

PUBLIC MEETING OSPREY LAKE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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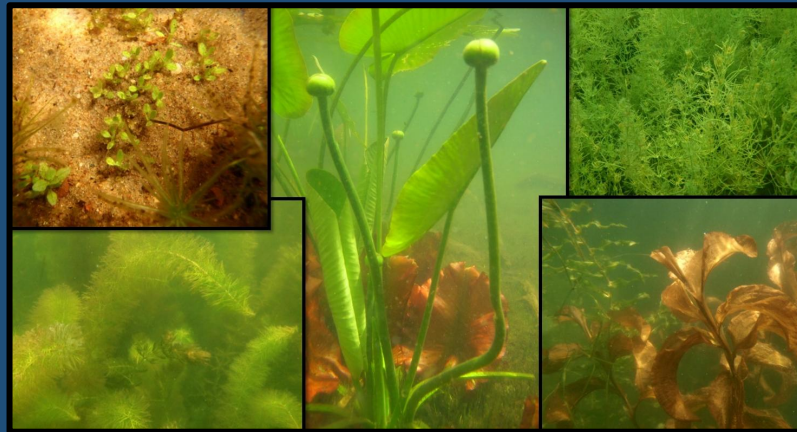
Public Input Meeting, May 16 2026

Today's Meeting **Desired Outcomes**

Learn about survey results.
We leave with an understanding of methods & results.

Discuss options for dealing with aquatic invasive species.
We leave understanding the importance of native aquatic plants and realistic options for control of EWM.

Gather YOUR input for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. **WE** leave with direction for goal development.



Participation



Group Agreements

- What are the things we agree on for gathering in this space and time? Think about unspoken norms.....

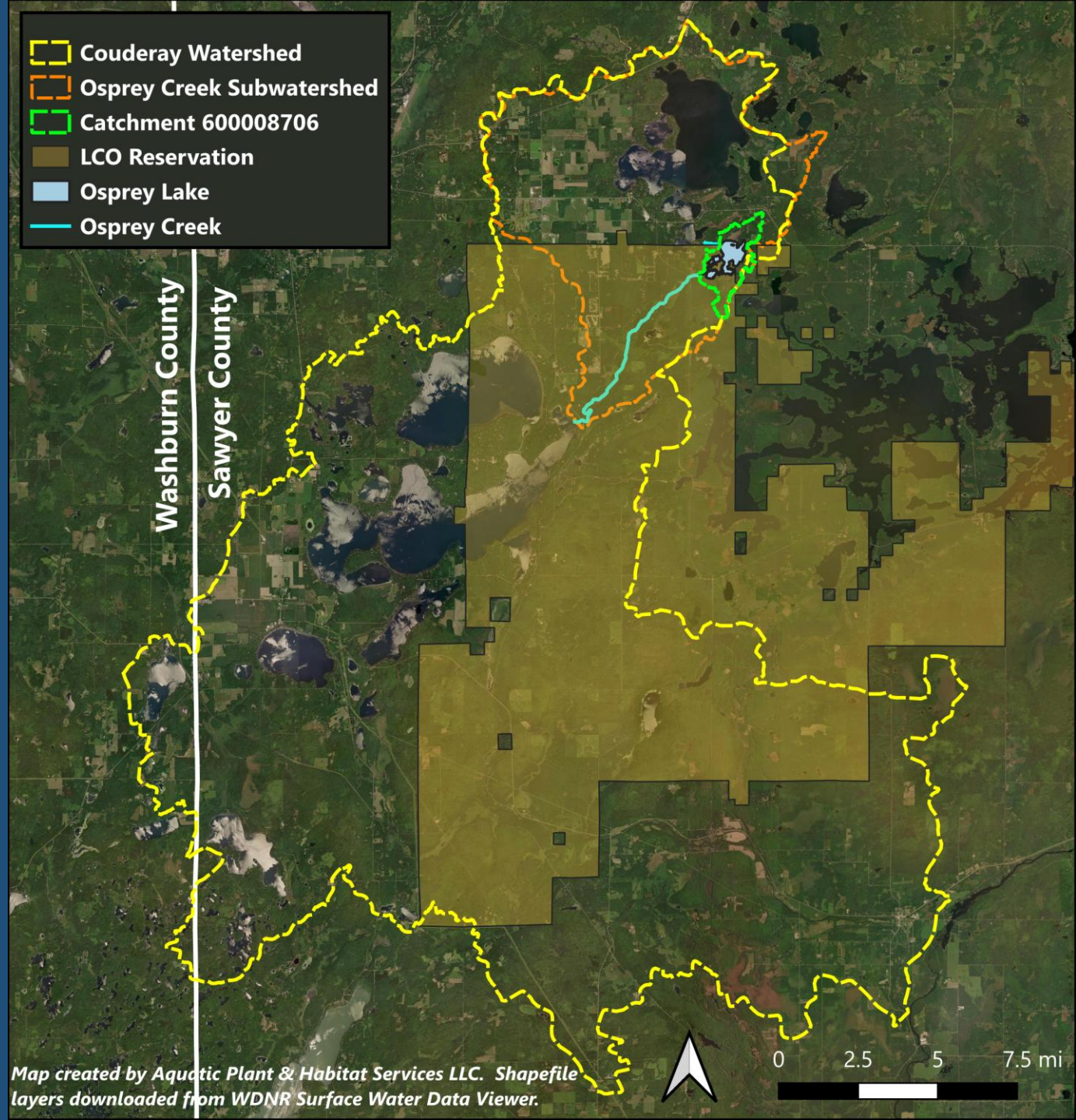


Pondering Pond



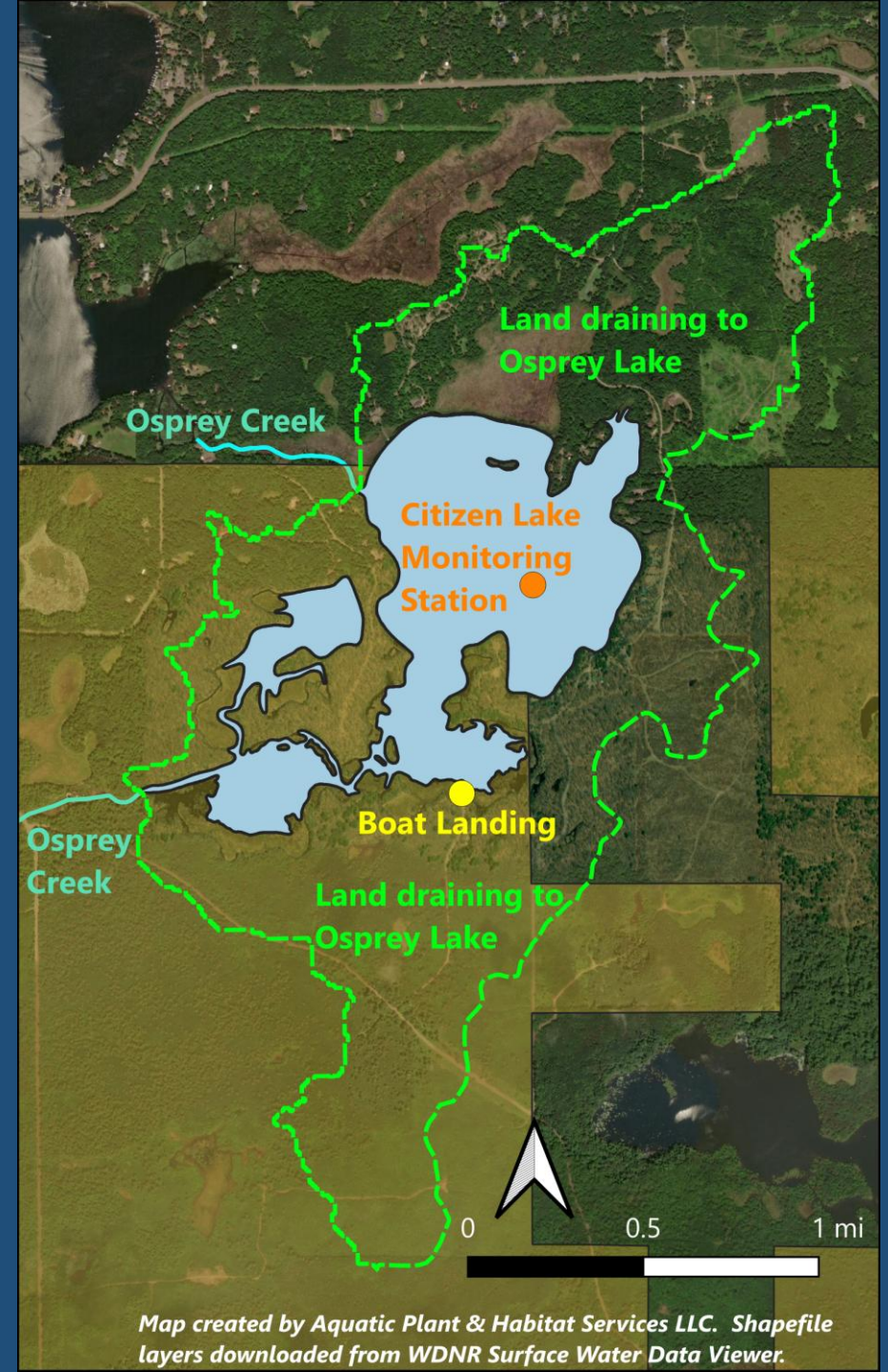
Osprey Lake in the Landscape

- Couderay Watershed
- Osprey Creek Subwatershed



Zoom to Osprey

- 214 acres
- 32 ft max depth
- Catchment 675 acres
- Seepage Lake
 - But there is a surface water inflow and outflow





Watershed Restoration and Protection Viewer

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Watershed Health Index: Squaw Lake Creek



