits were located in a residential/commercial area. In the center portion of the Project, the Project Study Limits are primarily located within agricultural fields and residential yards. In the eastern portion of the Project, the Project Study Limits are primarily located within agricultural fields and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), specifically the Tonawanda WMA and John White WMA.

According to the NYSDEC, the definition of an invasive species is "a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration; and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic harm or harm to human health." The NYSDEC has developed regulations to help control invasive species throughout the state by reducing their introduction and spread. Under regulation *Title 6 NYCRR Part 575: Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species*, the NYSDEC has identified and classified invasive species that will be regulated statewide. On September 10, 2014, the NYSDEC released a list of *Prohibited and Regulated Species* (under 6 NYCRR Part 575) of plants and animals for New York State.

2.0 FIELD INVESTIGATION

Between August 6 and October 2, 2019, Fisher Associates' Environmental Scientists conducted an invasive species inventory for the Project. On average the weather was mid to high 70's °F and sunny with a few days of rain. The additional invasive species inventory was conducted during the late morning on June 16, 2020. On average the weather for the day was in the low 70's °F and sunny. During the second additional invasive species inventory field visit conducted on November 12 and 13, 2020 the weather was in the 40's °F and cloudy. Using visual observations, the Project Study Limits were walked looking for the presence and abundance of invasive plant species. Specifically, invasive plant species that the Environmental Scientists were able to observe and identify given the terrain, weather conditions and time of year that are listed on the *NYSDEC Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species List* (September 10, 2014) were recorded.

The Project Study Limits were divided into twenty-eight (28) distinct areas titled Invasive Species Segments in order to gather more comprehensive data. These segments were created using geographic indicators such as roads and streams as dividing barriers. If an invasive plant species was observed, its presence was noted within the given Invasive Species Segment, along with its abundance based on relative aerial coverage to the overall Invasive Species Segment. The abundance of each invasive plant species was recorded using the following breakdown of percent relative aerial coverage categories:

- Sparse (<5% aerial coverage)
- Moderate (5-25% aerial coverage)
- Abundant (>25% aerial coverage)

Additionally, a tiered approach was used to categorize each Invasive Species Segment into either Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3; based on abundance (i.e.: relative aerial coverage (how many invasive plant species were present within the segment)), and how many invasive plant species observed that are considered to be of high concern. Plant species that have previously been identified by state agencies on similar National Grid projects in western New York as species of high concern include: common reed (*Phragmites australis*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera spp.*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and cut leaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*). The following are the three (3) tier categories that each Invasive Species Segment were categorized into based on the site characteristics observed during the inventory:

- Tier 1- Areas with no invasive plant species currently present, and areas that have invasive plant species present in sparse abundance (relative aerial coverage). These areas also did not contain invasive plant species of high concern (as noted above).
- Tier 2- Areas with one (1) invasive plant species of moderately abundance (relative aerial coverage) with various amounts of other invasive plant species present of sparse abundance (relative aerial coverage); or areas with one (1) invasive plant species present of abundant relative aerial coverage, with various amounts of other invasive plant species present of sparse to moderate relative aerial coverage; and did not contain invasive plant species of high concern (as noted above).
- Tier 3- Areas with two (2) or more invasive plant species present of moderate and sparse abundance (relative aerial coverage); and/or contained or suspected to contain invasive plant species of high concern (as noted above).

The locations of the Invasive Species Segments are noted on the *Figure 2: Invasive Species Inventory Map.* Additionally, *Table 1: Invasive Species Inventory* is a comprehensive list of what species were found in each Invasive Species Segment and their relative aerial coverage.

3.0 FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Project Study Limits were broken down into twenty-eight (28) distinct Invasive Species Segments. Of those twenty-eight (28) Invasive Species Segments, twenty-four (24) were classified as Tier 3 (areas with two (2) or more moderate invasive plant species or contained invasive plant species of high concern), one (1) was classified as Tier 2 (areas with one (1) moderate and various sparse invasive plant species, or areas with one (1) abundant invasive plant species but not species of high concern), and three (3) segments were classified as Tier 1 (areas with sparse or no invasive plant species present). A comprehensive list of each Invasive Species Segment and the species found within each area is provided in *Table 1: Invasive Species Inventory*.

The three (3) Invasive Species Segments (Segments 6, 25 and 26) that were classified as a Tier 1 were the only areas within the Project Study Limits where no invasive plant species were observed. More specifically, Invasive Species Segment 6 was located within a manicured lawn between two (2) commercial/industrial parking lots, and Invasive Species Segments 25 and 26 were located on the far eastern end of the Project Study Limits within the John White WMA, and agricultural fields.

