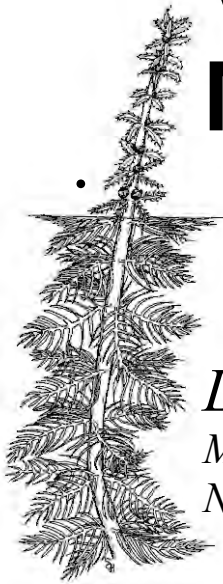

Long-Term Variable Milfoil Management Plan



Lake Winnisquam
Meredith, Sanbornton, Laconia, Belmont & Tilton,
New Hampshire

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Purpose

The purposes of this exotic aquatic plant management and control plan are:

1. To identify and describe the historic and current exotic aquatic infestation(s) in the waterbody;
2. To identify short-term and long-term exotic aquatic plant control goals;
3. To recommend exotic plant control actions that meet the goals outlined in this plan; and
4. To recommend monitoring strategies to determine the success of the control practices over time in meeting the goals.

This plan also summarizes the current physical, biological, ecological, and chemical components of the subject waterbody as they may relate to both the exotic plant infestation and recommended control actions, and the potential social, recreational and ecological impacts of the exotic plant infestation.

The intent of this plan is to establish an adaptive management strategy for the long-term control of the target species (in this case variable milfoil) in the subject waterbody, using an integrated plant management approach.

Appendix A and Appendix B detail the general best management practices and strategies available for waterbodies with exotic species, and provides more information on each of the activities that are recommended within this plan.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Overview

Exotic aquatic plants pose a threat to the ecological, aesthetic, recreational, and economic values of lakes and ponds (Luken & Thieret, 1997, Halstead, 2000), primarily by forming dense growths or monocultures in critical areas of waterbodies that are most used for aquatic habitat. These dense growths and near monotypic stands of invasive aquatic plants can result in reduced overall species diversity in both plant and animal species, and can alter water chemistry and aquatic habitat structure that is native to the system.

Since January 1, 1998, the sale, distribution, importation, propagation, transportation, and introduction of key exotic aquatic plants have been prohibited (RSA 487:16-a) in New Hampshire. This law was designed as a tool for lake managers to help prevent the spread of nuisance aquatic plants.

New Hampshire lists 28 exotic aquatic plant species as prohibited in the state (per Env-Wq 1303.02) due to their documented and potential threat to surface waters of the state.

According to the federal Section 305(b) and 303(d) Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM), “exotic macrophytes are non-native, fast growing aquatic plants, which can quickly dominate and choke out native aquatic plant growth in the surface water. Such infestations are in violation of New Hampshire regulation Env-Wq 1703.19, which states that surface waters shall support and maintain a balanced, integrated and adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of similar natural habitats of a region” (DES, 2006). In fact, waterbodies that contain exotic aquatic plant infestations do not attain water quality standards and are listed as impaired.

Variable Milfoil Infestation in Lake Winnisquam

Variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) became established in Lake Winnisquam in Meredith, New Hampshire around 1995. The most abundant variable milfoil growth is documented in the far northern and southern ends of the lake where larger contiguous stands of growth tend to persist. Some growth is located within the central portion of the lake, between Mosquito Bridge on Route 3 and Mohawk Island in Tilton. Milfoil stands have been primarily confined to Winnisquam Marine, Jays Marina, and Sunray Shores (a dredged channel to developed land in Belmont) and Mallards Landing. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of variable milfoil infestations in this waterbody as a whole. Following is a summary of each site:

Area	Location/Area Description	Year	Description of Growth
North End/North End Narrows	Northern tip of the lake, including Split Rock Sanctuary area, extending down the east and west shorelines through the narrows north of Three Sisters. Mostly in the town of Meredith.	2009	Patchy to expansive growth throughout north end and patchy growth along east and west shoreline
		2010	Scattered milfoil stems
		2011	Not surveyed
		2012	Not surveyed
		2013	Not surveyed
		2014	Not surveyed
		2015	Not surveyed
		2016	Not surveyed
		2017	Patchy to expansive growth throughout north end and patchy growth along east and west shoreline
		2018	Late season treatment, no surveyed post treatment. Will survey in spring 2019.
2019	Variable milfoil present in early		

Area	Location/Area Description	Year	Description of Growth
			July, some moderately sized patches and scattered single stems along northern shoreline, with scattered stems and patches along western shoreline.
Black Brook	Located on the western shoreline in the central basin of the lake. Black Brook is a tributary to the lake, and milfoil has been present in a lagoon area along the brook.	2009	Not surveyed
		2010	Not surveyed
		2011	Not surveyed
		2012	Not surveyed
		2013	Not surveyed
		2014	Not surveyed
		2015	Not surveyed
		2016	Not surveyed
		2017	Not surveyed
		2018	Need to survey in 2019
2019	No milfoil found		
Winnepesaukee River from Lake Opechee	Inflow from Lake Opechee, including areas along public access site and marina/docks	2009	Scattered stems
		2010	Scattered stems
		2011	Scattered stems
		2012	Scattered stems
		2013	Scattered stems
		2014	Not surveyed
		2015	Not surveyed
		2016	Not surveyed
		2017	None observed
		2018	None observed
2019	None observed		
South of Mosquito Bridge, north of Mohawk Island	South of Mosquito Bridge, north of Mohawk Island	2009	Growth observed to be dense in Jay's Marina area; all other areas were clear of milfoil
		2010	Lower density of growth in Jay's Marina due to 2009 treatment, no growth observed elsewhere.
		2011	Growth observed to be denser in Jay's Marina area; all other areas were clear of milfoil
		2012	Not surveyed
		2013	Not surveyed
		2014	Not surveyed
		2015	Not surveyed
		2016	Not surveyed
		2017	Growth observed to be dense in Jay's Marina area; all other areas were clear of milfoil
		2018	Growth observed to be dense in Jay's Marina area; all other areas were clear of milfoil
2019	Growth observed to be dense prior to treatment in Jay's Marina area; single scattered plants around		

Area	Location/Area Description	Year	Description of Growth
			Winnisquam Marine Docks, all other areas were clear of milfoil
Sunray Shores	Inlet channel and wetland complex with boat docks and shorefront homes on east shoreline of lake	2009	Dense widespread growth
		2010	Dense widespread growth
		2011	Dense widespread growth
		2012	Dense widespread growth
		2013	Dense widespread growth before treatment, reduced post treatment
		2014	Spotty low density growth
		2015	Scattered patches
		2016	Higher density growth before treatment, reduced growth after treatment
		2017	Scattered stems
		2018	Scattered stems and patches, managed by diving in 2018.
2019	Increasing milfoil growth this season, with scattered single stems and small clusters of growth.		
South of Mohawk Island South of Mosquito Bridge, north of Mohawk Island	Southern end of lake South of Mosquito Bridge, north of Mohawk Island	2009	Patchy growth at south end of lake, dense growth in Ephraim's Cove
		2010	Not surveyed
		2011	Not surveyed
		2012	Not surveyed
		2013	Not surveyed
		2014	Not surveyed
		2015	Not surveyed
		2016	Not surveyed
		2017	None observed in southern basin, Ephraim Cove not surveyed.
		2018	None observed in southern basin, Ephraim Cove and Mallards Landing to be surveyed in 2019 to determined management efforts.
2019	Scattered plants in Mallards Landing inlet, abundant shoreline growth in Ephraim's Cove, a couple of scattered plants at southern end of lake, and patchy growth around outflow basin prior to river channel, surrounding rock pile in the center of that outflow basin.		

Impacts of the infestation are felt by the commercial business along the shores of the lake, including restaurants, stores, marinas, and hotels, as well as a number of property owners of private seasonal and year round residences. By and large there are many areas of Lake Winnisquam that do not see any

problems from the milfoil. It is a large system given to sandy or rocky bottom substrate, which is not optimum for milfoil growth. Areas with history of dredge, silty bottomed areas, and coves are the likely areas for rapid and dense growth.

Though the infestation is small relative to overall lake size, allowing the infestation to continue unmanaged only serves to put downstream waterbodies at higher risk of infestation due to generation of fragments from infested areas.

Milfoil Management Goals and Objectives

The management approach for Lake Winnisquam is to control and contain larger active infestations to prevent their further spread, while attempting to manage the infestation from the northern end of the lake to the southern end of the lake, along the flow gradient through the system.

The long-term goal for Lake Winnisquam is to reduce the overall acreage and percent cover of variable milfoil in the system using an Integrated Pest Management Approach.

Local Support

Town or Municipality Support

The various towns that have waterfront property along Lake Winnisquam have been supportive of milfoil control efforts in the past.

Lake Association Support

Lake Winnisquam has an active large (umbrella) lake association known as the Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN), as well as smaller community associations in various parts of the lake. These groups have provided financial support over the years for milfoil control, and some provided divers that have performed milfoil control activities in localized areas. They are supportive of milfoil control efforts with the ultimate goal of reducing milfoil in the lake as a whole, and preventing further infestations of exotic aquatic plants.

Waterbody Characteristics

The following table summarizes basic physical and biological characteristics of Lake Winnisquam. Note that a current review of the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) database was requested and the results from that search are

included in the table below, as well as in other key sections of this report as they may pertain to the type of species (fish, wildlife, habitat, or macrophyte).

General Lake Information	
Lake area (acres)	4,262.5
Watershed area (acres)	291,530.9
Shoreline Uses (residential, forested, agriculture)	Residential, forested, commercial
Max Depth (ft)	174.9
Mean Depth (ft)	50.2
Trophic Status	Oligotrophic
Color (CPU) in Epilimnion	13
Clarity (ft)	31.4
Flushing Rate (yr ⁻¹)	2.2
Natural waterbody/Raised by Damming/Other	Natural / Dam
Plant Community Information Relative to Management	
Invasive Plants (Latin name)	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>
Infested Area (acres)	See maps
Distribution (ringing lake, patchy growth, etc)	See maps
Sediment type in infested area (sand/silt/organic/rock)	Silty/sandy/rocky
Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species in Waterbody (according to NH Natural Heritage Inventory)	2020 Review: Common Loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>) Species Documented in Historic Reviews: Water marigold (<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>) Lake Whitefish (<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>) Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)

A native aquatic vegetation map and key from an August 22, 2007 survey by the DES Biology Section is shown in Figure 2 (this is field checked during each successive survey to evaluate any change). A bathymetric map is shown in Figure 3.

Beneficial (Designated) Uses of Waterbody

In New Hampshire, beneficial (designated) uses of our waterbodies are categorized into five general categories: Aquatic Life, Fish Consumption, Recreation, Drinking Water Supply, and Wildlife (CALM).

Of these, Aquatic Life, Wildlife and Recreation are the ones most often affected by the presence of invasive plants, though drinking water supplies can also be affected as well in a number of ways.

Following is a general discussion of the most potentially impacted designated uses as they relate to this system and the actions proposed in this long-term plan.

The goal for aquatic life support is to provide suitable chemical and physical conditions for supporting a balanced, integrated and adaptive community of aquatic organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of similar natural habitats of the region.

Aquatic Life

Fisheries Information

Lake Winnisquam is a popular fishing location for many anglers. The primary cold water fisheries in Lake Winnisquam include landlocked salmon, lake trout, and rainbow trout. The primary warm water fisheries are largemouth and smallmouth bass.

A recent seine survey by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department along the shores of the Chemung State Forest recorded largemouth bass, common sunfish, bluegill, yellow perch, eastern chain pickerel, and musk turtles.

According to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, lake trout is a species of concern in Lake Winnisquam. Lake trout spend more time in the deeper waters of the lake, yet are indirectly influenced by the health and abundance of their prey populations. Also, there is an historic (1938) record of bridle shiners along the western shore of Lake Winnisquam.

Wildlife Information

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau lists three wildlife or fishery species of concern in the north end of Lake Winnisquam: the common loon, the lake whitefish, and the osprey.