Watershed Code: **070500010401**

Watershed Name: **Squaw Lake Creek**

Watershed Health Score: **76.20/100**

Statewide Watershed Health Rank: **502/1,744**

Statewide Priority: **Y**

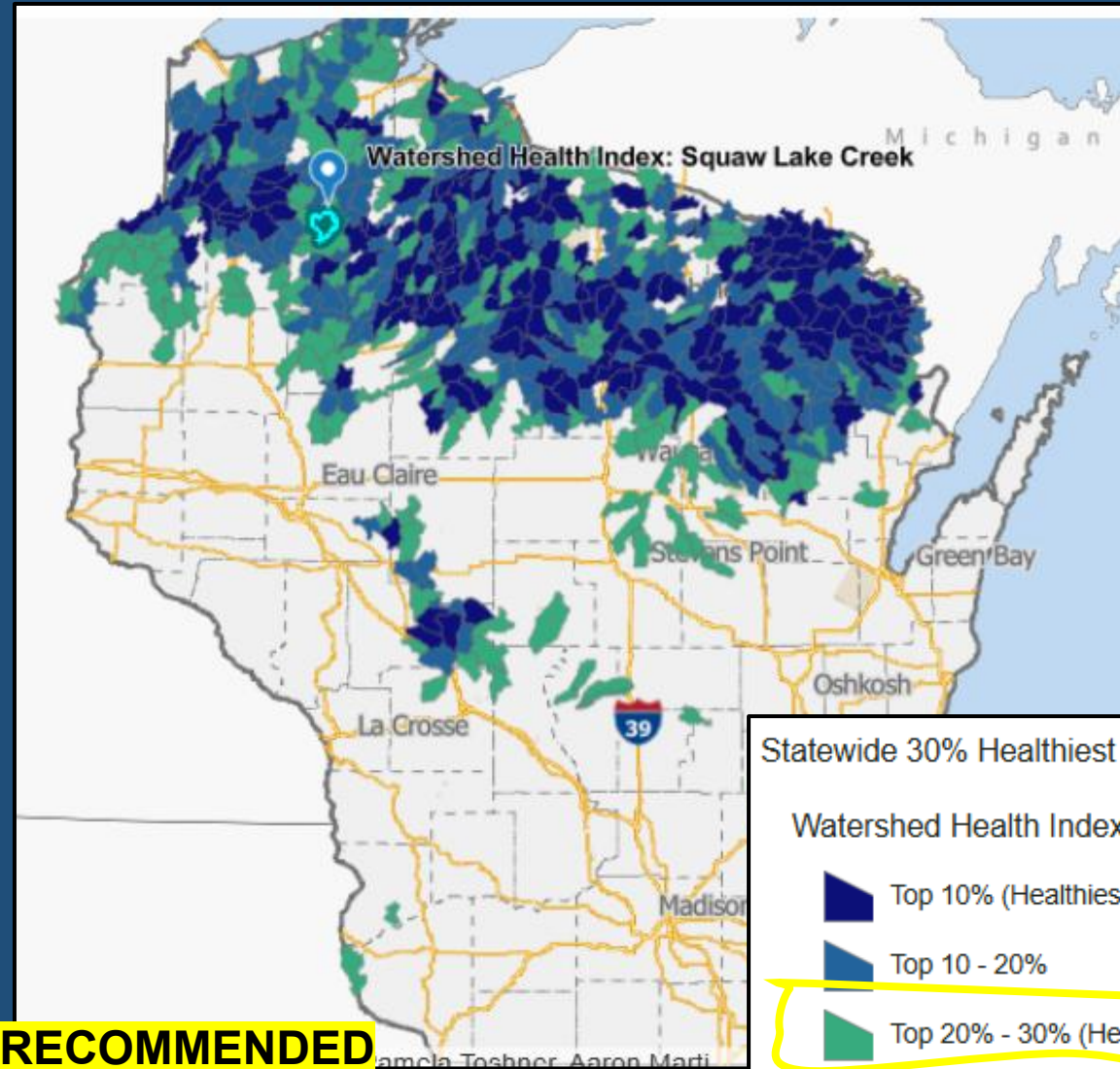
HUC6 Priority:

% Natural Land Cover: **61.24%**

Majority County: **Sawyer County-WI**

For More Information:

[HWHQW Website](#)



→ PROTECTION RECOMMENDED

Aquatic plants are important

Structural Habitat

Reduce Erosion

Absorb wave energy

Stabilize bottom sediments



Provide oxygen

Consume Nutrients

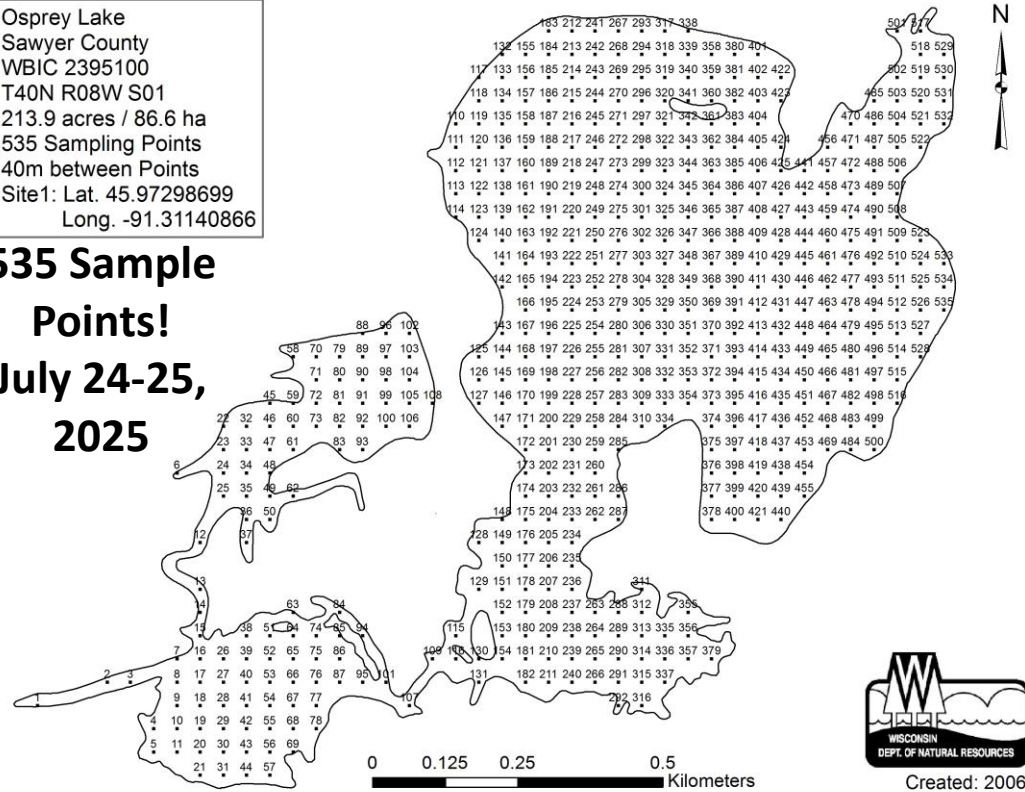
2025 Aquatic Plant Surveys Methods & Results

Aquatic Plant Survey Methods



Osprey Lake
Sawyer County
WBIC 2395100
T40N R08W S01
213.9 acres / 86.6 ha
535 Sampling Points
40m between Points
Site1: Lat. 45.97298699
Long. -91.31140866

535 Sample Points!
July 24-25, 2025

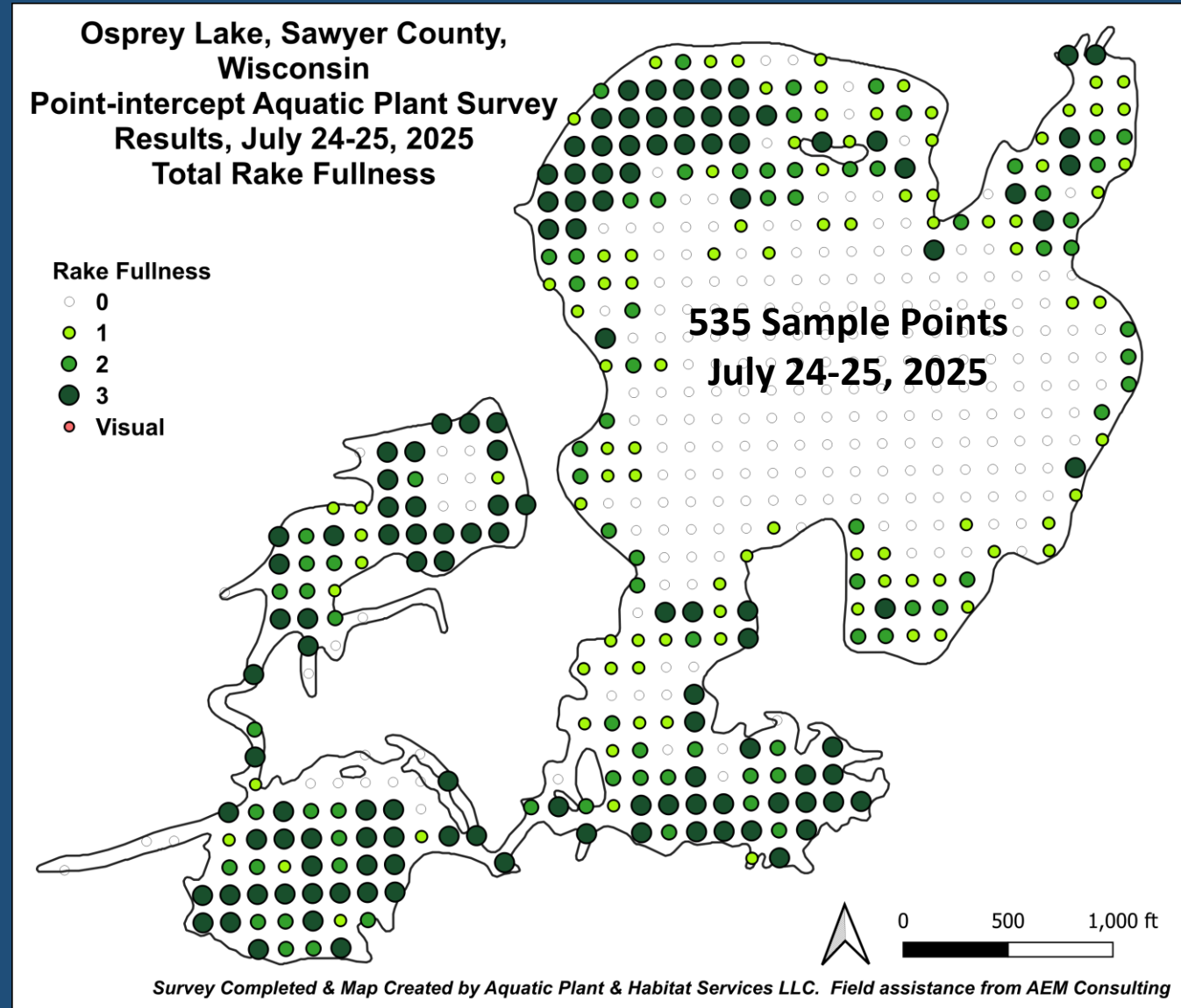


Rating	Coverage	Description
1		Few plants
2		Plants cover length of the rake but not tines
3		Rake completely covered, tines not visible

