
2023 Crab Lake Yellow Iris Memorandum

Date: August 31, 2023

To: CLPOA Board

From: Boyd Zander, CLPOA Associate Member

Subject: 2023 Crab Lake Yellow Iris Abatement Efforts

I would like to provide the CLPOA board a brief update on progress made in 2023 relative to the efforts to eradicate Yellow Iris from Crab Lake.

The 2023 survey effort covered 100% of the 18.4 total miles of Crab Lake shoreline (mainland and islands). The survey was performed on June 20th and 21st by Rob Foerster and Boyd Zander. The survey was performed via two-man canoe and required 15 hours to complete over two days. The 2023 survey found 46 stands (locations) of Yellow Iris. The stands are presented in Figure 1.

A Yellow Iris Dig was planned and executed across two days, August 14 and 15 by a team of Preston Carli, John MacLean and Boyd Zander. All of the Yellow Iris found by the survey were removed. The removal amounted to approximately 1 cubic yard for a haul weight of 640 lbs. The yellow iris was bagged and tagged per DNR recommendation, placed in a dumpster provided by We-Haul-It and taken to Eagle River landfill.

For comparison, the last three years removal can be quantified as:

Year	Stands Removed	Volume (Cu. Yd.)	Weight (lbs.)
2021	49	4	2200
2022	60	6	3000
2023	46	1	640

The comparison is indicative that all of the largest stands have been removed. The remaining stands are now relatively small immature stands that are blossoming, each year, for the first time such that they are found by the annual survey. It is expected that the number of stands found in future years will attenuate until all Yellow Iris has been removed, hopefully by 2026. This can happen provided all Yellow Iris is identified and they are all completely removed.

To date, 217 stands of Yellow Iris have been removed form Crab Lake. These are presented on Figure 2.

All 60 stands that were removed in 2022 were revisited in 2023 to verify that removal was effective. It was found that ~30% of those removed in 2022 had some return growth due to incomplete removal. This is the first year that such a large portion of stands experienced regrowth. Incomplete removal is a significant risk to complete eradication. All of the stands identified as regrowth were removed except for one stand on Diamond Point (Easley property). Effort was made to remove this stand but the harassment from ground hornets plum gaumed up the attempt by forcing a hasty retreat. This stand will however be removed.

Acknowledgements:

The author would like to express appreciation and thanks to the following:

- Rob Foerster for assistance in the 2023 survey effort.
- The Billhymer, CLCS, Foerster, Gerken, Graham, Hemming, Judd (Jackie), Judd (Stan), Lyons, MacLean, Mulford (David & Jeannie), Mulford (Mike and Kai), Ogilby, Overton, Schaffner, Smith, Sprackling, and Tuttle families for granting access to their properties and allowing for the 2023 **YFI** removal. The successful 2023 removal results started with the permissions that were granted. Thank you for your support and trust.
- Kai Mulford for personally removing the Yellow Iris found on Mulford property.
- Barry MacLean for providing access to substantial labor, equipment, boats, and providing for docking and dumpster access for invasive disposal.
- Preston Carli and John MacLean for their participation in the 2023 organized removal effort.
- Crab Lake Conservation Foundation for funding the costs associated with the survey and removal efforts.

The following pages provide visual perspective of effort expended in 2023, and to date, regards removal of Yellow Iris from Crab Lake.