There is a loon sanctuary in a small cove off from the northern end of Lake Winnisquam (shown in Figure 4). This area is cordoned off to prevent boat traffic from entering the area. Nesting loon boxes have been established within this area. Variable milfoil is dense within this area, and it is an area that is proposed for treatment. DES has encouraged the lake association to make contact with the Loon Preservation Society, so that they can be notified of the proposed treatment. In the past, a Loon Preservation Society representative has been on site to observe treatments in loon habitat on other waterbodies. These representatives carry handheld radio to communicate with the applicator during the treatment of the subject areas. The loon staff member monitors the behavior of the loons (if they are in the area), and directs the actions of the applicator so as to minimize any stress on the loons. The herbicides that are used are not toxic to the loons at the dose used to control milfoil, so toxicity effects are not an issue.

The lake whitefish is a reclusive fish that tends to spend most of its time in the deeper and colder waters of lakes. The whitefish does come into shallower waters to spawn in early winter. Spawning habitat is generally shallow rocky or sandy areas in waters that are less than 25 feet in depth. The young of the year fish spend time in shallow waters early on, then migrate deeper as they mature. Lake Whitefish feed on small organisms due to a small mouth size. Prey includes small fish in the water column, and benthic organisms such as insects. Based on the habitat types and habits of this fish, there are no anticipated impacts as a result of the proposed herbicide treatment. The treatment is set to take place in the shallow, silty north end of the lake. Small fish species and benthic organisms are not expected to be impacted by the treatment.

The osprey has a nesting area in one known location around the shoreline of Lake Winnisquam, particularly in the Ephraim's Cove area in the southern lake basin. The primary food for the osprey is fish. These birds are extremely territorial and do not stray too far from the nest. As the herbicides of choice do not bioaccumulate to toxic levels in the fish, or biomagnify along the food chain, impacts to the osprey as a result of the herbicide treatment are unlikely.

The lake association also mentioned that there are nesting bald eagles on the shoreline just west of Three Islands).

Recreational Uses and Access Points

As one of the state's largest lakes, Lake Winnisquam is used for numerous recreational activities by lake residents and transient boaters and visitors. Access to the lake can be achieved at commercial or private launches around the lake, and with the opening of a new public boat launch in 2008, Lake

Winnisquam has become a destination for many transient boaters. There are an estimated 200-400 motorboats on the lake each day, and roughly 30-40 non-motorized craft.

There are four designated beach on the lake. A designated beach is described in the CALM as an area on a waterbody that is operated for bathing, swimming, or other primary water contact by any municipality, governmental subdivision, public or private corporation, partnership, association, or educational institution, open to the public, members, guests, or students whether on a fee or free basis. Env-Wq 1102.14 further defines a designated beach as *“a public bathing place that comprises an area on a water body and associated buildings and equipment, intended or used for bathing, swimming, or other primary water contact purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, beaches or other swimming areas at hotels, motels, health facilities, water parks, condominium complexes, apartment complexes, youth recreation camps, public parks, and recreational campgrounds or camping parks as defined in RSA 216-I:1, VII. The term does not include any area on a water body which serves 3 or fewer living units and which is used only by the residents of the living units and their guests.*

In addition to the designated beaches, many properties have private beaches, docks, and swim platforms around the lake. These have not been quantified for the purposes of this plan.

Figure 4 shows the locations of access sites, designated beaches, and marinas on Lake Winnisquam.

Macrophyte Community Evaluation

The littoral zone is defined as the nearshore areas of a waterbody where sunlight penetrates to the bottom sediments. The littoral zone is typically the zone of rooted macrophyte growth in a waterbody.

The Lake Winnisquam littoral zone is characterized by a mix of native and non-native (variable milfoil) plant growth (Figure 2). Native species include a mix of floating plants (yellow and white lilies, watershield), emergent plants (pickerelweed, cardinal flower, St. John’s wort, arrow arum, spike rush, cattail, swamp loosestrife, grassy arrowhead, pipewort, water lobelia), and submergent plants (water naiad, waterweed, bladderwort, grassy spike rush, tape-like bur-reed, quillwort, tapegrass, and various pondweed species). Native plant communities are mixed around the entire lake.

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau lists one plant as endangered in New Hampshire. Water marigold (*Megalodonta* (or *Bidens*) *beckii*) has an

historic record at the north end of the lake. Based on field inspections by DES biologists across the state, water marigold is more common than previously documented around the state. During the August 2007 survey, water marigold was not observed in the north end of Lake Winnisquam; however, during a summer 2009 survey several small stands of this plant were documented along the eastern and northern end of this portion of the lake, where milfoil populations were once dominant.

Wells and Water Supplies

Figure 7 shows the location of wells, water supplies, well-head protection areas, and drinking water protection areas around Lake Winnisquam, based on information in the DES geographic information system records. *Due to DES restrictions for providing water supply data under Homeland Security restrictions, note that the map in Figure 7 cannot be provided on a finer scale than 1:48,000.*

In the event that an herbicide treatment is needed for this waterbody, the applicator/contractor will provide more detailed information on the wells and water supplies within proximity to the treatment areas as required in the permit application process with the Division of Pesticide Control at the Department of Agriculture. It is beyond the scope of this plan to maintain updated well and water supply information other than that provided in Figure 7.

Historical Control Activities and Progress Yield

SITE	TOWN	DATE	TYPE	AREA (ac)	APPLICATOR
MALLARDS LANDING	BELMONT	06-Jun-96	2,4-D (G)	0.2	ACT
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	06-Jun-96	2,4-D (G)	7	ACT
SPLIT ROCK SANCTUARY	MEREDITH	10-Jun-98	2,4-D (G)	4	ACT
JAYS MARINA	TILTON	12-Jun-01	DIQUAT	1.5	ACT
SPLIT ROCK SANCTUARY	MEREDITH	12-Jun-01	DIQUAT	15	LYCOTT
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	12-Jun-01	DIQUAT	6	LYCOTT
JAYS MARINA	TILTON	10-Jun-02	DIQUAT	1.3	LYCOTT
SPLIT ROCK SANCTUARY	MEREDITH	10-Jun-02	DIQUAT	15	LYCOTT
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	10-Jun-02	DIQUAT	10	LYCOTT

SITE	TOWN	DATE	TYPE	AREA (ac)	APPLICATOR
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	06-Jun-06	2,4-D	5	LYCOTT
WINNISQUAM MARINE	BELMONT	06-Jun-06	2,4-D	2	ACT
NORTHERN END AND WINNI RIVER	MEREDITH/ LACONIA	SUMMER 2007	DIVER	VARIED	LAKE RESIDENTS
NORTHERN END	MEREDITH	19-Jun-08	2,4-D	38	LYCOTT
NORTHERN END	MEREDITH	SUMMER 2008	DIVER	VARIED	DIVEMASTER DIVE SERVICES
JAYS MARINA	TILTON	08-Jun-09	2,4-D	1.6	ACT
NORTHERN END	MEREDITH	SUMMER 2009	DIVER	VARIED	DES AND DIVEMASTER DIVE SERVICES
BLACK BROOK	SANBORNTON	SUMMER 2009	BENTHIC BARRIER	15' X 20'	DES
EPHRAIMS COVE	BELMONT	SUMMER 2010	SCULPIN	9.1 ACRES	AQUATIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGY
SPLIT ROCK SANCTUARY	MEREDITH	SUMMER 2010	NAVIGATE	9.2 ACRES	AQUATIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGY
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	SUMMER 2010	RENOVATE	7.2 ACRES	AQUATIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGY
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	6/27/2013	2,4-D & TRICLOPYR (G)	7.4 ACRES	ACT
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	8/4/2016	2,4-D BEE (G)	951 LBS FOR 6.7 ACRES	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/21/2016	DASH	15 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/22/2016	DASH	5 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/27/2017	DASH	60 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/6/2017	DASH	30 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/5/2017	DASH	15 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	6/20/2018	HAND PULLING	40 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC

SITE	TOWN	DATE	TYPE	AREA (ac)	APPLICATOR
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	6/20/2018	DASH	40 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
NE SHORE	MEREDITH	6/20/2018	DASH	125 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
NE SHORE	MEREDITH	6/23/2018	DASH	40 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
NE SHORE	MEREDITH	6/24/2018	DASH	40 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	6/30/2018	DASH	80 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	6/31/2018	DASH	120 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
MALLARDS LANDING	BELMONT	8/1/2018	DASH	150 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
MALLARDS LANDING	BELMONT	8/6/2018	DASH	20 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
JAY'S / NE SHORE	TILTON/LACONIA	8/7/2018	DASH	5 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
W SHORE / E SHORE	SANBORTON/LACONIA	8/8/2018	DASH	10 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
E SHORE	MEREDITH	8/9/2018	DASH	20 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
CHAPMAN BROOK	MEREDITH	8/10/2018	DASH	0 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
VARIOUS	MEREDITH/TILTON	9/26/2018	2,4-D (G)	19.5 ACRES	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT
JAYS MARINA, SOUTHERN END	MEREDITH & TILTON	8/21/19	Procellacor EC	29.8 ACRES	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT
NW SHORE	LACONIA/ MEREDITH	8/28/2019	DASH	60 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
N/A	N/A	8/30/2019	DASH	30 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
WINNISQUAM MARINE	BELMONT	9/3/2019	DASH	20 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
ANCHORAGE SWIM AREA AND MALLARDS LANDING	BELMONT	9/4/2019	DASH	10 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
FAR SOUTH	BELMONT	9/5/2019	DASH	50 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC

SITE	TOWN	DATE	TYPE	AREA (ac)	APPLICATOR
SOUTHERNMOST COVE	BELMONT	9/6/2019	DASH	25 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SOUTHERNMOST COVE	BELMONT	9/9/2019	DASH	80 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SOUTHERNMOST COVE	BELMONT	9/10/2019	DASH	40 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/11/2019	DASH	40 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/12/2019	DASH	160 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/13/2019	DASH	50 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/17/2019	DASH	100 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/18/2019	DASH	120 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC
SUNRAY SHORES	BELMONT	9/20/2019	DASH	100 GALLONS	AQUALOGIC

Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Options

The control practices used should be as specific to the target species as feasible. No control of native aquatic plants is intended.

Exotic aquatic plant management relies on a combination of proven methods that control exotic plant infestations, including physical control, chemical control, biological controls (where they exist), and habitat manipulation.

Integrated Pest Management Strategies (IPM) are typically implemented using Best Management Practices (BMPs) based on site-specific conditions so as to maximize the long-term effectiveness of control strategies. Descriptions for the control activities are closely modeled after those prescribed by the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) (2004). This publication can be found online at <http://www.aquatics.org/bmp.html>.

Criteria for the selection of control techniques are presented in Appendix A. Appendix B includes a summary of the exotic aquatic plant control practices currently used by the State of New Hampshire.

Feasibility Evaluation of Control Options in this Waterbody

DES has evaluated the feasibility of potential control practices on Lake Winnisquam. The following table summarizes DES' control strategy recommendations for Danforth Ponds

Control Method	Use on Lake Winnisquam
Restricted Use Areas	Recommended where feasible. Restricted Use Areas (RUAs) are best located where infestations are small and localized and can feasibly be contained. RUAs should be used along with fragment barriers to prevent spread of plants from the restricted area.
Hand-pulling	DES recommends hand-pulling for small patches of growth, as a follow up to larger scale control efforts, and wherever stems of milfoil are isolated enough to yield effective control.
Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting	Following herbicide application, DES recommends that Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting be the primary means of further reducing variable milfoil in the lake, where milfoil densities and areas are reduced enough to make this a reasonable and feasible option.
Mechanical Harvesting/Removal	Mechanical harvesting is not recommended due to the threat of spreading variable milfoil to uninfested areas of the lake through the generation of fragments.
Benthic Barriers	DES recommends installing small benthic barriers in areas of re-growth if small patches of variable milfoil re-grow and can adequately be contained by benthic barriers.
Herbicides	The use of a target specific systemic herbicide (like 2,4-D or similar) is recommended for control of variable milfoil where dense patches or areas persist.
Extended or Deep Drawdown	Drawdown is not an effective control method for variable milfoil, nor is it feasible in this waterbody.
Dredge	Not recommended due to nature of exotic plant distribution, the cost, or the ancillary ecological

Control Method	Use on Lake Winnisquam
	impacts that the dredge could have.
Biological Control	There are no approved biological controls for variable milfoil at this time in New Hampshire.
No Control	Variable milfoil is widespread and still expanding within Lake Winnisquam. A 'no control' option will foster the further encroachment of this exotic aquatic plant into currently uninfested areas.