Results

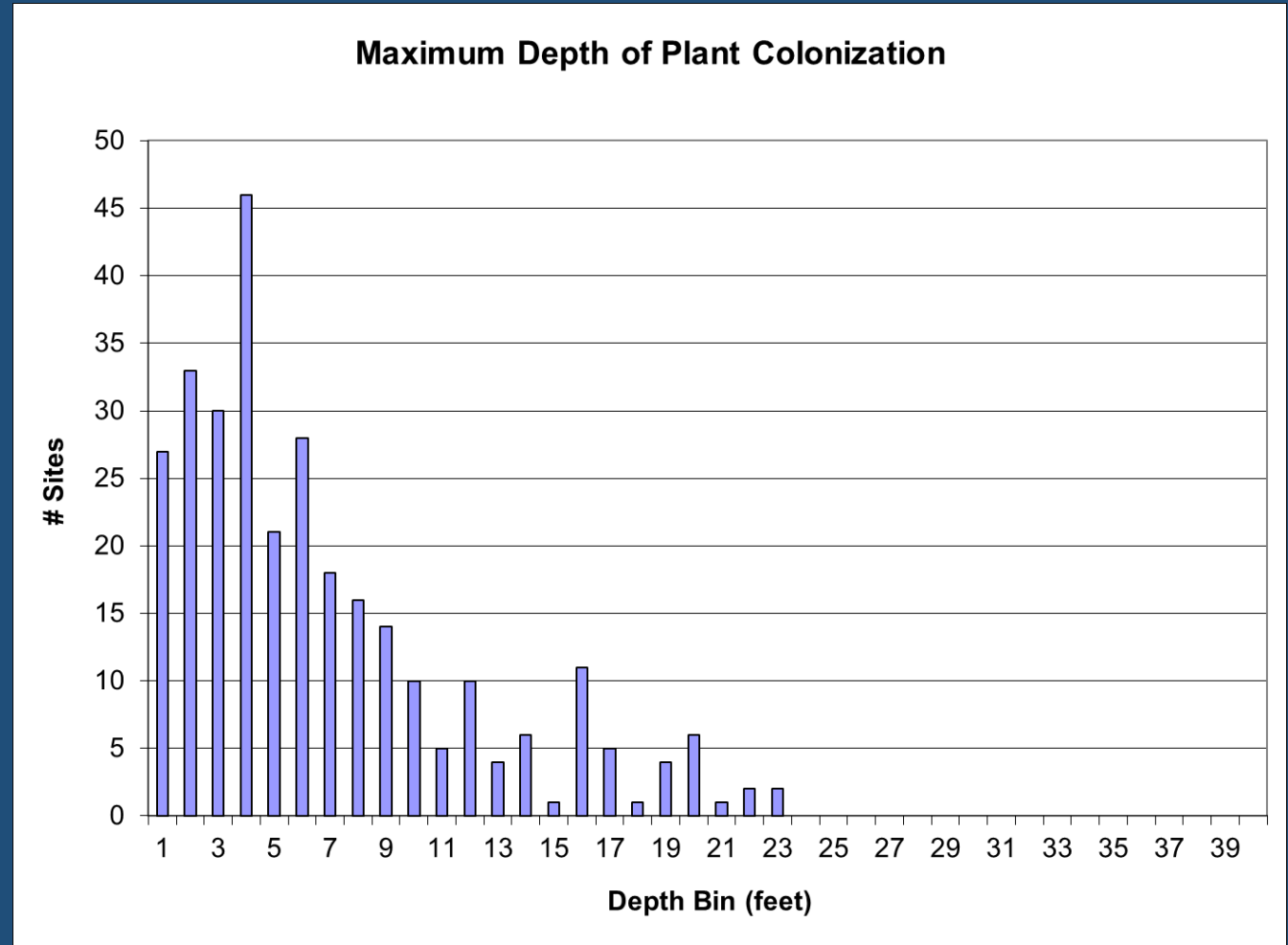
2025 Plant Occurrence

- 394 points shallower than maximum depth of plants (23 ft)
- 301 sample points with plants
- $301/394 = 76\%$ sites with plants (frequency of occurrence or FOO)
- Average Rake Fullness 2.10

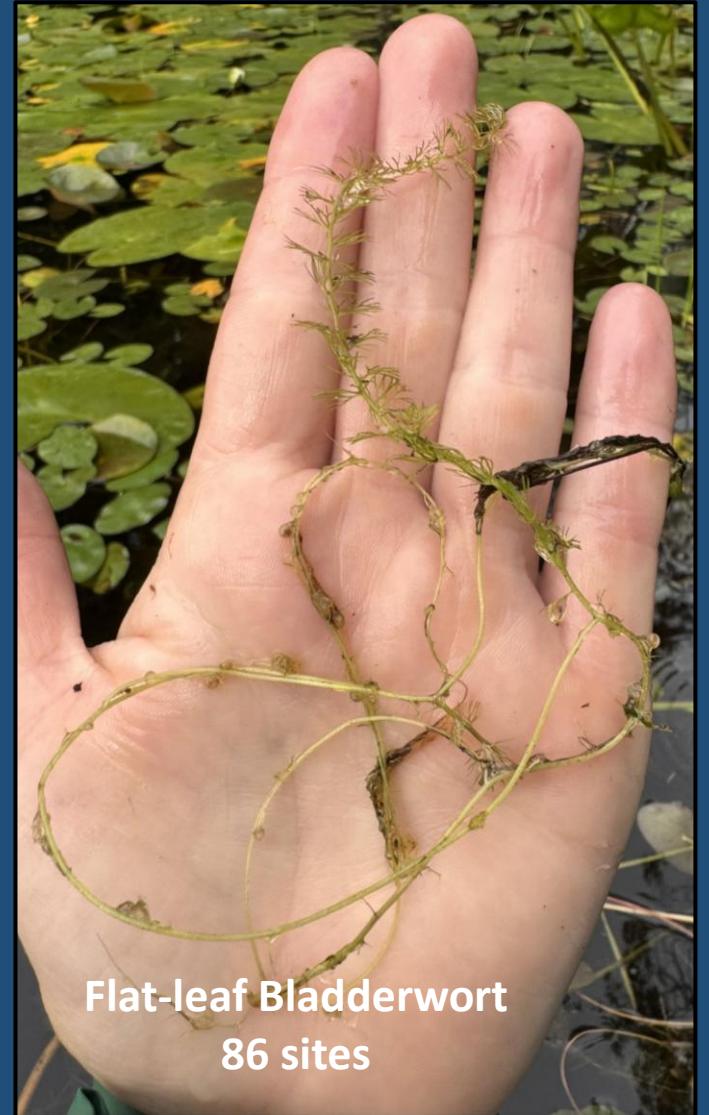
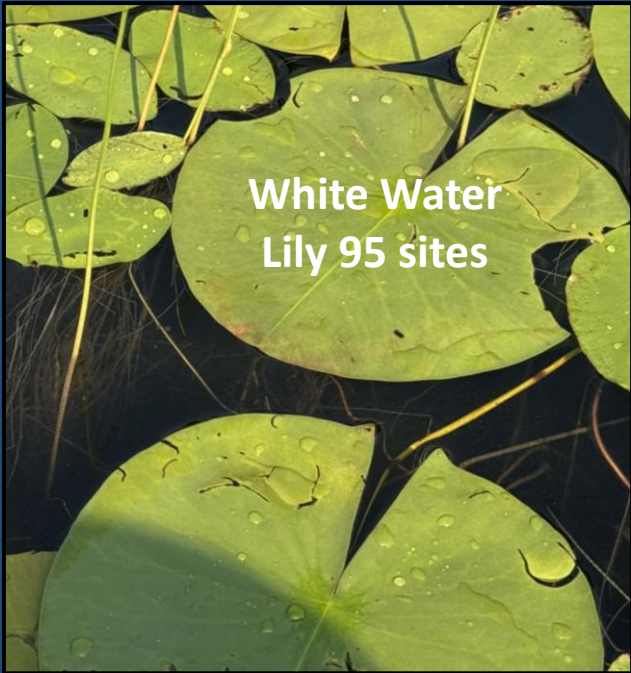


Results - Depth of Plants

- 394 points shallower than maximum depth of plants (23 ft)
- Plant occurrence concentrated in 1-9 ft depth range



