



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Prioritization Process Meeting

Grand Traverse Conservation District
1450 Cass Rd., TC
December 19, 2018

Notes

Present: Buzz Long (LCD), Jake Bournay (GTRLC), Vickie Smith (WWS), Shaun Howard (TNC), Max Miller (GTCD), Doug Barry (DNR-PRD), Josh Shields (MCD/FAP), Tad Peacock (BCD), Becky Hill (LC), Melissa Witkowski (GTBOI), Nicole Schafer (SLBE), Katie Grzesiak, Emily Cook, Fields Ratliff, Audrey Menninga, Andy Harmon (ISN)

HWA Overview

- ID & biology
- Known extent/past detections
- Vectors/risk factors

Subgrant Goals Overview

- Survey (for *detection*) as much of the existing hemlock population as possible while also getting as good of information as is reasonable (e.g. using our resources well)
 - HWA
 - Elongate Hemlock Scale (EHS)
- Ground-truthing the Hemlock Prediction Model (minor)
- **Note:** Partners can go in more depth with their own surveys (we encourage it)! This is just what ISN is doing with this grant

Survey Methods Overview

- First pass (January): Is there hemlock where we think in our preliminarily prioritized areas? Is there HWA there?
- Subsequent passes: better coverage of re-prioritized sites
- On-site methods
 - Choose a “site” (e.g. Magoon Creek Natural Area)
 - For each acre surveyed, drop a “point”
 - Look at up to 30 hemlock trees
 - Check *at least* 4 branches per tree—branches on the ground are a good resource!
 - Move to the next acre and repeat
- Goal is NOT to check every hemlock
 - Literature suggests checking 30 trees per acre gives a 75% chance of detecting HWA (if present), with sharply diminishing returns thereafter

Prioritization Guidelines & Explanation

- Setting out first stage of prioritization
 - Will be manipulated as more data comes in
- High-risk features: major waterways, brush dumps, private campgrounds, roadways, trails, old trees, high biodiversity sites, rare ecosystems, high income areas, forest edges, landscapers/suppliers, being within 5 miles of the L. Michigan shoreline, tourist sites, high topography/tall trees
 - **Note:** high-income means high-risk (more likely to have RV/travel, paid landscaping, purchased contaminated stock), NOT that we’re favoring high-income areas for special treatment
 - **Note:** high biodiversity is “worth it” because they’re worth preserving and birds are likely to target it during migration

Permissions brainstorming

- Partners can help! Let people know we’ll be sending out letters, get us contact info, etc.
 - Conservancies can help get us in contact with their easement owners
 - FAP foresters can help connect us with parcels they’ve visited
 - LCD can connect us with Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) property owners



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Prioritization Brainstorming

- General suggestions
 - Look at areas of high human traffic and impact
 - Look at areas of high quality and high migratory bird use
 - Use M22 book to target high traffic areas of beach access
 - Look at RV Camps
 - ArcOnline MDOT Roadside Park Viewer—all roadside turnouts?
 - Possible contact with trails groups
 - Use topo maps—follow ridge lines!
 - Generally: follow the coast on the west side, follow the waterways on the east side
- County-by-County discussions
 - Manistee
 - Glen Park, Onekama
 - Previous ISN surveys have points for hemlock stands
 - Portage Point Woods and nearby TNC easements—Lynise Hensel as good contact
 - Manistee River Trail—both sides
 - The homeowner association near Magoon Creek; check with Josh for contacts
 - Arcadia dunes, including St. Pierre trail
 - Camp Arcadia—see Emily to set up time to go out there
 - Manistee River SGA—informal trailheads especially
 - Just S of Arcadia (Chamberlain(?) Rd)—see Emily
 - Chamberlain road west to Lake Michigan shoreline. Much of it is posted as private but access is allowed.
 - Check with Smart Trails Group for getting access to some trails in the winter
 - East side of Manistee county, especially checking along waterways and in moraines and kettles
 - The NW section of the county, which is mostly private land; can reach out to Josh for contacts
 - The SW section of the county is full of lots of small, private ownership.
 - Benzie
 - Otter Creek and Platte Bay area of SLBE – Particularly near Esch Rd and Platte River Campground
 - GTRLC properties and easements along shoreline (Greenpoint, Betsie, Baldy), and around Herring Lakes (Fruithaven)
 - City of Frankfort, especially along shoreline of Michigan Ave—not in model, but thickly forested
 - CSA—contact Nancy Baglan
 - Possibly homeowner association near Herring Lakes—contact Paula Dreezen
 - Along Crystal Lake, especially northern ridge. GTRLC property Medenbrook is nearby, some owned by SLBE
 - SLBE office, and across M-22. Steep slopes
 - Betsie Valley Trl—possible first week of Jan, team up with Doug for monitoring
 - Between Loon Lake and M-22, private land
 - Boekeloo Rd/Lodge area in SLBE
 - One of the trash companies has a dump in NE BC. See if we can get access
 - Deerings construction company has yard waste dump
 - The Hill/MAINROC and across M22 in SLBE (high traffic and disturbance)
 - Green Point, Betsie Dunes
 - Joyfield Road along side of Arcadia Dunes preserve – TONS of hemlock groves
 - Between the Platte Lakes, Medenbrook Nature Preserve
 - Watervale Resort – connects to Baldy and Arcadia dunes – a lot of hemlock in woods and a few within the resort proper (Emily has owner contact info)