Recommended Actions, Timeframes and Responsible Parties

An evaluation of the size, location, and type of variable milfoil infestation, as well as the waterbody uses was conducted at the end of the last growing season. Based on this survey the following recommendations are made for variable milfoil control in the system:

Year	Action	Responsible Party	Schedule
2018	Weed Watcher Training	DES/Lake Winnisquam Watershed Network	Spring
	Weed Watching	Weed Watchers	May through September
	Diving/hand harvesting	Contract divers	As needed during growing season
	Herbicide treatment	SOLitude Lake Management	September
	Site assessment and remapping of variable milfoil infestation	DES	August/September
2019	Weed Watching	Weed Watchers	May through September
	Diving/hand harvesting	Contract divers	As needed during growing season

Year	Action	Responsible Party	Schedule
	Herbicide treatment in Jay's Marina area with ProcellaCOR	SOLitude Lake Management	June
	Herbicide treatment in other designated areas, as needed, based on spring survey. ProcellaCOR recommended.	SOLitude Lake Management	Early September
	Site assessment and remapping of variable milfoil infestation	DES	August/September
2020	Weed Watching	Weed Watchers	May through September
	Diving/hand harvesting	Contract divers	As needed during growing season
	Herbicide treatment if needed	SOLitude Lake Management	June or August
	Site assessment and remapping of variable milfoil infestation	DES	August/September
2021	Weed Watching	Weed Watchers	May through September
	Diving/hand harvesting	Contract divers	As needed during growing season
	Herbicide treatment if needed	SOLitude Lake Management	September
	Site assessment and remapping of variable milfoil infestation	DES	August/September
2022	Weed Watching	Weed Watchers	May through September
	Diving/hand harvesting	Contract divers	As needed during growing season

Year	Action	Responsible Party	Schedule
	Herbicide treatment if needed	SOLitude Lake Management	September
	Site assessment and remapping of variable milfoil infestation	DES	August/ September
2023	Update and revise Long-Term Variable Milfoil Control Plan	NH DES and interested parties	Fall/Winter