Results – Three Most Common Species

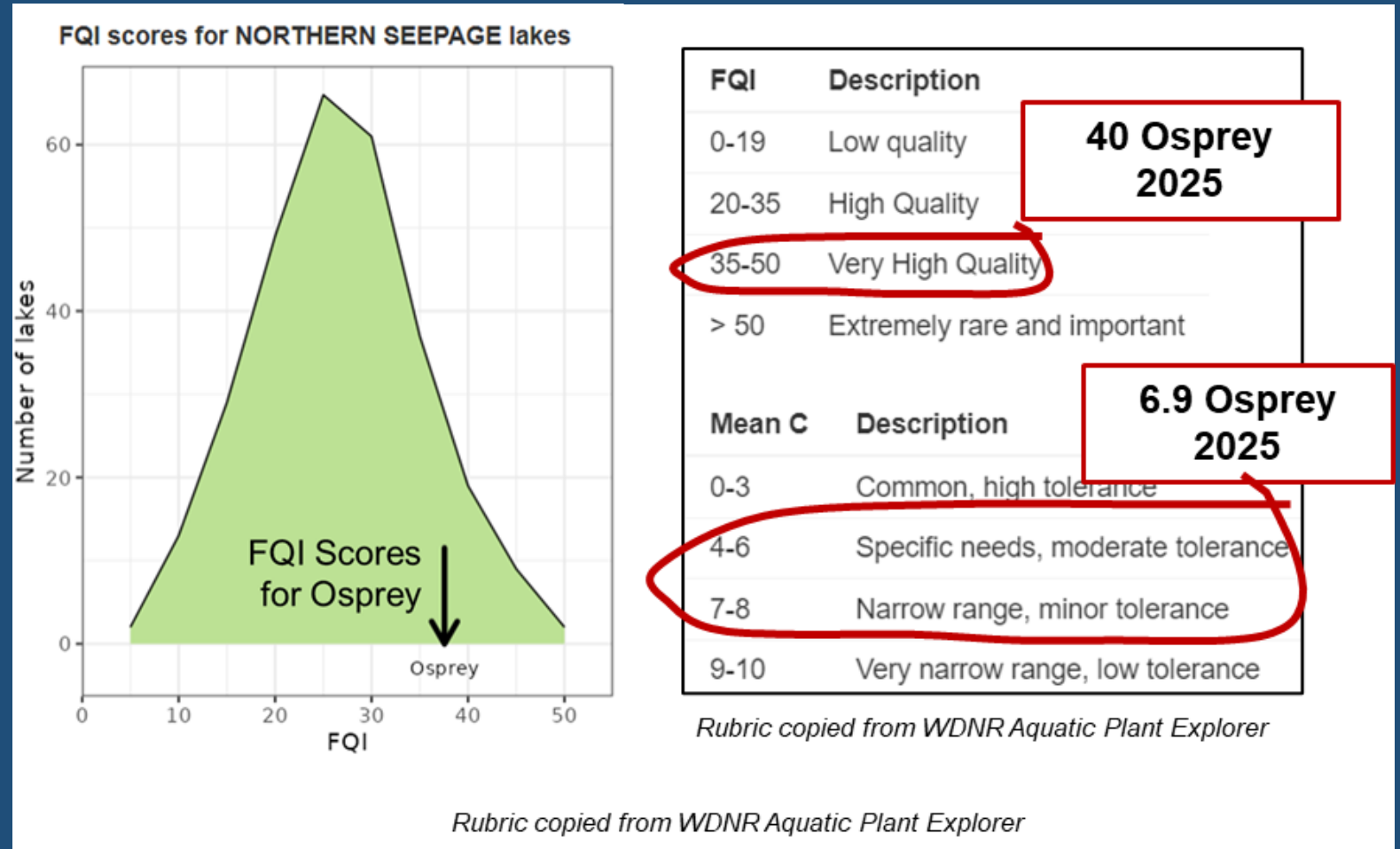


Results – 2025 Plant Community

39 species detected at sample points
Another 8 species visual (<6 ft from sample point but not on rake)
Another 6 species outside sample grid
53 species total

different species at many different locations (2.48 native species per sample point)

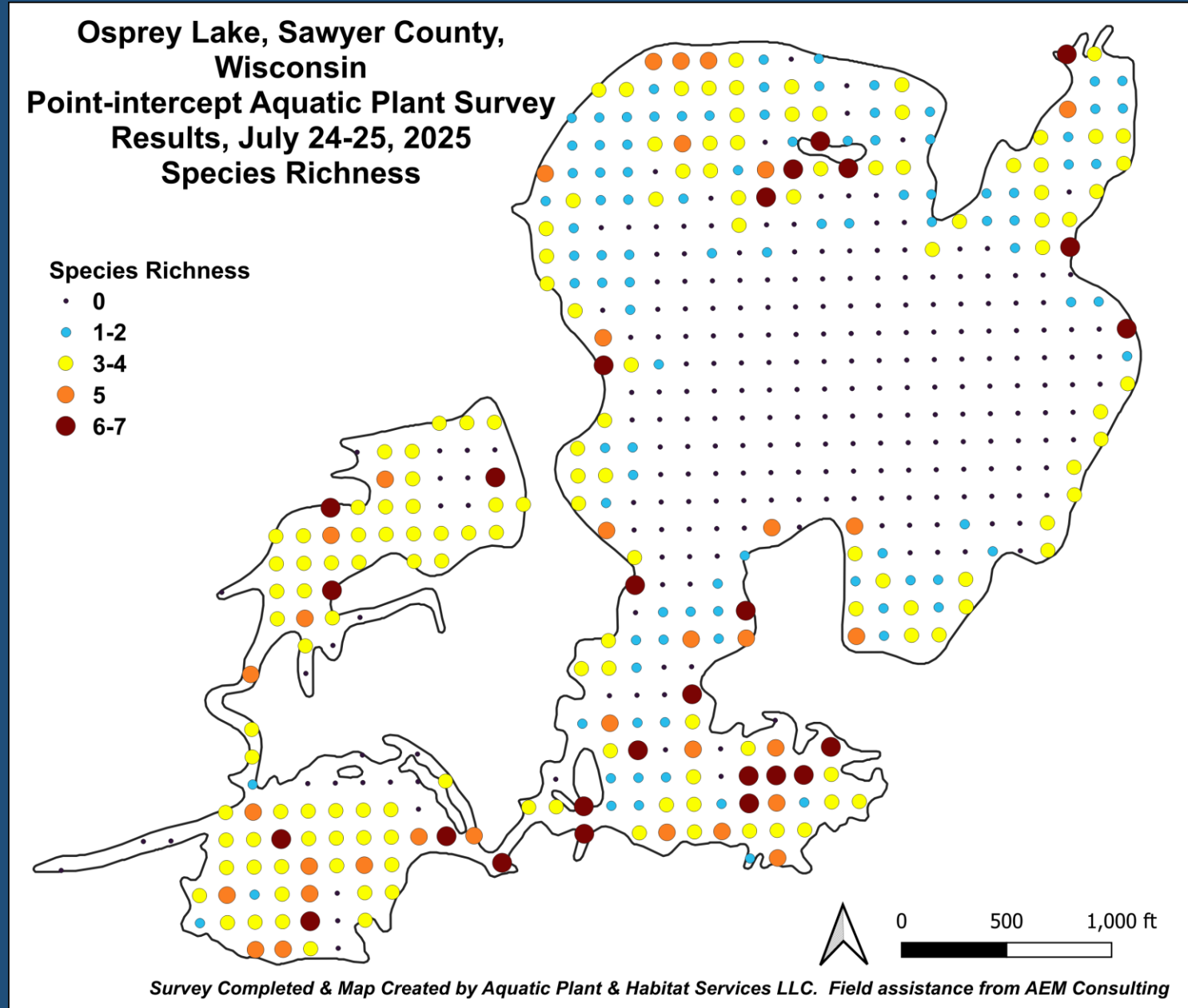
Diversity very high!



😊 High Quality Aquatic Plant Community

Overall Conclusions

- High plant diversity.
- Some species are sensitive to human disturbance.
- Littoral zone plant occurrence and biomass is high



Eurasian Watermilfoil

- Discovered near the boat landing in 2005
- Sometimes forms dense mats on lake surface
 - Can outcompete native species
 - Might Impair navigation
- Options for control
 - Chemical
 - Manual removal
 - Mechanical removal
 - Biological control



EWM Bed Survey Methods

- Cruise the lake, late Aug – early Sept
- Capture boundaries of EWM beds on GPS device
- Record EWM bed attributes
 - Depth
 - Plant
 - Density



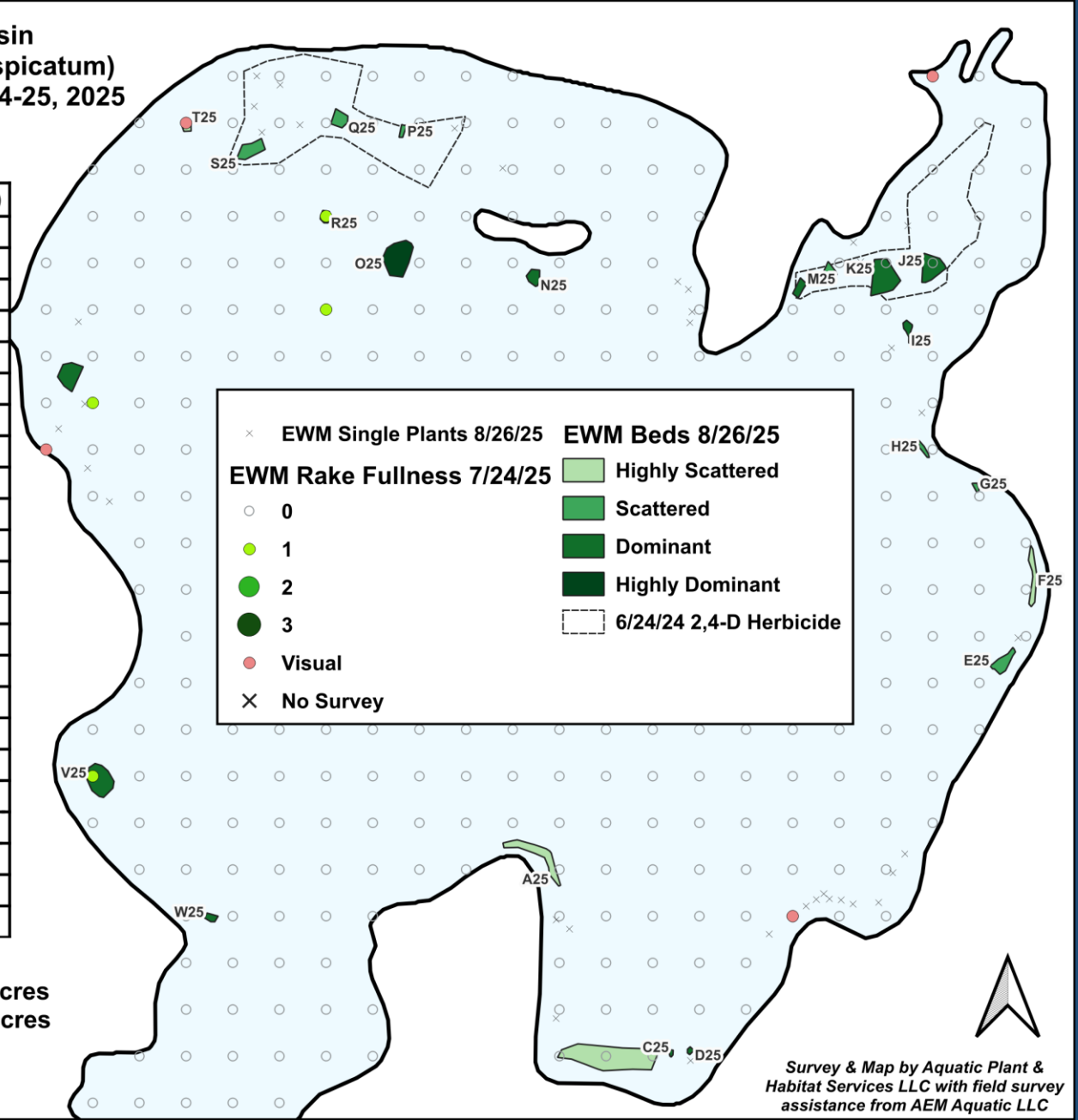
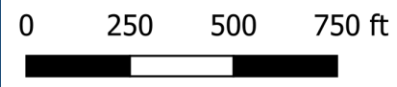
EWM in Osprey 2025