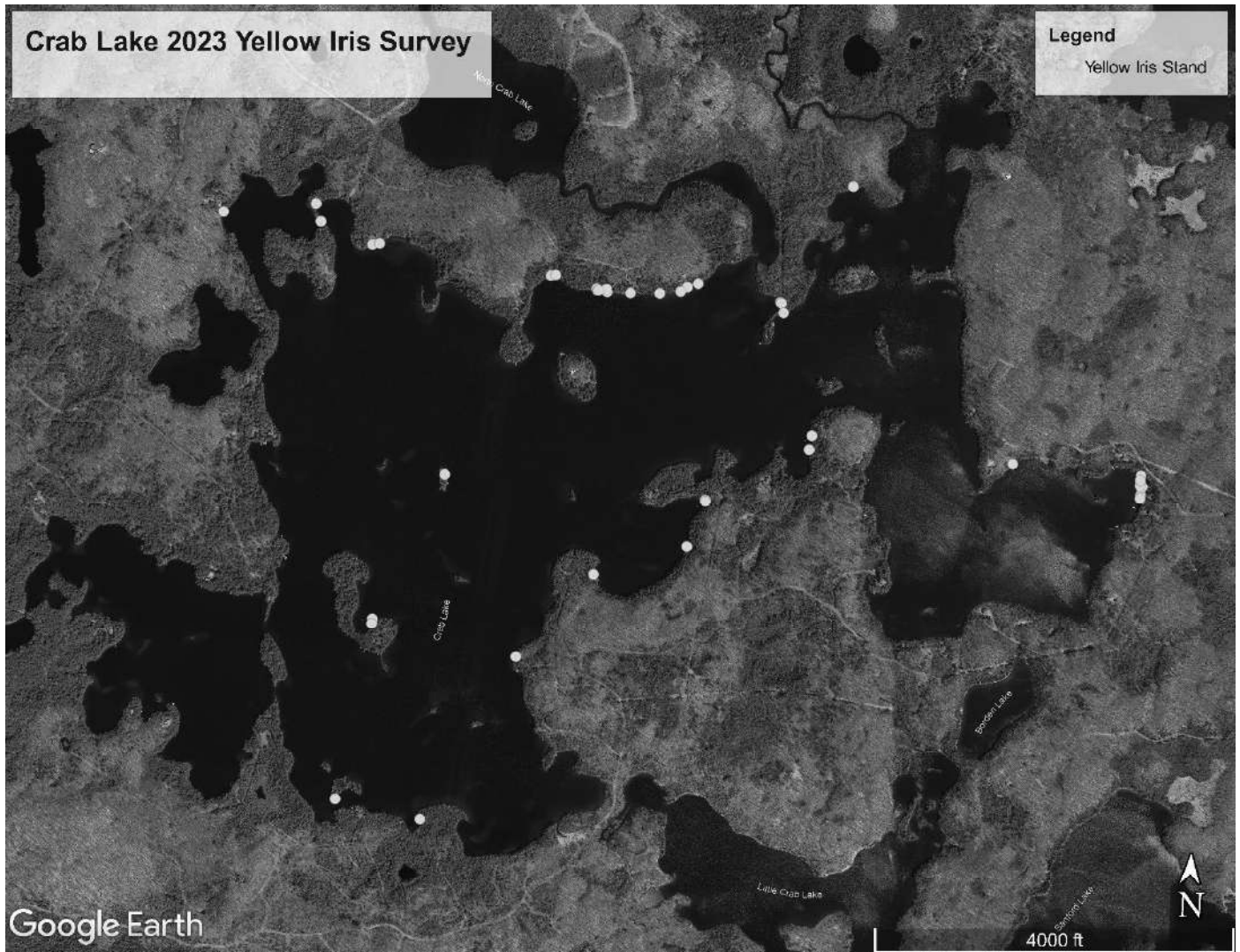


Figure 1 – Yellow Iris Identified by the 2023 Survey

The shoreline is surveyed as thoroughly as reasonably possible. The 2023 survey effort covered 100% of the 18.4 total miles of Crab Lake shoreline (mainland and islands). The survey was performed on June 20th and 21st by Rob Foerster and Boyd Zander. The survey was performed via two-man canoe and required 15 hours to complete.

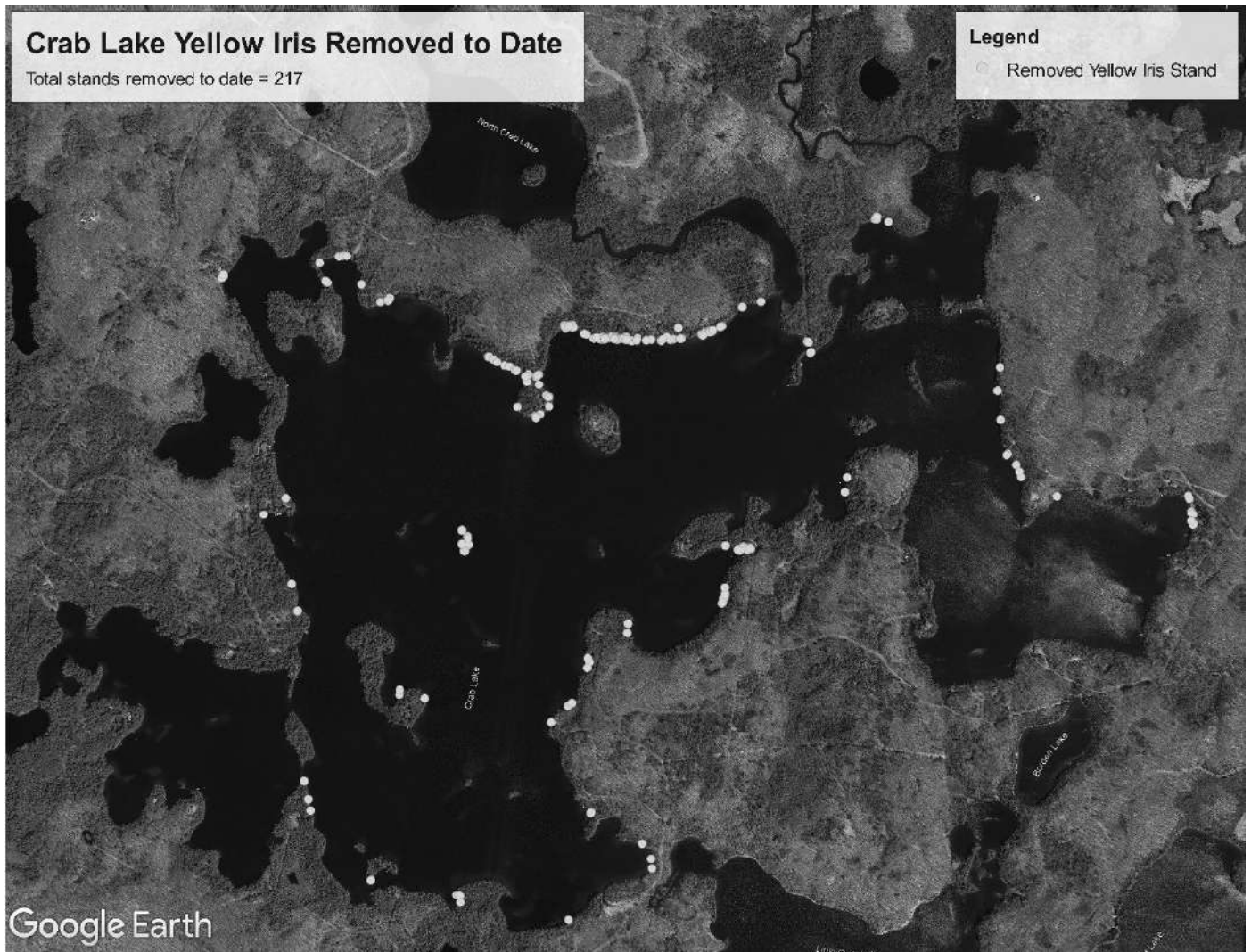


Figure 2 – Total Iris Removed to Date

Visually represented by yellow dots across the ends of Crab Lake are all of the **217** Yellow Iris stands that have been removed since 2018.