Based on the types of native plants that are mixed in with the stands of variable milfoil (Figure 3) where herbicide application is recommended there are no significant impacts to native plant communities expected as a result of this treatment. For ProcellaCOR, white water lilies and watershield have been observed to show some epinasty during treatment; however, observations at other sites show that these species rebound between 4-8 weeks post treatment. Other mixed vegetation, like various pondweed species with floating leaves, will persist through treatment and provide mixed floating pad habitat that is not affected by the herbicide treatment.

Notes

Target Specificity

It is important to note that aquatic herbicide applications are conducted in a specific and scientific manner, and that the herbicides that are used can be target-specific when used at appropriate doses/concentrations: this means that the invasive plant can be removed and native plants favored in this type of control practice. *Not all aquatic plants will be impacted as a result of an herbicide treatment; therefore ecological functions of plants for habitat and lake ecology and chemistry/biology will be maintained.*

Adaptive Management

Because this is a natural system that is being evaluated for management, it is impossible to accurately predict a management course over five years that could be heavily dependent on uncontrolled natural circumstances (weather patterns, temperature, adaptability of invasive species, etc).

This long-term plan is therefore based on the concept of adaptive management, where current field data drive decision making, which may result in modifications to the recommended control actions and timeframes for control. As such, this management plan should be considered a dynamic document that is geared to the actual field conditions that present themselves in this waterbody.

If circumstances arise that require the modification of part or all of the recommendations herein, interested parties will be consulted for their input on revisions that may be needed to further the goal of variable milfoil and fanwort management in the subject waterbody.

Figure 1: Map of Variable Milfoil Infestations Over Time

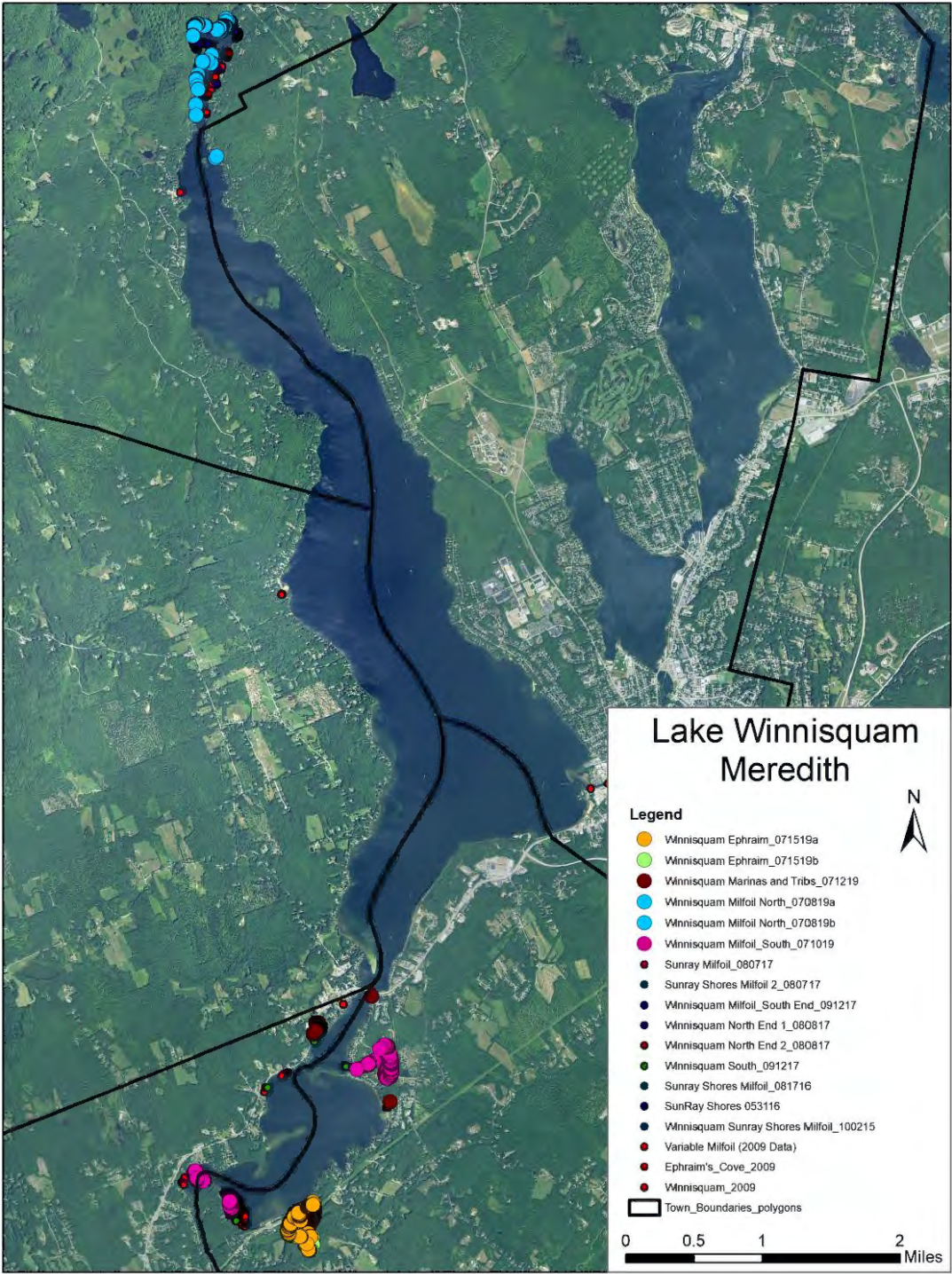
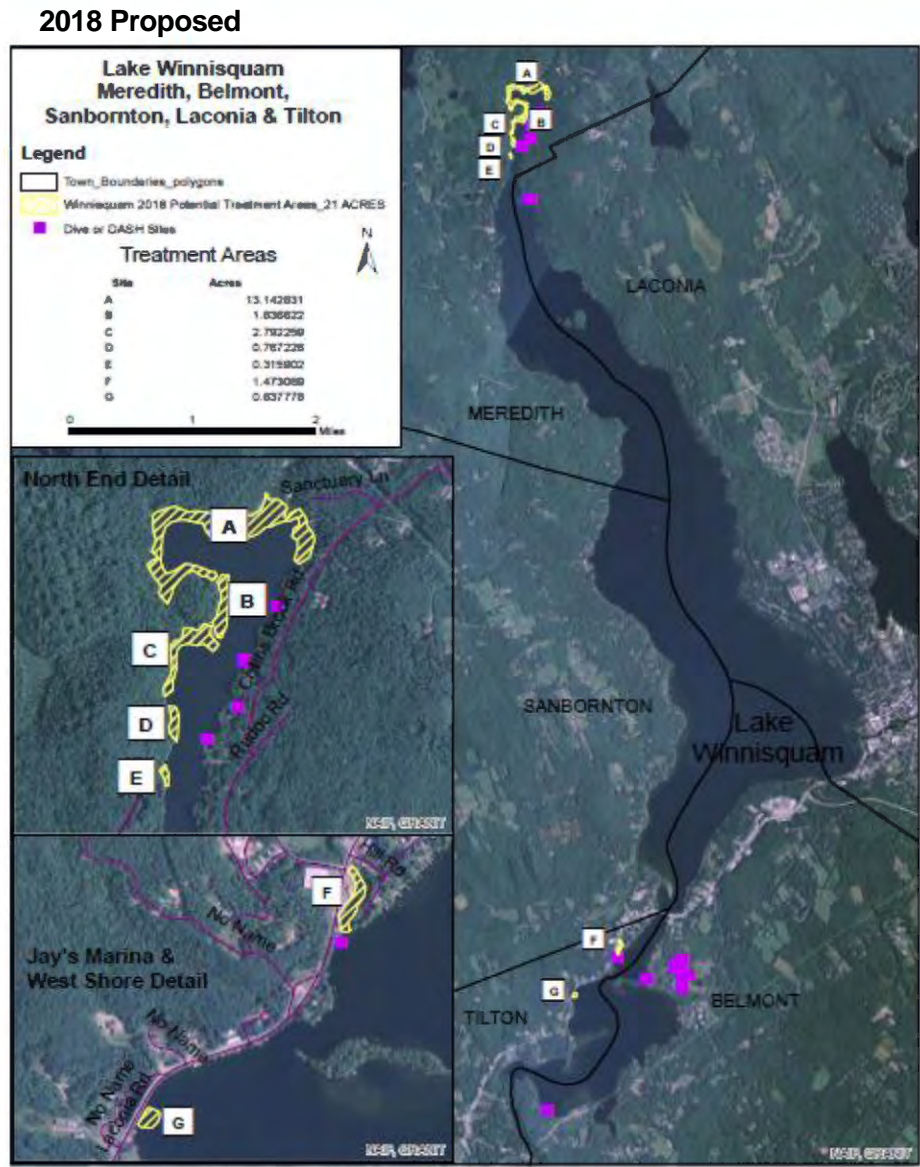
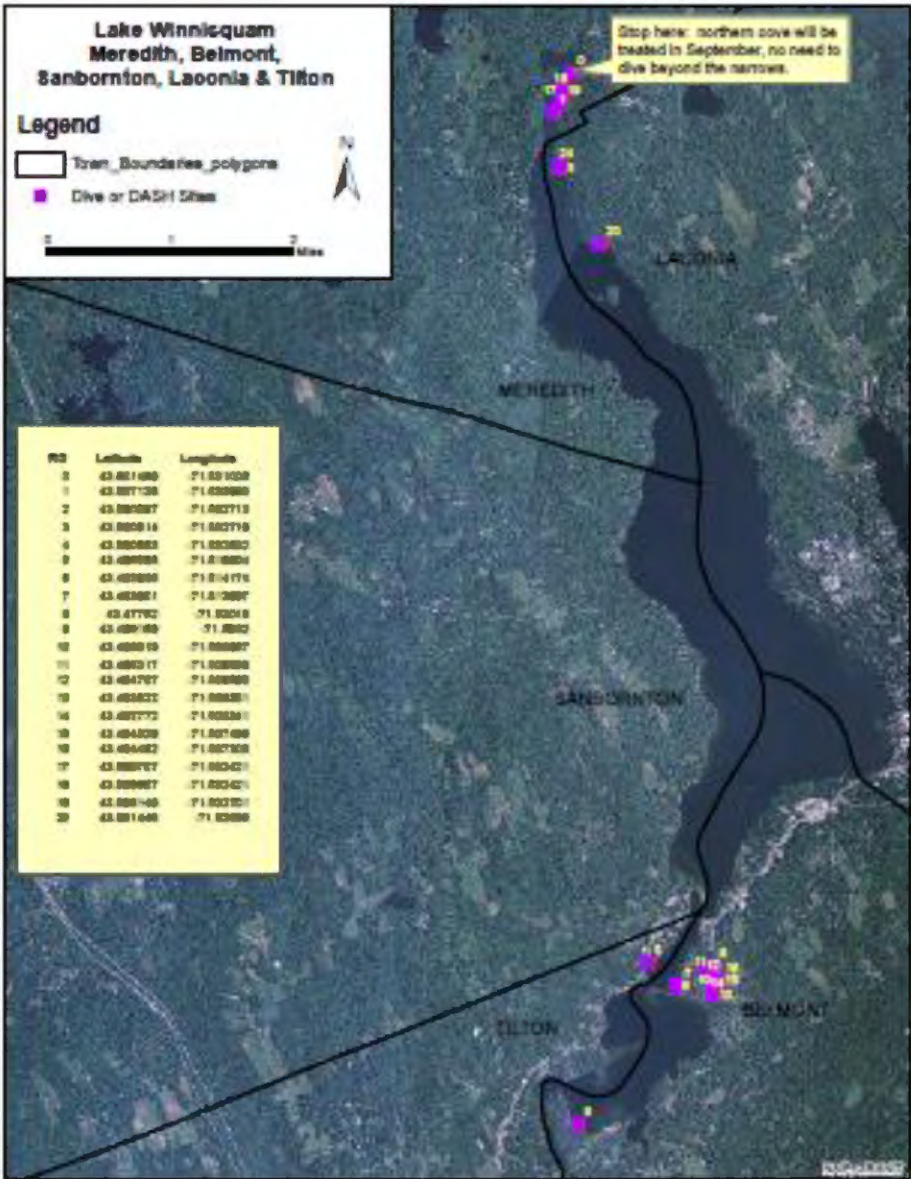
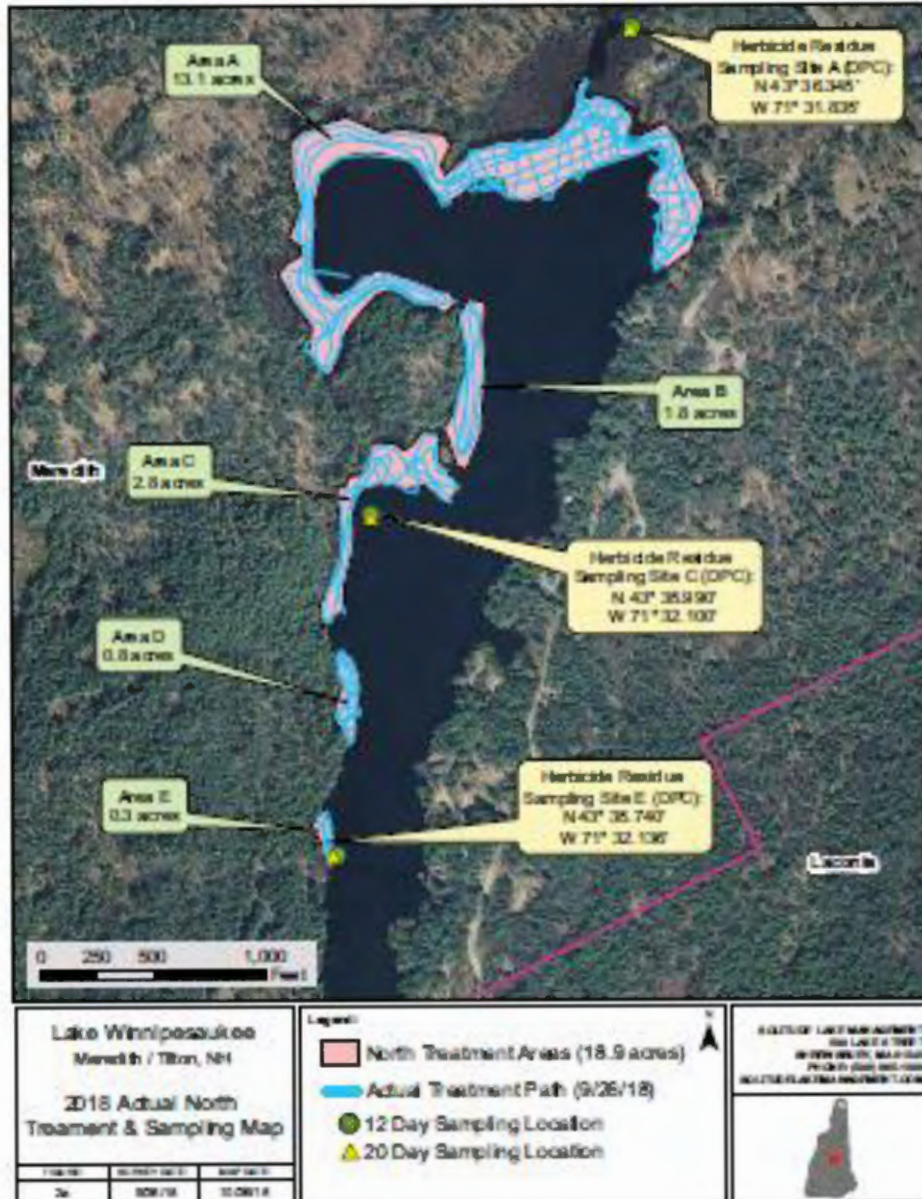


