

# Phragmites Treatment/Management Prioritization Tool



January 2014

## Criteria

### Ecological Criteria

**Value Score**

1. *Region:* In what region of Michigan is your site located?

Upper Peninsula	(5 pts.)	
Northern Lower Peninsula (north of vegetation tension zone)	(3 pts.)	
Southern Lower Peninsula	(1 pts.)	

2. *Local abundance:* Is invasive *Phragmites australis* locally abundant in similar habitat in the general area\*?

\*General area is approximately 2 miles from the site

Very Abundant (>50% of similar habitat is infested)	(-5 pts.)	
Moderate to low abundance (10-50% infested)	(0 pts.)	
Virtually absent locally (<10% infested)	(5 pts.)	

3. *Infestation size:* How large is the *Phragmites* infestation (approximate patch size)?

Less than 1000 square feet	(9 pts.)	
1000 square feet - 1 acre	(7 pts.)	
1 acre - 20 acres	(5 pts.)	
Greater than 20 acres	(3 pts.)	

4. *Linear feature:* Is the infestation in a linear feature, such as a roadside ditch, drain, utility corridor, etc.?

Yes, the infestation is in a linear feature	(5 pts.)	
No, the infestation is not in a linear feature	(0 pts.)	

5. *Seed source:* Is the area acting as a potential seed source to non-infested areas?

The patch size is less than 1 acre AND the entire area will be treated	(5 pts.)	
The patch size is less than 1 acre AND the entire area will NOT be treated	(1 pts.)	
The patch size is more than 1 acre AND the treatment is on the edge of the infestation OR the entire area will be treated	(3 pts.)	
The patch size is more than 1 acre AND the treatment is NOT on the edge of the infestation OR the entire area will not be treated	(-5 pts.)	

6. *Habitat quality:* What is the habitat quality and structure development (relative to similar natural community types)?

Excellent - This area is an excellent example of a natural community <i>(e.g. dominated by native plant species; diversity of plant species and growth forms, features such as hummocks, woody debris, open space and cover; and abundant wildlife habitat features such as breeding, rearing, and nursery areas)</i>	(5 pts.)	
Good - not excellent, but still a good example of a natural community <i>(e.g. some diversity of plant species and growth forms, moderate to sparse hummocks, woody debris, open space and cover; and moderate wildlife habitat features such as breeding, rearing, and nursery areas)</i>	(3 pts.)	
Poor - degraded habitat, poor example of a natural community <i>(e.g. very low diversity of native plant species and growth forms, almost no hummocks, woody debris, open space and cover; and very sparse wildlife habitat features such as breeding, rearing, and nursery areas)</i>	(1 pts.)	

## Human Values Criteria

### 1. *Ownership*: Property Ownership/Location (select **all** that apply)

**Value Score**

Great Lakes Bottomlands (Below Ordinary High Water Mark of the Great Lakes)	(3 pts.)	
Public	(2 pts.)	
Private	(1 pts.)	

### 2. *Aesthetics*: What is the severity of the aesthetic impacts of the *Phragmites* infestation?

Severe - entirely blocking shoreline views of water bodies, inhibiting public scenic road or waterway views, etc.	(3 pts.)	
Moderate - some (but not entire) blockage of shoreline or other public scenic views	(2 pts.)	
Mild - Little to no blockage of shoreline or other public scenic views	(1 pts.)	

### 3. *Recreational impacts*: Is the *Phragmites* negatively impacting recreational opportunities at this site?

Severely impacting recreation - inhibiting boat or walking access to the water, reduction in waterfowl and fish use of the area, reduced visibility inhibiting bird watching, hunting, etc.	(5 pts.)	
Moderately impacting recreation - some moderate impacts to boat or walking access to the water, reduction in waterfowl and fish use of the area, or reduced visibility for bird watching, hunting, etc.	(3 pts.)	
Not impacting recreation - little to no impacts on recreational activities.	(1 pts.)	

### 4. *Human safety hazard*: Is the *Phragmites* infestation causing a human safety hazard?

Significant hazard - blocking views along major roads and intersections, fire-prone dry thatch accumulation adjacent to homes and buildings, etc.	(5 pts.)	
Moderate hazard - Currently not, but has the potential to block views along roads and intersections, some dry thatch adjacent to buildings, etc.	(3 pts.)	
No apparent safety hazard.	(1 pts.)	

## Feasibility/Coordination of Treatment

### 1. *Nearby treatment sites*: Are there sites nearby where *Phragmites* treatment is planned?

Yes - This site is near (e.g., within 1 mile radius) another site where <i>Phragmites</i> treatment is planned and will be conducted in synchronization with pooled resources, etc.	(2 pts.)	
Maybe - Unsure, at this point, if nearby treatment is being planned.	(1 pts.)	
No - The site is not near any other planned treatment sites.	(0 pts.)	

### 2. *Difficulty of treatment*: How difficult would treatment be at this location?

Very Easy - easy access to the entire <i>Phragmites</i> infestation, and you have access to the proper equipment. Minimal natural resource impacts (i.e., native vegetation/habitat) from treatment with the proper use of best management practices.	(5 pts.)	
Moderate - easy to moderate accessibility to the infestation, and you have access to the proper equipment. Using best management practices will minimize negative impacts to native vegetation/habitat.	(1 pts.)	
Difficult - difficult or impossible to access the entire <i>Phragmites</i> infestation, or you do not have access to the proper equipment. Treatment may cause excess damage to natural resources.	(-5 pts.)	

<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	
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