- 1 % frequency
- 4 raked samples
- 4 visual observations
- Ranked 31
- 1.37 acres mapped (0.6% lake surface area)

Osprey Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin
 Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
 Point Intercept Survey Results, July 24-25, 2025
 EWM Bed Survey, August 26, 2025

ID	Avg Depth	Density	Height	Area (ac)
A25	6.0	Highly Scattered	Below	0.1
B25	5.0	Highly Scattered	Below	0.35
C25	9.0	Dominant	Below	0
D25	8.0	Dominant	Below	0.01
E25	8.0	Scattered	Below	0.05
F25	5.0	Highly Scattered	Near	0.05
G25	7.0	Scattered	Below	0.01
H25	7.0	Scattered	Below	0.01
I25	6.0	Dominant	Below	0.02
J25	6.0	Dominant	Below	0.08
K25	6.0	Dominant	Below	0.13
L25	5.0	Scattered	Below	0.02
M25	3.0	Dominant	Near	0.02
N25	7.0	Dominant	Below	0.03
O25	7.0	Highly Dominant	At	0.14
P25	4.0	Scattered	Near	0.01
Q25	4.0	Scattered	Near	0.04
R25	10.0	Dominant	Near	0.02
S25	7.0	Scattered	Near	0.06
T25	5.0	Highly Scattered	Near	0.02
U25	6.0	Dominant	Near	0.08
V25	5.0	Dominant	Near	0.11
W25	5.0	Dominant	Below	0.01

Total EWM 1.37 acres
Highly Scattered & Scattered EWM 0.72 acres
Dominant & Highly Dominant EWM 0.65 acres



Survey & Map by Aquatic Plant & Habitat Services LLC with field survey assistance from AEM Aquatic LLC

Think – Pair - Share

- Get up & stretch. Count off by 3's
- Think of some new piece of information you didn't know before. Or a question. Or a comment. Write it down or remember.
- Pair up and share.
- Share with whole group as time allow.



EWM MANAGEMENT OPTIONS & FEASIBILITY

With an emphasis on Eurasian watermilfoil occurrence

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Presented May 16th, 2026

Public Input Meeting for Osprey Lake Aquatic Plant Management

Five Broad Management Methods

- Education & Monitoring
 - Manual
 - Mechanical
- Chemical Treatment
 - Biological Control

KEEP IN MIND.....

MORE THAN ONE METHOD CAN BE USED IN THE SAME YEAR

Integrated Management

SEE POSTER

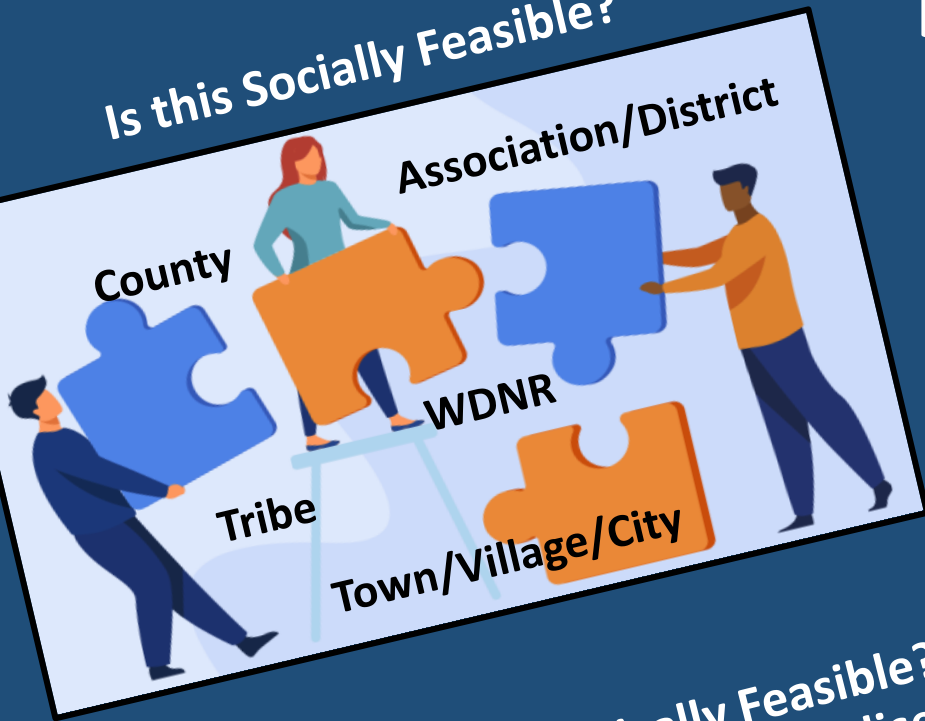
MANAGEMENT CAN CHANGE BASED ON NEW INFORMATION

Adaptive Management

ALSO KEEP IN MIND.....

Feasibility

Is this Socially Feasible?



Is this Financially Feasible?



Does our Organization have the capacity to succeed with this?

Is this Biologically Feasible?
(Is the cure worse than the disease?)



Plant Management

Which management options should be included in the goals and objectives of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan?	Level of PREFERENCE			
	Do not include	LOW Possible future option, but not now	MEDIUM Possible current or future option	HIGH Definitely current option
Education & Monitoring (survey, monitor, outreach)				
Manual (paid or volunteer hand removal of EWM)				
Mechanical – DASH (paid or volunteer SCUBA removal of EWM)				
Mechanical – Harvester (mow the EWM)				
Chemical (Herbicide applied to reduce EWM occurrence)				
Biological (first find out if weevils are present, rear & stock weevils)				

Education & Monitoring

- Education: Plant ID, AIS Prevention, shoreland protection
- Monitoring: Point-intercept survey every 5 years. EWM bed mapping every year. subPI survey in EWM beds >0.5 acres



Manual EWM Removal

- Remove plants by hand
- Remove AIS anywhere in the lake
- Appropriate for small-scale control
- No permit required



Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH)

- Uproot vegetation
- Suction tube/pontoon
- Permit required
- Appropriate for small-scale control
- Appropriate following herbicide treatment to increase time interval between herbicide application



Mechanical Harvest

- Cutting plants down to depth of 5-6 feet
- Permit required
- Concerns associated with impacts to panfish spawning, timing important
- Appropriate for large-scale or lake-wide issues



**Cost variable depending on size of harvester*

Chemical Control

- Herbicide applied to lake to kill plants
- Permit required
- Larger treatments are more effective, small treatment areas are no longer recommended and last 2 years or less.



Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Exotic Species

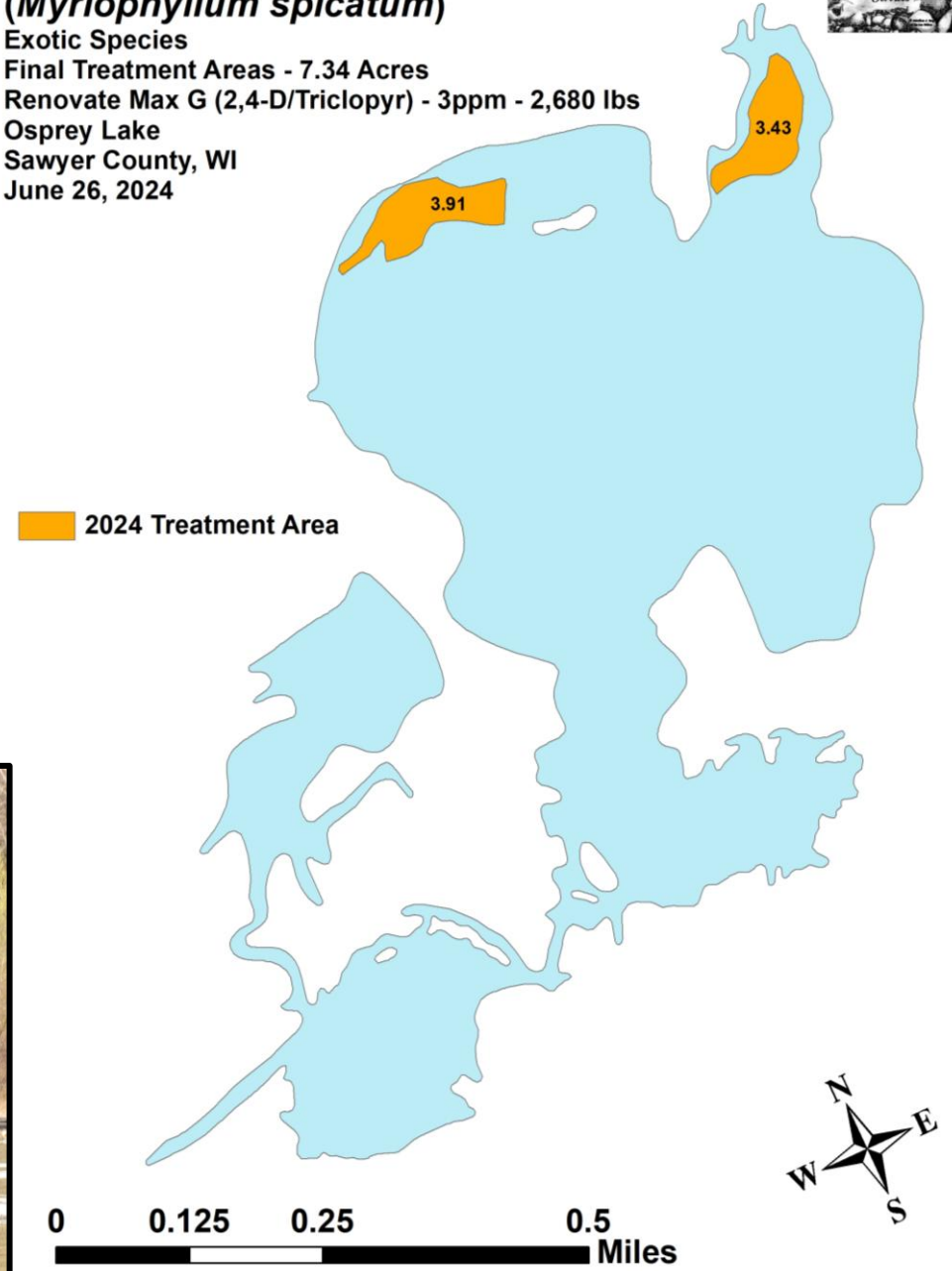
Final Treatment Areas - 7.34 Acres

Renovate Max G (2,4-D/Triclopyr) - 3ppm - 2,680 lbs

Osprey Lake

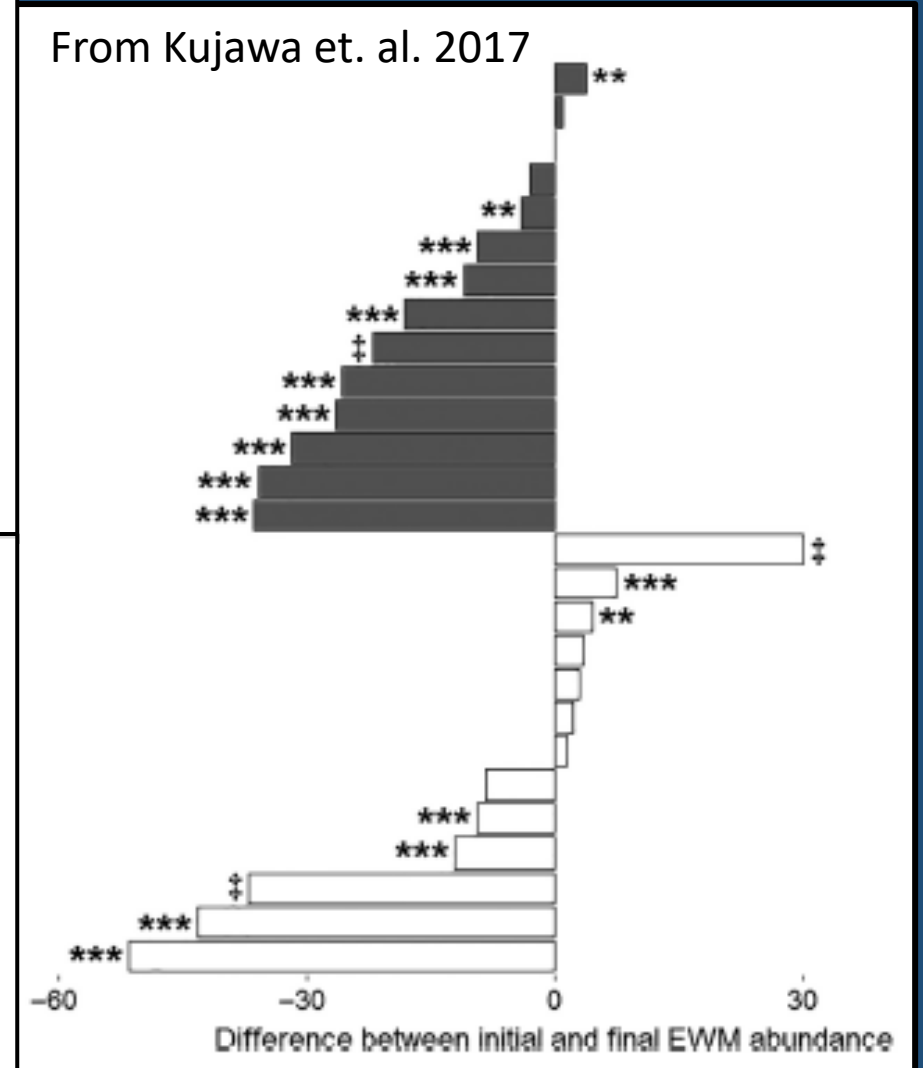
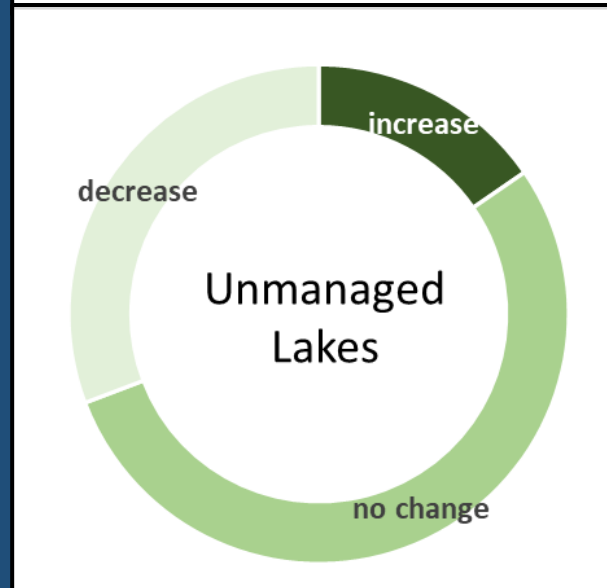
Sawyer County, WI

June 26, 2024



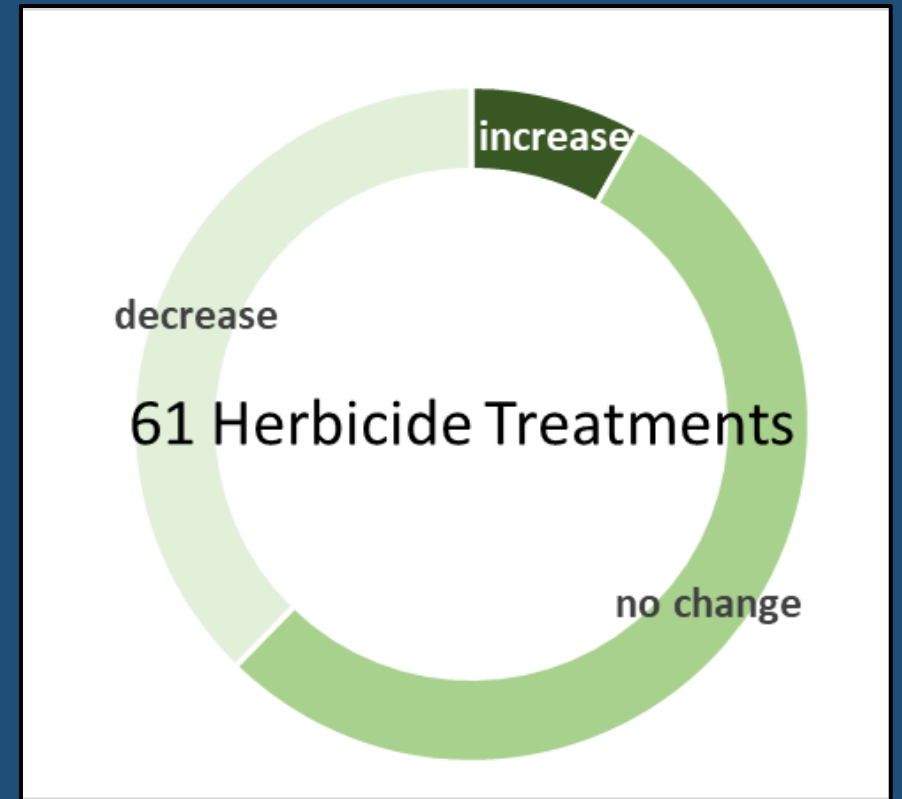
Herbicide Managed vs. Unmanaged Lakes (Kujawa et al 2017)

- 11-year study
- 28 Wisconsin Lakes
 - 15 managed lakes
 - 1 lake EWM increase
 - 5 lakes EWM no change
 - 9 lakes EWM decrease
 - 13 unmanaged lakes
 - 2 lakes EWM increase
 - 7 lakes EWM no change
 - 4 lakes EWM decrease



Managed Lakes (Kujawa et. al. 2017)

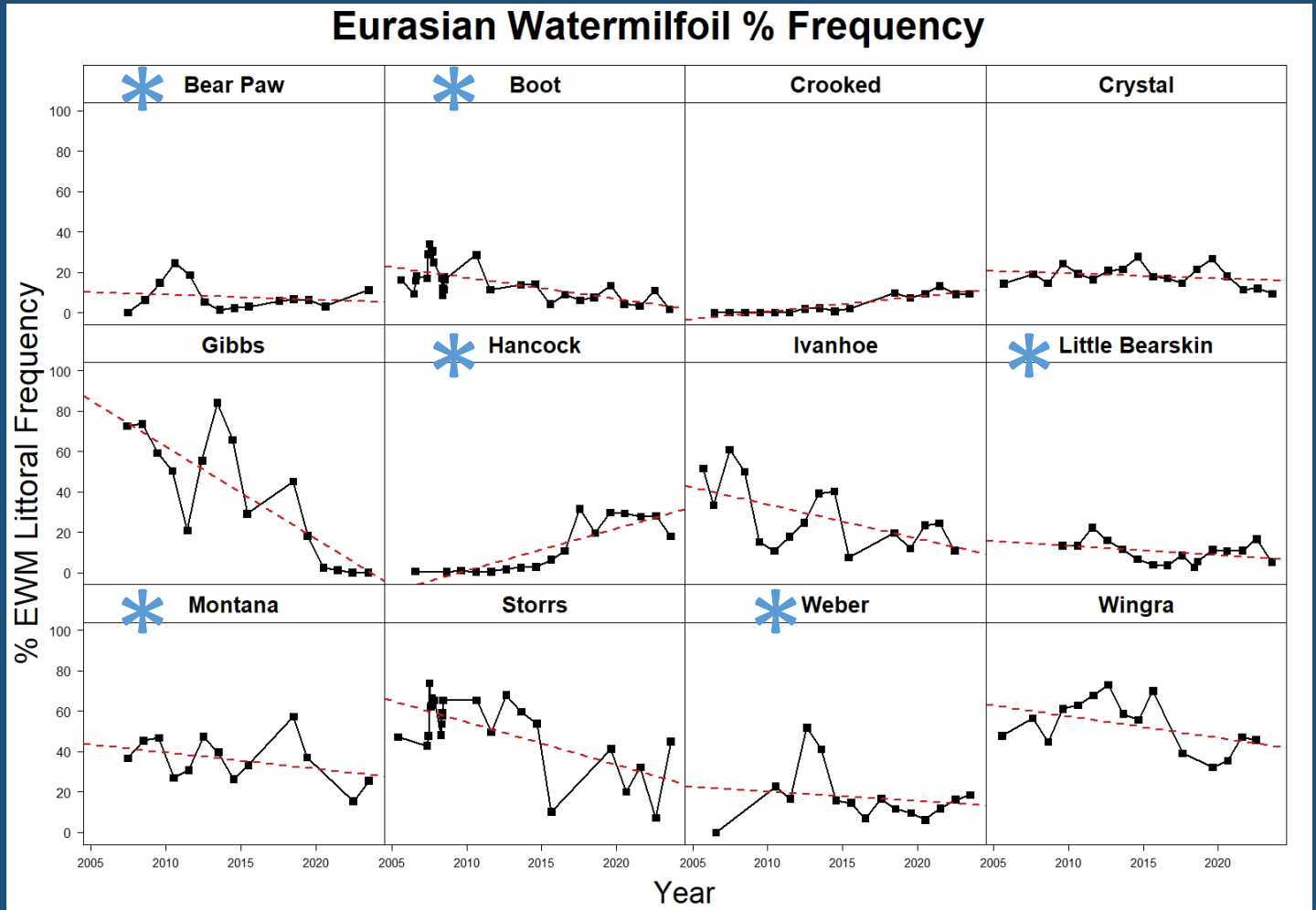
- 15 managed lakes
 - 61 herbicide treatments total over 11 years
 - 5 treatments EWM increase
 - 33 treatments EWM no change
 - 23 treatments EWM decrease
 - % of lake to be treated does not decrease with time
 - Larger treatments lead to larger decreases in EWM
 - Small-medium treatments had more variable outcomes. EWM response unpredictable