Figure 2: Map of Control Actions Over Time



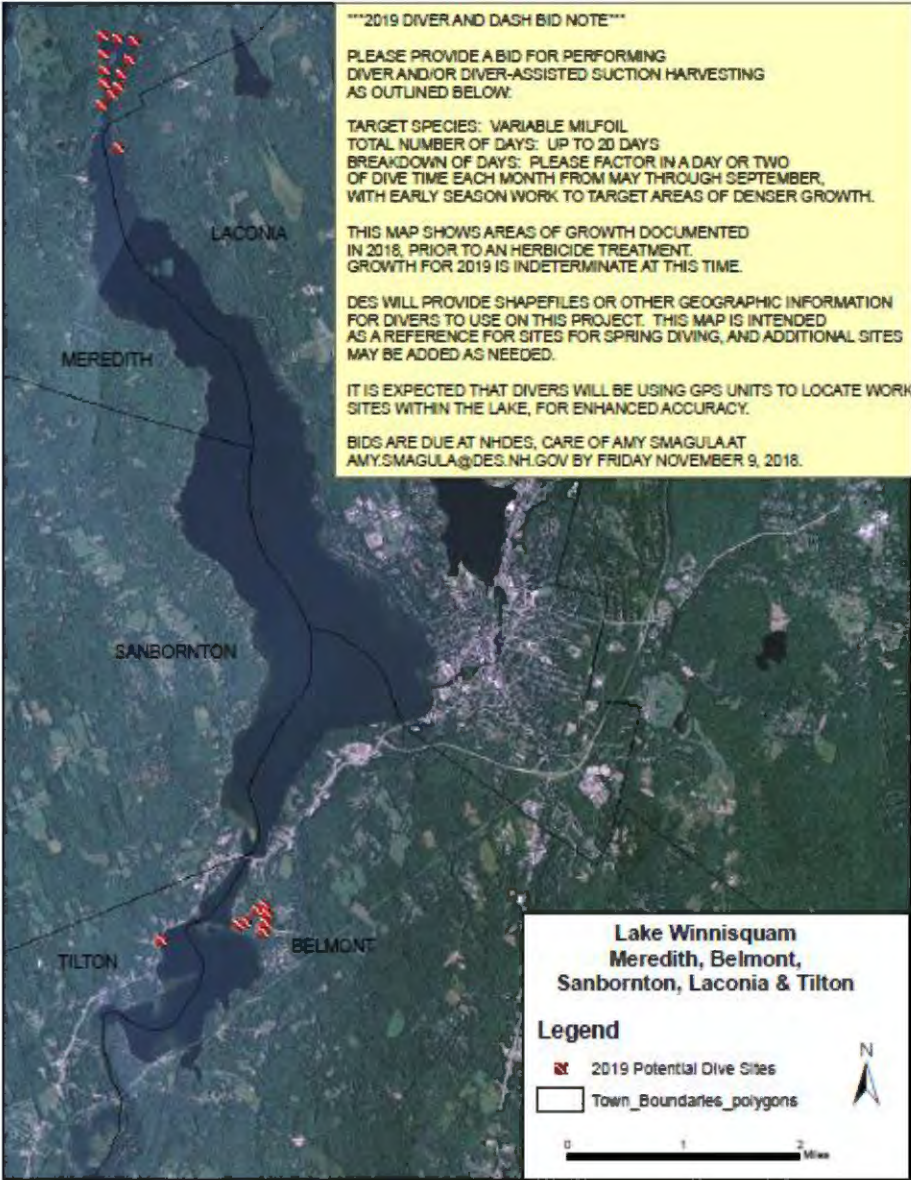
2018 Actual

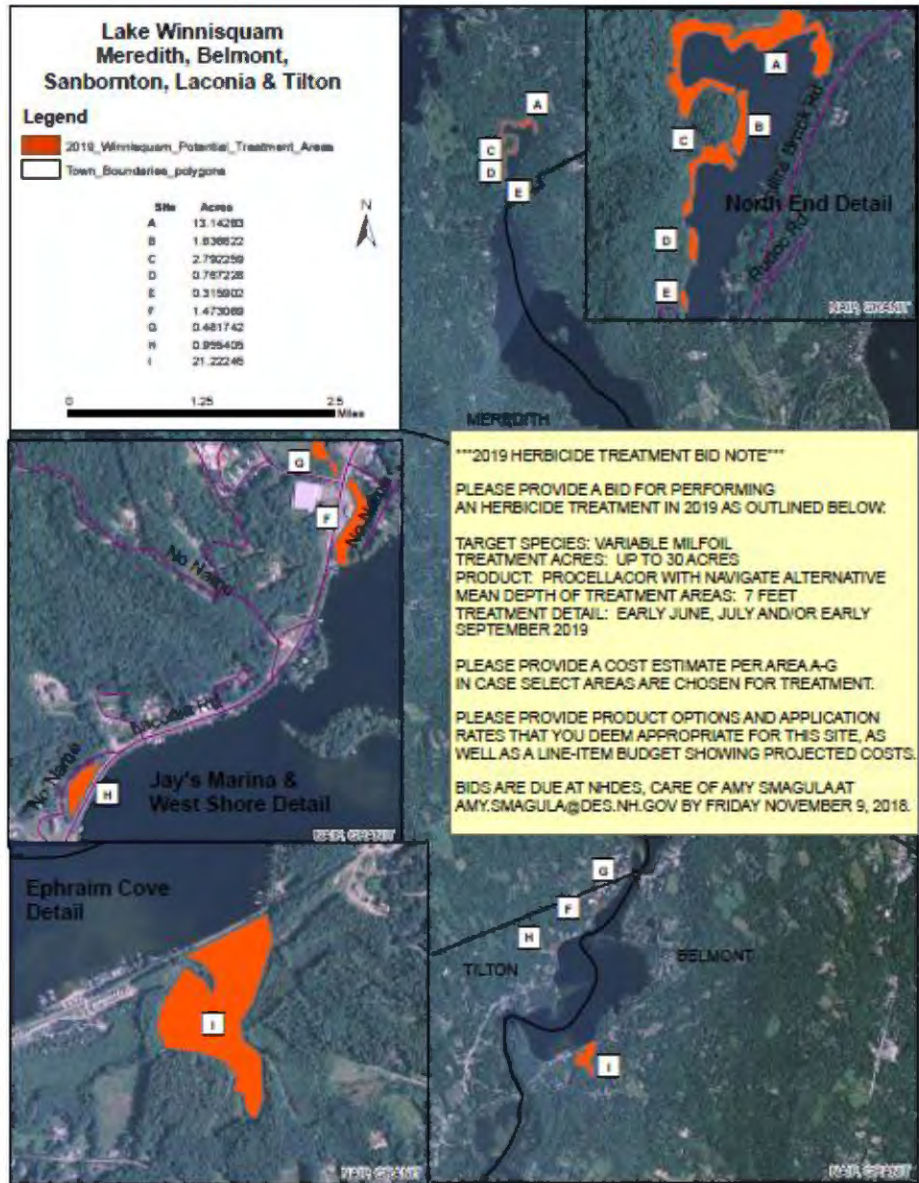




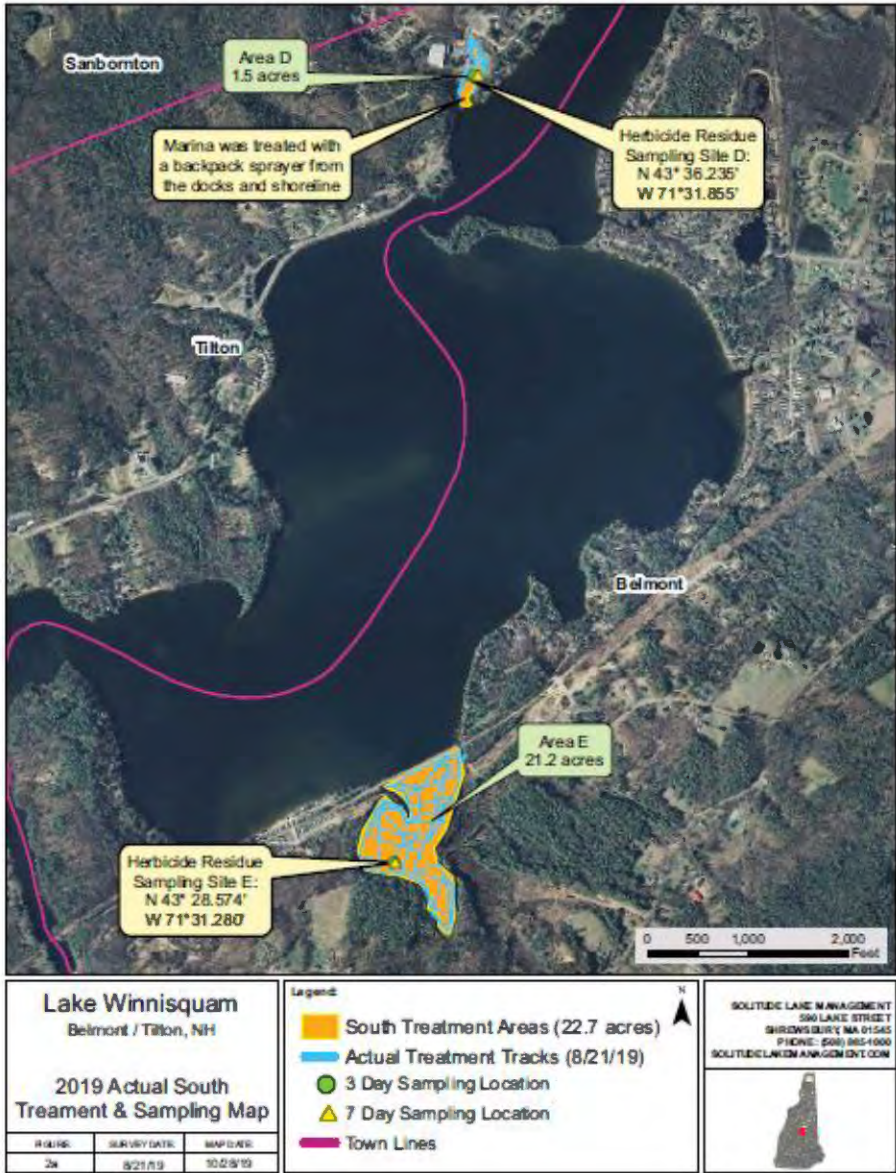


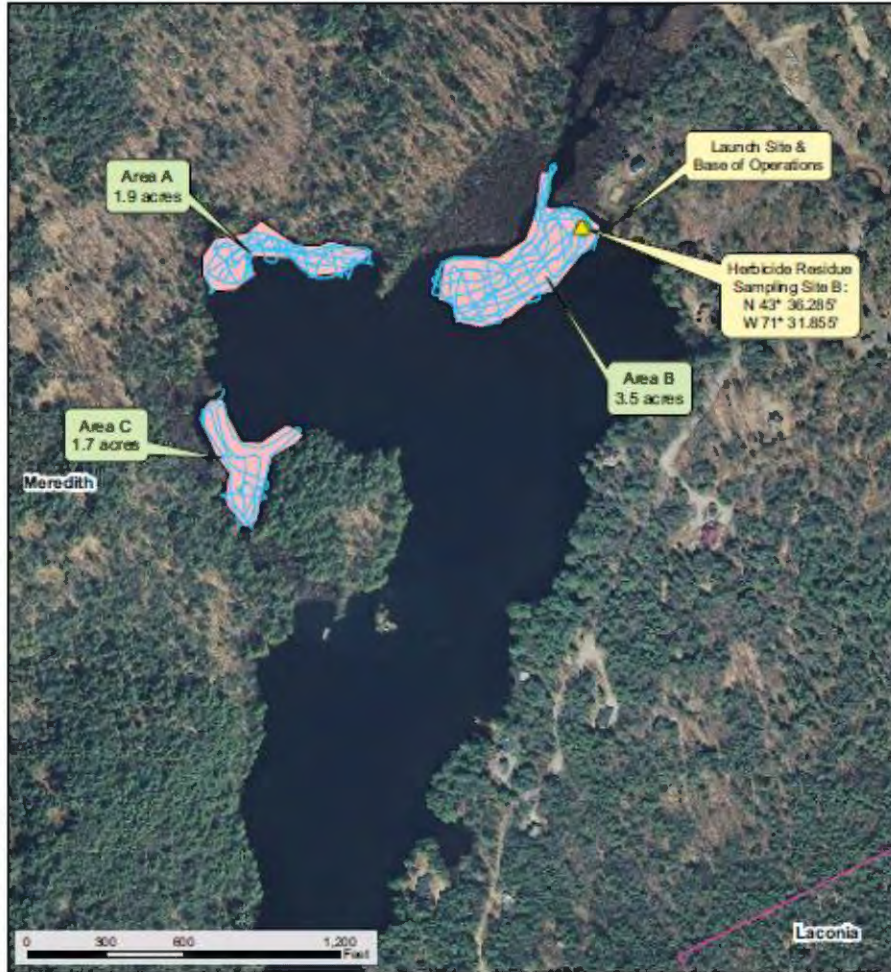
2019 Proposed





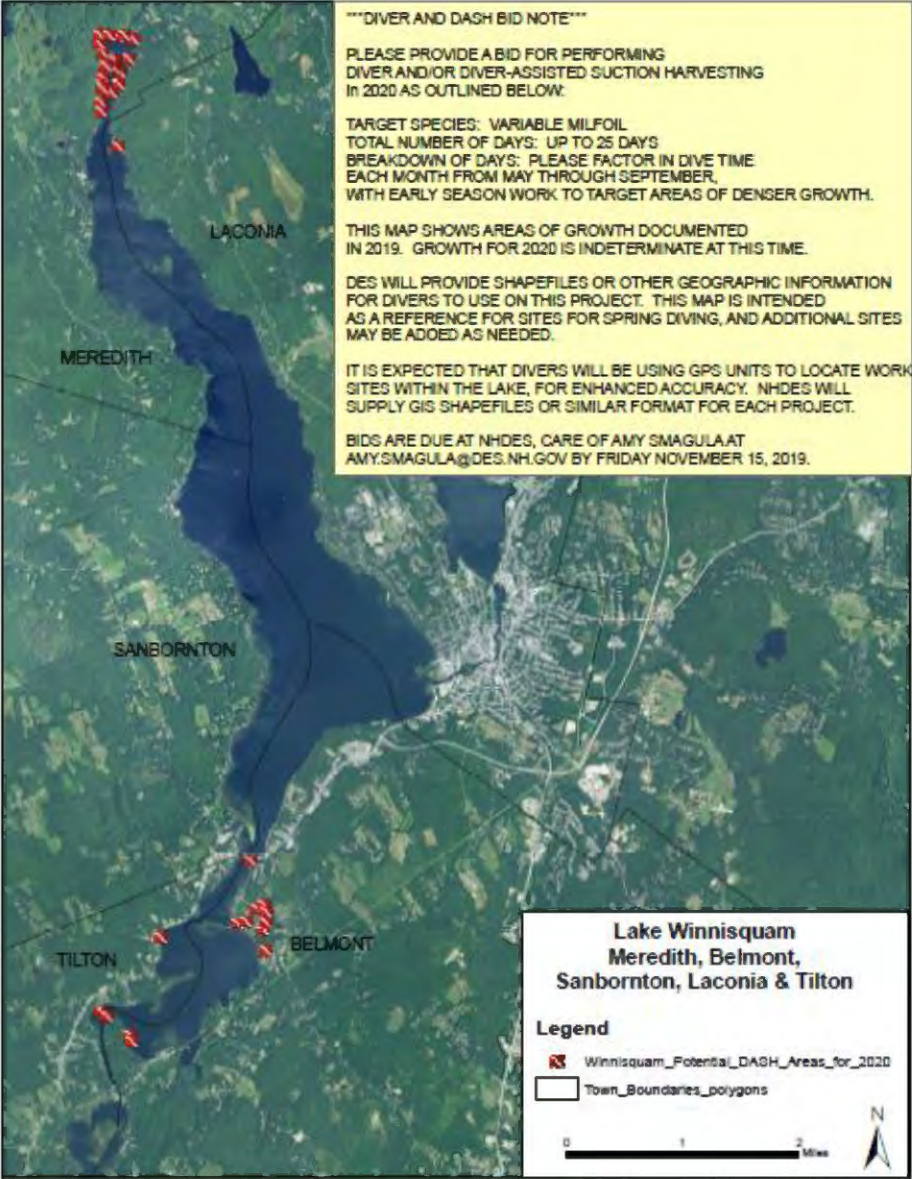
2019 Actual






<p>Lake Winnisquam Meredith, NH</p> <p>2019 Actual North Treatment & Sampling Map</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FIGURE</th> <th>ISSUANCE DATE</th> <th>MAP DATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2b</td> <td>8/21/19</td> <td>10/2/19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			FIGURE	ISSUANCE DATE	MAP DATE	2b	8/21/19	10/2/19	<p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Treatment Areas (7.1 acres) Actual Treatment Tracks (8/21/19) 2 Day Sampling Location 7 Day Sampling Location Town Lines 	<p>SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT 590 LAKE STREET MERRIDETH, NH 01545 PHONE: (603) 865-1000 SOLITUDELAKE.MANAGEMENT.COM</p>
FIGURE	ISSUANCE DATE	MAP DATE								
2b	8/21/19	10/2/19								


