

2/17/2020

Kristopher Williams, PRISM Coordinator  
Capital/Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga  
50 West High St.  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Dear Kris,

I am pleased to offer support for the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.'s application to the Capital/Mohawk PRISM's 2020 RFP. The Huyck Preserve attracts over 3,000 visitors each year to its 12-miles of trails, provides important educational programming for the area's school children and the general public, and has been the site of significant scientific research in its 80-year history as a biological field station. In addition to being a resource for science, education, and recreation, the Huyck Preserve is an important conservation site, containing over 70 ecological communities that support diverse native flora and fauna including state-listed species.

The Huyck Preserve's current proposal with Cap/Mohawk PRISM is an important step in working toward the goals outlined in the Preserve's newly adopted invasive species management and monitoring plan. In addition to continuing on-the-ground management and monitoring efforts begun with PRISM RFP funds in 2019 through the hiring of seasonal staff, this current year's funding will enable the Huyck Preserve to treat a population of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid threatening its majestic and critical hemlock stands.

The preserve staff are well prepared to conduct this work, with detailed maps of their ecological communities and hemlock stands, an understanding of what ecological services hemlocks provide to the landscape, and quotes from applicators for the work. They have been working with NYSHI since August of 2019 on prioritizing their hemlock stands, and are testing the prioritization tool under final review by NYSHI, DEC, and OPHRP. Their diligence and attention to this task puts them in a good position to execute the HWA work outlined in their proposal.

The Huyck Preserve's work toward controlling invasive species including hemlock woolly adelgid is a crucial step toward ensuring the long-term health of the forests, waterways, and other ecological communities in our region for wildlife and people alike, and I support the Huyck Preserve's efforts.

Sincerely,

Caroline Marschner  
Project Manager, NYS Hemlock Initiative  
Cornell University  
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