The twenty-four (24) Invasive Species Segments that were classified as Tier 3 all had at least one (1) species of high concern, and therefore fell into the Tier 3 category. Of the ten (10) invasive plant species mentioned above as being species of high concern, only six (6) of them were observed throughout much of the Project Study Limits; which includes common reed, purple loosestrife, honeysuckle, common buckthorn, Canada, and cut leaf teasel.

During the invasive species inventory, ten (10) different invasive species were identified within the Project Study Limits. Seven (7) of the species observed were found throughout the Project Study Limits. Whereas, multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), common duckweed (*Lemna minor*), and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*) were more commonly found in the eastern portion of the Project Study Limits within the Tonawanda WMA. Listed below are the species observed and how many Invasive Species Segments they were observed in.

Invasive Species Name	Number of Invasive Species Segments Found In
Common Reed (Phragmites australis)	18
Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)	16
Canada Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>)	16
Cut Leaf Teasel (Dipsacus laciniatus)	14
Morrow's Honeysuckle (Lonicera morrowii)	14
Spotted knapweed (Centaurea stoebe)	13
Common Buckthorn (Rhamnus cathartica)	9
Autumn Olive (Elaeagnus umbellate)	4
Multiflora Rose (Rosa multiflora)	1
Common Duckweed (Lemna minor)	1

4.0 STATEMENT OF LIMITATIONS

This investigation was limited to the Project Study Limits defined for the Project and which are depicted on *Figure 1: Project Vicinity and Index Map* and *Figure 2: Invasive Species Inventory Map*. Fisher Associates did not examine areas outside of the Project Study Limits, thus no information is provided regarding the presence and abundance of invasive plant species outside of the Project Study Limits.

This initial investigation was conducted between August 6 and October 2, 2019 by Fisher Associate's Environmental Scientists. And additional investigations were conducted on June 16, 2020 and November 12 and 13, 2020 for Additional Project Study Limits (as denoted on *Figure 2*). Based on the time of year that the field investigation was conducted, there is the potential that some individuals of invasive plant species were not observed/ recorded during the inventory. For example, some plant species that are easier to identify while in bloom, may have no longer been in bloom towards the end of the summer season.

Additionally, human-induced or natural changes at the site may occur after this date may cause changes in the presence and extent of invasive plant species.

The identification of invasive plant species was limited to the knowledge and plant identification skills of the Fisher Associates Environmental Scientists performing the inventory. The potential exists that they were not able to visually identify all the invasive plant species listed on the *NYSDEC Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species List* (September 10, 2014) under *Title 6 NYCRR Part 575*. Additionally, only plant species listed under *Title 6 NYCRR Part 575* were inventoried for within the Project Study Limits, and no other plant species that may be considered to be invasive by an outside agency were noted.

This report conveys the results of the initial invasive species inventory conducted between August 6 and October 2, 2019, and the additional invasive species inventories conducted on June 16, 2020 and November 12 and 13, 2020 as part of the Certification Review Process for Major Electric and Fuel Gas Transmission Facilities under Article VII of the New York Public Service Law. Construction is not expected to start until after the Article VII review process is complete. Fisher Associates' Environmental Scientists did not map the actual aerial boundaries of each individual invasive plant species observed during the field investigation. The information and data gathered is for informational and planning purposes only during the initial stages of the Project, and the Project location and geographic conditions may change prior to the start of construction. Fisher Associates' recommends that a complete and comprehensive invasive species baseline survey be performed for the site prior to the start of construction.

5.0 SIGNATURES

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Map Revision Date: 4	5/12/2021	Map Author: MFA	
$\mathbf{\Theta}$	0	0.75	1.5 Miles









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29 Driveway	30 Salt Works		
Lewiston Rå	SO Sa	31	
Sprout Rd	32		
ROYALTON Wagoner Ro		33	34
	Mead ville Rd		
	lle Rd		35

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\land	Structure
	Invasive Species Section Boundary
***	Transmission Line 112
+++	Proposed Transmission Line 112 Reroute
	Road
622	Project Study Limits
	Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
	Matchline
The invas	ive species inventory is based on field observations from August to
October 2	
October 2	sive species inventory is based on field observations from August to 2019. Sion Date: 5/12/2021 Aerial Date: 2017
October 2	2019. ision Date: 5/12/2021 Aerial Date: 2017
October 2	2019. ision Date: 5/12/2021 Aerial Date: 2017