2020 Proposed



**Lake Winnisquam
Meredith, Belmont,
Sanbornton, Laconia & Tilton**

Legend

 Winnisquam_2020_Potential_Treatment_Areas

 Town_Boundaries_polygons

1:50,000	1:25,000
1:12,500	1:6,250

0 1 2 Miles



*****HERBICIDE TREATMENT BID NOTE*****

PLEASE PROVIDE A BID FOR PERFORMING AN HERBICIDE TREATMENT IN 2020 AS OUTLINED BELOW:

TARGET SPECIES: VARIABLE MILFOIL
TREATMENT ACRES: UP TO 13 ACRES WITH PROCELLACOR
MEAN DEPTH OF TREATMENT AREAS: 6 FEET
TREATMENT DETAIL: LATE JUNE OR MID AUGUST

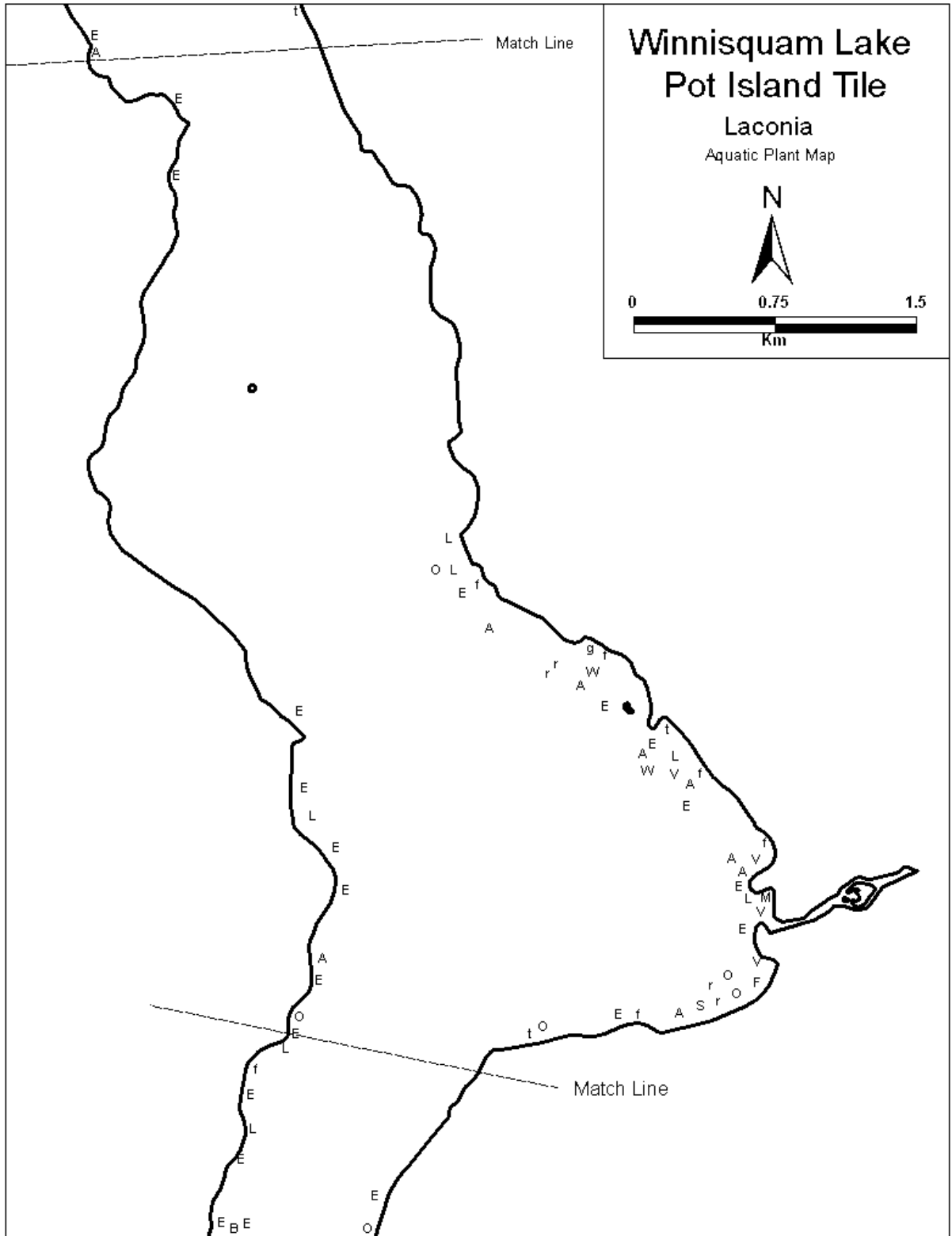
TREATMENT AREAS MAY BE SMALLER THAN THE FOOTPRINT SHOWN, AND WILL BE FINALIZED BASED ON FIELD SURVEYS PRIOR TO TREATMENT.

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL PRODUCT OPTIONS AND APPLICATION RATES THAT YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SITE, AS WELL AS A LINE-ITEM BUDGET SHOWING PROJECTED COSTS.

BIDS ARE DUE AT NHDES, CARE OF AMY SMAGULA AT AMY.SMAGULA@DES.NH.GOV BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2019.



Aquatic Vegetation Map and Key (Middle Section)

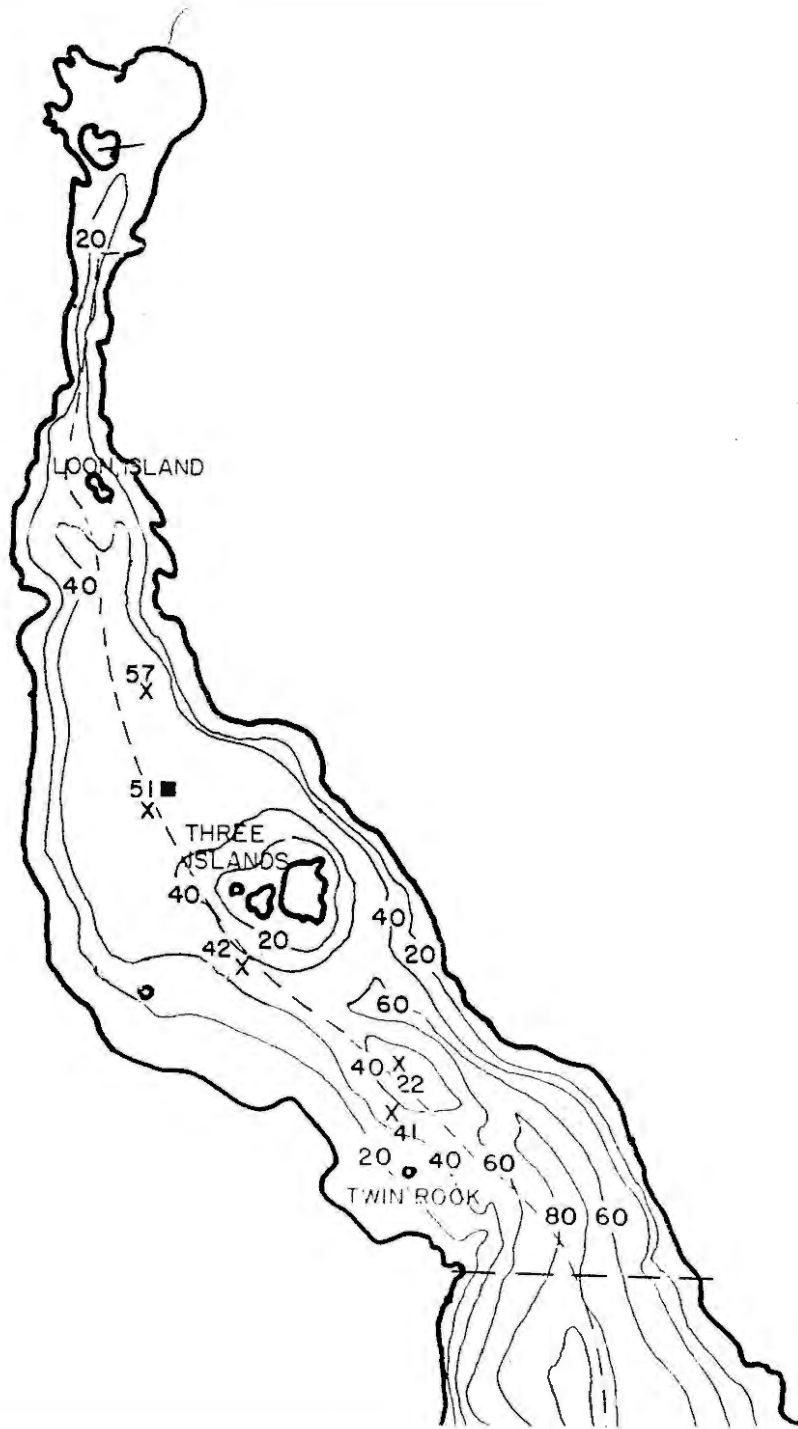


Key to Macrophyte Map

Symbol	Common Name	Latin Name
T	Cattail	<i>Typha</i>
b	Water naiad	<i>Najas</i>
a	Alternate-leaved milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>
d	False loosestrife/water purslane	<i>Ludwigia</i>
9	Native milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum humile</i>
c	Water marigold	<i>Megalodonata beckii</i>
8	Hedge hyssop	<i>Gratiola</i>
7	Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium sp.</i>
6	Tape-like bur-reed	<i>Sparganium sp.</i>
W	White water-lily	<i>Nymphaea</i>
X	Big-leaved pondweed	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>
E	Pipewort	<i>Eriocaulon</i>
U	Bladderwort	<i>Utricularia</i>
L	Water lobelia	<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>
H	Floating heart	<i>Nymphoides cordata</i>
G	Grassy arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sp.</i>
V	Tapegrass	<i>Vallisneria americana</i>
3	Spike rush	<i>Eleocharis sp.</i>
f	Filamentous green algae	n/a
A	Bassweed	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>
N	Waterweed	<i>Elodea sp.</i>
R	Robbins pondweed	<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>
4	Grassy spike rush	<i>Eleocharis sp.</i>
P	Pickerelweed	<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>
L	Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
J	Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sp.</i>
K	Swamp loosestrife	<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>
Y	Yellow water-lily	<i>Nuphar</i>
D	Three-way sedge	<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>

Figure 4: Bathymetric Map

Bathymetric Map (North Tile)



Bathymetric Map (South Tile)

