

2014 AIS Bridge Snapshot Day

September 13, 2014

Protocols

You Will Need

Pencil*	Boot Brushes*	Handscope (optional)
Garbage bag*	Binoculars	Camera (optional)
Datasheet*	Long handled rake	Polarized glasses (optional)
Clipboard*	Cooler	Lifest (optional)
Identification references*	Sturdy shoes or waders	
2 gallon plastic bags*	Watch	*Provided

Species of Interest

Aquatic Plants

Curly-leaf Pondweed	European frog-bit
Eurasian Water	Parrot feather
Milfoil	Yellow floating heart
Hydrilla	Water lettuce
Brazilian waterweed	Water hyacinth
Water chestnut	Didymo

Emergent Plants

Flowering rush
Purple loosestrife
Phragmites
Japanese knotweed
Japanese hops

Animals

Faucet snails
New Zealand mudsnails
Quagga mussels
Zebra mussels
Asian clam

Select a Protocol & Know Your Limits

1. Did your local coordinator specifically tell you which protocol to use? If not, once you arrive at your site assess the situation. Is it safe to wade? Are you comfortable wading? If so, please use one of the two wet protocols.
2. If you for any reason do not feel comfortable wading, use a dry protocol.
3. Sites will vary dramatically from public parks along large, unwadable rivers to small, muck bottomed creeks flowing through a culvert nestled between private lands to large highway bridges spanning rocky rivers. Please use common sense when following the protocols. It may not be possible to do all of the following at every site. Simply note what was not possible on your datasheet. Stay safe!
4. Rivers and streams can be dangerous. Use extreme caution when entering the stream and wading. If a streambank is too steep, do not attempt to enter the stream; use a dry protocols. Once in a stream, watch your step; be aware of deep holes and slippery rocks. Consider wearing a lifevest.
5. DAMS: Avoid getting too near any dam or water control structure. If monitoring near a dam, begin your transect well below the influence of the dam.

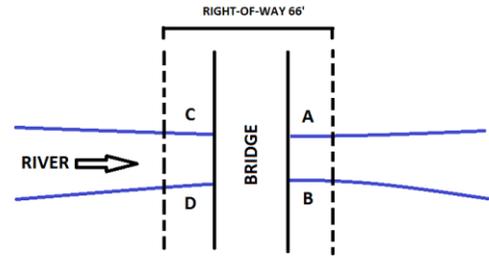
Do Not Trespass

You have the legal right to access any navigable waterway at public road crossing if you stay within the right-of-way. Most road right-of-ways are 66 feet wide (33 feet from the center of the road in each direction). You also have the right to be in or on any navigable waterway; however, you must keep your feet wet. The only time you may step foot on dry land (even exposed streambank) is when you must get out of the water temporarily to circumnavigate around an obstruction in the river or stream. Obstructions could include trees or rocks or deep water. In this case you must use the shortest route possible to return to the stream. Do not trespass to collect a specimen or take a photograph!

For Assistance Call _____

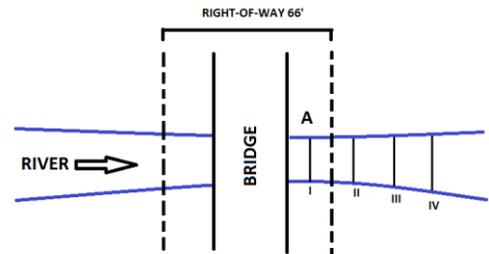
Dry Protocol (Bridge or Culvert Sites)

1. Carefully approach the river or stream on the downstream side of the bridge or culvert (A). If at a bridge or culvert surrounded by private property, stay within the road right-of-way which typically is 66 feet wide.
2. Standing where you can see the most shoreline, search the banks, adjacent wetlands and the water's surface for species of concern for a minimum of 2 minutes. Use binoculars if available.
3. For a minimum of 2 minutes, drag a long-handled rake collecting submerged vegetation and course woody debris. After each drag inspect the vegetation and any attached organisms. Clean rake thoroughly before leaving site.
4. If feasible, use a handmade scoop or your hands to collect substrate a minimum of 3 times. Try to sample a diversity of substrates, if present. Sift through sample for invertebrates.
5. If it is safe to cross the bridge and/or the road, repeat steps 1 – 4 at B, C, and D.
6. Collect all suspicious samples as you find them. Refer to collection protocols.
7. Return to your vehicle and scrub boots/shoes and equipment to remove all plant material and debris.