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TABLES

Invasive Species Segment	Location	Total Area (Acres))		Relative Aerial Coverage	Abundance (Approximate Relative Aerial Coverage) (%)*	Tier
			Common Name	Scientific Name			
	Structure 1-2 to		Autumn Olive	Elaeagnus umbellata	Moderate	7%	
1	Erie Canal	3.10	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Abundant	39%	3
	2.1.0 0		Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Abundant	26%	
			Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Sparse	3%	
2	Erie Canal to	7.50	Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	5%	3
2	Lockport Bypass Road (NYS Route 93)	7.50	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	15%	5
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	60%	
			Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	12%	
			Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Sparse	4%	
3	Lockport Bypass Road (NYS Route 93) to	8.38	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Moderate	19%	3
5	Mowed Access Road (near Structure 8)	0.30	Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Moderate	7%	3
			Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	5%	
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	30%	
	Mowed Access Road (near Structure 8) to Londonaire Drive 6.02	6.02	Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	18%	3
			Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Sparse	5%	
			Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Moderate	22%	
4			Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	5%	
			Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	5%	
		Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Moderate	11%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Abundant	26%	
			Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Sparse	2%	
5	Londonaire Drive to	5.34	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Abundant	25%	3
5	South Transit Road (NYS Route 78)		Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	25%	
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Moderate	7%	
6	South Transit Road to Snyder Drive	5.05	No Invasiv	ves Observed	-	-	1
			Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Abundant	29%	
			Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Moderate	6%	
7	Snyder Drive to	7.00	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Abundant	25%	3
7	Locust Street	7.90	Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	2%	
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Moderate	6%	
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Abundant	25%	

Invasive Species Segment	Location	Total Area (Acres)	Invasive Species Observed		Acres) Acreal Coverage	Aerial	Abundance (Approximate Relative Aerial Coverage) (%)*	Tier
			Common Name	Scientific Name	A1	U 1 1 1		
	Locust Street to		Canada Thistle Cut Leaf Teasel	Cirsium arvense	Abundant	28% 25%		
8	Beattie Avenue (County Route 14)	8 1 /		Dipsacus laciniatus Lythrum salicaria	Abundant Moderate	25% 15%	3	
	Beaue Avenue (County Route 14)		Purple Loosestife	Centaurea stoebe	Moderate	24%		
			Spotted Knapweed Common Buckthorn			4%		
				Rhamnus cathartica	Sparse			
	Destrict A second (Construction 14) to		Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus Lonicera morrowii	Abundant Moderate	29% 20%		
9	Beattie Avenue (County Route 14) to Bowmiller Road	31.42	Morrow's Honeysuckle				3	
	Bowinnier Koau		Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	12%		
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Moderate	13%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Abundant	50%		
			Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	8%		
10	Bowmiller Road to	15.15	Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Sparse	4%		
10	Wynkoop Road	17.45	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Moderate	13%	3	
	v 1		Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Moderate	16%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Abundant	31%		
			Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Moderate	12%	3	
	Wynkoop Road to Oak Lane	12.27	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Moderate	15%		
11			Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	5%		
			Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	20%		
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	29%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Abundant	27%		
			Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Abundant	25%		
	Oak Lane to Akron Road		Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	3%		
12	(County Route 142)	17.46	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	5%	3	
	(County Route 142)		Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	28%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Moderate	20%		
			Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Sparse	4%		
	Akron Road (County Route 142) to		Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Abundant	26%	3	
13	Singer Road		Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	5%		
	Singer Road		Purple Loosestife	Phragmites australis	Abundant	29%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Moderate	7%		