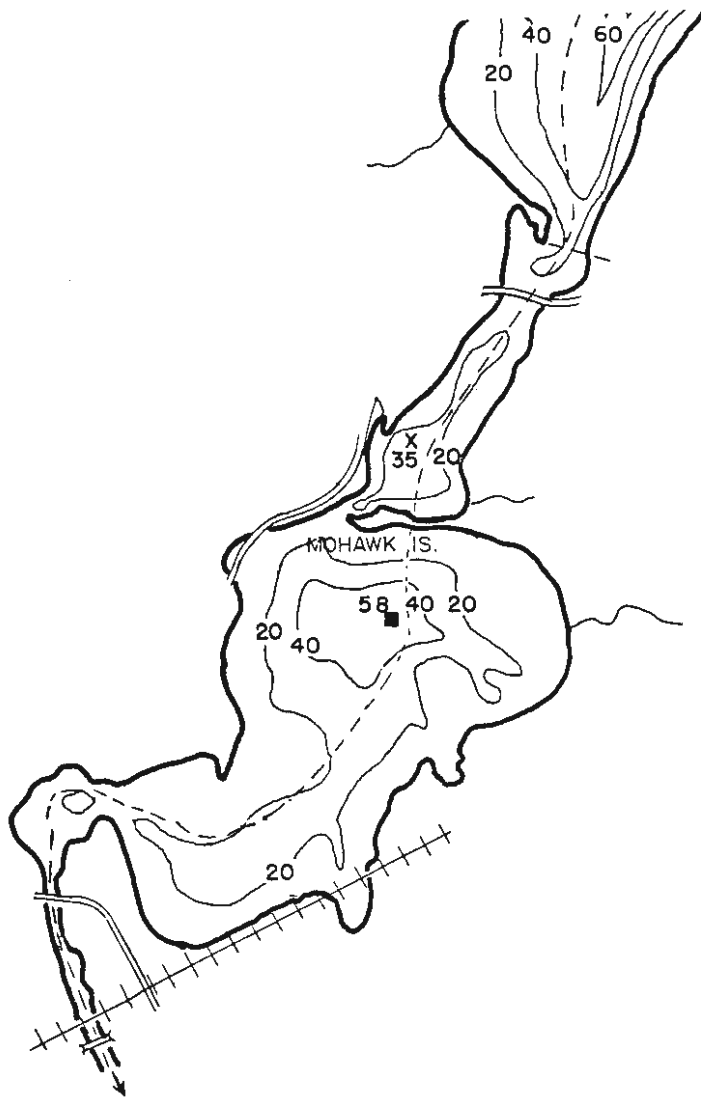


Figure 4- Lake Winnisquam Designated Beaches and Access Sites

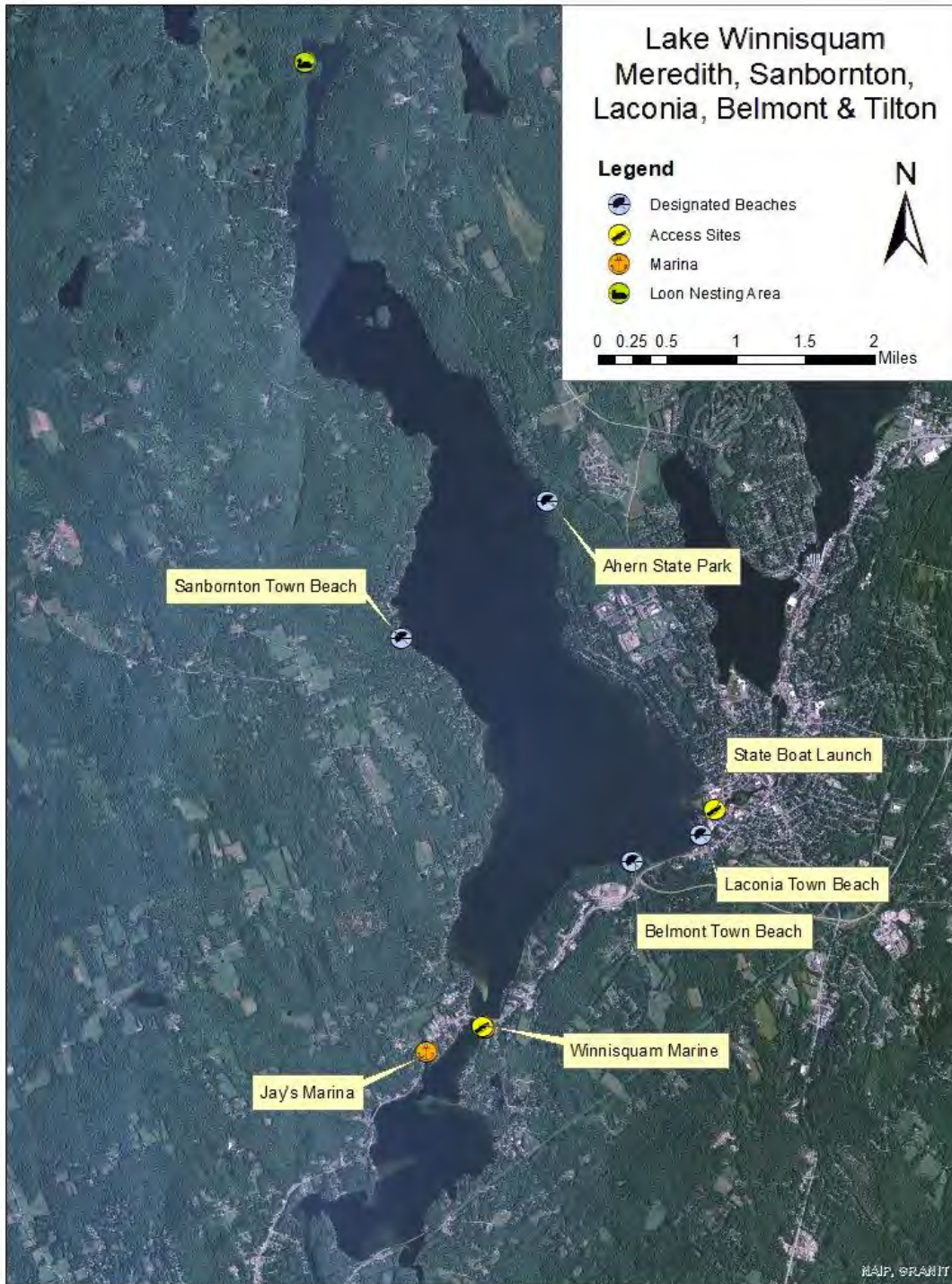


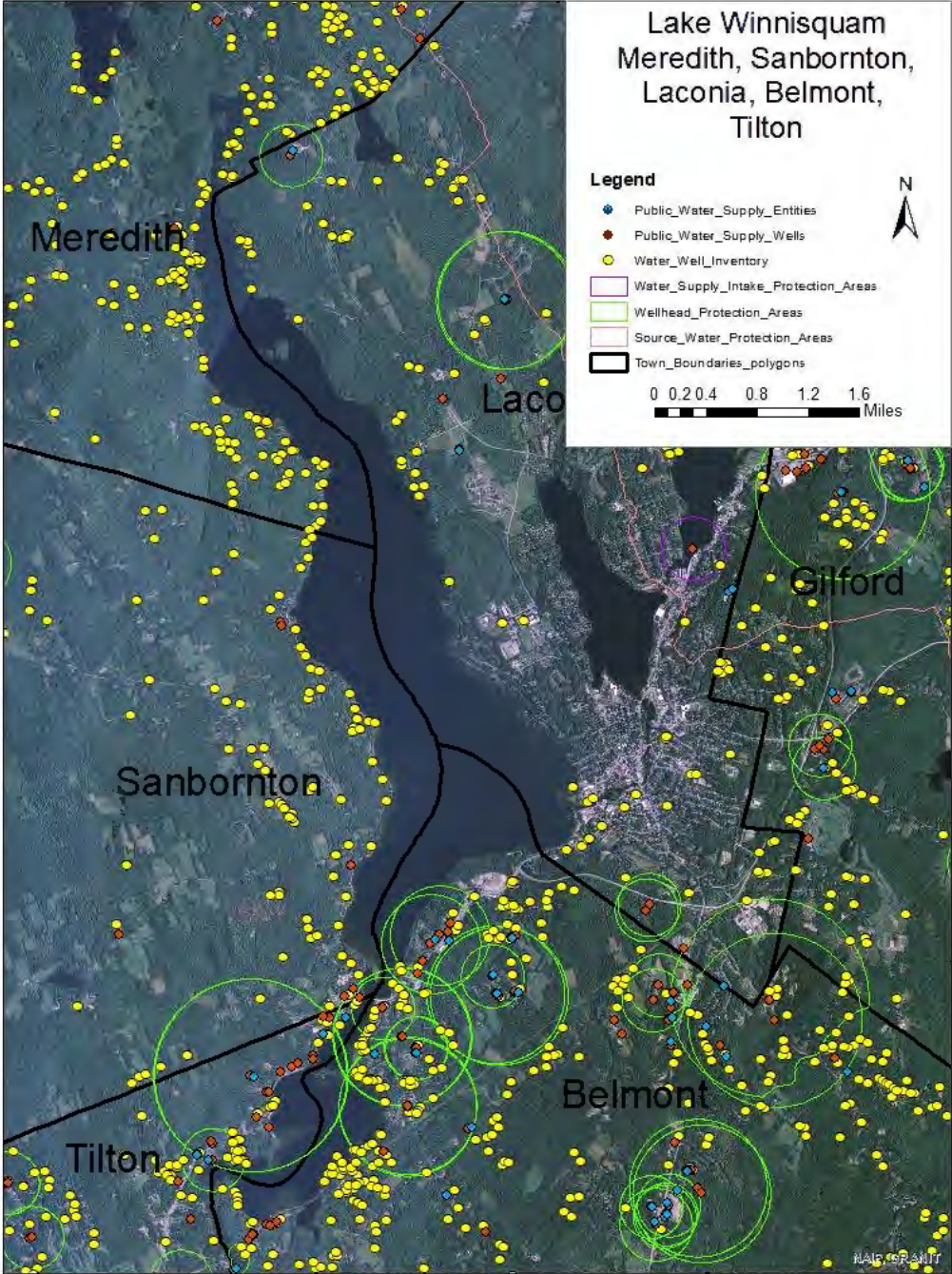
Figure 5: Critical Habitats or Conservation Areas

NHB19-4144





Figure 6: Wells and Water Supplies (1:60,000 scale)



Appendix A Criteria to Evaluate Control Techniques

Preliminary Investigations

I. Field Site Inspection

- Verify genus and species of the plant.
- Determine if the plant is a native or exotic species per RSA 487:16, II.
- Map extent of the plant infestation (area, water depth, height of the plant, density of the population).
- Document any native plant abundances and community structure around and dispersed within the exotic/nuisance plant population.

II. Office/Laboratory Research of Waterbody Characteristics

- Contact the appropriate agencies to determine the presence of rare or endangered species in the waterbody or its prime wetlands.
- Determine the basic relevant limnological characteristics of the waterbody (size, bathymetry, flushing rate, nutrient levels, trophic status, and type and extent of adjacent wetlands).
- Determine the potential impacts to downstream waterbodies based on limnological characteristics (water chemistry, quantity, quality).

Overall Control Options

For any given waterbody that has an infestation of exotic plants, one of four options will be selected, based on the status of the infestation, the available management options, and the technical knowledge of the DES Limnologists who have conducted the field work and who are preparing this plan. The options are as follows:

- 1) **Eradication:** The goal is to completely remove the exotic plant infestation over time. In some situations this may be a rapid response that results in an eradication event in a single season (such as for a new infestation), in other situations a longer-term approach may be warranted given the age and distribution of the infestation. Eradication is more feasible in smaller systems without extensive expanded growth (for example, Lake Winnepesaukee is unlikely to achieve eradication of its variable milfoil), or without upstream sources of infestation in other connected systems that continually feed the lake.
- 2) **Maintenance:** Waterbodies where maintenance is specified as a goal are generally those with expansive infestations, that are larger systems, that have complications of extensive wetland complexes on their periphery, or that have upstream sources of the invasive plant precluding the possibility for eradication. For waterbodies where maintenance is the goal, control activities will be performed on the waterbody to keep an infestation below a

desirable threshold. For maintenance projects, thresholds of percent cover or other measurable classification will be indicated, and action will occur when exotic plant growth exceeds the threshold.

