
2026 Crab Lake Yellow Iris Memorandum

Date: July 1, 2026

To: CLCF Board

From: Boyd Zander, CLPOA Associate Member

Subject: 2026 Crab Lake Yellow Iris Survey

I would like to provide the CLCF board a brief update on the 2026 Yellow Flag Iris survey of Crab Lake.

The 2026 survey effort covered ~98% of the 18.4 total miles of Crab Lake shoreline (mainland and islands). Due to time constraints, seven islands were not included in the survey. The survey was conducted on June 26th and 27th by Boyd Zander in just under 9 1/2 hours of time on the water. The 2026 survey found 22 stands (locations) of Yellow Iris. The survey path and stand locations are presented in [Figure 1](#).

This is the third year in a row where the Crab Lake Yellow Iris Survey has identified a relatively small amount of Yellow Iris compared to the peak survey total from 2022. In 2022, 60 total stands comprised of an estimated 2282 individual plants were found. In 2026, 22 total stands comprised of an estimated 213 individual plants were found representing about 9% of that found by the 2022 survey. The average size of a stand in 2022 was 38.7 plants where the average size in 2026 was 9.7 plants. All plants found this year were relatively small and likely had just reached maturity, having blossomed for the first time and becoming visible to the survey.

Between 2018 and 2026, 272 Yellow Iris stands have been removed from the Crab Lake shoreline. Each stand location is depicted in [Figure 2](#). Provided that this project continues, I am hopeful that the number of stands found in future years will attenuate until all Yellow Iris has been removed. This can happen provided all Yellow Iris is identified, all seeds are harvested to preclude propagation, and all known plants are completely removed.

Given that 2021[#] was likely the last year of any Yellow Iris seed dispersal in Crab Lake, the year 2027 could be expected to be the year that near zero or no Yellow Iris would be found. This is based on two years of seed viability to germinate and three years to mature to blossom as identified in scientific literature. If, while surveying 18.4 miles of shoreline, every year since 2022, not a single one blossoming Yellow Iris was missed, there is potential that the removal project will be found to be successful in the next year or two. If one Yellow Iris was missed in any one year, well that would extend the project by the five years required for dispersed seeds to germinate and grow into a blossoming plant. I'm hopeful that we were thorough in the surveys, and we'll find the project to be done and over with as soon as possible.

2022 was the first year that 100% of the mainland shoreline had been surveyed in a single year. Therefore, there is a high probability that the last seeds deposited into Crab Lake were naturally sown in 2021.

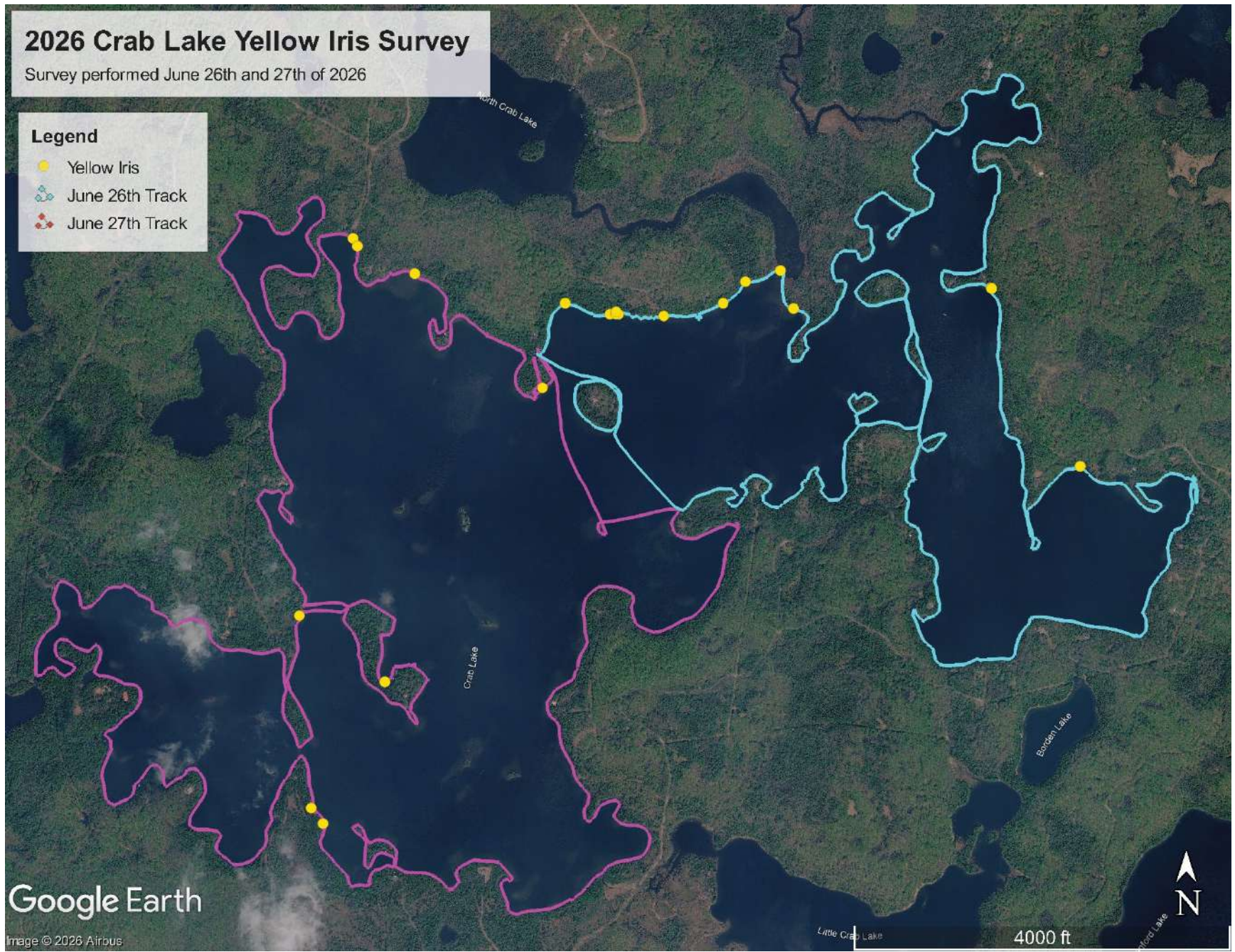


Figure 1 – Yellow Iris Identified by the 2026 Survey



Figure 2 – Total Yellow Iris Removed Since 2018