Invasive Species Segment	Location	Total Area (Acres)	Invasive Species Observed		I Area Invasive Species Observed Aerial cres) Coverage	Relative Aerial Coverage	Abundance (Approximate Relative Aerial Coverage) (%)*	Tier
			Common Name	Scientific Name				
			Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Moderate	8%		
			Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Moderate	10%		
14	Singer Road to	27.63	Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	3%	3	
	Gasport Road		Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	4%		
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	27%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Moderate	8%		
			Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	6%		
	Gasport Road to		Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Sparse	4%		
15	Ward Road	14.52	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	10%	3	
	walu Koau		Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	28%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Sparse	3%		
	16 Ward Road to Royalton Center Road (County Route 55)		Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	6%	3	
16		26.07	Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	29%		
			Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea stoebe	Sparse	35%		
	De la Conte De 1/Conte De 155		Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Sparse	4%	3	
17	Royalton Center Road (County Route 55) to Arnold Road	17.45	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	8%		
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	27%		
	Arnold Road to Lewsiton Road (NYS Route 77) 12.10		Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	6%		
10		12.10	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Moderate	15%	3	
18			Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	4%		
			Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	26%		
19	Lewiston Road (NYS Route 77) to Griswold Street (County Route 905)	22.84	Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	13%	3	
	Griswold Street (County Route 905) to		Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Sparse	4%		
20	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	24.91	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Sparse	1%	3	
	(Along boundary of Tonawanda WMA)		Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Moderate	7%		
		25.16	Autumn Olive	Elaeagnus umbellata	Sparse	1%	3	
	Structure 134 to		Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Sparse	5%		
21	Structure 149		Common Duckweed	Lemna minor	Sparse	3%		
	(Located within Tonawanda WMA)		Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Moderate	7%		
	(Located within Tonawanda WIMA)		Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Moderate	10%		

Invasive Species Segment	Location	Total Area (Acres)			rea Invasive Species Observed Relative Aerial R	Abundance (Approximate Relative Aerial Coverage) (%)*	Tier
			Common Name	Scientific Name		-	
	Structure 149 to		Autumn Olive	Elaeagnus umbellata	Moderate	15%	
22	Structure 169	31.95	Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	9%	3
22	(Located within Tonawanda WMA)	51.95	Purple Loosestife	Lythrum salicaria	Abundant	26%	5
	(Located within Tonawanda WithT)		Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	2%	
23	Structure 169 to	7 58	Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	20%	3
23	Structure 173		Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	3%	5
24	Structure 185 to Alleghany Road (NYS Route 63)	6.61	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Sparse	5%	3
25	Alleghany Road (NYS Route 63) to Judge Road (NYS Route 63) (Located with John White WMA)	14.09	No Invasiv	es Observed	-	-	1
26	Judge Road (NYS Route 63) to Structure 210.5	21.91	No Invasives Observed		-	-	1
			Autumn Olive	Elaeagnus umbellata	Sparse	5%	
	Tie-in near Structure 142 to		Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Sparse	5%	
27	Tie-in near Structure 160	51 (9	Cut Leaf Teasel	Dipsacus laciniatus	Sparse	3%	3
27	(Proposed re-route for Line 112 in	54.68	Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Sparse	2%	3
	Tonawanda WMA)		Multiflora Rose	Rosa multiflora	Sparse	3%	
			Phragmites	Phragmites australis	Sparse	4%	
28	Additional Project Study Limits from June 2020	1.50	Morrow's Honeysuckle	Lonicera morrowii	Moderate	20%	2
20	Structure 210.5 to Structure 211	1.50	Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Moderate	3%	2

Notes:

- 1. The original field investigation was performed by Fisher Associates between August 6 and October 2, 2019. An additional field investigation was performed on June 16, 2020 and November 12 and 13, 2020.
- 2. The Project was divided into areas titled Invasive Species Segments and were designated a number. These segments were created using geographic indicators such as roads and streams as dividing barriers.
- 3. Invasive plant species per segment were classified by their estimated relative aerial coverage as indicated in the following breakdown.

Sparse (<5%)

Moderate (5-25%)

Abundant (>25%)

* Relative aerial coverage percentage is based of approximate aerial coverage of the invasive species within the given Invasive Species Segment.

Invasive Species Segment	Location	Total Area (Acres)	Invasive Spec	ies Observed	Relative Aerial Coverage	Abundance (Approximate Relative Aerial	Tier
C	0		Common Name	Scientific Name	Ŭ	Coverage) (%)*	

4. Each Invasive Species Segment was assigned a tier based on the number, type and percent aerial cover of species found within that segment. Tiers are defined as follows:

Tier 1- Areas with no invasive plant species currently present and areas that have invasive plant species present in sparse relative aerial cover. These areas also did not contain invasive plant species of high concern.

Tier 2- Areas with one (1) invasive plant species of moderate relative aerial coverage with various amounts of other invasive plant species present of sparse relative aerial coverage; or areas with one (1) invasive plant species present of abundant relative aerial coverage, with various amounts of other invasive plant species present of sparse to moderate relative aerial coverage; and did not contain invasive plant species of high concern.

Tier 3- Areas with two (2) or more invasive plant species present of moderate and sparse relative aerial coverage; and/or contained or suspected to contain invasive plant species of high concern.