- 3) **Containment:** The aim of this approach is to limit the size and extent of the existing infestation if it is localized in one portion of a waterbody, or containing infestations from downstream waterbodies if a headwater pond, lake or stream is infested. This could be achieved through the use of benthic barriers, fragment barriers, Restricted Use Areas or other such physical means of containment. In some cases an herbicide treatment may be used as a means of suppressing growth to prevent expansion of the infestation.
- 4) **No action.** If the infestation is too large, spreading too quickly, and past management strategies have proven ineffective at controlling the target exotic aquatic plant, DES, in consultation with others, may elect to recommend 'no action' at a particular site. All efforts will instead be made towards containment of the target species to that specific waterbody, so that downstream migration of the plant can be prevented.

If eradication, maintenance or containment is the recommended option to pursue, the following series of control techniques may be employed. The most appropriate technique(s) based on the determinations of the preliminary investigation will be selected.

Guidelines and requirements of each control practice are suggested and detailed below each alternative, but note that site specific conditions will be factored into the evaluation and recommendation of use on each individual waterbody with an infestation.

A. Hand-Pulling

- Can be used for exotic or native species.
- Can be used if infestation is in a small localized area (sparsely populated patch of up to 5' X 5', single stems, or dense small patch up to 2' X 2').
- Can be used if plant density is low, or if target plant is scattered and not dense.
- Can be used if the plant could effectively be managed or eradicated by hand-pulling a few scattered plants.
- Use must be in compliance with the Wetlands Bureau rules.

B. Mechanically Harvest or Hydro-Rake

- Can not be used on plants which reproduce vegetatively by fragmentation (e.g., milfoil, fanwort, etc.) unless containment can be ensured.
- Can be used only if the waterbody is accessible to machinery.
- Can be used if there is a disposal location available for harvested plant materials.
- Can be used if plant depth is conducive to harvesting capabilities (~ <7 ft. for mower, ~ <12 ft. for hydro-rake).
- Funds are available for repeated harvesting activities in that season.

- A navigation channel is required through dense plant growth.

C. Herbicide Treatment

- Can be used if application of herbicide is conducted in areas where alternative control techniques are not optimum due to depth, current, use, or density and type of plant.
- Can be used for treatment of exotic plants where fragmentation is a high concern.
- Can be used where species specific treatment is necessary due to the need to manage other plants
- Can be used if other methods used as first choices in the past have not been effective.
- A licensed applicator should be contacted to inspect the site and make recommendations about the effectiveness of herbicide treatment as compared with other treatments.

D. Restricted Use Areas (per RSA 487:17, II (d))

- Can be used for exotic species only.
- Can be established in an area that effectively restricts use to a small cove, bay, or other such area where navigation, fishing, and other transient activities may cause fragmentation to occur.
- Can not be used when there are several “patches” of an infestation of exotic aquatic plants throughout a waterbody.
- Can be used as a temporary means of control.

E. Bottom Barrier

- Can be used for exotic or native species.
- Can be used in small areas, preferably less than 10,000 sq. ft.
- Can be used in an area where the current is not likely to cause the displacement of the barrier.
- Can be used early in the season before the plant reaches the surface of the water.
- Can be used in an area to compress plants to allow for clear passage of boat traffic.
- Can be used in an area to compress plants to allow for a clear swimming area.
- Use must be in compliance with the Wetlands Bureau rules.

F. Drawdown

- Can be used if the target plant(s) are susceptible to drawdown control.
- Can be used in an area where bathymetry of the waterbody would be conducive to an adequate level of drawdown to control plant growth, but where extensive deep

- habits exist for the maintenance of aquatic life such as fish and amphibians.
- Can be used where plants are growing exclusively in shallow waters where a drawdown would leave this area “in the dry” for a suitable period of time (over winter months) to control plant growth.
 - Can be used in winter months to avoid encroachment of terrestrial plants into the aquatic system.
 - Can be used if it will not significantly impact adjacent or downstream wetland habitats.
 - Can be used if spring recharge is sufficient to refill the lake in the spring.
 - Can be used in an area where shallow wells would not be significantly impacted.
 - Reference RSA 211:11 with regards to drawdown statutes.

G. Dredge

- Can be used in conjunction with a scheduled drawdown.
- Can be used if a drawdown is not scheduled, though a hydraulic pumping dredge should be used.
- Can only be used as a last alternative due to the detrimental impacts to environmental and aesthetic values of the waterbody.

H. Biological Control

- Grass carp cannot be used as they are illegal in New Hampshire.
- Exotic controls, such as insects, cannot be introduced to control a nuisance plant.
- Research should be conducted on a potential biological control prior to use to determine the extent of target specificity.

Appendix B Summary of Control Practices

Restricted Use Areas and Fragment Barrier:

Restricted Use Areas (RUAs) are a tool that can be used to quarantine a portion of a waterbody if an infestation of exotic aquatic plants is isolated to a small cove, embayment, or section of a waterbody. RUAs generally consist of a series of buoys and ropes or nets connecting the buoys to establish an enclosure (or exclosure) to protect an infested area from disturbance. RUAs can be used to prevent access to these infested areas while control practices are being done, and provide the benefit of restricting boating, fishing, and other recreational activities within these areas, so as to prevent fragmentation and spread of the plants outside of the RUA.

Hand-pulling:

Hand-pulling exotic aquatic plants is a technique used on both new and existing infestations, as circumstances allow. For this technique divers carefully hand-remove the shoots and roots of plants from infested areas and place the plant material in mesh dive bags for collection and disposal. This technique is suited to small patches or areas of low density exotic plant coverage.

For a new infestation, hand-pulling activities are typically conducted several times during the first season, with follow-up inspections for the next 1-2 years or until no re-growth is observed. For existing infestations, hand-pulling may be done to slow the expansion of plant establishment in a new area or where new stems are removed in a section that may have previously been uninfested. It is often a follow-up technique that is included in most management plans.

In 2007 a new program was created through a cooperative between a volunteer monitor that is a certified dive instructor, and the DES Exotic Species Program. A Weed Control Diver Course (WCD) was developed and approved through the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) to expand the number of certified divers available to assist with hand-pulling activities. DES has only four certified divers in the Limnology Center to handle problems with aquatic plants, and more help was needed. There is a unique skill involved with hand-removing plants from the lake bottom. If the process is not conducted correctly, fragments could spread to other waterbody locations. For this reason, training and certification are needed to help ensure success. Roughly 100 divers were certified through this program through the 2010 season. DES maintains a list of WCD divers and shares them with waterbody groups and municipalities that seek diver assistance for controlling exotic aquatic plants. Classes are offered two to three times per summer.

Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting

Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) is an emerging and evolving control technique in New Hampshire. The technique employs divers that perform hand removal actions as described above, however, instead of using a dive bag a mechanical suction device is used to entrain the plants and bring them topside where a tender accumulates and bags the material for disposal. Because of this variation divers are able to work in moderately dense stands of plants that cover more bottom area, with increased efficiency and accuracy.

Mechanical Harvesting

The process of mechanical harvesting is conducted by using machines which cut and collect aquatic plants. These machines can cut the plants up to twelve feet below the water surface. The weeds are cut and then collected by the harvester or other separate conveyer-belt driven device where they are stored in the harvester or barge, and then transferred to an upland site.

The advantages of this type of weed control are that cutting and harvesting immediately opens an area such as boat lanes, and it removes the upper portion of the plants. Due to the size of the equipment, mechanical harvesting is limited to water areas of sufficient size and depth. It is important to remember that mechanical harvesting can leave plant fragments in the water, which if not collected, may spread the plant to new areas. Additionally harvesters may impact fish and insect populations in the area by removing them in harvested material. Cutting plant stems too close to the bottom can result in re-suspension of bottom sediments and nutrients. This management option is only recommended when nearly the entire waterbody is infested, and harvesting is needed to open navigation channels through the infested areas.

Benthic Barriers:

Benthic barriers are fiberglass coated screening material that can be applied directly to the lake bottom to cover and compress aquatic plant growth. Screening is staked or weighted to the bottom to prevent it from becoming buoyant or drifting with current. The barriers also serve to block sunlight and prevent photosynthesis by the plants, thereby killing the plants with time. While a reliable method for small areas of plants (roughly 100 sq. ft. or less), larger areas are not reasonably controlled with this method due to a variety of factors (labor intensive installation, cost, and gas accumulation and bubbling beneath the barrier).

Targeted Application of Herbicides:

Application of aquatic herbicides is another tool employed for controlling exotic aquatic plants. Generally, herbicides are used when infestations are too large to be controlled using other alternative non-chemical controls, or if other techniques have been tried and have proven unsuccessful. Each aquatic plant responds differently to different herbicides and concentrations of herbicides, but research performed by the Army Corps of Engineers has isolated target specificity of a variety of aquatic herbicides for different species.

Generally, 2,4-D (Navigate formulation) is the herbicide that is recommended for control of variable milfoil. Based on laboratory data this is the most effective herbicide in selectively controlling variable milfoil in New Hampshire's waterbodies.

A field trial was performed during the 2008 summer using the herbicide Renovate to control variable milfoil. Renovate is a systemic aquatic herbicide that targets both the shoots and the roots of the target plant for complete control. In this application it was dispersed as a granular formulation that sank quickly to the bottom to areas of active uptake of the milfoil plants. A small (<5 acre) area of Captains Pond in Salem was treated with this systemic herbicide. The herbicide was applied in pellet form to the infested area in May 2008, and showed good control by the end of the growing season. Renovate works a little more slowly to control aquatic plants than 2,4-D and it is a little more expensive, but presents DES with another alternative that could be used in future treatments.

During the summer of 2010, DES worked with other researchers to perform field trials of three different formulations of 2,4-D in Lake Winnisquam, to determine which product was most target-specific to the variable milfoil. Navigate formulation was used, as were a 2,4-D amine formulation, and a 2,4-D amine and triclopyr formulation (MaxG). Although the final report has not been completed for this study, preliminary results suggest that all three products worked well, but that Navigate formation may be the most target specific of all three.

Another herbicide, Fluridone, is sometimes also used in New Hampshire, mainly to control growths of fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). Fluridone is a systemic aquatic herbicide that inhibits the formation of carotenoids in plants. Reduced carotenoids pigment ultimately results in the breakdown of chlorophyll and subsequent loss of photosynthetic function of the plants.

In 2018, a new aquatic formulation of an herbicide was labeled and licensed for use. ProcellaCOR is a reduced-risk liquid formulation herbicide that is a systemic. Based on New Hampshire field data, it works well on variable milfoil, it is taken up very quickly following treatment (hours) and it degrades quickly in the water column, with typical non-detect readings within 24-48 hours post treatment.

Extended Drawdown

Extended drawdown serves to expose submersed aquatic plants to dessication and scouring from ice (if in winter), physically breaking down plant tissue. Some species can respond well to drawdown and plant density can be reduced, but for invasive species drawdown tends to yield more disturbance to bottom sediments, something to which exotic plants are most adapted. In waterbodies where drawdown is conducted exotic plants can often outcompete native plants for habitat and come to dominate the system.

Some waterbodies that are heavily infested with exotic plants do conduct drawdowns to reduce some of the invasive aquatic plant density. During this reporting period both Northwood Lake (Northwood) and Jones Pond (New Durham) coordinated deep winter drawdowns to reduce growths of variable milfoil (the drawdown on Northwood Lake is primarily for flood control purposes, but they do see some ancillary benefits from the technique for variable milfoil control).

Dredging

Dredging is a means of physical removal of aquatic plants from the bottom sediments using a floating or land-based dredge. Dredging can create a variety of depth gradients creating multiple plant environments allowing for greater diversity in lakes plant, fish, and wildlife communities. However due to the cost, potential environmental effects, and the problem of sediment disposal, dredging is rarely used for control of aquatic vegetation alone.

Dredging can take place in to fashion, including drawdown followed by mechanical dredging using an excavator, or using a diver-operated suction dredge while the water level remains up.

Biological Control

There are no approved biological controls for submersed exotic aquatic plant at this time in New Hampshire.

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