Unmanaged Lakes (Kujawa et. al. 2017)

- 13 unmanaged lakes
 - Largest increases and decreases were in unmanaged lakes
 - More unpredictable EWM occurrence

* = Northern Lake



Biological Control

- Using living organisms to control plant growth
- NATIVE weevil species that feeds on EWM
- Success depends on
 - Shoreline habitat for overwintering
 - Predation
 - Other control being used (chemical, mechanical)
 - EWM density, distribution, and depth
 - “Lake characteristics that favor weevil success include dense, widespread milfoil beds in shallow waters and natural shoreline habitats.”

Photo Credit: Catherine Higley



<https://klsa.wordpress.com/published-material/milfoil-weevil-guide/>

Rearing Weevils

- Rearing tanks with starter stock of weevils
- Feed weevils using “clean” EWM
- Release into beds of EWM
- 6-12 volunteers committed for 3 years



*Photos copied from Golden Sands
biocontrol manual*



ADDITIONAL LAKE MANAGEMENT TOPICS

Surface Water Runoff

- Impervious surfaces
 - Buildings, paved surface, decks, compacted gravel sites, etc.
- Precipitation → Runoff
 - Runoff is warmer
 - Warmer water “holds” less dissolved oxygen
 - Runoff carries sand, soil into lake
 - Runoff carries phosphorus into a lake



Phosphorus

A little phosphorus
goes a long way!

Aerial view of 1970's lake experiment.

Conclusion: Phosphorus is key
nutrient in algal blooms

*carbon & nitrogen
added to this section*

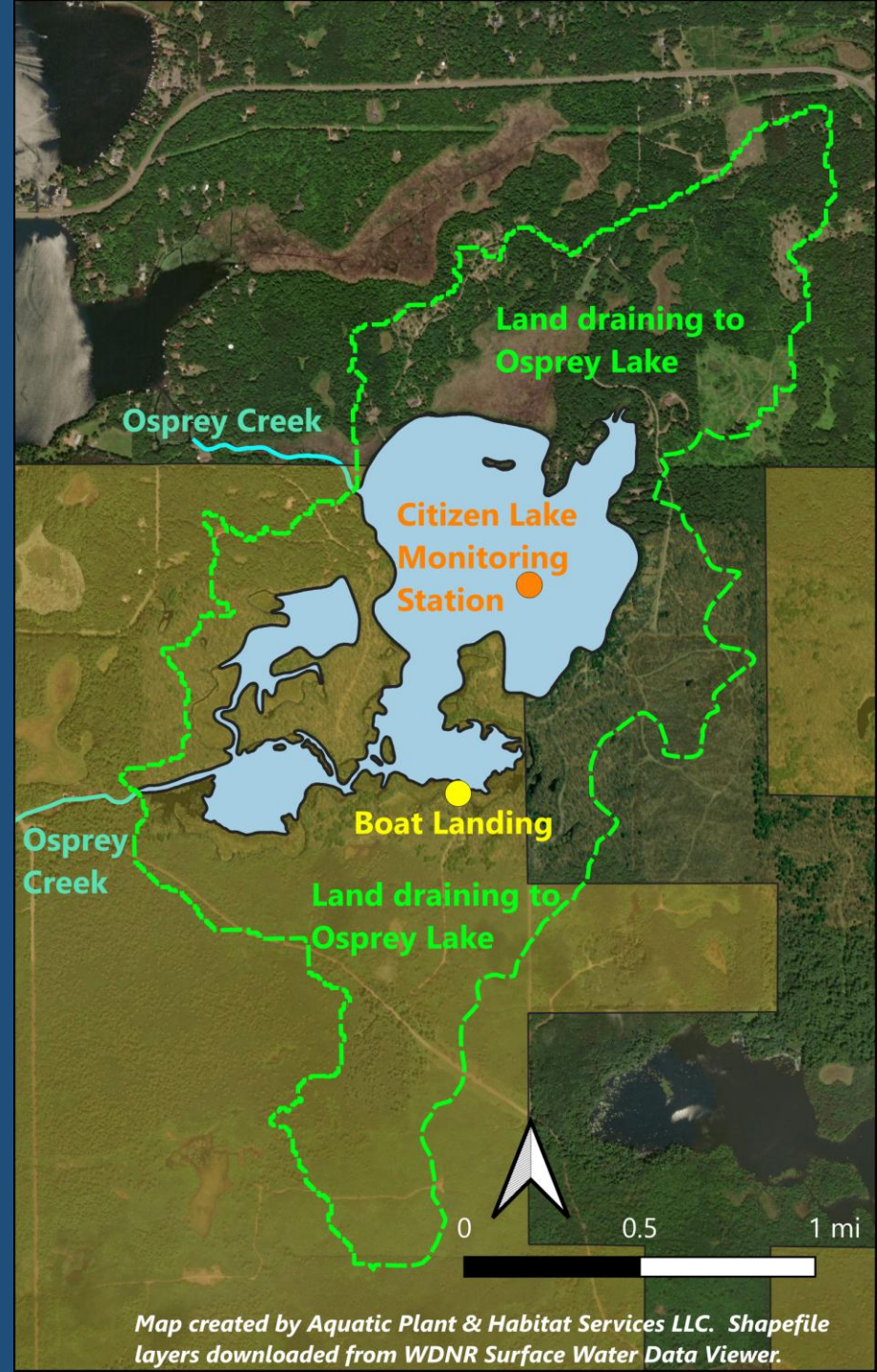
*Divider curtain creating
2 lake sections*

*Carbon, nitrogen, &
phosphates added
to this section*

Photo Credit: experimentallakearea.org/3/a-eutrophication-lake-227-and-226

Osprey Lake Catchment

Lake property owners are the last line of defense in protecting water quality from the impacts of human development.



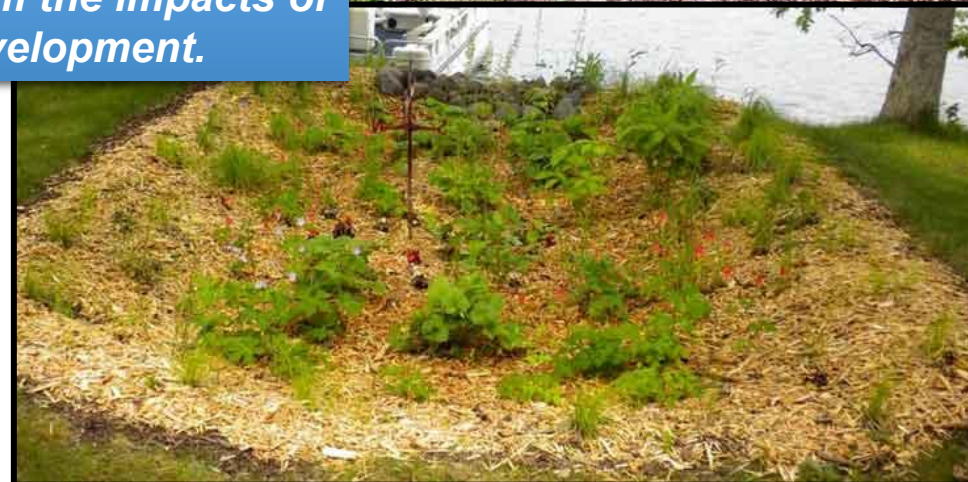
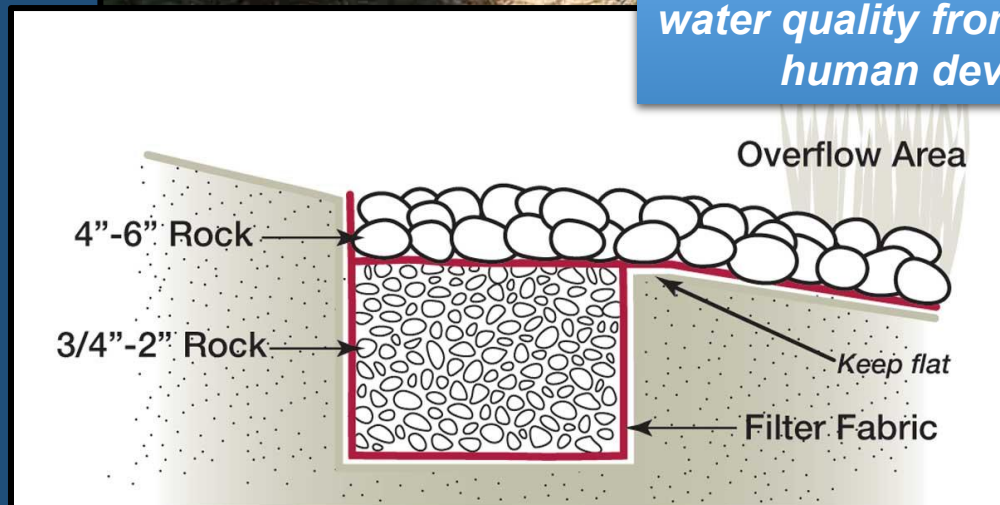
“With great property comes great responsibility”