Wet Protocol (Bridge or Culvert)

1. Carefully approach the river or stream on the downstream side of the bridge or culvert (A). If at a bridge or culvert surrounded by private property, stay within the road right-of-way which typically is 66 feet wide.
2. Wade into the river carefully. You will monitor four transects beginning at the bridge moving downstream. The transects (I, II, III, and IV) will be approximately 20 paces apart from one another.
3. Standing in the river just below the bridge (I), search the banks, adjacent wetlands and the water's surface for species of concern for a minimum of 2 minutes. Use binoculars if available.
4. For a minimum of 2 minutes, drag a long-handled rake collecting submerged vegetation and course woody debris at several locations across the channel, if possible. If it is not possible to take samples across the channel due to depth, simply take three samples where you can. After each drag inspect the vegetation and any attached organisms. Clean rake thoroughly before moving.
5. Using handmade scoop or your hands, scoop up substrate (eg. rocks, sand) at 3 locations across the channel, if possible. If it is not possible to take samples across the channel due to depth, simply take three samples where you can. Try to sample a diversity of substrates, if present. Sift through sample for invertebrates.
6. Take 20 paces to the next transect and repeat steps 3 – 5 at a total of four sites (II, III, and IV) or until you reach an obstacle which makes it unsafe to continue (e.g. deep water).
7. Wade back upstream to the start point (A), being observant as you go.
8. Collect all suspicious samples as you find them. Refer to collection protocols.
9. Return to vehicle and scrub boots/shoes and equipment to remove all plant material and debris.



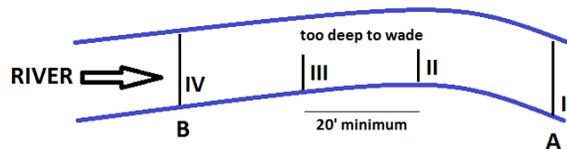
Dry Protocol (Shoreline Sites)

1. Begin at the downstream end of the reach (A).
2. Standing where you can see the most shoreline, search the banks, adjacent wetlands and the water's surface for species of concern for a minimum of 2 minutes. Use binoculars if available.
3. For a minimum of 2 minutes, drag a long-handled rake collecting submerged vegetation and coarse woody debris. After each drag inspect the vegetation and any attached organisms. Clean rake thoroughly before leaving site.
4. If feasible, use handmade scoop or your hands to collect substrate from the shore a minimum of three times. Try to sample a diversity of substrates, if present. Sift through sample for invertebrates.
5. Walk to the top of the reach being observant as you go. At the upper end of the reach (B), repeat steps 2 – 4. If you have enough time you may repeat steps 2-4 at one or more points between A and B.
6. Collect all suspicious samples as you find them. Refer to collection protocols.
7. Return to your vehicle and scrub boots/shoes and equipment to remove all plant material and debris.



Wet Protocol (Shoreline)

1. Begin at the downstream end of the reach (A). You will monitor along four transects at a minimum of 20 paces apart from each other.
2. Wade into the river carefully at first transect (I). Search the banks, adjacent wetlands and the water's surface for species of concern for a minimum of 2 minutes. Use binoculars if available.
3. For a minimum of 2 minutes, drag a long-handled rake collecting submerged vegetation and coarse woody debris at several locations across the channel, if possible. If it is not possible to take samples across the channel due to depth (ex. Transect II), simply take three samples where you can. After each drag inspect the vegetation and any attached organisms. Clean rake thoroughly before moving.
4. Using handmade scoop or your hands, take a sample of the substrate at 3 locations across the channel, if possible. If it is not possible to take samples due to depth, simply take three samples where you can. Try to sample a diversity of substrates, if present. Sift through sample for invertebrates.
5. Take 20 paces to the next transect and repeat steps 3 – 5 at a total of four sites (II, III, and IV).
6. Wade or walk along shoreline back to the start point (A), being observant as you go.
7. Collect all suspicious samples as you find them. Refer to collection protocols.
8. Return to vehicle and scrub boots/ and equipment to remove all plant material and debris.



Collection Protocols

Please collect up to 5-10 intact specimens if possible. If collecting plants, try to get the root system, all leaves as well as seed heads and flowers when present. Place all specimens in one of the provided 2-gallon ziplock bags. Ensure that the site name on the label on the bag matches the site name on your datasheet. Transport bags in cooler. If it is not feasible to collect specimens due to safety or trespassing concerns, take photographs if a camera is available. Share photos with your local coordinator back at the rendezvous site or post on Twitter (#bridgesnapshot) with site name and what you think it is.

Prevent the Spread

After returning to your vehicle upon completion of your survey at each site, use the provided scrub brushes to clean off your shoes, boots, waders, clothing, and equipment. Try to remove all mud, debris, seeds, etc. If provided, use the sprayer to rinse off your boots, waders, and sampling equipment with clean tap water.

Social Media

Check out the Social Media Cheat Sheet in your team's packet. Share with us what you are finding out there on Twitter and Facebook! Get instant feedback from our statewide coordinator on whether or not that is an invasive! A few other ideas of things worth sharing on social media:

- Tell everyone how you are volunteering your time today!
- Post pictures of your monitoring site
- Post pictures of all invasives found or other interesting finds, such as native plants or animals
- Share a video of you or your teammates in action
- Also include a short caption explaining the picture
- Be sure to use the hashtag #BridgeSnapshot and tag the River Alliance (@RiverAlliance)

THANK YOU!