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- SE corner of BC
- Lots of private campgrounds, especially along Betsie R. at US-31
- Where the DNR motor trail crosses the Betsie R.
- West and north of Lake Ann
- Leelanau
 - Manitou Islands—either very late in HWA survey season, or at the beginning of field season (access issues)
 - Send summer TNC or ISN crew out to the islands for survey?
 - GTB COs go out in Mar/April, could tag along?
 - Get research permit & loop Nicole in!
 - Leelanau State Park—ISN survey team got hemlock stand points
 - DNR-PRD do instead? Share points
 - Mottled likelihood of hemlock through most of northern half of the county
 - Find where LC preserves/easements intersect and prioritize those for first wave
 - Dumps in Northport
 - Cherry Homes association (Northport)
 - Mathesson (?) golf course
 - Solon Swamp—state land?
 - Peshawbestown—leverage GTB for permissions
 - Leelanau School, at Crystal R. & L. Michigan—Fields has contact there
 - Palmer Woods and West of School Lake
 - North of Glen Lake
 - South of Glen Lake—Hatlem Creek
 - Heritage Trail/Alligator Hill—blowdown will make this interesting!
 - Cathead Bay association—Fields has contact there. Also woods across from association.
 - Leo Creek
 - Manitou Passage golf course
 - Pyramid Point
 - All around Little Traverse Lake
 - Homestead & golf course
 - Chippewa Run Natural Area & Bar Lakes
 - Swanson Lake
 - N. of Crystal River, E of the Homestead
 - Bohemian Rd & M-22, toward the lake
 - Peterson Park, working S of there
 - Natural Area around Lake Leelanau Narrows (Leelanau Conservancy preserve)
 - Houdek Dunes & Gills Pier
 - Easements around Bass Lake
 - Centerville Township WRP properties
 - Around the dock area in Leland, where ferries leave for the Manitous.
 - Fox Islands, logistically difficult but possible DNR/TNC involvement
 - **Note:** tell TNC about difficulty of accessing any areas!
- Grand Traverse
 - Old Mission Peninsula—more hemlock (blotchy)
 - Power Island
 - Old Mission Lighthouse (if DNR doesn't do)
 - GTRLC easements/preserves on Old Mission—use as good starting point
 - Peninsula Township property
 - Neahtawantah Association areas—Ask Monnie Peters



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- **Note:** use spotted lanternfly as an “in” to talk with growers?
- Mainland—generally less hemlock predicted; hit high-risk/disturbed areas
 - Mitchell Creek
 - East Creek
 - River Rd (along Boardman River)
 - Petobego, Skegemog
 - South end of Elk Lake
 - South of Duck Lake
 - Battle Creek Natural Area
 - Hickory Hills—high use + high income!
 - State conservation easement parcel nearby (DEQ?)
 - Bunker Hill/VASA trailheads
 - Reffitt Nature Preserve
 - Timbers (S of Fern Lake)
 - TC State Forest S of Boardman River (utility corridor + ATV trail)
 - Barker Creek Nursery (work with CAKE as needed)
 - Check with snowmobile club, for access to motorized trails?
 - Commons? (esp. state parcels)
 - Fife Lake landowner? Good HQ interior indicator

Additional discussion

- Possible data to add to maps, to further identify spots:
 - MDOT roadside park map (ArcOnline)
 - Check DNR layers on ArcOnline
- Partner with snowmobile clubs for transport?
- Public-facing information
 - www.saveMIhemlocks.org
 - https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/0,5664,7-324-68002_71241-367635--,00.html (more technical)
- How to decontaminate boots? Alcohol wipes?