- Opportunities
 - Buffers
 - Water diversions
 - Rain gardens
 - Rock Infiltration

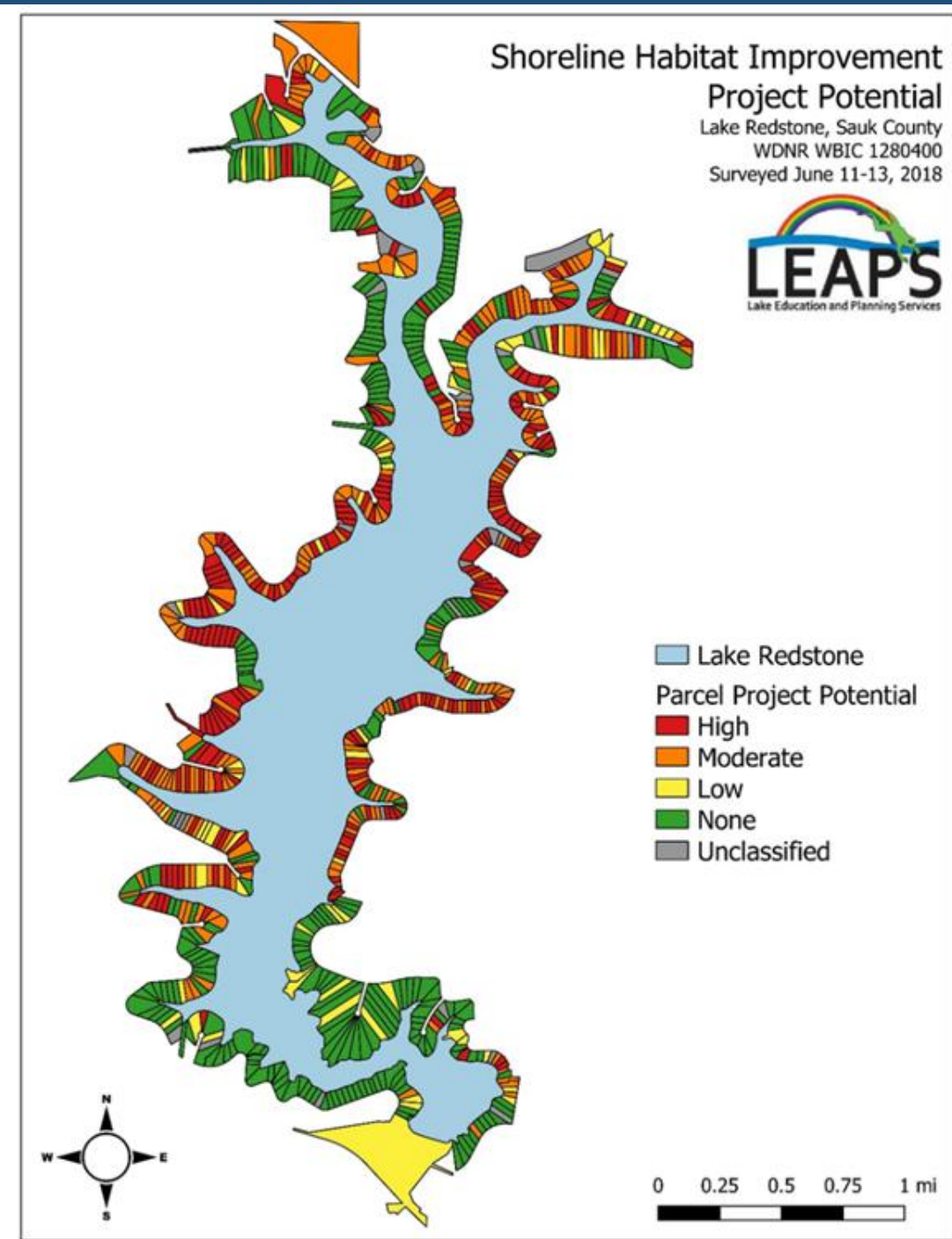


Lake property owners are the last line of defense in protecting water quality from the impacts of human development.



Shoreland Assessment

- 35-ft riparian area surveyed from the water
 - Canopy cover
 - Herbaceous / shrub cover
 - Impervious surface
 - Lawn
- Identify parcels with high, moderate, low, and no potential for improvement



AIS Prevention



Preventing their introduction will go a long way to prevent other species introduction

AIS Prevention - Watercraft Inspection

- Clean Boats Clean Waters Program
- **GRANT ELIGIBLE**



AIS Prevention - Decontamination & ILIDS

- Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor (ILIDS)
 - Motion sensor audio instructs boaters
 - Camera records boater activity
- GRANT ELIGIBLE (AIS Prevention)
 - CBCW program required



AIS Prevention – Know your guests



What was prior waterbody and when? Are zebra mussels present in that prior waterbody? Has the watercraft been properly disinfected?

Internet search “wi dnr lakes with zebra mussels”

AIS Prevention – Disinfection Protocols

- BOAT, GEAR AND EQUIPMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DISINFECTION MANUAL CODE 9183.1

Table 2 Efficacy of treatment methods for invertebrates.

AIS	Steam Cleaning (212°F)	Hot Water (140°F)	Drying (5 days)	Chlorine (500 ppm, 10 min)	Virkon (2:100 solution, 20 min)	Freezing (26°F)
Faucet Snail	✓ 18*	✓ 18*	✗ 35	✗ 18	Ⓡ	Ⓡ
New Zealand mud snail	✓ 4, 65*	✓ 4, 65*	✓ 6*, 66*	✗ 76*	✓ 9, 10*, 74, 76, 83	✓ 4, 6*
Quagga Mussel (Adults)	✓ 7*, 16*	✓ 7*, 16*	✓ 14*	Ⓡ	✓ 9	Ⓡ
Quagga Mussel (Veligers)	✓ 4, 17, 80*	✓ 4, 17	✓ 69*	Ⓡ	✓ 9	Ⓡ
Zebra Mussel (Adult)	✓ 7*, 8*, 25	✓ 7*, 8*, 25	✓ 14*, 25*, 27	✓ 22*	Ⓡ	✓ 25, 27
Zebra Mussel (Veligers)	✓ 4, 80*	✓ 4	Ⓡ	✓ 22*, 25	Ⓡ	Ⓡ
Asian Clam	✓ 4, 37, 78	✓ 4, 37	✗ 4	✗ 37*, 38*	Ⓡ	Ⓡ
Spiny Water Flea (Adult)	✓ 7*, 47*, 80*	✓ 7*, 47*	Ⓡ	✓ 76, 83	✓ 76, 83	✓ 76, 83
Spiny Water Flea (Resting Eggs)	✓ 2*, 80*	✓ 2*	✓ 2*, 4	✗ 2	Ⓡ	✗ 2*
Bloody Red Shrimp	Ⓡ	✓ 83*	✓ 83*	✓ 83*	✓ 83*	Ⓡ
					Ⓡ	Ⓡ

Key:

✓ = Effective- Eliminates spp when applied at rates outlined in the manual code.

✗ = Not Effective- Requiring higher rates and/or longer time periods than outlined in code to eliminate spp.

Ⓡ = Research Needed- No/insufficient sources or references found.

AIS Detection - Routine Monitoring

- Look for zebra mussels during dock removal in fall
- AIS monitoring
 - Assistance possibly through Sawyer County
 - Volunteer monitoring
 - Aquatic plant survey every 5 years
 - **GRANT ELIGIBLE**

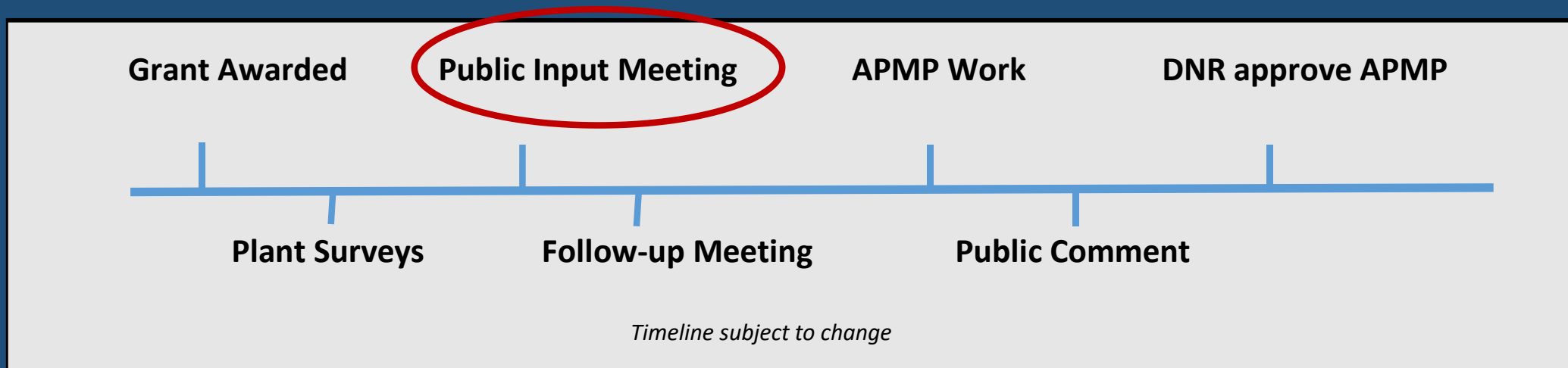


AIS Prevention – Protect Native Plants

- Osprey Lake has a plant community that is AMAZING!
- Plants can be protected by
 - Minimize herbicides if needed for AIS control
 - Education events & presentations **GRANT ELIGIBLE**



Timeline for APMP Completion



Thank you!

