

Building Local Capacity to Protect and Restore Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Habitat in Northeast Michigan: Semi-Annual Performance Report 4

Grant # F13AC00991

April 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

Daria Hyde-MNFI Report No. 2015-20

Project Overview:

We will train and work with local stakeholders to conduct surveys for the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (HED) while simultaneously mapping locations of invasive plants at four known Hine's emerald dragonfly sites in Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle counties. Small invasive plant infestations will be treated during surveys to minimize follow-up efforts and the highest priority larger infestations will be identified for future treatment. This project will build local capacity to protect and restore HED habitat in this region.

Goals and Objectives:

1. Extend current USFWS permit through duration of project.

- Dave Cuthrell is a sub-permittee under a permit held by Dr. Cashatt. His permit has been extended to 12/31/2015 which coincides with the end date for this project.

2. Recruit volunteers from the community and local schools and provide workshops for the local community.

- A workshop was conducted on **June 19, 2015** at the Presque Isle District Library in Roger's City for those interested in learning more about this project. **Fifteen people were in attendance.** Bill Grigg with the Friends of Thompson Harbor assisted by marketing this workshop within the Friends Group and within the local community. We provided an overview of the project and discussed the Hine's emerald dragonfly and other unique plants and animals at Thompson's Harbor State Park and the threat posed by invasive species. Presenters included: Daria Hyde and Phyllis Higman -MNFI, Melissa Buzzard from Huron Pines, Bill Grigg, Friends of Thompson's Harbor, Sue Keller- Friends of Negwegon, Blake Gingrich, MDNR State Parks and Brandon Schroeder, NEMGLSI.

3 & 4. Train State Park and Huron Pines staff /volunteers to i.d rare species & invasive plants.

- A **3 hour training workshop** was provided on **August 10th** for **10 staff and volunteers** at Thompson's Harbor State Park.

5. Conduct surveys for HED and invasive species at Misery Bay, North Point Rd., Negwegon S.P. and Thompson's Harbor. (Total acres surveyed: 2015 - 315 acres, 2014 – 325 acres).

- We worked with park staff and volunteers at Negwegon State Park on **August 12 and 13th and September 22 and 23rd** and continued to identify and treat invasive species and search for HED adults and larvae. We surveyed approximately **75 acres** in 2015.
- We conducted surveys for HED and invasives on June 18, 2015 in approximately **80 acres** of potential habitat at Thompson's Harbor State Park.
- We conducted surveys at the Misery Bay and North Point Rd sites on **August 11th and 12th** for HED adults and on **September 21 and 22nd** for HED larvae. We also documented invasive species in these areas. We surveyed approximately **80 acres** of potential habitat at **North Point Road and 80 acres** of potential habitat at **Misery Bay**.

- We spent a day working with a class of **46 seventh grade science students** from Roger's City Middle School on **September 24 from 9-2 pm** at **Thompson's Harbor State Park**, searching for HED larvae and documenting invasive species.

6. Treat occurrences of invasive plants which occur in areas <1 acre during surveys.

- Huron Pines staff accompanied us when we conducted surveys and treated invasive plants which occurred in areas <1 acre. We recorded occurrences of invasive plants > 1 acre so they can be treated later by State Park staff or contractors. Invasive plants were treated in approximately **75 acres** of habitat at Negwegon S.P. in 2015. (~**325 acres** in 2014.) Invasive plants were not treated at Misery Bay, Northpoint Road and Thompson's Harbor in 2015.

7. Conduct larval surveys in potential habitat. (Survey results will be presented in the final report).

- David Cuthrell returned to Negwegon State Park in 2015 and pumped the burrows that volunteers identified in 2014. He also pumped burrows identified at Thompson's Harbor State Park, and Misery Bay in 2015.

8. Report project results to State Parks and USFWS.

- A final report will be provided to State Parks as well as USFWS.
- Alicia Ihnken, MDNR PRD prepared maps for Thompson's Harbor State Park that we loaded into the tablets and that we used to collect data in the field. She also created a map of the northern portion of Negwegon State Park where volunteers conducted surveys in 2015.

9. Provide GPS locations of invasive plants > 1 acre to DNR PRD and Huron Pines

- GPS locations of all invasive plants documented in 2015 will be provided to DNR Parks and Recreation Division as well as Huron Pines. These locations will be sorted into categories of 1) treated and 2) flagged but not treated. Areas > 1 acre were not treated.
- We will also summarize the number of acres surveyed and the numbers of acres treated for invasive species and provide this information to DNR PRD and USFWS.

10. Report project results to the community and develop plan with local leaders to continue EDRR efforts

- Project results were reported to the community through a videotaped segment that aired in August 2015 on the Sunrise Cable Network, Channel 6 in Onaway, MI.
- Project results will also be reported in articles posted on the NE MI Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative website (<http://www.nemiglsi.org/>) and the Michigan State University Extension website (<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/>).
- EDRR efforts will be continued through the leadership of DNR State Park staff at Negwegon State Park and Thompson's Harbor State Park and support of Friends groups.
- EDRR efforts as well as HED surveys will continue through a NFWF grant awarded to Huron Pines to work in the Alpena area, including North Point Road, Misery Bay and Negwegon S.P.